

# Pétanque England



## Draft Minutes of the PE Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March and on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2019

### 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church. 235 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2 8 EP

### Present:

### Board

Martin Eggleton (President)  
Cary Bush (Treasurer)  
Jim Marstin  
David Baxter  
David Mason

Martin Hughes (Vice President)  
Ken Buchan (Secretary)  
Bob Parker (Chair Umpiring Commission)  
Ray Keemer-Richards  
Kath Brooks

### Members

Clive De Silva  
Shirley Hiscock  
Gerry Lewis  
Christine Peat  
Ged Barton  
Richard Powell

Keith Davies  
Jack Milner  
Simon Adamsdale  
Adrian Thomas  
Matt Smeeth  
George Ruddock

David Hiscock  
Margaret McVey Dymond  
Frank Charlesworth  
Roy Henstock  
Paul Smeeth  
Annette Eggleton

### 1 Apologies for Absence

Alan Roden, Chris Coombs, Eileen Maguire, Roger Seabury, Michael Thomas, Zena Forbes, Colin Senneck, Anne Senneck, Graeme Kirkham, John Proctor, Alan Forse, Robert Gaywood, Colin Roper, Simon Bird

### 2 Adjournment

Martin Eggleton reported that there were insufficient attendees and proxies to form the required quorum of 5% of members (109). The Annual General Meeting was therefore adjourned to a date and place to be fixed. He urged those present to encourage others to submit proxies

### 3 Questions

Matt Smeeth queried what strategy was being adopted regarding the recovery of outstanding debts. Various possibilities were suggested including fines, suspension of licence, debt recovery agents, and confiscation of prizes.

Ged Barton asked if the accounts will be audited. ME indicated that advice was being sought as to whether we need a formal audit or a review under the Charities legislation.

Richard Powell suggested that the Board could save money by having virtual meetings rather than physical meetings.

In response to a query from Jack Milner, the President reported that completion of the organisers manual had been delayed because of ill health but a rough scan was available to anyone who needs it.

A straw poll taken at the suggestion of Gerry Lewis indicated that the attendees were evenly divided about the use of timed games at Hayling Island

Ged Barton asked how much confidence PE had in its Bankers, Metro Bank. Cary Bush pointed out that there was no risk to our funds because we were covered by the Financial Services Guarantee Scheme.

## **27<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

Wallingford Sport & Social Club, Wallingford, OX10 9RB

### **Present:**

#### **Board**

Martin Eggleton (President)

Cary Bush (Treasurer)

Annette Eggleton

Ray Keemer-Richards

David Baxter

Colin Roper

Alan Roden

Martin Hughes (Vice President)

Ken Buchan (Secretary)

Bob Parker (Chair Umpiring Commission)

Kath Brooks

David Mason

Clive De Silva

#### **Members**

Lauren Butt

Ged Barton

Tiny Neville

Nick Goodheart

#### **4 Apologies for Absence**

Jim Marstin, Jack Milner, Maureen Milner, Colin Senneck, Anne Senneck, Simon Adamsdale, John Proctor, Neil Stevenson, Zena Forbes, Brian Forbes, David Greenwood, Adrian Thomas, Bob Gaywood, Richard Powell

#### **5 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2018 were accepted as a true record.

#### **6 President's Report**

Welcome to our first "real" AGM.

It feels like a lot has happened in the last year, and that much has stayed the same. We have become directors rather than committee members, changed

bankers, the sport didn't get in to the Olympics and are about to have a new website (more of that later) but we are still throwing a metal ball at a wooden one, whether that is at our local club in a league match, at the Inter-Regionals or in an exotic location at a World Championship. And as at 5 p.m. on Thursday 2,216 people have registered their membership for 2019 via the new membership portal. I know there have been a few teething problems with this but I hope that members will see the benefits the new system brings.

The transition from the Association to a company has not been without challenges but it is now complete and the work to move toward charitable status continues. One of our main challenges, which we had not foreseen, was the problems we would have in changing our bank account, especially as we were not planning on changing banks. After several months of promises from HSBC the Board took the decision to move our account elsewhere, and Metrobank proved very efficient. We are still working on the legacy of this, in terms of cheque-based competition entries that we were unable to bank, but progress has been made. The ease of entering competitions via the new membership portal will hopefully reduce the amount of cheques in future.

## Playing

2018 saw teams travelling to a number of overseas competitions, gaining valuable experience and making progress in towards our targets in each category. The women were particularly successful in this regard.

Espoirs	European Championships	men finished joint 12 <sup>th</sup> , women joint 6 <sup>th</sup>
Men	World Championships	3 <sup>rd</sup> in the Nations Cup, 19 <sup>th</sup> overall
Women	European Championships	joint 9 <sup>th</sup>
Juniors	European Championships	1 <sup>st</sup> in the Nations Cup 9 <sup>th</sup> overall
Singles	European Championships	men 1 <sup>st</sup> in Nations Cup, women lost in the 1/4 finals

The transition to a squad / selection-based system is progressing for all age groups and both men and women. For this to be a success we need to ensure we have the resources in place to make it work, including observers and coaches at events. The NPP are looking at what those requirements are and how best to fulfil them so you may see appeals for volunteers in the coming weeks. I would urge you to support those appeals if you are able.

The 2018 Home Nations saw the squad travel to Jersey for the first time. The weather was wonderful (possibly a little too hot) and the hospitality exemplary. The home side were determined to make the most of their home advantage and it was by far the closest competition I have ever known. I was very relieved when the result that made our victory a certainty came in – it seemed like it was

a long time coming. Hopefully it won't be that tight in Cardiff later this year, but I am sure everyone will enjoy the challenge.

