



North Yorkshire Short Mat Bowling Association

Minutes for the 24th AGM

May 1st @ 7.00 pm - The Galtres Centre – Easingwold

ATTENDEES

MANCOM (MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE) (7)

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| 1. <u>Chairman</u> | - Pat Jones |
| 2. <u>Vice Chairman</u> | - Joseph Newsome |
| 3. <u>Secretary</u> | - Roger Green |
| 4. <u>County Team Captains</u> | - Rose Haynes, Arthur Jackson, Pat Jones |
| 5. <u>Membership Secretary</u> | - Roger Green |
| 6. <u>Treasurer</u> | - Barry Simmonite |
| 7. <u>PWA Secretary</u> | - Roger Green |

Jill Newsome (Junior Coordinator) was unable to attend due to family illness.

CLUBS (12)

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| 1. <u>Branton</u> | - Peter Goldsmith |
| 2. <u>Church Fenton</u> | - David Herbert |
| 3. <u>Crossgates</u> | - Anne & Mick Ridge |
| 4. <u>Easingwold</u> | - Joyce Hughes |
| 5. <u>East Cottingwith</u> | - Francis Boatman, Steve Duffin |
| 6. <u>Hambleton</u> | - Jean Rhodes |
| 7. <u>Knaresborough</u> | - Bryan Jones, Robert & Lesley Harris, Pat & Derek Beardsley |
| 8. <u>Raskelf</u> | - Dennis Jarvis |
| 9. <u>St. Cuthberts</u> | - Gill Fletcher, Ian Battersby |
| 10. <u>Scarborough</u> | - Keith Tingay, Ray Lawson-Howe |
| 11. <u>Selby WMC</u> | - Alan Whittle |
| 12. <u>Tollerton</u> | - Alan Ward |

PJ welcomed the representatives from 12 clubs, who together with 8 colleagues and 7 Officers made a total of 27 attendees. The meeting commenced with a one minute silence in memory of several former members who had passed away during the year.

(1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Of the 32 clubs not present, 10 had offered their apologies.

1. BSA
2. Carlton
3. Cayton
4. Flixton
5. Marton
6. Stewart
7. Stillington
8. Thornton Dale
9. Wilberfoss
10. Yedingham

(2) MINUTES OF LAST MEETINGS - The draft minutes of the previous AGM on May 2 2014 had been circulated to all clubs shortly thereafter. A small amendment was requested to 4(e) (iii) by AW to correct the statement he reportedly made that he would not be available for inter-county games. He had only said he would not attend the team "practice day". With this change agreed, the meeting voted unanimously to accept the minutes as a true record (Proposed KT, seconded MR). The file copy was signed by the Chairman. Minutes of 3 subsequent ManCom meetings had

been made available on the website and these had had already been verified as being correct by ManCom. A draft copy of the minutes of the most recent meeting (April 21) would be verified at the next ManCom meeting.

(3) **ANY MATTERS ARISING** - No matters were raised arising from either last year's AGM or the subsequent ManCom meetings.

(4) **REPORTS from OFFICERS** - All reports, except the Chairman's, had been sent to all clubs in early April and will be filed along with the minutes. All Officers were given the opportunity to add to or modify their report and those present were able to ask questions on each report.

(a) **CHAIRMAN** – PJ presented her report, commenting on various aspects of the seasons bowling and congratulating those who had made the England squads. Finally, she thanked all the members of the Management Committee for their hard work and the support and friendship shown by all bowlers during the year.

(b) **SECRETARY** – RG added that the NESMBA Championships would now remain at Barnard Castle after all counties had been re-canvassed regarding the proposed move to Church Gresley. There were no other modifications. No questions from the floor.

(c) **TREASURER** – BS thanked Paul Williamson (GO) for checking the figures in his 3 financial reports (Profit/Loss, Income/Expenditure, Assets/Stock) which showed a surplus for the year of over £1400 and a current balance of over £7300. Paul had not asked for any modifications and there were no questions from the floor. After a proposal from IB (seconded by DH), the meeting unanimously voted to accept the Treasurer's reports.

(d) **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY** – RG confirmed there were no modifications. No questions from the floor.

(e) **CAPTAIN (Premier)** – RH confirmed there were no modifications. No questions from the floor.

(f) **CAPTAIN (A)** – AJ pointed out that 34 players had had games during the season, not 29 as reported. There were no other modifications and no questions from the floor.

(g) **CAPTAIN (B)** – PJ confirmed there were no modifications. No questions from the floor.

