

Pétanque England



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors held on Saturday 26th October 2019 at Stockton Football & Cricket Club, Napton Road, Stockton, Southam. Warwickshire CV47 8JU

Present:

Martin Eggleton (ME); Ken Buchan (KNB), Martin Hughes (MH), Alan Roden (AR), Ray Keemer-Richards (R K-R), Kath Brooks (KB), Cary Bush (CB), David Mason (DM). Annette Eggleton (AE), Clive De Silva (CDS), Jim Marstin (JM).

1 Apologies for Absence

Colin Roper (CR), David Baxter (DB), Bob Parker (BP), John Thatcher.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The previously circulated minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 27th July 2019 were approved as a true and correct record.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 Umpires Course

An Umpires course was held in November. There were 17 attendees of which 5 were existing umpires being refreshed or seeking an upgrade. There was a good cross section of Regions involved

3.2 Umpires Uniforms

Uniforms had now been purchased for all active umpires although the cost had been greater than estimated.

4 Proposed Amendment to the Rules

The redrafted proposed Rule Changes to the club and league minimum PE membership requirements were approved unanimously. [inclusion of a requirement that the three principal club/league officers should be PE Members].

[*Resource – Draft proposed Rules Changes*](#)

5 Small Club Grant Applications

5.1 Worthing PC

Worthing PC were asking for a contribution of £150 towards the purchase of 2 Sail flags costing £242. It was agreed that the Board should stick to the normal 50% rule of thumb and make an award of £121.

Action CB

5.2 Pig on the Hill PC

The Pig on the Hill PC had asked for a grant of £2,000 towards the £10,000 estimated cost of constructing a terrain in a park in the centre of Bideford. It was intended that the terrain would be used jointly by the Pig on the Hill PC and Torridge U3A (an unregistered club). Grants towards the costs of infrastructure had not previously been awarded and they did not come under the small grant criteria. The application was therefore refused

Action KNB

6 NPP Terms of Reference

MH introduced the revised version of the Draft NPP Terms of reference. He explained that under the new proposals lead members would be given more responsibility for taking decisions relating to their own gender/age groups.

MH recognised that the fixing of budgets was a Board matter, but the process needs to start with input from the lead members. The Board needs then to look at how the investment should be spread to maximum effect. MH felt that the NPP had become too focussed on the detailed operation of particular groups rather than simply monitoring their activities. He felt that the NPP should review the performance of teams after the conclusion of international championships, but concern was expressed that this could be too late for effective budgetary or playing calendar planning.

Some discussion took place regarding possible leads for the age/ gender groups and MH confirmed that proposals for these positions would be put forward at the next board meeting.

The proposed NPP terms of reference were approved subject to the omission of paragraph 5.6 relating to the Veterans Group.

Resource: Draft NPP Terms of Reference

7 Budgets for 2020

CB presented an estimated Profit and Loss Account for 2019 showing an estimated net income of £8,078.

DM suggested that the prize fund for non-ranking events should be calculated after deducting umpires' and organisers' expenses from the entry fee income.

Some discussion took place concerning the recovery of outstanding players' contributions. It was felt that the Players Financial Contribution Relief Scheme had not worked because it had not been supported by the players and it had been abused. It was agreed that the scheme would be scrapped.

It was agreed to set up a direct debit collection scheme with a third-party provider to recover outstanding debts from players.

Action CB

The licence of one member of the men's squad had been suspended because of non-payment of the player's contribution and it was agreed that his place in the Men's squad would be taken by Jeremy Huntley. DM suggested that it was inappropriate to discuss squad selections at Board level and that in the future it should be dealt with under a clearly set out procedure.

Action MH

[Confidential Note not for publication: - Paperwork for Claire White's application under the old player relief scheme was with CR. Nothing had been agreed with Scott Ashby and MH suggested that after Cambodia he would be asked to enter a repayment scheme or to move on. CB would frame some clear wording and bring it forward].

Action CB

MH submitted the following estimated squad development costs (not including international championship costs) based upon input from the lead members: -

Juniors	10,600
Espoirs	4,430
Men	6,150
Women	6,150
Veterans	<u>3,345</u>
Total	<u>30,675</u>

MH explained that the estimates for the men & women were based on replicating some sort of plan similar to the juniors and espoirs. MH proposed giving each squad player £100 towards 5 overseas events with the players making up the balance. MH had also allowed the costs of the leads going to the overseas events so that they can monitor the performance of the players.

