

Pétanque England



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors held on Saturday 16th May 2020 by videoconference

Present:

Martin Eggleton (ME), Annette Eggleton (AE), Ken Buchan (KB), Martin Hughes (MH), Alan Roden (AR), Ray Keemer-Richards (R K-R), Cary Bush (CB), David Mason (DM), Clive De Silva (CDS), Jim Marstin (JM), David Baxter (DB), Colin Roper (CR)

1 Apologies for Absence

Bob Parker

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The previously circulated minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 28th March 2020 were approved as a true and correct record.

3 Matters Arising

None

4 AGM

KB Reported that solicitors had given their approval to the AGM proceeding provided members were fully informed about their rights to appoint a proxy and were given an alternative opportunity to submit questions about the management of the company. The adjourned AGM had been fixed for Saturday 30th May 2020 at 11.30 a.m. Notice of this had been sent to all members and was on the website. KB had drafted a Directors Report which would be circulated to the Board. Main items which had yet to be included were the President's remarks and the Treasurer's report, but everyone was asked to review the draft report and submit any amendments or improvements to Ken. The deadline for these contributions would be Saturday 23rd May. ME explained that the AGM would be a videoconference via Zoom. ME would be able to control participants with a mute facility. There is a chat facility which participants can use during the AGM. Annette will be monitoring the chat activity in another room and will pass over any enquiries. ME will host a test session a couple of days before the AGM to enable members to test their connectivity.

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KB

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Board

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5 Inter-Regional Championships.

DM reported that Mill Rythe were intending to re-open in July with limited services. However social distancing guidelines were likely to be still in place. This would pose severe difficulties. The accommodation is too small for adults from three or four different households, the restaurant is too congested to enable a 2m separation to be maintained

and the playing area has too little space to allow significant social distancing to be achieved. Following extensive discussions with IOW Tours they had agreed, with the concurrence of Mill Rythe, not to call for the deposit of £39,300 should we cancel at this stage. (IOW Tours may be able to use the dates for a smaller event). Parkdene are however insisting on payment of the £5,000 deposit. DM reported that IOW Tours are prepared to share this loss with PE under an arrangement whereby PE agrees to pay IOW Tours £2,500 and enters into an agreement to use their services to arrange the IR venue for a further 3 years. DM had consulted a lawyer acquaintance who felt that we would not be able to avoid liability to IOW Tours for the £39,500 deposit should they insist on its payment.

It was unanimously agreed that we would immediately cancel the Inter Regional Championships for 2020 and enter into an agreement with IOW Tours whereby PE will pay £2,500 to IOW Tours towards the £5,000 liability they have for the Parkdean deposit with the proviso that PE agrees to use their services to procure a venue for the inter-regional championships, for a further period of 3 years. The Events Group were asked to finalise the terms of this agreement.

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Events
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It was agreed that we should notify members of this decision this weekend. MH would draft the notice which would be posted on the website and social media as soon as DB had issued it in the form of an email to all members.

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DB

Attachment – I.O.W. Proposal

6 NYA

A message had been received from Toni Gates explaining that the NYA selectors had decided not to send either a male or female team to the 2020 Youth Championships in view of the Covid-19 uncertainties. The NYA had remained in contact with NYA players throughout the lockdown via weekly video meetings giving advice on various aspects of the game and setting home training routines. The NYA coaches are to be congratulated on their pragmatic approach. Toni Gates had asked for some unused budget allocation to be carried forward to 2021 but CB pointed out that budgets could not be agreed on that basis.

7 Eurocup

AR pointed out that the domestic competition had been frozen after the initial rounds and that because of the continuing restrictions it would not be possible to complete the qualification process to decide the England entry to the CEP competition. It was agreed that if the CEP Eurocup was to take place, last year's domestic winners, Baldock Town, would be entered to represent England. It was also agreed that the results of the rounds which had been completed earlier in the year would be carried forward to 2021 and the competition resumed from that point. This decision would be included in the general playing update to be issued by MH

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MH

8 Domestic Competitions

In view of the existing uncertainty about the extent to which social distancing guidelines may change at the end of the month it was agreed that the Board should meet briefly after the AGM to decide whether to go ahead with the domestic competitions planned for June. There is doubt not only about social distancing but also as to whether the venues would be open. The Champion of Champions competition would be kept under review because there was an increased likelihood of social distancing relaxations by October.

