



North Yorkshire Short Mat Bowling Association

Draft Minutes for the 22nd AGM

April 19th 2013 @ 7.00 pm - The Galtres Centre – Easingwold

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.03pm by asking those present to observe a minutes silence and remember all bowling colleagues who had passed away over the past season. Those she was aware of were **Gordon Hanson** (Easingwold), **Richard Lund** (BSA), **Philip Elgie** Branton), **John Oliver** (Hambleton) and **Ron Czernick** (Kirkbymoorside).

ATTENDEES

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (7)

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| 1. <u>Chairman</u> | - Pat Jones |
| 2. <u>Junior Coordinator</u> | - Noel Clark |
| 3. <u>County Team Captains</u> | - Rose Haynes (A), Arthur Jackson (B), |
| 4. <u>Competition & Membership Secretary</u> | - Lesley Harris |
| 5. <u>Treasurer</u> | - Barry Simmonite |
| 6. <u>Publicity Officer</u> | - Roger Green |
| 7. <u>Secretary (co-opted - non voting)</u> | - Jill Newsome |

CLUBS (11)

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| 1. <u>Boroughbridge</u> | - Jean and Ken Calvert, Dennis Mather |
| 2. <u>Church Fenton</u> | - Gordon Raggett, David Herbert |
| 3. <u>Crossgates</u> | - Peter Render, Anne & Mick Ridge |
| 4. <u>Easingwold</u> | - Joyce Hughes |
| 5. <u>Great Ouseburn</u> | - Joan Ramsden, Paul Williamson and Simon Holtby |
| 6. <u>Knaresborough</u> | - Bryan Jones, Robert Harris, Pat & Derek Beardsley |
| 7. <u>North Duffield</u> | - Jill Newsome |
| 8. <u>Raskelf</u> | - Maureen Lillyman |
| 9. <u>St. Cuthberts</u> | - Ann & Ken Thompson |
| 10. <u>Tollerton</u> | - Gill and Matthew Jackson |
| 11. <u>Yoredale</u> | - Brian Stoker |

PJ welcomed the representatives of 11 clubs who together with 12 guests and 7 Officers made a total of 30 attendees.

(1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Of the 32 clubs not present, 12 had offered their apologies.

1. Carlton
2. Darley
3. East Cottingwith
4. Flixton
5. Marton
6. Riccall
7. Seaton Ross
8. Stewart
9. Swinton
10. SWMC
11. Thornton le Dale
12. Yedingham

Apologies had also been received from Joseph Newsome (Vice Chairman).

(2) MINUTES OF LAST MEETINGS The minutes of the previous AGM on May 4 2012 had been circulated to all clubs shortly thereafter. Acceptance of these as a true record was proposed by Pete Render and seconded by Paul Williamson and signed by the Chairman. The minutes of the subsequent ManCom meetings held on June 12, October 9, December 15, and January 26 had been published on the website for all to view and had all been agreed as a true record by ManCom.

(3) ANY MATTERS ARISING

- Jean Rhodes had resigned as Secretary in November for personal reasons. Jill Newsome had taken over on the understanding that it would be in a temporary capacity until the AGM.
- RG had contacted the ESMBA for advice on committee voting rights. The answer was generally that they do not vote on proposals they had submitted although occasionally a free vote was allowed.
- Clubs had been asked for nominations for a possible County 'C' team and all interested were invited to the team practice day in September. Pete Render had subsequently organised a friendly game against Humberside which had taken place in March. He was happy with the level of support so ManCom had therefore agreed to apply to enter a second team in the NESMBA league next season.
- Lesley and Roberts Harris and Paul Williams were put forward to take part in the ESMBA Presidents match in September. LH & RH had taken part but PW was unable to do so.
- The same three had taken their umpires test over the summer and passed. This brings our strength back to 8.
- The match against the England squad had gone ahead after a "Northern Select" team had been assembled. Several favourable reports had since been received from both England players and those who had been invited to play. The day made a £25 profit. We had tentatively now agreed to play the England juniors if a suitable date could be found.

No one raised any matters arising out of the published ManCom minutes.

(4) CORRESPONDENCE

- Darley had emailed to say they would not be renewing their membership next year.
- Keith Worrell had replied with a favourable response to our application to enter a 'C' team.