KNB had estimated the administration costs for 2020 at just under £20k

KNB pointed out that the NYS budget covers more than the costs of the international team squad. Much of their budget relates to junior development generally. RK-R explained that the NYS operates more as a Youth Academy. DM pointed out that Board involvement in the NYS was minimal. MH explained that the NYS lead felt that it was difficult for her to operate effectively if the NPP were trying to control the NYS. It was agreed that the NYS lead should be invited to distinguish the estimated costs of running the "Academy" from those relating to the National Team Squad.

Action KNB

DM & DB had been looking at the idea of not sending a team to the Men's Worlds in Lausanne, where they were unlikely to achieve noticeable success, and instead applying the savings to fund training and development. If the selected team were prepared to fund the cost of taking part in the world championships personally, they should be encouraged to do so.

DM queried whether we need to send Heads of Delegation to all championship events. ME pointed out that the problem was much wider than that. We need to question whether we can afford to send teams to all the available World and European championships and whether they are good enough to compete. We may need to consider each age / gender group separately and take into account things such as the age profile or PR value. We need to consider whether we should move away from the egalitarian principle of sending the best qualified rather than the best able to pay. ME pointed out that our estimated income of £66k cannot support an estimated expenditure of £50k on international representation and squad development. We need to agree a methodology of how the budget can be agreed. The estimated funds available after deducting overhead expenditure was £46k. It was agreed that the NPP would agree how this would be split between the groups at their next meeting on 8th December and report back to the Board. R-KR volunteered to attend the NPP meeting to represent the NYS.

Action MH

Action R-KR

It was agreed that the funding choices and considerations would be put before the Regional Presidents at the Assembly.

Action KNB

8 Events – Final Approval of Calendar

DM presented a revised version of the playing calendar. A few additional (regional) events had been included. The over 50s had been changed to over 55s to tie in with international representation requirements. The titles weekend would again take place at Gravesend. Invitations for bids to host the titles weekend had been circulated twice but there had been no takers and Gravesend had agreed to host it for another year.

ME introduced a proposal to reduce the number of ranking events from 6 to 3. He suggested that we adopt a hybrid system where ranking points can also be earned from other events. DB has devised a matrix showing how points can be earned depending on how far you get and who you play with. ME considered that it would present our players with greater challenges and would reduce the overhead costs of running ranking events. MH had some reservations about the proposal because of the lack of control it afforded and that it did not sufficiently test the full range of skills. AR considered that the system had the potential to boost the popularity of Regional

Opens. However, he felt that there had to be enough ranking events to provide a good enough spread to produce meaningful results. CDS thought that results could be unfairly affected by the luck of the draw. We could not control seeding at outside events although, for events such as the London Open where we provide support, we may have some input. CDS was concerned that the system would favour players with enough money to compete abroad frequently.

The proposal to restrict the playing calendar to 3 PE ranking events (with the option to designate non-PE events as ranking) was carried 8 votes to 2

Action DM

The proposal to change the over 50s to over 55s was carried unanimously

Action DM

9 Umpires Expenses – Inter Regional Championships

One of the umpires officiating at the Inter Regionals unexpectedly incurred considerable costs in arranging residential care for his wife rather than let us down by withdrawing.. It was agreed that he should be paid the sum of £300 towards his costs and in recognition of his commitment

Action CB

10 Champion of Champions – Rule Violation

DM explained that 4 players turned up not wearing regional kit but were allowed to play and were advised that their region would be fined £20 per player.

Action CB

11 Proposal for Squad players to meet agreed Standards

A proposal submitted by David Mason and David Baxter for the introduction of compulsory observance of commitments and playing standards for playing squad members was deferred until further feedback could be obtained from interested stakeholders.

Resource: - “Standards” proposal DM & DB

12. A.O.B.

12.1 Veterans Development Squad

CDS explained that the Veterans have no international championships in 2020. He had been in discussion with the other Home Nations about staging a 4-man competition but the discussions were still at an early stage.

Action CDS

13 Date of Next Meeting

The possibility of holding a Board Meeting before the end of the year and after the NPP meeting on 6 December was considered but it was not thought to be plausible. It was agreed that a Board Meeting would be held in the 3rd week in January and for the AGM to be held towards the end of March.

Action KNB