

Pétanque England



Minutes of the PE Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 10th February 2024

10th February 2024

Holiday Inn, Reading South, Berks. RG2 0SL

Present

Board

Colin Roper (President)

Tom Wilson

Cary Bush (Treasurer)

John Edmondson

Martin Hughes

Members

R Vickery	D Baxter	S Lombard
C Peat	F Charlesworth	C Crofts
C Greenhalgh	J Nurser	T Basson
D Greenaway	A Thomas	C Chubb
R Greenhalgh	M Quaia	R Stevens
M Hadsell	M McVey Dymond	S Slade
L Crofts		

1. Apologies for Absence

M Blyton	A Roden	I Coates
L Stewart	M Eggleton	A Eggleton
K Knight	C Gonzala	A Prior
R Francis	K Wannell	T Spring
D Harrington	S Bird	A Wilmott
R Keemer-Richards	J Keemer-Richards	

Voting Records

It was advised that 135 proxy votes were received via Email and 19 on paper. giving the number of proxy votes of 154.

It was noted at the opening of the AGM that 5 members present held 66 proxy votes between them in addition to their own votes although It was not confirmed whether or not that these were discretionary or specific votes or whether they had been included in the scrutineers report provided at the beginning of the meeting.

However the chair was not provided with a breakdown of the remaining proxies and how he was instructed to vote on behalf of the members who had submitted these forms

Quorum

It was confirmed that with the attendance of 25 members and total proxies of 154 making

a total of 181 complies with the articles (Section 19 subsection b1) that 100 members in person or by proxy and entitled to vote on the business to be conducted.
It was also noted that a number of proxies had arrived by mail in the morning. Due to being received after the date these were not included in the count

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10th December 2022

The minutes were approved unanimously as a true and correct record.

3. Directors Report

The directors annual reports to members had been circulated in advance of the meeting via the Petanque England website.

Thanks were placed on record to

Paul Leverett for all the work he undertook on Sport 80

Martin Hughes for his time on the Board over many years.

4. Approval of the Accounts for the 12 months to March 31 2023.

The treasurer presented the accounts for the 12 months ended March 31 2023. A detailed report together with the full accounts are attached to these minutes, Approval of the accounts were proposed by Adrian Thomas and seconded by Margaret McVey-Dymond.

5. Appointment of Directors

Martin Hughes had previously advised the board that he would be standing down at the AGM and the Board thanked him for his contributions during his tenure.

Both Chris Chubb and Richard Stevens had were nominated to the board and their nominations were accepted.

6. Determination of membership Fees for 2024

- a) The proposal to hold the adult membership fee for 2023 at £25
- b) The proposal to keep the junior membership fee for 2023 at £5
- c) The proposal to retain the multi-tiered membership (Club member) as advertised in 2023

Members Proposal to amend 6c proposed by David Baxter (DB)

It is proposed that the club player level of membership introduced by the board on 1st July 2023 is approved and is now made available to new and existing members as an adult member under rule 2.1.3 with a fee structure similar to that of the competitor membership, i.e. a national fee + a regional precept.

It was pointed out to DB that under section 15, the articles currently define the levels of membership with different rights and obligations and that these may only be varied those members themselves by a special resolution in a separate general meeting of the members of that class. DB argued that this was not relevant as the levels of membership related to shareholders. It was pointed out that PE was incorporated as a "Private Limited Company by guarantee without share capital use of 'Limited' exemption" (quote – Companies House) and as such does not have shareholders. If the articles had been improperly written at inception and members have not been properly defined the articles will need to amended. DB also stated that the rules of the company take precedence over the Articles of Association (AA). It was pointed out by a number of the members present that the AA's are legally binding on the company and take precedence over the rules which must be written to comply with the AA's. DB was also requested that he should have attached a set of financials showing the impact it would have on the organization should the proposed changes be implemented.

The meeting was reminded that it is the responsibility of the directors to ensure

that what may look to be a good idea does not erode the value of the company. Solicitors will be consulted to confirm whether or not the AA's take preference and how to amend the articles to align the organization as a National Governing Body but also to comply with Sport England guidelines enabling better opportunities of obtaining grant money to help grow the organization.

7. Resolutions proposed by Members

i. Matt Blyton

PE stops using selection in determining team composition for representation at International adult tournaments, except for the fourth player in triples events, until a full review of this has been undertaken with the membership. For this year, the top two players in a SSE Doubles series should automatically become the representative players for the 2025 World singles, doubles and mixed doubles championships.

ii. Simon Adamsdale

Recently PE Players including one from London were selected from the 2024 European Championships, clear and unequivocal guidelines make this process an easy and transparent one.

Rule 2.9 "the players ranked 1-4 will form the squad" so the men should have been chosen from the list (names excluded)

One player was chosen from the list, yet a 5th player was selected not on the list, a clear breach of the guidelines. (The rules make no provision for substitutions)

Members from the London region (with we believe significant support from other regions) request that PE Management review this decision – and using the existing guidelines make the proper selection.

Due to Matt Blyton not being in attendance and no one was appointed to speak on his behalf 7.i was not considered.

While there was a general debate regarding the selection process and the responsibility of the selection committee it was stated that this was the jurisdiction of the playing committee and the decisions / reasoning for the named selection would be referred back to them to resolve the situation and re define the rules so that all parties are clear on how selection is made and how players are chosen.

iii. Monty Quaia

It is proposed that PE Promote petanque by financially supporting prestige events, as the BPA did in the past with the Rochester Classic, that raise the profile of the game by having the participation of invitation teams and recent World Champions.

A number of objectives were listed in the proposal and was summarized by "Eligible events for such PE Marketing money must have invitation players willing to attend and the suggested support rate is £500 per world champion up to a maximum support of £3000 for a single event.

There was a significant amount of debate as to why and who should be sponsored for this type of event. It was also pointed out that there was a lack of both financials and metrics to measure the success / failure of the investment which would justify any future investment over and above this year. It was agreed that an initial grant of £1500 would be made but that metrics must be in place to judge the success of the program.

It was also noted that Monty had 39 proxies (25% of the proxies submitted) to support his vote.

iv. David Baxter

Resolution to alter the PE articles of association to allow for virtual or hybrid annual general meetings. The wording is based on guidance by the Chartered Governance Institute in February 2021 in "Virtual and Hybrid AGM's: a guide for charities. (Suggested wording was attached to the proposal.

It was pointed out to David that we are in fact not a charity. and that the proposals for virtual meetings were put in place due to the practicalities surrounding COVID. It was however agreed that we would look at the amending the articles with the help of an external source (Legal representatives) to amend the articles as appropriate.

8. Any Other Business

Any additional items are not binding

It was proposed that any resolution brought to the AGM must have reviewed by the board prior to being presented to ensure a balanced view (pro's and con's) and that both financials and metrics attached so that the investment can be measured and ensure that its both beneficial and adds value to the organization as a whole. It was also mentioned that the way the proxy system is currently being used could result in proposals that has an impact that could be beneficial to one specific group as opposed to the organization as a whole.

As there was no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 5.00 p.m.