

## Minutes of ManCom (21) meeting held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November (5.30pm) at North Duffield

Attended by PJ, JoN, RH, RG, JiN

(Note: A request to attend had been received the previous Saturday from Edwin Smith the acting Chairman of the Scarborough and District League. After seeking the views of all members of ManCom, the Chairman had denied the request.)

### (A) Apologies for absence

Barry Simmonite (wife in hospital). A phone message from AJ was misunderstood as saying he would be arriving late when in fact he was saying he could not attend at all. This delayed the meeting start until 6.20pm.

### (B) Minutes of ManCom on 4/8/15

- The action points relating to the Disciplinary and Appeals Policy and the possibility of Liability Insurance were deferred. **Action c/f**
- It was agreed that no further action would be taken with regard to the NESMBA Rule 24.
- AJ had obtained further stock of scorecards. RH pointed out that she could not use those for the Triples and Fours for ICC games due to the increase in the number of ends.
- All other action points would be covered later in the meeting and there were no other matters arising.
- The meeting accepted the minutes as a full and accurate report and they were signed by PJ.

### (C) Finances (BS had reported by email/phone)

- Our balance as at Nov 2 was **£8540.66**. This did not include the HDC grant money which had not yet been received.
- A request had been received from Paul Whitcombe (Great Ouseburn Treasurer) that payments should be accepted via the BACS direct transfer system. However BS felt uncomfortable with the idea and wondered how such payments could easily be tracked without constant reference to the bank statements. He personally did not use internet banking and preferred to continue with the use of cheque payments.
- He suggested that Paul be asked to take on the role of “accounts checker” now that Paul Williamson was no longer an NYSMBA member and this was agreed. **Action BS**

### (D) County Teams

- Practice day – the change in format had been well received by most of the 50+ who attended. JiN was congratulated on the organisation of the day. It was agreed to repeat it next year with a few “tweaks”.
- New equipment - the HDC grant had been approved and delivery of the 4 new mats, trolley and fenders had all been in time for the first IC game. Painting had been undertaken by Dennis Jarvis and new mat straps prepared by Sally Roocroft and the meeting thanked both for their work. The concerns some had had regarding room in the storage cupboard had proved unfounded. Minor adverse comments had been made regarding the “brightness” of the blue colour and the slightly slower running speed but in general this was seen as a very satisfactory upgrade. The old mats had been sold to Riccall SMBC.
- Selection policy – the reasons for the changes made this year were reviewed and the objective of moving away from what many saw as the “clubby cliquey” ethos of the past re-iterated. Our prime objective is to win matches and Captains should be making full use of all the players in their pool with a view to selecting their strongest possible teams. At the end of the season the policy would

be reviewed in the light of the selections actually made and a new survey of all potential players organised once again.

- Results so far - the Premier team is having a more successful season so far having won both their matches in the new Rinks competition and 2 of their 3 fixtures. The A team has yet to play and the B team, having lost their first game away to West Yorkshire had then held them to a creditable draw at home.
- The Avon County Association had requested advice on how others went about selecting multiple teams. They will be referred to our Selection Policy on our website. **Action RG**

### **(E) Membership**

- RG advised the meeting of the many problems (20) encountered with this year's renewals and although each in itself was small the cumulative effect was a lot of wasted time. The final club return was not received until November 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The Barn and Folkton/Flixton had chosen not to renew but we had accepted one new club based in the Selby IBC. The final figure of 844 members was 5% down on last year - the lowest since 1999. Final listings had now been sent to both the ESMBA and the NESMBA.
- Only 6 clubs had supplied the names of members willing to make up a Disciplinary Panel if required.

### **(F) Competitions**

(In the absence of an elected Competition Secretary the task allocation list was reviewed.)

- Entry forms and posters had gone out to all clubs and been placed on the website on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and most entries had come in by the closing date of October 23<sup>rd</sup>. RG had spent some time trying to encourage some extra entries to "round up" the entries into multiples of 4 – the preferred group size for a balanced competition.
- Total entries (across all disciplines) were down from 335 to 310 with National entries down from 151 to 133.
- RG and JiN had performed the random draws for all but the Juniors prior to the start of the meeting.
- A list of all National entries had been passed to JiN who is completing the correct National entry forms on behalf of all entrants ready for dispatch before the heats.
- RH is organising the umpires and was advised that if possible there should be 2 available for the morning sessions.
- JoN is seeking another source for the keepsakes as last year's supplier had ceased to trade. He was given the freedom to choose the design. He will also retrieve the Triples perpetual Cup from the Townend household.
- PJ will purchase raffle prizes and organise all 4 raffles once again.
- Mats and refreshments for the 3 Galtres competitions to be organised by AJ/BS.
- The BSA club has agreed to organise the Little Cup on our behalf this year and will reserve judgement on whether to adopt this permanently. RG had been liaising with Richard Good regarding this. As it is still technically a NYSMBA competition, Richard had been advised to accept entries only from NYSMBA members.

