

Pétanque England



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors held on Saturday 20th April 2019 by teleconference

Present:

Martin Eggleton (ME); Ken Buchan (KNB); Colin Roper (CR), Martin Hughes (MH), Alan Roden (AR), David Baxter (DB); Ray Keemer-Richards (R K-R)

1 Apologies for Absence

Kath Brooks (KB), Cary Bush (CB), Jim Marstin (JM); Bob Parker (BP); David Mason (DM)

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The previously circulated minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 19th January 2019 were approved as a true and correct record.

3 Matters Arising

7.3 Kit Fine Dispute

DB mentioned that there were no provisions in the old rules for levying fines for dress code violations. It was agreed that DB would include this provision in the next rules revision.

Action DB

7.4 Euro Cup

AR Reported that there had been no umpire at the Euro Cup semi-finals at Luton (although there were qualified umpires in the Region who were available). He had not been notified whether an umpire had been arranged for the final. Agreed that AR would drop a note to BP & John Thatcher to check the position.

Action AR

8.0 Precision Shooting

DB reported that there was no appetite within regions to organise regional shooting heats. It was agreed that the precision shooting would continue to take place at the Inter Regionals and be open to all Regional Shooting Champions + the defending national champion.

Action
Events

4 Co-Option of Directors

It was agreed that Annette Eggleton and Clive De Silva be co-opted as “elected directors”. Annette had also agreed to act as Safeguarding Officer (the role formerly undertaken by Alan Forse) and would continue as DBS checks co-ordinator.

ME would make an appeal in his next newsletter for members (particularly female members) to submit expressions of interest in becoming a director.

5 Proposed Changes to the Petanque England Rules

The proposed changes to Rules 4 and 5 concerning the admission of clubs and leagues as voting members was considered. Since this was considered at the last meeting it had become apparent that the insurers no longer required all committee members to be PE members and this requirement should therefore be dropped. DB expressed disquiet about relaxing the 100% committee membership rule because it was important that those in authority within clubs should be subject to our rules and codes. AR suggested that the minimum number of PE members should include the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer of each organisation. It was agreed that the proposed rule changes should be further revised, and the matter was deferred until the next meeting.

Action KNB

Resource: - Proposed Rule Changes

6 International Players Financial Contribution Relief Scheme

The revised Players Financial Contribution Relief Scheme as modified in accordance with the decisions taken at the last meeting was adopted.

Action KNB

Resource: - Draft International Playing Fee Relief Scheme

There was some discussion about players undertaking various coaching schemes which had not been agreed with CR. R K-R had become aware of one such case and it was agreed that he would inform the player concerned that prior approval of CR would be required

Action RK-R

7 Publication Protocol

It was agreed that the previously circulated draft publication protocol be adopted

Resource – Draft Publication Protocol

Action KNB

8 Complaints Procedure

It was agreed that the previously circulated re-drafted complaints procedure be adopted. DB will provide KNB with the new website reference

Action
KNB & DB

Resource: - Redrafted Complaints Procedure

9 Aged Debtors

The schedule of outstanding debts was considered, and the following matters were agreed

- Amounts owing for DBS fees would be deducted from the precepts due to the regions concerned

- Amounts due for coaching kit etc would be investigated and pursued where appropriate. Action CB
- All players with outstanding contributions for international representative events would be given a deadline of 1 May to pay the outstanding amount or the first payment of an agreed instalment plan. Failure to do so will trigger a 6-month suspension of licence. Action CB & RK-R
- Failure to adhere to an agreed payment plan will also trigger a 6-month suspension of licence. Action RK-R
- Players can still apply for the international playing Fee relief scheme, but they must have either paid the amount due or entered into a payment plan. Action RK-R
- R K-R would contact CB to obtain up to date details for those who were paying by instalments Action CR
- R K-R will draft a communication or ME to send out to the outstanding debtors Action RK-R
- Action R-KR

Resource: - Schedule of Debtors (Confidential)

10 Playing Rules

The Proposed changes to Rule 6 regarding prizes were approved.

Rule 3.12 was amended by deleting “on the first day” and replacing with “in the calendar year”

Rule 3.14 was amended by deleting “international” and replacing it with “CEP/FIPJP”

The position of foreign players taking part in ranking events was clarified as follows:-

The general prohibition on foreign players from entering ranking events will not apply to the Titles Weekend or to the Veterans Championship but foreign players (and their partners) will not be awarded ranking points.

DB will write up specific rules for the Home Nations Qualifiers

Action DB

Resource: - Draft Revised Competition Rules 2019

11 Umpiring Proposals

11.1 Uniform

It was agreed that if we wish our umpires to appear professional, they should be supplied with the official uniform. It was not clear what the proposed budget of £3000 would provide. CR explained that newly qualified coaches were provided with a polo shirt costing £23. (The course fee was £25). Coaches could buy sweatshirts etc at subsidised prices.

