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Northern Petanque

A Region of the English Petanque Association



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Regional website - www.northernpetanque.co.uk

Minutes of the Regional Committee Meeting held at Wetherby Sports Association on Saturday 14/11/2009.

<u>Present</u>	President	- Alan Swift (Wetherby)
	Secretary	- Sue Swift (Wetherby)
	Treasurer/Memb.Sec	- Bill Vicker (Brandesburton)
	Development Officer (W)	- Ruth Borrowdale (Mistral)
	Development Officer (E)	- Don Jackson (York RI)
	Youth Development	- Ted Beetham (Mistral)
	Umpire	- Ray Gatenby (Doncaster)
	Coach	- Richard Marston (Mistral)
	Wetherby	- Jenny Stockton (representative), John Stockton
	Bridlington	- Peter Jordan (representative) , Madge Jordan , Chris O'Rourke , Chris Cann
	Doncaster	- Gill Stirland (representative) , Helen Stirland
	York RI	- Angie Gaughan (representative), Angela Fletcher
	Brandesburton	- David Wiseman (representative) , Keith & Cynthia Turner
	The Fox	- Barbara Hardisty (representative), Mick Hardisty
	Leeds	- Mike Walkley
	Mistral	- Andy Willis (representative), Ben Pattison
	Unattached	- Matt Blyton

The president opened the meeting at 12.02 pm
 Apologies were as for the AGM.

1) Minutes of the last meeting

There were no matters arising.

The minutes were accepted unanimously, proposer Barbara Hardisty, seconder Ted Beetham.

Due to the lengthy discussions expected on playing matters item 2) was delayed to the end of the meeting

3) Membership

Bill reported that the regional membership has increased to 22 clubs and 132 individual members (including 3 juniors).

4) Development

Don has visited some of the new clubs but was disappointed that their intentions to build terrains had not progressed. It was discussed whether the region should refuse to accept membership applications from new clubs until they had a playable terrain (even if only a minimum size). Alan agreed to check if there are any national guidelines.

One of our established clubs , the Saddle , has benefited from the reduction in Sky TV licence fees. In his new position as Youth Development Officer Ted will require CRB checking. In the past this has been paid for by the EPA but if not it will be paid for by the region. As part of this Ted agreed to clarify the procedure and the costs since it would be better for more players to be covered to work with juniors.

5) Coaching

There has been no progress with arranging for Northern players to take the grade 3 coaching exam. Richard will contact East Midlands and try to resurrect the idea. Any interested players should contact Richard. The region will pay the exam fees of £22 per person and may pay for other costs when these are clarified.

Northern will not be sending any juniors to this years junior weekend of excellence since Jamie and Annabelle were not available and Marcus was not asked due to chaperone and travel problems.

6) Umpiring

Ray is still waiting to hear of further umpiring courses.

2) Playing matters

a) Options to increase the strength of the regional squad

It was generally accepted that the squad would benefit from more intense competition.

The Yorkshire squad for the May day county match against Leicester will be open to all Northern members not just those based in Yorkshire. Because of the timing the basis for selecting this squad will be the previous years qualifiers but where triples have changed the new triples will be used where possible.

Alan has contacted West Midlands about a possible inter regional event with them in July / August after each region has selected their new squad but has not yet received an answer. Alan will try to get confirmation of this before the calendar planning meeting in February.

Matt commented that having not played in the regional squad for 5 years it was noticeable that the squad unity had reduced. Alan suggested that a large part of this was due to the large number of triples that were having a bad weekend. Squad unity is not something that can be legislated for but all squad members will be asked to support the remainder of the squad where possible.

Ted commented that we may be going stale due to playing the same teams every week. This led to a discussion of possible competition formats.

b) Competition formats

Criticisms of some events have been expressed throughout the year particularly regarding the snake format which was much more prevalent this year than previously.

It is up to the clubs to decide which format suits them best but some clubs do not have the experience of different formats and may benefit from advice.

Alan commented that he has organised or played in at least 10 different formats. There is no format that meets all requirements but the region and the clubs may benefit from more variety.

Alan volunteered to summarise the options available with his own feelings of what the advantages and disadvantages are to each format. This can then form the basis for further discussion.

This will be circulated when available.

Some points raised during the lengthy discussion were

- Some players want a full days play particularly after travelling a long way , others may want a shorter day due to family commitments.
- Some players want more pressure , others such as novices may not
- A final to decide the winners and runners up is preferable
- Events with league and knockout may allow novices to win a lower section such as the consolage but prizes for 9th or 17th place can be criticised.
- Clubs should advertise their intended format where possible. The website is available for competition entry forms and these could include the format.
- It would be better if the calendar meeting could avoid groups of similar events e.g. Not several weeks of pairs events in a row.

This topic will be discussed again at the next meeting.

c) 2010 Playing Calendar

A form is attached to club copies of the minutes for clubs to send provisional club tournament dates to Alan Swift.

Please note that this must be done by January 30th at the latest but earlier would allow Alan to discuss possible conflicts in advance of the February meeting at which the calendar will be confirmed.

7) Other business

Andy asked if we could change the regional kit. There was no support for changing the tops but it was agreed that the next meeting would consider changing the bottoms colour from Navy Blue to Black. Clubs should check their members views before the next meeting.

Matt asked if the next meeting could include an agenda item so that regional event prizes are discussed , this was agreed.

8) The next meeting will be held at Wetherby Sports Association at 10.30 am on Saturday 6/2/10. The major item of business will be the 2010 playing calendar.

The meeting was closed at 12.20 pm

Sue Swift.