### **(G)PWA**

- Handbooks – 350 had been printed and were mostly distributed by AJ on practice day. The changes in format resulting in a reduction to 48 pages, was seen as acceptable by those present.
- Website - Some problems were being encountered after a server upgrade by our host. Not all "hit counters" were updating and access to the "minutes" pages had been producing errors. RG thinks he has now solved the latter and is not too concerned about the former. The problem was reported to "myhosting.com" but so far they have provided no solution.
- Archives – noting to report

## **(H) Juniors**

- So far only 6 juniors have been registered – 3 initially without a completed PCF which have had to be chased up.
- Only 5 have entered the county championships but JiN is hopeful of involving a few more. Once again she will organise the format and draw. On the day, AJ will run the target competition, RG will record the scores and RH or JoN will umpire.

## **(I) NESMBA**

- The League Secretary had been sent the required list of starred players (32 not able to play in the B team) and recently a full list of all members. She had recently asked for additional selective lists of the players who play in each team and RG had refused this request partly because we do not have fixed team squads any more, partly because the makeup of our ICC team is not NESMBA business and partly because this is not a standard NESMBA requirement anyway.
- The Competition Secretary had confirmed our 4 places in each discipline at Barnard Castle and RG had let him know we could take 2 more in each if required.
- RG pointed out that it had taken 4 months to sort out the required change in NESMBA bank mandate.
- Lancashire had opted out of the league competition and not renewed their membership.

## **(J) ESMBA**

- The possible provision of Personal Accident cover was to be referred to their AGM as this would almost certainly lead to an increase in member subs.
- A Safeguarding course had been promised to all county Safeguarding Officers (free) but no details yet received.
- An Equality Policy Statement had been published and could be viewed on their website.
- Revised ICC rules had been published to include among other things the increase in ends for Triples and Fours to 13 and 11 respectively. The document in general and some of its content had resulted in a 3 page response from the Cheshire County Association containing multiple criticisms. We had not found time to consider this lengthy document in full but had replied that we would look at any suggestions for amendment that Cheshire may propose. None had so far been received.
- The entry form for the TLH Top Club competition had been sent out to all clubs.

## **(K) SCARBOROUGH and DISTRICT LEAGUE (SDSMBL) ISSUES**

A lengthy discussion followed during which the developments that had occurred over the last 5 months in relation to this league were reviewed. Much had been written during this time but the key events/dates are summarised in an Appendix at the end of the minutes.

The crux of the issue was seen to be whether the changes made to Section 15 in our constitution impacted in any way upon the operation of any of the league competitions played between our member clubs. This had never been our intention and the Scarborough leagues constitution had been studied when the proposal from Crossgates/Yedingham had been received in April to make sure it was not affected. Due process had then been followed and the changes had been democratically adopted. Our member clubs are duty bound to abide by the changes but are free to submit proposals for modifications next year if so desired. Apart from the SDSMBL no other league had expressed any concerns.

It was recognised that the ability of clubs to pick non NYSMBA members to play in their teams was affected but this was a CLUB issue not a LEAGUE issue. As far as was known only 2 clubs had been affected. Last season, Great Ouseburn had used 3 players registered with the West Yorkshire SMBA and Folkton & Flixton had use 1 player registered with the Humberside SMBA in their league teams. Great Ouseburn had accepted the change and 2 of these players had now

been fully registered with them to play in their leagues with 1 opting to remain with West Yorkshire and play in their team. Folkton & Flixton had been unable to accept the change and had now left the NYSMBA entirely and applied to join the HSMBA.

As the SDSMBL had not been able to demonstrate how their operation had been compromised and neither had the ESMBA been able to show how we had interfered with this league, letters had been sent to both these bodies asking for clarification of their concerns. Both letters currently remained unanswered and until such time as they were it was unanimously felt that we could not comply with any demands to further alter our constitution. We will therefore await the requested feedback and all clubs have been informed that Version 12 of our constitution remains in force and binding on all our clubs until, and if, it is changed at a future general meeting.