9 International Championships

In the light of continuing uncertainties about social distancing, international travel and the lack of preparedness of our international teams it was agreed that in addition to withdrawing the youth teams from the CEP Youth championships we should also withdraw the espoirs teams who were due to compete at the same venue and also not to enter a team for the CEP Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles Championships due to be held in Latvia in September. The women's European triples championship had been rescheduled to take place in Spain in October and it was agreed to defer a decision on entry until matters were clearer.

10 Receivables – (Confidential not for publication)

11. Consultation Exercise

ME pointed out that two different draft consultation documents had been prepared. The first was a survey drafted by MH and the second was an explanatory document drafted by DB inviting narrative responses.

MH was open minded about what should go into the survey and was happy to broaden the scope of the survey to include areas outside the confines originally proposed by DB and DM. He felt that it should be one exercise and that it should concentrate on big picture issues but be focussed and sharp. He had omitted some of the detail in his original draft to ease completion but if the need arose there would be the option of issuing supplementary surveys on playing matters or other wider issues. He felt that it was essential for it to be capable of online submission. He also felt that if we were including background financial information it should be accurate. He would be happy for CB to provide the figures.

ME thought that the financial information should be transparent so that everyone was aware of the total cost of playing activities not just the net cost. DB thought that we just need to get the survey under way but that we should use all approaches through all channels.

ME thought that the survey should be made known via multi channels, that we should be careful about collecting identifiable information for data protection reasons and that if we do expand the questionnaire it should be possible for users to skip questions they are not interested in. He felt that it was important that the survey was not too difficult to complete. AR expressed concern that if the survey was publicised through Facebook it would open up a whole load of argumentative comments. ME pointed out that a survey stays in that form and will not therefore extend to a Facebook discussion.

ME asked who would be willing to finalise the consultation questions for sign off and subsequent delivery. He noted that MH was prepared to be flexible about the questions and 2 or 3 members had expressed support for delivery through multi channels. DM supported the multi-channel approach and agreed that the questionnaire should be short enough for people to get to the end and that they should not have to answer every question if they don't want to. They should however be able to talk about what they want to talk about. He felt that it was important for people to understand that if they chose to support spending in some areas it would mean spending less in other areas.

ME again asked for someone to finalise the questionnaire. DB's consultation document was looking for ideas for other means of income but ME thought that this would predictably result in suggestions that the Board should find sponsors. DB indicated that he would rephrase the questions. DB was willing to go through the scene setting numbers with CB but ME was wary about putting in too much detail.

DM pointed out that there were 2 people who were going to generate questionnaires and asked if a deadline could be fixed for activating the process. ME would like to announce the imminent issue of the survey at the AGM but was looking for DB and MH to come up with a single survey document. ME agreed to work on producing a slimmed down version of the survey

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MH

12. Any Other Business

12.1 Expense Claims & Budgetary Control.

CB felt that 1 or 2 members had been taking advantage of the expense claim system and he was revising the expense claim form to tighten the procedure. He also suggested that once budgets had been set any expenditure of more than £100 which exceeded the budgetary limits should have to be submitted to the Board for approval. ME recommended that the expenses policy should be revised and once approved made widely known. CB indicated that this policy ought to be the same for juniors and adults.

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CB

12.2 Inter Regionals 2021

.DM pointed out that the proposed date for the 2021 Inter Regionals was 1 week earlier than normal because the venue was not available

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on our usual weekend. MH would mention this in the Playing Update Communication

12.3 Financial Reserves

DM pointed out that we were likely to end this year with a positive balance in the accounts. It was agreed that any surplus would be ploughed back to replenish our reserves or to provide a development fund for future priorities.

13 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed to hold the next meeting by way of video conference on Saturday 6th June at 10.00 a.m.