KNB will ask John Thatcher to provide a detailed breakdown of the cost of the uniform items. Action KNB

11.2 Umpire Fees

It was not felt appropriate to pay umpires a fee as well as awarding them a mileage allowance as the latter contained a substantial “profit element”. The payment of fees could involve unwelcome complications regarding taxation and employment law, and it was agreed not to go down that route.

11.3 Umpires Course

The estimated cost of the umpires course of £1,100 feels a bit heavy but it was agreed that the Umpiring Commission be asked to go ahead with it.

Resource: Umpiring Commission Proposals

12 Adult Player Selection Proposals 2020

ME presented a draft paper which he had previously circulated entitled “Squads PE Board Position”. Most comments made ahead of the meeting had been supportive. The paper set out an aspirational vision of how the squad system would look

DB felt that the Board needed to address the questions posed at the conclusion of MH’s discussion paper “Moving to a Squad System”. The fist of these concerned the need for a buy-in from PE and the players. He felt that the buy-in from PE should encompass all members as the system was a substantial financial commitment. He recommended that we should go public with a short 1-page explanation of the system that was slightly less brutal than ME’s paper. The wider membership might be turned off by excessive detail, but a more detailed explanation would have to be supplied to players.

Some discussion took place regarding the human resources required to run the squad system and to perform the “selection” role. There were mixed opinions about how easy it would be to attract people of the right calibre to perform those roles.

Various proposals were considered regarding the size of the squads, means of entry to the squad and the way squads would be refreshed. Two main proposals were considered. The first envisaged the ranking system providing a “top 16” who would take part in a selection day facilitated possibly by an overseas coach and which would result in the selection of a development squad of 6. The other proposal involved the selection of a 9 strong development squad chosen from the top ranked players who would be interviewed in order to establish their commitment to training and development. Some felt that the “top 16” proposal relied unduly on the hit and miss element

of performance on one particular day and might lead to the selection of players who were not prepared to fulfil the player commitment. It was agreed therefore that the best model would be the “9 squad” proposal.

The Question of financial resources was considered. The detailed costs of operating a development programme involving overseas competitions could become unaffordable and players would have to recognise the need to make some financial contribution themselves. ME pointed out that the CEP & FIPJP have ramped up the number of championships they hold to the extent that some countries are becoming more selective about which competitions to enter. ME had recently discovered that the Dutch are no longer going to send teams to the singles, doubles and mixed doubles championships. Furthermore, their adult teams will not be entered in the World Triples championships if they fail to make the top 8 in the Europeans.

DB pointed out that we do not have all the answers about whether a squad system will improve our international competitiveness and at this stage it is not necessary to agree every detail of how the system will work. It will invariably have to be modified in the light of experience. There is no point working on detail if there are not enough players willing to sign up to a squad commitment.

RK-R considered that we should adopt a more business-like approach. We were currently making a considerable investment in sending teams to international championships but were simply not achieving satisfactory results. We should either scrap our involvement or get players who are willing to make it work. MH considered that our playing programme successfully threw up our best players, but the principal weakness of our teams is poor team ethos and lack of preparation.

The overall concept for 2020 was agreed as follows:-
The top 9 adult ranked players in each gender qualifying from the ranking competitions this year will be interviewed and those that are prepared to give the requisite commitment will form part of the development squads from which the representational teams will be chosen for 2020. Going forward the development squads will be refreshed in future years with any new top 9 ranked players fulfilling the required commitments.

Resources:-

[*Squads PE Board Position \(ME\)*](#)

[*Discussion Paper – Moving to a Squad System \(MH\)*](#)

13 Role of NYS

It was agreed that ME would speak to Toni Gates about the future relationship of NYS within NPP

Action ME

14 Budget 2019

The following general objectives were agreed: -

We should aim to build up our reserves over time and maintain them at a figure approximately equal to 1 year's income

We should aim to achieve a surplus of £5,000 in the current year

The cost of running the Euro Cup Competition should be met from the club affiliation fees.

It was noted that budgetary control was made difficult by reason of the fact that the bulk of our income was received in the early months of the year but that much of the heavy expenditure on air fares etc arose only towards the end of the year.

It was agreed that DB, KNB, RK-R & CB would work on the detail of the budget.

Action
KNB;
DB:CB:
RK-R

Resource: - Estimated Costs of Playing Programme (DB)

15 Any Other Business

15.1 Prohibition on successive regional transfers

KNB was dealing with a complaint from a member concerning our refusal to allow him to transfer between regions because the application was less than 12 months from a previous transfer. He believed that the rule had been established in order to prevent members from moving from one region to another in order to improve their chances of qualifying for the Inter Regionals. If that were so he suggested that the rule should be part of the Inter Regional Rules rather than the membership transfer procedure. Some problems were identified in constructing a rule which would not interfere with legitimate transfer requests. It was agreed that KNB would investigate the matter further and if appropriate submit a proposal for consideration at the next meeting.

Action KNB