

President      Secretary  
Alan Swift     Sue Swift  
4 The Green  
Moortown  
Leeds LS17 6QL  
0113 2681124

**Northern Petanque**  
**A Region of the English Petanque Association**

Vice President  
John Gaughan  
11 Runswick Avenue  
Beckfield Lane, Acomb  
York YO26 5PP  
01904 792575

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**Regional Website - [www.northernpetanque.co.uk](http://www.northernpetanque.co.uk)**

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Minutes of the Regional Committee Meeting held at Wetherby Sports Association on Saturday 20/10/2007.

<u>Present</u>	President	- Alan Swift (Wetherby)
	Treasurer/Memb.Sec	- Bill Vicker (Brandesburton)
	Development Officer (W)	- Ted Beetham (Mistral)
	Development Officer (E)	- Don Jackson (York RI)
	Youth Development	- Ruth Borrowdale (Mistral)
	Playing Officer	- Pete Best (Wigginton)
	Umpire	- Ray Gatenby (Doncaster)
	Wetherby	- John & Jenny Stockton , Angela Fletcher
	Wigginton	- Chris Best
	The Fox	- Barbara Hardisty
	Bridlington	- Chris Cann , Chris O'Rourke
	Doncaster	- Debbie Gatenby , Pat Rowlands
	York RI	- Angie Gaughan
	Leeds	- Neill Rank , Mike Walkley

The president opened the meeting at 12.15 pm  
Apologies were as for the AGM.

1) Minutes of the last meeting

There were no matters arising.

The minutes were accepted unanimously, proposer Angie Gaughan, seconder Ruth Borrowdale.

2) Playing matters

a) 2008 Playing Calendar

A form is available on the website so that provisional club dates can be sent to Pete Best.

**Please note that this should be done by the end of November** to allow Pete to discuss possible conflicts in advance of the January meeting at which the calendar will be confirmed.

b) EPA clubs knockout competition

Several Northern clubs are taking part in this competition now that the earlier rounds are arranged geographically. Alan agreed to report to Mike Pegg that the region was in favour of the new format.

c) Club tournament rules

Chris Cann queried the kit rules at club tournaments specifically whether bare torsos are allowed.

Alan replied that all tournaments should be run to EPA rules and bare torsos are not allowed (rule 38) but the enforcement of the rules is a matter for the club unless they have arranged for an umpire to be in charge.

d) Player of the year

The player of the year award which was introduced in 2007 was won by Luke.

It was unanimously agreed that the ranking points table would continue with the same format in 2008. The start and end of the ranking points season will be decided when the playing calendar is confirmed.

3) Membership

Bill reported that the regional membership is 13 clubs and 93 individual members - 89 adults and 4 juniors.

4) Development

a) North East

- Don reported that a come and try day had been held at York RI as part of the York 50+ Festival. This was not as successful as last year and Don felt that a different area of York may be better next year to try to attract new players.
- A parish councillor from Oxspring near Penistone, South Yorkshire was introduced to the sport after seeing players at Bridlington and hopes to build a terrain next year.
- A cricket club at Harthill, South Yorkshire is considering a terrain.
- The Derwent Arms at Osbaldwick, York has delayed installing a terrain but this is still possible next year.
- There are now several players in the Huddersfield area giving the possibility of a new club next year.
- Don visited a working mens club near Hebden Bridge who were considering a terrain but he does not expect this to be followed up.

b) North West

- Ted confirmed that the Croston league have no interest in contact with Northern. Alan commented that it was worthwhile contacting them every year and sending them a playing calendar in case new players have a different attitude. (This also applies to other established clubs such as Hull YPI).
- A residential home in the Preston area is considering installing a terrain.

Pete asked if there had been further contact with the Westoe club in South Shields. Alan replied that there had not despite very friendly contacts earlier in the year. It is always going to be difficult to maintain contact with any club based a long way from the nearest club (80 miles in the case of Westoe).

Development of and contact with new clubs depends on the help of other clubs and individual players. All development contacts should be reported to Don and Ted who can collate the possible developments and ensure that potential clubs receive help and encouragement.

c) Junior

Our lack of juniors is becoming critical.

Any ideas for attracting juniors such as contacts with schools or youth groups should be reported to Ruth.

Chris Cann suggested contacting schools prior to the activities week that some schools hold at the end of the summer term.

Any contacts are unlikely to be successful unless they are on a regular basis such as if a teacher is keen on the sport or if a group of juniors become involved with a club.

5) Coaching

There has been no progress with arranging a coaching course to qualify potential coaches to grade 3 (club) level. It is still intended to arrange this with the East Midlands coaches and it was agreed that the potential coaches should liaise with Luke to ensure that this is arranged.

There are no Northern candidates for the junior weekend of excellence this year.

6) Umpiring

Ray had planned to attend an Umpires course in Leicester but this was cancelled. The courses cover 2 days and the next course is in Essex. Further courses are expected in the new year which are hoped to be more suitable. Any players wanting to attend one of these courses should liaise with Ray.

7) Disciplinary problems

Two recent problems appear to have been resolved without the need for disciplinary action.

8) Other business

Mark Cooter from Kent continues to produce a useful quarterly newsletter. Clubs are reminded that Mark would be grateful for news that he can include. Chris Best queried the type of content that would be suitable and agreed to contact Mark to get an answer.

It has always been the case that the officers of clubs have to be EPA members with regard to insurance. The current insurance certificates includes the line "where all committee members are individually affiliated". Clubs are advised to consider if this wording would affect them if they need to make an insurance claim.

9) The next meeting will be held at Wetherby Sports Association at 10.30 am on Saturday 26/1/08. The major item of business will be the 2008 playing calendar.

The meeting was closed at 1.15 pm

Alan Swift.