

Minutes of ManCom meeting on Tuesday 4th August (6.00pm) at Great Ouseburn

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – PJ, JoN, RH, AJ, RG, BS, JiN all present

2) MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – the minutes of Apr 21st were signed as a true record.

3) MATTERS ARISING (from above and/or AGM on 1/5/15)

- **Disciplinary and Appeals Policy** - After the revised Policy had been passed at the 2015 AGM, Ian Battersby had handed the Secretary details of 7 changes that had been recommended by the “Disciplinary sub-committee” but which had not been included in the revision. These were marked forward for discussion at our next meeting with a view to presenting them to the next AGM in 2016 for consideration. **Action - c/f**
- **Liability Insurance** - The sub-committee had also expressed concern that our current ESMBA liability insurance may not “*indemnify people involved in the Disciplinary Process against a disgruntled offender taking legal action against them*”. RG had sought advice from the ESMBA who had advised (verbally) that any such action had no chance of success, if the documented appeals procedure had not been fully followed through. In this case the final appeal would be direct to the ESMBA and they did in fact have indemnity cover for their officers and panel members. BS presented a proposal for an addition to our own constitution to cover our responsibility to provide indemnity and he was asked to find out the cost of providing such cover for discussion at the next meeting. **Action – BS + Action – c/f**
- **Branton (Phil Elgie) competition** – AJ had spoken with Peter Goldsmith and established that this would have to stay on the same weekend as the Little Cup.
- **Competition venues** - The AGM had given approval to the relocation of one of the Championship weekends from Swinton to Easingwold and AJ had provisionally booked the Galtres for January 9/10. The implications of the move were discussed and it was decided that the Singles and Fours would be moved to Easingwold (9/10 January) whilst the Pairs and Triples would remain at Swinton (12/13 December). This would initially be for a trial year and would be reviewed at the next AGM. **Action RG - to advise Matt Fenwick**

4) FINANCES – BS reported that we had received a cheque from the YBP (Yorkshire Bowls Partnership) for £600 after they had folded up. The current balance now stood at £7945. It was agreed to repeat the Junior England player subsidy of £50. It would be paid to any player (not in employment) attending trials for the U21 squad for 2015/16. (These had already taken place).

5) NESMBA AGM – RH & AJ had attended as our delegates, together with PJ & RG (who were in attendance as committee members) RG had placed the official minutes from this meeting on the website. These showed....

- an increase in the Barnard Castle entry fee from £4 to £5.
- an increase in the honorarium for the Competition Secretary from £20 to £40.
- BS was appointed as “accounts checker”.
- 2 minor changes to the constitution were passed.
- Changes were passed to Rule 7 (scorecards); Rule 14 (results sheets); Rule 24 (starred players) and Rule 29 (fixture cancellations).
- the introduction of a separate document containing 4 “Individual Championship Rules”.
- a change to one of the above (jack off the mat).

All four who had attended felt that the discussions over the introduction of the changes to Rule 24 highlighted a high level of anti-North Yorkshire feeling although several present had denied this. It was felt that this change represented unwarranted interference in our county’s ability to pick our strongest team to play in the NESMBA league and was designed to reduce our potential strength in this competition. It was disappointing that our only support in voting against the change had come from Stockport. There was a suggestion that we could lodge a complaint with the ESMBA and such action would be marked forward to our next meeting. **Action – c/f**

6) ESMBA AGM – RG had attended as our delegate. He had circulated a set of notes to all present regarding the proceedings and had also placed these on the website. The official ESMBA minutes will not be available until after the next ESMBA committee meeting (Aug 29).

7) TEAMS

- **Results of “selection letter”** – The returns from the “availability” letter sent out in May to 110 players had been summarised and circulated by RG. This showed 73 players wanting to play next year (the county pool). Some were only interested in playing in a single team but others had made themselves available for selection in 2 or 3 teams. Three pools of players had then been drawn up – one for each team. This showed 36, 44 and 52 players available for selection in the Premier, ‘A’ and ‘B’ teams respectively. RG passed each captain a list of contact numbers and email addresses for all 73 players.
- **Selection Policy for 2015/16** – RG had circulated a proposed updated policy. Each captain would select their teams only from the players in their pool (as identified above). If team fixture dates clashed and players appeared in more than one pool, the Premier team captain would have first choice followed by the ‘A’ team captain and then the ‘B’ team captain. The objective for each captain was to pick the strongest team possible from those available in their pool. What we all wanted to see was our two NESMBA teams occupying the top two places in Division 2. The new policy was agreed.
- **Starred players** – The implications of the change to NESMBA IC Rule 24 were discussed and a list of players to be starred was drawn up. This involved identifying those who would make up the Premier team and 12 additional ‘A’ team players. These 32 players could not be selected for the ‘B’ team at any time. This had the effect of reducing the ‘B’ team pool from 52 to 38. The list of starred players will be sent to the NESMBA league Secretary prior to the first match in the season (October 4th). **Action - RG**
- **Team for ICC Rinks competition (Sep 26/27)** - Entry into this new competition is due by August 15. RH will submit the entry form to KH immediately and together with JoN will then select who is to play. **Action - RH/JoN**
- **Practice Day format (Sep 12th)** – The returns showed that 45 players expected to attend this pre-season day although 20 had not indicated and 8 would be unavailable. It was agreed that previous days (variously called practice, trials or warmup) had been a bit chaotic and less than satisfactory. JiN suggested a mixed format in which players would randomly be chosen to play in varying positions on a continuous basis. Based mainly on Triples there could also be some Pairs and/or Fours depending on who showed up. This would provide variety on the day and the opportunity for experienced/less experienced players to play together. The minimum amount of preparation would be required. The meeting accepted JiN’s offer to organise the day assisted by the 3 captains. The day would be open to any member interested in playing for the county in future. RG to email all clubs and post on website. **Action - JiN Action - RG**