(5) REPORTS from OFFICERS (Written copies of the full reports are filed along with the minutes)

(a) **CHAIRMAN** – PJ highlighted the main successes of the past season.

- Ben Render, Dave Newsome and Gareth & Jacinta Townend had been selected once again for England squad.
- Rose Haynes and Pat Beardsley were selected for the England Ladies for their return match in Armagh against the Irish ladies.
- The county teams had had a difficult season in their respective competitions but both had benefitted from the experience of playing at a higher level than they had been used to.
- Rose Haynes, Roger Green and Simon & Megan Holtby had won the Northern Fours title against Richard Lochman, Joseph Newsome, Francis Boatman and Jacinta Townend.
- The National Mixed Fours was won by Ben Render, Jayne Rudd and Gareth & Jacinta Townend
- Jo Newsome and Sean Conroy lost by a single shot in an exciting National Pairs Final.
- Danny Langdon was runner-up in the National U18 Singles.
- The Northern Select game against the England squad was lost as anticipated but we did manage to score 25 points (out of 128).
- Derek & Pat Beardsley had won the Pairs at Bodelwyddan Castle.
- Gordon & Lynda Raggett and Dave Herbert had won the Triples at Potters.
- Robert & Lesley Harris and Paul Williamson had qualified as umpires.
- Peter Render had organised a friendly match for potential 'C' team players against Humberside. She thanked him for his efforts and wished the new team luck in their first season.

She finished her report by thanking the committee for their hard work, Jill Newsome for helping out in difficult circumstances and all bowlers for their support and friendship over the season.

(b) **TREASURER** - BS circulated the Accounts for 2012/13.

- He was delighted to report a record surplus of over £900 leading to a final bank balance of over £4000. This was partly due to over £300 being made at the "Irish Nite" and the fact that the team practice day was run at a profit rather than a large loss. We also did not have the expense of setting up the Galtres display cabinet or paying back the unspent Sport England grant.
- He asked the meeting to consider whether it was time to raise some of the honorariums. These had not changed for around 7 years and he suggested that a rise in (for instance) the honorarium for Secretary may tempt someone to take on the post (see 10 below for more detail).
- With regards to next year's affiliation fees, he pointed out that the ESMBA registration subs were reducing by £0.50p next season but that the Management Committee would like to keep annual subs at the same overall level of £4.50 – in effect raising the NYSMBA portion by £0.50 to compensate. There were plans to purchase 2 new county mats and associated equipment and this would help offset this major expense. There were no objections raised although Gordon Raggett said he felt this should have been a proposal on the agenda. RG pointed out that it was a constitutional requirement for those present at the AGM to agree fees so this was not required although the topic did appear on the agenda.
- In answer to a question from Gordon Raggett, BS said that the drop in the profit from the County Championships was mainly due to a reduction in the number of entrants and the increased cost of supplying umpires.

(c) **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY** – LH after her first year in this post highlighted the following.

- Final membership for the year was 907, a decrease of 21.
- The loss of 2 clubs (Coxwold & Sawley).
- Good increases at Hambleton (+9) and Riccall (+6)
- Main reductions were at Crossgates (-8) and Bubwith and North Duffield (both -5).
- Junior membership had plummeted (down from 31 to 14) hopefully only a temporary blip.
- Some clubs were reluctant to report the age breakdown of their members but she asked them at least to make an accurate guesstimate as these were figures required by the ESMBA.
- Membership lists had been sent by email and she thanked clubs for accepting this.

LH then asked for comments regarding two recommendations made at the recent Management Committee meeting.

- Players who become members of 2 or more clubs: All such players should pay the full affiliation fee (ESMBA + NYSMBA) from only one of the clubs but also the NYSMBA fee from the other(s).
- Late registration: All players registering up to the end of March should pay the full fee and they would then be fully registered with the ESMBA and issued with a membership card.

After some discussion, these were both accepted. She ended her report by thanking all club contacts for their help and cooperation. Without this, the job would be much more difficult.

(d) **PUBLICITY OFFICER** - RG reported as follows.

