

# 2024 AGM Supporting Statements.

## Agenda Item 6c

Amendment to the proposal c) The Board proposes that Multi-tiered membership continues as advertised in 2023

Why am I proposing this amendment?

At the previous AGM a resolution was tabled on multi tiered membership and while the detail of the proposal was not put to the meeting in the absence of the proposer the minutes of the meeting state that..

“However it was agreed that the membership were in favour of Multi Tiered membership and that a sub committee would be formed as soon as possible to answer all the queries and provide the board with a proposal to implement multi tiered membership within the 2023 financial year.”

This was done and the Club Player membership was introduced on an introductory basis at £10. The situation according to our website is

There are two membership options for adult players (18 years and older on 31st December in the current year):

- **Competitor** – Includes a playing license for competing in regional and national competitions and leagues.
- **Club Player** – For players who do not need a regional/national playing licence. Currently available to new members only.

The Board have suggested continuing this arrangement. As your sole national membership administrator I say we should now bring this membership fully in line with our rules as it is simply an adult playing membership and the national fee should be set by the members at the AGM and the regional precept set by the regions at their AGMs. Note the regional precept does not have to be the same as for a Competitor membership, it is up to the region. There should be no restriction on who can take out this membership.

There is an opinion that we should create a new class of non voting members with restricted rights. I say they are just playing members that want to play at or for their club, not their region nor nation and we need them to be active and to help grow the sport and not be treated as second class citizens.

## Agenda Item 7.1

Matt Blyton “It is proposed that Pétanque England stops using selection.....”

In recent years, selection decisions for representation at the World and European Championships, particularly in the men’s category, have caused significant unhappiness and division amongst licensed Members. In a recent poll on Facebook offering 4 different options for international representation, the current ‘Ranking & Selection’ option only received 5 votes (7%) by the 25<sup>th</sup> January. Most players have lost faith in it, especially when nothing is often provided to the squad once it has been formed.

- Speaking to many serious competitors, some of whom have now voted with their feet and no longer play in Squad Selection Events, it is evident that we simply do not have the personnel or infrastructure to make selection decisions that are then viewed as objective and impartial, or substantiated with sufficient data. Until we do, selection in the adult game should therefore be suspended.
- Many players also do not feel that the Board listens to them about the problems they feel selection has – a review involving the players would perhaps go some way in addressing this. I would be willing to be involved in organising this.
- One of the most contentious aspects of selection is a perception of favouritism, or worse still, nepotism. Whether accusations are fair or not, having the main men's selector playing for the same club as some of the players recently selected (Meadow PC), and having the main women's selector being related to an often-selected female player, do not portray the sport in a positive light.

### Agenda Item 7.3

Monty Quaia It's proposed that PE promote pétanque by financially supporting prestige events, as the BPA did in the past with the Rochester Classic, that raise the profile of the game by having the participation of invitation teams and recent World Champions.

I would like to give a brief summary of the benefits to pétanque in England should this resolution be passed.

*a) bring enhanced playing opportunities to PE members on home soil, without the obligation to travel internationally.*

For National teams in each category; male, female, veteran, espoir, and junior, the opportunity to play against the best players in the world is vital in preparations for championships. For young players in particular the exposure to these opportunities increases the likelihood of future commitment to the game.

*b) to widen the game's appeal, attract new PE members and generate media interest.*

Pétanque when played at the highest level is an exciting spectacle that is very effective at drawing people in to give it a try. Recent events in the UK have received coverage in national newspapers, because of the participation of World Champions, increasing awareness of the game in the UK.

*c) to bring new energy, to help revitalise and to encourage regions to organise big open events.*

Hosting large pop-up event brings many unique hurdles, not only financially, but in manpower required on the day and time to plan and execute the event safely and successfully. There are more reasons for clubs/regions not to take this on currently than there are to do so which harms the growth of the game. With the promise of financial support organisers should feel encouraged that PE are behind them and that they will be supported in their marketing efforts.

*d) support PE's stated goals to "organise events, open days, and friendly competitions to showcase the thrill and inclusivity of this wonderful sport."*

In PE's recent newsletter, a stated goal for 2024 is to market the pétanque through hosting of events. Considering this being a volunteer-led sport, PE can empower it's regions and clubs to share this responsibility in hosting as many events that achieve these goals.

## Agenda Item 7.4

David Baxter Resolution to alter the Pétanque England Articles of Association to allow for virtual or hybrid annual general meetings.

Our organisation has the members at its heart and we are entitled and expected to express our will in general meetings and particularly the Annual General Meeting. However, the cost for most of our members to be present in person at such meetings is prohibitive and yet we live in a digitally connected world in which it is entirely feasible to take part in events remotely. So why don't we do it? Because our rules, the Articles of Association don't contain the necessary provision. (During Covid lockdown there was blanket temporary permission granted under company law and we did hold a successful virtual AGM then. )

At our previous AGM in December 2022 only 16 members were in attendance which would have been woeful but for 164 members exercising their right to a proxy vote on line via the old LoveAdmin membership system which we no longer have available to us. I think it very important to our future that members can participate in the affairs of Pétanque England not just by using the proxy system or watching a video stream but in active online engagement, to listen to debate and to exercise their vote as if they were in the room.