

# Pétanque England



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors held on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at Wallingford Sport & Social Club,

### 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), Kath Brooks (KB), Cary Bush (CB), Bob Parker (BP), David Mason (DM). Annette Eggleton (AE), Clive De Silva (CDS)

### 1 Apologies for Absence

Jim Marstin (JM)

### 2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The previously circulated minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April were approved as a true and correct record.

### 3 Matters Arising

#### 3.1 Kit Fine Dispute

The imposition of fines for dress code violations had now been included in the competition rules

#### 3.2 Euro Cup

AR had emailed BP and John Thatcher about the absence of an umpire at the Euro Cup semi-finals.

#### 3.3 Precision Shooting

DB confirmed that Regional Shooting Champions and the Defending National Champion will be invited to compete in the Precision Shooting competition at the Inter Regionals.

Action DB

#### 5.0 Proposed Changes to Petanque England Rules

These had yet to be drafted. KNB will issue the redrafted changes for the next Board Meeting

Action KNB

#### 6.0 International Players Financial Contribution Relief Scheme

The redraft had been completed. KNB will submit to DB for insertion on the website.

Action  
KNB/DB

#### 7.0 Publication Protocol

It was agreed to publish this on the website.

Action  
KNB/DB

## **8.0 Complaints Procedure**

KNB will submit this to DB for publication on the website

Action  
KNB/DB

## **10. Playing Rules**

These had now been revised in accordance with the changes agreed at the last meeting

### **11.0 Umpiring Kit**

It had been agreed with the Umpiring Commission that 2 short sleeve polo shirts and 1 rain jacket should be purchased for each of the 5 umpires who had officiated at National Events. The cost would be approximately €125 + taxes and delivery per umpire. To save costs the garments would be embroidered with the description "Arbitre" rather than "Umpire"

Action  
Umpiring  
Commission

### **13.0 Role of NYS**

ME was still in discussions with Toni Gates regarding the role of NYS

Action ME

### **15.1 Prohibition on Successive Regional Transfers**

Following consultation with the Board & Events Group it had been agreed that any attempt to create a rule to prevent "Region Hopping" could unfairly prevent legitimate transferees from participating in the inter regionals. No rule change was therefore proposed.

Enquiries had revealed that the prohibition on successive transfers appeared only on an outdated form which had not been in use for many years. Current practice was simply that a transfer would be effected if both regions were agreeable. Accordingly, the member's complaint had been settled on the basis that the reverse transfer would be dealt with under the existing practice. Both regions had agreed to the transfer and the member concerned was now back with his original region.

### **Fixing the date & venue of the adjourned AGM.**

DM pointed out that the date and venue of the adjourned AGM had not been agreed by the whole board.

## **4 Finance**

CB mentioned that reconciling the financial aspect of the new membership system was proving to be very time consuming. He also suggested that there should be a window between the holding of competitions and the payment of prizes. CB pointed out that PE had substantial reserves currently and that funds were being deliberately left in PayPal so that PE's cash at bank does not exceed the bank deposit protection scheme limit. He considered that PE's reserves were enough to meet our current needs.

Some discussion took place regarding the amount which should be prudently kept in reserves. The rule of thumb for voluntary organisations was to keep the reserves at an amount equivalent to 1 year's income. MH pointed out that this would be acceptable for an organisation with heavy fixed overheads or employees but that an organisation such as ours could operate with less.

ME was of the view that we should concentrate on eradicating deficits rather than debating our reserves.

DB suggested that we should circularise our members with an account of how our playing commitments have increased with an explanation as to how these commitments must be funded and/or reduced. There may need to be different funding models for different playing groups. KNB felt it important to engage our total membership in this discussion because we seemed to be losing the public relations argument on Facebook.

DM noted that we spent a considerable amount each year on providing international teams with new kit which would be worn for one competition only. AE pointed out that it would be costly to maintain a stock of matching reusable kit and there was a risk of kit regulations changing or supplier lines being discontinued.

ME suggested that it was important to decide on the principles which would affect financial planning. He quoted the example of the Dutch Federation which had decided that they could no longer afford to enter the Worlds, singles, doubles or mixed doubles and that their adult teams would not compete in the Worlds triples if they failed to end up in the top 8 in Europe. Some criticism was voiced concerning the high cost of the CEP accommodation/meals package for the Espoirs.

MH was of the view that the Board should focus on elite playing with grass roots activity being left to the Regions. He considered that our players need to set the strategy. DM thought that argument to be one dimensional. PE had several thousand members and as an organisation should not be ignoring them in favour of a small number of noisy dogs. He wanted to have an organisation that brings people in.

ME considered that the Board has end to end responsibility for the sport and whilst it has delegated grass roots support to Regions, we need to ensure that they have what they need to discharge that responsibility. The Board needs to determine what its priorities are and he asked board members to email him with what they saw as their 5 top priorities.

Action Board

ME will draft a statement to members inviting responses to the various choices which have to be made. He hoped to issue the statement by the beginning of August.

Action ME

## 5 Debtors

R K-R reported that there were 7 players with outstanding balances due for players contributions where no payment plan was in place. 2 of those players were claiming credit under the International Playing Fee Relief Scheme but the correct procedure had not been followed and the coaching schemes had not been sanctioned by the Head of the Coaching Commission. R K-R would email the 2 players concerned to request them to complete the relevant application form by Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August if they wanted their coaching contributions to be considered under the scheme.

Action  
R K-R

CB would provide ME with up to date details of the outstanding balances due from the remaining 5 players and ME would inform the players concerned that their licences are suspended until the debts have been paid.