- Record access of the WebSite which had clocked up 10,000 hits.
- Entry forms for all County Championships and Little Cup had been available to download.
- More and more use had been made of the Notice Board including obituaries.
- The cost of hosting the site was around £10 per month but the cost of NYSMBA expenditure on printing, postage and stationery had reduced substantially in recent years (down from £700 to £250) as a result of this increasing use of electronic communications.
- He asked clubs to recognise that the use of both email and the website for communication will only increase and for all clubs email contacts to keep a regular check on both the site and their inboxes so that nothing is missed.

- VOY league was using another site to display their league tables from next year.
- Documents in the Policy Register would be made available online.
- The Handbook was slightly smaller this year. Cost to Association only about £2 per club.
- There had been 4 correct entries to the puzzle – a random draw showed Dave and Ann Herbert to be the winners of the £25 prize.

RG expressed his wish to see more contributions from members to next year's Handbook and would published articles anonymously if required. Any bowls related topic would be considered. He ended his report with a tribute to Nobby Clark who was standing down from the committee after 14 years. Nobby had been involved in the development of the game across the county since around 1984 his contribution had been great. On behalf of all in the county, he thanked Nobby for his dedication and contribution over this time.

(e) **CAPTAINS**

(i) A Team – RH reported on the change from 3 years at the top of the NESMBA league to competing in the ESMBA Premier ICC. The team were in a very tough group along with Shropshire, West Midlands and 6 time National Champions, Cheshire. Although they had lost 5 of their 7 games several were by close margins and one of the victories was over Cheshire – a great result. In their KO game against Cornwall they had again just missed out by 18-22. She was pleased with how things had gone and thanked all the players and reserves for their gallant efforts but felt there was still room for improvement.

She named and congratulated all those who had either qualified for their badge (4 games), reached their “silver” award (25 games) or their “gold” award (50 games) and also Sean Conroy and Roger Green who, in the Pairs, had contributed the most team points of any discipline. She also thanked Derek & Pat Beardsley and Bryan and Pat Jones for their contribution now that they had opted to stand down from the team in favour of some of the up and coming younger players. Finally she thanked Joseph Newsome for his help as vice-captain and wished next year's team (whoever they are) the best of luck.

(ii) B Team – AJ thanked all the B team players for their hard work and dedication in a difficult season back in Division 1. Although most games had been lost there was 1 win and 1 draw which was an improvement over the previous time they had played in the top Division. Next year they will be returning back to Division 2 to meet new teams and new players. Finally, he thanked Jill Newsome as his vice-captain for her hard work and expertise.

(f) **COMPETITION SECRETARY** – LH reported on the highlights in the County, Northern and National Championships as well as the Little Cup.

(i) COUNTY

- Overall, Ben Render and Sean Conroy were the most successful bowlers
- The Triples and Juniors each had 10 less entries than last year.
- The Singles was won by Ben Render
- The Pairs was won by Sean Conroy & Joseph Newsome
- The Triples was won by Ben Render, Sean Conroy and Jayne Rudd
- The Fours was won by Ben Render, Sean Conroy Jayne Rudd and David Newsome.
- The Mixed Fours was won by David & Jill Newsome with James & Charlotte Clark.
- The Juniors was won by Danny Langdon after a busy day in which all entrants had 7 games each.
- The latter had to be re-organised due to bad weather and she thanked Simon Holtby and Simon Breeze for their help in marking most of the games.

(ii) NORTHERN

- 3 of the 51 qualifiers were unable to take part due to England team commitments so had to be substituted.

- The Fours ended with an all North Yorkshire Final in which Rose Haynes, Roger Green and Simon & Megan Holtby were the victors.
- Simon Holtby reached the Singles semi-finals.
- Gordon Raggett/David Herbert and Joseph Newsom/Richard Lochman both reached the Pairs semi-finals.
- Gordon Raggett/David Herbert/Danny Langdon reached the Triples semi-finals.
- Overall, we were second in the County Shield.

(iii) NATIONALS

- Slightly reduced entry overall resulting in less places in the finals.
- Ben Render, Jayne Rudd and Gareth & Jacinta Townend won the Mixed Fours.
- Sean Conroy and Joseph Newsome were runners up in the Pairs.
- Danny Langdon was runner up in the U18 Singles.
- Josh Burrow reached the last 16 in the Singles on his first visit to the finals.

