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Northern Petanque

A Region of the English Petanque Association

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Minutes of the Regional Committee Meeting held at Wetherby Sports Association on Saturday 25/10/2008.

<u>Present</u>	President	- Alan Swift (Wetherby)
	Vice President	- John Gaughan (York RI)
	Secretary	- Sue Swift (Wetherby)
	Treasurer/Memb.Sec	- Bill Vicker (Brandesburton)
	Development Officer (W)	- Ted Beetham (Mistral)
	Umpire	- Ray Gatenby (Doncaster)
	Wetherby	- Jenny Stockton (representative) - John Stockton, Caroline Hoy, Robin Brookes (observers)
	Wigginton	- Chris Best (representative), Pete Best (observer)
	Bridlington	- Peter Jordan (representative), Madge Jordan, Chris O'Rourke (observers)
	Doncaster	- Gill Stirland (representative) - Debbie Gatenby, Pat Rowlands, Helen Stirland, Tony Costello (observers)
	York RI	- Angie Gaughan (representative), Angela Fletcher (observer)
	Brandesburton	- David Wiseman
	observer	- Chris Cann

The president opened the meeting at 11.22 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 Ted Beetham.

2) Playing matters

a) Playing Officer

With the Playing Officer position vacant the work of the playing officer will be shared by Alan Swift - compiling the provisional playing calendar, accepting entries and organising prizes.

Angie Gaughan and Caroline Hoy - acting as playing officer on the day of an event. (Alan will supply any necessary paperwork).

Pete Best - organising trophies.

b) Trophies / Prizes for regional events

Alan confirmed that the constitution states that at least 80% of entry fees must be paid as trophies / prizes at events run by the region. However the form of the trophies or prizes is not specified.

Alternatives were discussed such as cash prizes or not having trophies so that the prizes were better.

It was then agreed unanimously that the current system will continue.

There will be small memento trophies for winners, runners up and plate winners.

The winners will also receive a regional polo shirt embroidered (e.g.) Triples Winner 2009 and will receive a perpetual trophy for a year.

There will also be small prizes (wine, chocolates) for several places depending on the entry.

This has no effect on club competitions, it is up to the club to decide their own policy.

c) 2009 Playing Calendar

A form is attached for clubs to send provisional club tournament dates to Alan Swift.

Please note that this must be done by January 17th at the latest but earlier would allow Alan to discuss possible conflicts in advance of the January meeting at which the calendar will be confirmed.

3) Membership

Bill reported that the regional membership has increased to 16 clubs and 109 individual members - 104 adults and 5 juniors. Bill has also sent membership application forms to the Oxford PH in Blackpool and the White Horse Tavern in Westhaughton near Wigan. There is no advantage to joining at this time of year but we hope they will join when the new membership year starts in March.

Alans report refers to a possible change in the minimum number of members of a club. We currently have 9 clubs with less than 6 members so we will monitor the situation closely.

4) Development

a) Juniors

Without the 10 wins gained by our juniors at Brean Sands the squad would have been demoted.

Attracting new juniors remains critical but we are making minimal progress.

Juniors will almost certainly start playing at a club and the clubs have a key role to play in developing them.

Anyone representing the region when working with juniors will need CRB clearance although this should not be necessary if the parents are present.

Ted, Luke, Richard and Alan demonstrated the game to about 100 pupils at a primary school in Yeadon.

b) North East

- Don reported (via Alan) that he has been in contact with the new club at Skellow Grange.
- No progress with the possible terrain at Oxspring near Penistone.
- Flamborough Bowls Club are considering adapting part of their car park to use as a terrain.
- The Leeds PC chairman (Nigel Clay) is moving to Harrogate and is trying to organise a terrain in the centre of Harrogate. He has support from the council and is currently organising funding.
- A terrain is being considered in Alwoodley , North Leeds possibly at a rugby club.
- Alan will try to maintain contact with the players at the new terrain in Thorner (not a formal club).

c) North West

Ted is in contact with the new clubs , Cleveleys PC near Blackpool and Great Ecclestone PC near Preston as well as the possible new clubs in Blackpool and near Wigan mentioned in Bills report.

There are also further possibilities in the Bolton and Wigan areas.

There is obvious potential for an increase in the sport in that area possibly via a local league but Ted emphasised it is very early in the development of these clubs and it will be up to them how quickly they want development to proceed.

Both Ted and Alan emphasised that the region must strike the correct balance in supporting these new clubs without pressurising them.

5) Coaching

Six players have been to Leicester to observe Richard Pratt and Tony Moulding holding a coaching session and to see what is involved in taking the coaching exam.

Chris Best is liaising with Richard and Tony who have volunteered to visit Northern to help our potential coaches if their petrol costs are paid. Alan expressed the view that the region should pay the costs and that this should be arranged before spring if possible because of playing commitments.

Peter Jordan queried the insurance situation at a club visited by a coach.

Alan replied that the coach and the clubs EPA members would automatically be covered.

The insurance also covers new players at a “come and try day” but clubs should ensure that they keep a record of new players attending such an event.

Club members who are not members of the EPA are not covered by EPA insurance.

6) Umpiring

Ray is still waiting to hear of further umpiring courses.

7) Other business

None

8) The next meeting will be held at Wetherby Sports Association at 10.30 am on Saturday 31/1/09. The major item of business will be the 2009 playing calendar.

The meeting was closed at 12.20 pm

Sue Swift.