

Pétanque England



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors held on Saturday 28th March 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

None

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The previously circulated minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 25th January 2020 were approved as a true and correct record.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 The umpires examination which had been fixed for 14/15th March had been postponed due to coronavirus concerns.

4 AGM

KB reported that 2 nominations for President and 8 nominations for Directors had been received. No proposals had been received from members.

In view of the covid-19 restrictions it was agreed that the venue for the AGM would be moved to KB's house at 1 Highview, Vigo, Gravesend, Kent DA13 0RR, the company's registered office, and that the AGM would be chaired by KB in place of ME although it was noted that if he was the only director present, he would be able to act as such in accordance with the articles. The sole purpose of the meeting would be for it to be adjourned to a date to be fixed.

Action
KB

Proxy forms detailing the names of candidates and the proposal about the increase in fees would be issued but no deadline for submission would be set as this could not be fixed until the date of the adjourned meeting was known. It was not necessary for there to be a quorum at the AGM because KB would adjourn the meeting under the chair's common law power to do so.

Action
DB

Action
KNB

KB reported that in accordance with the articles the AGM would have to be convened for a date no later than 26 October 2020 this being 15 months from the date the 2019 AGM was concluded. If 21 days-notice is given of the adjourned AGM that notice must therefore be issued by

4 October 2020. It was felt that if possible the AGM should be held earlier than October and it was agreed that KB would seek advice from the solicitors of the Sport & Recreation Alliance as to how the AGM could be held during the Covid-19 restrictions.

Action
KNB

5 Assembly

The Assembly planned for 18th April could not take place as a physical meeting but ME suggested that it should take the form of a telephone or video conference. ME had access to a video conferencing facility which could accommodate up to 150 participants. DB suggested that a webinar might be more suitable. It was agreed that ME & DB would explore and decide upon the most suitable medium. Regional Presidents would then be invited to participate.

Action
ME &
DB

6 Inter-Regional Championships 2020

DM reported that Mill Rythe was closed at present because of the government restrictions. IOW Tours were however confident that if government restrictions were lifted the Inter Regionals could be held as planned. According to Geoff Holt of IOW Tours if Mill Rythe remained closed on the date the Championships were due to take place we would not incur any liability and IOW would be able to recover the deposits they have paid but if Mill Rythe were to re-open and we failed to honour the booking we would be liable under our agreement with IOW Tours to reimburse them for any loss suffered. At present this amounted to £44,300 being the deposits paid to Mill Rythe and Parkdean. It was agreed that we would proceed on the assumption that the Inter-Regionals would take place as planned in September. CB would check with our insurers to see if we would be covered in the event of a cancellation.

Action
DM

DM suggested that the playing calendar be reviewed in order to give priority to more "Regional Days" in order to give more space to hold regional qualifiers. However, it was noted that unless government restrictions are lifted soon many Regions would not be able to run a full programme of regional qualifiers and would have to adopt more flexibility in choosing the composition of their regional teams.

7 Inter-Regional Championships 2021

DM had been unable to visit Pontins in Lowestoft as planned because the site was not open to off-site visitors and IOW Tours were observing the government restrictions on unnecessary travel. IOW Tours were however keen to re-organise the visit as soon as possible because they were anxious to dispel any bad feelings we have about Pontins from our experiences in the Brean Sands era. DM will continue to liaise with Geoff Holt and will visit Pontins as soon as the restrictions are lifted.

Action
DM

8 Financial Planning

CB reported that little could be done at present. ME asked if a budget could be prepared to show the fixed overhead expenses that had to be met. CB agreed to prepare and circulate a contingency Profit & Loss Account and Balance sheet within a few weeks.

Action
CB

R K-R reported that membership renewals had flattened out at about 2,000.

9 Receivables

CB complained that those players who were indebted to PE had still not entered a payment programme through Go Cardless. AE pointed out that the threat of licence suspension was an ineffective sanction when no playing activities were taking place. DM suggested that it could be made an effective sanction if the suspension were to take effect for a period of 6 months after the resumption of playing activities. MH was against the proposal because it would put the organisation in a bad light. Some of the players may be experiencing financial hardship because of the pandemic. It was agreed that CR would speak to all 8 of the players involved in the Player Relief Scheme to explain the need to start repayments. He would liaise with CB

Action
CR

10 Membership Refunds (Covid-19 Related)

Some members had raised the question of obtaining membership refunds if the suspension of playing activities continued. ME was not aware of any other membership organisations offering refunds and considered that it was impracticable to consider it unless and until we knew when the present restrictions would end. It was agreed that we could not consider offering membership refunds at present.

11. Proposed Consultation on Financing

The following proposal was submitted by DB

“That the Board of Pétanque England appoints a subcommittee comprising The President, D Baxter (convenor), C Bush, M Hughes, D Mason, to draw up and execute a plan to consult widely across the membership for the development of a new policy on the financing and performance expectations of international teams”

KB proposed the following amendment:-

“The Board instructs the NPP to draw up and execute a plan to consult widely across the membership for the development of a new policy on the financing and performance expectations of international teams and that D Baxter, D Mason and C Bush be appointed as members of the NPP”

The amendment was carried by 7 votes to 3

12. Any Other Business

12.1 Re-arrangement of International Championships

MH reported that the CEP Women's Triples championship due to take place on 4 to 7 June had been re-arranged to take place on 29 October 2019 to 3 November 2019.

There had been no announcement regarding the FIPJP men's triples championship due to be held in July but in view of the Covid-19 situation in Switzerland it is doubtful that it will take place.

12.2 Covid-19

MH was aware through social media that one of our members is suffering from Covid-19. The Board expressed its sympathies and best wishes to the person concerned.

12.3 Disciplinary Matter

KB was dealing with a disciplinary complaint regarding a Devon Region matter. He would keep ME informed about the outcome.

**Action
ME**

13 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed to hold the next meeting by way of video conference on the first Saturday in May – 2 May 2019