8) MEMBERSHIP – RG reported that

- he had received a completed application form from a new club based at the Selby Indoor Bowls centre. They had applied to join the Selby league and were sponsored by Geoff Whitehead (Selby WMC). They had 13 members. This application was accepted. RG to send “welcome” letter when asking for membership fees.
- the ESMBA had stated that they would not accept membership lists for registration unless they were in the ESMBA format. This may have implications on our own long standing data base format.
- we will have to ask all clubs (as part of the registration process) to nominate members prepared to sit on a disciplinary panel if required (as required under the new policy).
- the ESMBA will only be issuing membership cards to new members. We will need to make sure this includes those never received for last year’s late registrations and the missing Yedingham cards

Action on all the above - RG

SDSMBL – The Scarborough league were not happy with the proposal submitted to our AGM (and adopted) by Crossgates/Yedingham. There had been rumours of some of their clubs seeking “greener pastures” in the Humberside Association. RG had supported the actions of these 2 clubs by pointing out that they had broken no rules and that due process had been followed. Where asked, he had advised all parties of the implications of the change. He had kept ManCom fully in touch with what had been going on by circulating all relevant emails. Several of the leagues officers had resigned and an EGM had been called to elect replacements. The league has now written to the ESMBA with an official complaint that this change “**restricts their own playing rules**”. RG said he could not see how this was so. The complaint will be discussed at the next ESMBA committee on August 29th so we must await the outcome.

9) COMPETITONS

Competition Secretary - There was still no one to fill the Competition Secretary vacancy. RG suggested that the content of the job statement for this post be reduced by (a) making the organisation of the U18 Championships the responsibility of the Junior Coordinator and (b) looking to a “third party” to take on the Little Cup. This would leave the duties of any potential holder of this post with a reduced workload. This was agreed.

Work plan for 2015/16 – It was agreed that it would be irresponsible to abandon this year’s Championships and that last year’s “co-operative effort” had largely been successful and should be repeated. However RG wanted it known that he felt he was between a “*rock and a hard place*”. The additional responsibility of taking the lead in running the 5 competitions on top of his other duties was not something he relished. However he felt he had no alternative and would once again rely on ManCom support wherever that could be provided. He had no intention of running the Little Cup as well which is why he had suggested looking for a 3rd party. He would re-issue the “task list” for ManCom to agree. **Action - RG**

10) PWA RG reported that

- this year’s Handbook will be the slimmest for several years and due to staff holidays must go to the printers next week to guarantee delivery by September 9th for distribution on 12th (practice day). RG will be away that week so AJ agreed to take delivery and handle distribution.

Action - AJ

- at the KVL AGM it had been suggested that changes should be made to the way their league results are displayed on the website. Although RG was not at the meeting, he had subsequently agreed to look at these provided that whatever format was developed could easily be “cut and pasted” onto the site. Robert Harris/Ann Thompson have yet to provide more details. No other changes are planned and the entire site will be reviewed and updated during early September ready for the new season.
- Tidying up the archive folders is on hold due to lack of time.

11) JUNIORS – JiN had little to report as until the new season got underway she would not know how many juniors were “*under her wing*”. She was very hopeful that the School Sports Partnership would continue to promote the game as it had last year. RG pointed out that Lyn Dean (Dorset) is assisting Keith Hawkins as the ESMBA Safeguarding Officer and had written to say she is in the process of “*arranging initial safeguarding seminars for the county safeguarding officers*”. He had passed her Jill’s name and address details as our contact (NC still listed on their website).

12) AOB

- **New Mats/Grant** – RG had obtained a quote from Verdemat for 2 mats + winder (£2762). He had then been to see Nicky Smith (NDVSA) who had advised we try for a grant of £2500 under the HDC Small Grants scheme. The closing date was July 31st so with Nicky’s help an application had been submitted in haste (after ManCom was consulted by email). He had also contacted Brian Lund (Grandage) who could probably supply a winder the same as our current one at less than the Verdemat price. He had since been in touch with Joyce Hughes (Easingwold SMBC) and Frank Barugh (Galtres) regarding storage space. It was agreed that

the new mats should be blue and that ideally we should have all the same colour. BS pointed out that we had always said at the AGMs that our increased balance over the last few years had been accumulated with the specific intention of replacing and/or purchasing new mats. It was therefore agreed that assuming the grant (or another grant) would be successful we should order FOUR mats. Only 1 set of ancillary equipment would be required. The 2 existing mats would then be sold.

- **NYSMBA 25th Anniversary** – Records show that this is March 15th 2016 – 25 years since the inaugural meeting in the Feathers Hotel in Helmsley in 1991. Clubs will be asked for their ideas on how to celebrate this milestone and these will be discussed at our next meeting.

Action - RG

- **Scorecards** – a further 1000 to be obtained **Action - BS/AJ**
- **Next meeting** will be on Friday November 6th (6.30 at Great Ouseburn) tbc

PJ thanked everyone for attending and for their contributions to the discussions and closed the meeting at 22.10hrs.

RG 5.8.15