(iv) LITTLE CUP

- 22 teams entered requiring 12 mats
- Won by Geoff & Anne Whitehead, Geoff Dye and Roger Green

LH ended her 2nd year as Competition Secretary by thanking all who helped in any way in all of the competitions and the bowlers who took part for ensuring they all ran so smoothly. PJ felt she should also add her thanks to Robert Harris who had assisted Lesley in the running of all competitions.

(g) **JUNIOR COORDINATOR** – The Chairman introduced NC by stating that he would be sorely missed as he was a fountain of knowledge and she was glad that he would be available to consult on any matter. In his report Nobby mentioned

- A recent visit to Gargrave with a mat. They meet every Thursday.
- The annual match against the Stockport Juniors had not gone ahead this year but with the help of Church Fenton a junior get together had been organised at their club.
- The Woodbridge Trophy had been cancelled this year due to a lack of entrants in spite of the ESMBA agreeing to our suggestion to change the format to Triples and the introduction of prize money.
- He is continuing with his work with the YBP.

(6) **ESMBA NEWS** – There had been no committee minutes received at all but the AGM minutes were on their website. This had been attended by RG/NC (Wooton July 14) and RG reported as follows.

- After several requests, ESMBA membership figures had at last been posted on their website. This showed the current membership was 21,000 – a drop of 5000 since 2004.
- Officer reports were not all sent out in advance of the meeting as stipulated in their constitution. The Secretary did not even know he had to produce a report. We have decided to vote against the acceptance of any report not circulated with the required notice.
- The cost of supplying umpires for the Nationals and also the cost of the England Ladies game were queried by some counties.
- The current bank balance was declared to be over £100,000.
- A new club competition had been launched and a flier had been sent to all clubs. The qualifiers get to attend a subsidised final weekend at the TLH resort in Torquay. (North Duffield had entered a team and qualified which explained the absence of the vice-chairman from this meeting).
- National Finals moved to Bromsgrove after 2 years at Kempston on the basis of reduced cost.
- Proposal to remove committee's right to vote was defeated.
- Proposal to reduce affiliation by 50p was carried by 1 vote. We voted against.
- There was no one elected to the posts of Nationals Organiser, Membership Secretary or Coaching Director. Apart from the latter, the tasks were handled by other committee members.

- The honorariums for the previous year were announced. Overall these had gone up by 25%. We had now submitted a proposal to standardise these awards at 5% every 2 years.

In the open forum, the merits of the BDA were discussed. Some expressed the view that the money paid to the BDA could be better used by organising in house recruitment schemes. Some were unhappy that the target age range for the BDA was 65+. With regards to the CPP, every county MUST have a nominated Safeguarding Officer. The cost of CRB clearance would be met by the ESMBA. Plans to farm out some of the administration tasks had not been abandoned but it was still a question of “watch this space”. The ESMBA Insurance Coordinator, Peter Winter had stood down – since taken over by Keith Hawkins. The broker has changed from PJ Aitken to Sutton-Winson.

Withdrawal from the BDA – This had been announced via their banner headline on their website. There had been no consultation or reasons explained apart from “lack of results”. We were unhappy with this action which we felt was taken simply for short term financial benefit and may prove to be short-sighted. The cost of staying in would have been about 50p per member which we considered a good investment. We had written to all other County Associations asking them to lobby the ESMBA and had also written individually to all committee members asking them to reconsider their decision. This was to no avail and the withdrawal was confirmed along with an announcement that they were joining a new body – the ABC (Association of Bowling Codes). There were no details of what the new body would be doing, what their objectives were or how much it was going to cost.

This year their Umpires Director is standing down and we understand that Graham Foote, an umpire from Humberside has put his name forward.

RG finished this report by reminding everyone that in 2014 there will be a Rules Revision Meeting (RRM). This is a once in 5 year opportunity to ask for changes to the “Laws of the Game” to be considered. Any proposals will need to be submitted by the end of the year. He asked anyone with any ideas to let him know.

(7) NESMBA NEWS – No committee meetings were held. RH and AJ had attended the AGM in Leeds on June 17th and AJ reported as follows.

- A proposal to revert to the original playing format was passed
- A proposal to ban North Yorkshire from entering a second team in the league for 3 years was defeated.
- Roger Green had stood down as League Secretary and was replaced by Maxine Groce (Humberside).
- Andy Miles (West Yorkshire) had stood down as Competition Secretary and had been replaced by Barry Purcell (Lancashire).