### **(L) AOB**

- There had been no suggestions received from any club as to how we should commemorate our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. However, the possibility of inviting all club secretaries to a free quiz evening/buffet in the Galtres theatre were briefly discussed and will be further considered.  
**Action RG**
- An email from Elaine Gathercole (Welburn) had been forwarded to all clubs. Elaine was trying to organise a First Aid course and would like to hear from anyone who was interested. RG had established that the ESMBA does not stipulate that clubs or Associations require First Aid officers except for their coaches. This topic to be discussed further at the AGM. **Action c/f**

### **Next meeting date Friday Jan 22 (tbc)**

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.15pm

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### **Appendix to the Minutes of the ManCom meeting of November 6th 2015**

Since June 8<sup>th</sup>, the Secretary had kept a log of every communication he had received and sent with regards to this issue. In total these numbered over 80 items. All of these had been copied on a regular basis to all ManCom members so they were fully informed. The key events were.....

**May 1<sup>st</sup>** - Several changes to our Constitution had been made. One of the proposals (to Section 15) had been put forward by 2 of the Scarborough leagues own clubs and having been accepted meant that all players representing any of our member clubs in any league team must now be fully affiliated to our Association.

**June 16<sup>th</sup>** - Three of the four Scarborough league's committee members resigned. The reason given was that they felt that this change actually overturned "***one of the most important sections***" of their leagues constitution.

**July 7<sup>th</sup>** - The remaining committee member (Treasurer) held a "Special Meeting" with the objective of electing new officers but this was unsuccessful although Edwin Smith (Scarborough) and Alan McLean (Bempton) volunteered to take on the roles of Chairman and Secretary in a temporary (acting) capacity. (It has been reported that an unscheduled meeting then followed without any pre-published agenda at which, among other things, a decision was taken to write to the ESMBA.)

**July 30<sup>th</sup>** – an email was received from Keith Hawkins (ESMBA Administrator) stating that they had received "***an official complaint from the SDSMBL with regards to your change of constitution which they say restricts their own playing rules***". (The ESMBA minutes from their July 25/26 seminar also state that "***Scarborough League submitted a complaint about the change to the North Yorkshire constitution....***")

**Aug 5<sup>th</sup>** – As we had had no prior notification that a complaint was being made against us, a copy of the complaint letter was requested from Alan McClean and this was received on Aug 16<sup>th</sup>. This revealed that in fact the league had written “**seeking guidance**” on the interpretation of the ESMBA’s own constitution. (This letter was discussed by the ESMBA committee on Aug 29<sup>th</sup>)

**Sep 9<sup>th</sup>** – email from Keith Hawkins stating that “**The Scarborough league submitted a complaint about North Yorkshire’s amended constitution...**” with a demand to amend our constitution.

**Sep 21<sup>st</sup>** – A letter was sent to the ESMBA requesting the answer to several questions including why the league’s request for guidance had been taken as a formal complaint and asking for clarification of the way in which they felt we were supposed to have “**controlled the registrations of players**” in the league. (This letter was discussed by the ESMBA committee on Oct 25<sup>th</sup>)

**Oct 26<sup>th</sup>** – Notification received from David Loraine that Folkton & Flixton SMBC were not renewing their NYSMBA membership and had applied to join Humberside SMBA.

**Oct 27<sup>th</sup>** – email from Carol Hawkins re-iterating the ESMBA request to change our constitution at our next general meeting because “**as it stands, it would have an adverse effect on the Scarborough League**”. (There were no answers to any of the questions in our Sep 21 letter.)

**Oct 29<sup>th</sup>** – An email was sent to Alan McClean requesting some clarification of the contents of his letter to the ESMBA. This contained opinions such as “**NYSMBA appears to have interfered in the running of the league....**”, “**NYSMBA have proved intransigent**” and also stated that we had attempted to “**...stop an individual playing for the county he has played for up to now...**”

**Nov 5<sup>th</sup>** – After his request to attend this meeting had been denied, a letter was received from Edwin Smith (acting Chairman SDSMBL) expressing his opinion that a change would be required to the SDSMBL constitution to reflect the change to the NYSMBA constitution and that this would not be done. (The meeting authorised a reply to Edwin to be copied to all SDSMBL clubs).

**RBG 13/11/15**