In 2019 we will be taking part in a number of international championships:

Women & Juniors	World Championships	Cambodia
Espoirs	European Championships	France
Men & Veterans	European Championships	Bulgaria
Singles, Doubles & Mixed Doubles	World Championships	Spain

### Coaching

Colin Roper continues to lead the fantastic work in increasing the number of club coaches we have to 125, with a growing number of Advanced Club Coaches. Several training courses are already in place for the next few months, with more to follow. The County Coaching Course is now in its final stages of development which is great news. I would like to thank Colin for leading this programme and to all those current and future coaches.

### Umpiring

The Umpires Commission recently met and it is hoped that they will be able to bring concrete proposals to the Board in the near future with a view to increasing the number of umpires. This does, of course, require members to commit to training and acting as umpires at events around the country. Many players have expressed the view that they don't want to become an umpire as it means they can't play anymore. Often these are the same players who complain that it takes too long for an umpire to arrive when they are playing. Hmm, can you see the dilemma? And as the number of umpires increases, the number of events they have to umpire reduces. Large scale events only work properly if we have the people to make them happen, so I look forward to hearing the Umpires Commission plans.

### Events

Our Events Group, charged with running the playing programme to fulfil the NPP needs, are poised and ready for the 2019 playing season, starting with the International Women's Day Doubles on 14<sup>th</sup> April. This year they are hoping that each event will have an organiser and "apprentice" – someone looking to get involved in organising national competitions but possibly not yet feeling quite ready to go it alone. If you would like to get involved, they will be delighted to hear from you.

Once the NPP have determined their needs for 2020, and the international playing calendar is settled as much as it can be, they will begin work on the calendar for next year.

## Inter-Regionals

2018 demonstrated that the competition is still popular, and 2 days of lovely weather helped ensure that a great time was had by all with some fantastic performances, a lot of laughter and enjoyment.

The changes to the booking system did create a few minor issues, but I hope they weren't too much of a problem. There were record numbers of participants staying at Mill Rythe. The change to the Region based booking meant that each Region had equal opportunity to secure space on site, though not all took it. A side effect was that it limited the effect of a number of inflationary pressures such as the increase in the minimum wage and auto-enrolment pension contributions and the impact Brexit uncertainty has had on staff turnover in the hospitality sector which Mill Rythe have had to pass on to their customers. IOW Tours, in common with the whole travel industry have also been faced changes to credit card charging rules and the requirements of GDPR compliance.

There will be a discussion at this afternoon's Presidents' meeting about changes to the playing structure at the Inter Regionals but I would imagine that any major changes would not be introduced until 2020 due to the technical challenges of ensuring the software changes are made and tested adequately and also to allow the participating Regions to make appropriate arrangements in their qualifying competitions. There are likely to be some changes to the Junior event, aimed at ensuring they get a better playing experience, and the shooting competition. Full details will be released as early as we can.

One thing that will be introduced is the Presidents Cup. This will be awarded to the Region achieving the best performance across the Championship, Challenge and Junior events, rewarding strength in depth. The Junior results could be the deciding factor in this competition – another incentive for Regions to look at developing their younger members.

## **7 Adoption of the Accounts for the period to 31 December 2018**

Cary Bush explained that this year's net deficit was really an investment in the future of our teams and in improving their performance.

Attempting to transfer our funds from the EPA account to the PE Account within our existing bank had met with no success after 7 months but had been successfully achieved within a couple of days by moving the account to Metrobank.

Cary Bush reported that it had been difficult to obtain the right information from the new membership system, but progress was now being made with it. He would shortly be submitting the accounts for an independent inspection

A proposal that the accounts be adopted put by Martin Eggleton and seconded by Ged Barton was carried unanimously.

## **8 Appointment of Directors**

The proposal to re-appoint Kenneth Norris Buchan was carried by 168 votes for and 7 against

The proposal to re-appoint Raymond Alfred Michael Keemer-Richards was carried by 161 votes for and 6 against

## **9 Determination of the Membership Fees for 2020**

The Board's proposal not to change the adult membership fee was carried unanimously

The Board's proposal not to change the junior membership fee was carried unanimously

## **10 Any Other Business**

Tiny Neville drew attention to the fact that his licence had not been accepted as genuine in France because it was a photocopy. Martin Eggleton explained that PE had not been notified by anyone else of this difficulty but would wait to see if there were any other issues.

In response to a query from Nick Goodheart, Martin Eggleton explained that the reason for Pétanque's failure to become recognised as an Olympic sport could be deduced by looking at the sports selected in preference to pétanque such as breakdancing which are more youth and urban focussed. They generate a huge amount of social media coverage compared with pétanque and can also attract significant sponsorship a fact that will not have gone unnoticed by the International Olympic Committee. Martin further explained that pétanque is not televisual and our bid was confusing because it was made jointly with other boule disciplines. Martin thought that we might be able to interest the Commonwealth Games in accepting it as a sport. PE had been asked to participate in the World Transplant Games and there may be an opportunity to become involved in the GB version.

Ken Buchan mentioned that Pétanque was currently one of the sports in the World School Games.

Ken Buchan explained in a response to a query from Ged Barton that charity status had yet to be applied for because of the difficulty of assembling the current documents required but that it would proceed as soon as possible.

Nick Goodheart mentioned that London Region were conducting a feasibility study for increasing the entry for the London Open to 256 teams taking place over 2 days with both triples and doubles competitions. Martin Eggleton indicated that PE was pleased to support London Region and any other Region willing to mount big events.

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