Action  
CB & ME

Details of the licence suspensions will be sent to the Presidents & Secretaries of the relevant Regions and to the Umpiring Commission.

Action ME

## 6 NPP

### 6.1 Juniors

The Juniors team for the world championships taking place in Cambodia is David Blyton, Jamie Brooks, Daniel Raine and Kai Sheffield. The team manager is Scott Ashby and the Head of Delegation is Annette Eggleton. The party will be supported by Matt Blyton and his wife and Tim Raine.

### 6.2 Women

The women's ranking competitions have been concluded and MH will be arranging a meeting to take place as soon as possible between himself, Rowland Jones, who is to be the team manager, and Colin Roper with the players ranked 3 to 6 in order to agree the remaining 2 players to join Emma Longstaff and Claire White in the world championship team for Cambodia.

### 6.3 Men

In view of the imminent deadline for submitting details of the team to the CEP, MH had spoken to all the top 6 players by telephone and had agreed the men's team for the European

Triples and Shooting Championships as Rowland Jones, Sam Blakey, Jason White and Reece Gould. The Coaching Commission had provided observers at many of the ranking events to gather performance data and this had been very helpful in making the final selection. A team coach had not yet been appointed but MH was in touch with a possible candidate. ME did not consider it necessary to appoint a Head of Delegation.

Action MH

#### **6.4 Veterans**

CDS reported that the turnout for the Veterans ranking competitions had been very disappointing. He attributed this largely to the Veterans European championships clashing with the Inter Regionals. The Veterans team to represent England in the European championships in Bulgaria would be the national triples champions, Simon Bird, Ian Barnes and Cliff Campbell who are to be joined by Hassi Leverett..

MH intimated that the plan is to repeat the Veterans ranking competitions next year although the European Championships were not due to take place again until the following year. However, this could have budget implications.

#### **6.5 Espoirs**

The position regarding the women espoirs was discussed in some detail. There were only 3 women who were available to compete in the women espoirs in Normandy in October. The CEP rules permitted a team of 3 to enter but it is PE policy to only enter teams of 4. It was agreed that we should not depart from that principle and that we should not therefore enter a team of 3 (motion carried 9 votes to 3). It was agreed that the NPP would look for other opportunities for them to compete internationally.

Action NPP

The question of whether it would be “fair” to enter a men’s espoirs team when we were not sending a women’s team was considered and it was agreed that PE should enter a men’s team as there were enough players to form a squad of 4. (11 for the proposal 1 against) The 4 players selected by the espoirs selection group were Jason White, Olly Zimmerman, Aston Monk and Luke Ashford. CR queried whether we would need to appoint a Head of Delegation. ME suggested that if we opt out of the CEP food and transport package, we could fund a Head of Delegation from the savings.

DB observed that few of the espoirs appeared in the national rankings and questioned whether this should be a requirement for qualification for the representative teams. It was noted that this had not been publicised as a requirement and consequently

espoirs had not been motivated to enter national ranking competitions.

## **7 Events Group**

### **7.1 Inter Regionals**

DM had volunteers available to help with the setting up on Friday and possibly Thursday if there was any accommodation available. AE would check with I.O.W. tours. Event management is in place, but volunteers are required to help organise the shooting competition for adults on Friday evening.

**Action AE**

### **7.2 Alternative Venues for The Inter Regionals**

DM had received further details of the offer from Warwick University to host the Inter Regionals. The proposed dates were in early August and the fees for the use of the facilities were substantially more than envisaged. It was agreed that there was no imperative to move from the existing arrangements at Mill Rythe as these were adequate for our purposes, but it would be prudent to look for alternatives in case the arrangement came to an end. It was suggested that we should ask I.O.W. Tours to assist with that exercise. R K-R suggested that we might consider holding an “inter regional event” for grass root players and it was agreed that this should be investigated further.

### **7.3 Grand Prix System**

DM expressed concern about the impact the proposed squad system would have on the playing calendar. The events group would like to see a grand prix system where players would receive ranking points based on their performance in those events with the top 32 qualifying to take part in a 5 round Swiss triples championship. This would free up calendar space for more individual events such as Veterans competitions. MH would need to reflect on the idea of using competitions which included non-PE players and would need to understand how performance data would be gathered and utilised. ME was anxious to ensure that players understood that there was a way in to the “magic circle” of elite players.

## **8 Coaching**

CR Reported that 9 new club coaches had successfully completed the club coaching course..

The County Coach Training courses are now available.

A process of assessment of existing club coaches is in progress.

A new form for reporting coaching activity will shortly be uploaded to the website.

**Action  
Coaching  
Commission**

## **9 Umpiring**

BP indicated that the Umpiring Commission were proposing to hold an umpiring course in February 2020. ME expressed disappointment that no courses were planned for the current year. BP would see if a course could be arranged for November. AR complained that a local umpire's offer to officiate at an event in his region had been turned down, but no alternative umpire had been appointed. KNB pointed out that we need to economise on travel and accommodation expenses by having more locally based umpires. ME stated that we need to have more umpiring courses and more qualified umpires. AE considered that the Umpiring Commission needs to adopt a fundamentally different approach if things are to improve.

**Action  
Umpiring  
Commission**

## **10 Any Other Business**

No Matters were raised under A.O.B.

## **11 Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next Board Meeting would be a teleconference on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 9.30 a.m.

**Action KNB**

It was agreed to ask Stockton PC if they could accommodate the Assembly on 19<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> October and if so whether we could hold a face to face Board Meeting there on the same day.

**Action KNB**