(8) PROPOSALS - Details of Proposals 1 & 2 had been circulated to all clubs with a full explanation of the reasons they were being put forward.

(a) Proposal 1 – Constitution – Alteration to 5-ADMINISTRATION.

Seconded by Robert Harris and passed unanimously after a small amendment to the Publicity Officers job title (suggested by Robert Harris, seconded by Derek Beardsley and approved by those present).

(b) Proposal 2 – Constitution – Alteration to 11-QUORUMS AND VOTING.

Robert Harris pointed out that should this be passed, there may be counter arguments put forward to future committee proposals that may change ManCom members’ views. RG suggested that committee members could speak out for or against their proposals even if not voting, and in any case the idea was to trust those clubs present to make a correct decision in the light of any discussion. The proposal was then seconded by Maureen Lillyman and passed unanimously.

(c) Proposal 3 – C Team – Pete Render pointed out the practice day had gone well and had led to him organising a friendly against Humberside which the potential team had only just lost. He knew of

25 people who were very keen to play and there would undoubtedly be others who did not make it into the A or B teams. PJ thanked Pete for his hard work and proposed that we give formal approval of the introduction of this third county team. This was seconded by Pat Beardsley and passed unanimously. (*Application to NESMBA had already been made and accepted*)

(9) DIARY for 2012/13 – AJ had once again taken on the task of coordinating all dates and although it was not yet complete, those so far agreed were now up on the website pending inclusion in next year's Handbook. RG pointed out that Great Ouseburn planned to hold an Open Fours competition in the week after Christmas.

(10) ELECTION OF OFFICERS (a list of nominations had been circulated to all clubs)

Secretary: There had been no nominations received. The Treasurer's earlier suggestion of whether an increased honorarium would be likely to attract someone to take on this post was thought unlikely. Robert Harris had read a draft copy of the Job Description and found it difficult to assess the "size" of the job or how many hours of work may be involved. He also felt that some of the tasks listed could possibly be re-allocated to other officers. RG agreed that the job had expanded during his own long term in office and was the reason the Website and Handbook had been made the subject of a separate Officer post. Since resigning, some more of the work had been re-allocated – for example AJ was handling the preparation of the Diary. He felt it was one of those jobs that was as big or as small as one made it. As the "front man" for the Association, he felt whoever took it on would need to be proactive rather than passive. In spite of several requests by the Chairman, the post remained unfilled.

Captain 'C' team (new post): Pete Render was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by the Vice Chairman and elected unanimously. He was then handed a copy of the Captains Job Description and also the Team Selection Policy.

Junior Coordinator: As previously notified, NC stood down and the Chairman thanked him for all his hard work since taking on this post 4 years ago. There were no nominations from the floor but Jill Newsome said she would take it on and was proposed by Robert Harris, seconded by Pete Render and elected unanimously.

All the other officers (as per nomination list) were elected en-block – voting unanimous.

Note: Accounts checker – This appointment had been omitted from the agenda but subsequently Paul Williamson expressed willingness to take on the task again next year.

(11) LEAGUE REPORTS - The Boroughbridge Cup afternoon league has now dissolved.

(12) OPEN FORUM

- Simon Holtby asked why a ManCom meeting had been called in the middle of the County Triples Championship leading to a delayed start to the KO rounds. PJ said it was to discuss an urgent item of business and noted his concern. Due to the difficulty of getting all ManCom members together, future meetings at county events could not be totally ruled out but she would ensure they would be timed so as not to interrupt proceedings
- Robert Harris felt that a new webpage could be created to make it easier for enquirers to locate clubs in our area. RG was happy to discuss this but felt that anyone visiting the site need only use the email link present on every page to make an enquiry. Over the years, several such enquiries had been made and responded to. There was also a complete list of clubs with contact numbers.
- Gordon Raggett had heard rumours of a possible 'B' team strip. PJ said there was already a County strip and it would be up to the Captains of the 'B' and 'C' teams whether they wanted to adopt it or remain in greys/whites. AJ said he would be canvassing his team on the issue. Gordon also expressed his opinion that we must never forget that all teams represent the same county and players should not seek to adopt their own separate identity.

No other points were raised so the Chairman closed the meeting @ 21:20hrs.