(h) **COMPETITIONS** - RG pointed out that in the absence of a Competitions Secretary he had produced this report for completeness. Since writing it, the National Finals had taken place and although these had not produced any North Yorkshire Champions, one of our Triples (the Townends) and one of our Fours (Ben Render's team) had both reached the "last 16" – a good achievement in the country's flagship competition. RH expressed disappointment that the Little Cup had not gone ahead and asked if it and the other County Championships would be held next year should there continue to be no one prepared to stand as Competition Secretary. RG said the matter had not yet been fully discussed by ManCom and no guarantees could be given about any competitions. The extra effort put in by ManCom during 2014/15 should not be considered as a precedent for 2015/16.

(i) **JUNIOR COORDINATOR** – In the absence of JiN, JoN confirmed there were no modifications. No questions from the floor.

(j) **PWA SECRETARY** - There were no modifications and no questions from the floor. *(Note: I omitted to point out that there were actually 2 entries in the Handbook competition this year not 1 as reported. A random draw took place immediately following the meeting by Ian Battersby which showed the winner to be Anne Herbert of Church Fenton who receives £25 - RBG)*

(5) **POLICY REGISTER** – Full details of 4 proposals to modify the Constitution had been circulated to all clubs with a full explanation of the reasons they were being put forward. Proposals 1-3 had been submitted by ManCom and proposal 4 by Crossgates SMBC (seconded by Yedingham SMBC)

(a) **Proposal 1** Alteration to 14-DISCIPLINARY MATTERS - This was considered only once the new "Disciplinary and Appeals procedures" had been accepted (see 5(e)). It was then seconded by IB and passed.

(b) **Proposal 2** Alteration to 5-ADMINISTRATION - No one present objected to this in principle as many clubs included "ordinary" members on their own committees in addition to their "Officers".

However the opinion was expressed that any such members should be elected at the AGM (rather than co-opted) and they should have equal voting rights with other ManCom members. There was already provision in the constitution to “co-opt” members to deal with specific issues. The Chairman agreed to withdraw this proposal which would be re-submitted with modified wording at next year’s AGM.

- (c) **Proposal 3** Alteration to 3-MEMBERSHIP - In relation to para. (c) (GF asked what activities were organised by the NYSMBA. RG replied that these were all 7 County Championships, the Little Cup and the 3 County teams. League competitions were organised by their own committees. KT proposed an amendment to para, (d) to show that an appeal against any rejection to an application for membership should be addressed to the “Management Committee”. The meeting agreed to this small change and the proposal was then passed after being seconded by MR.
- (d) **Proposal 4** Alteration to 15-LEAGUES - MR explained the reasons why his club (backed by Yedingham) had decided to ask for this change and the circumstances that had brought it about. As things stood at the moment, any club could draft in any member (or members) from another county to strengthen their league team (assuming they joined that club). Crossgates and Yedingham both felt that it should be a requirement that all teams representing any North Yorkshire club should be composed exclusively of players who had been registered with, and paid their fees to, the NYSMBA. The proposal was then passed by 14-3 with no abstentions.
- (e) **Disciplinary and Appeals procedures** – The current policy document (V2) had been approved at last year’s AGM and since then a sub-committee had been appointed with the specific task of suggesting further improvements. Their report had been submitted to ManCom in November since when their recommendations had been used to make very substantial changes, (including one to our Constitution - see 5(a) above). ManCom were now proposing adoption of this updated version (V3) which had already been circulated to all clubs for their consideration. After some discussion the new version was passed after incorporating the small change agreed in (f) below.
- (f) **Amendment to (e)** - A proposal had subsequently been received from the sub-committee (also circulated to all clubs) to alter the tariff period (in para. G) from “weeks” to “matches”. After discussion regarding the ‘pros’ and ‘cons’ of this alteration, the change was agreed.

During the discussions in (e) and (f) above regarding this new version, both Ian Battersby and Keith Tingay presented reasons why they felt that the new version did not fully live up to their expectations. They expressed disappointment that it missed out some factors they felt to be important. A list of these was passed to the Secretary and the Chairman promised that these would be looked at subsequently. They also raised the question of whether the Association had adequate insurance cover against the possibility of legal action being taken against any member of the Association by a “**disgruntled offender**”. They felt that if clubs were to be asked to nominate members to serve on future disciplinary panels they should be confident that insurance was in place to indemnify them against any such action. BS pointed out that the Association was already covered by the ESMBA 3rd party liability scheme. The Chairman promised that the “small print” of this policy would be investigated.

- (g) **Fees for 2015/16** – BS stated that the healthy state of our finances meant that no changes to any of the charges itemised in this policy document were necessary.

(5) ELECTION OF OFFICERS - A list of nominations had already been circulated to all clubs showing the proposer and seconder for 10 of the 11 Officer posts.

- There had been no indication from any club regarding members prepared to stand for Competition Secretary. The Chairman asked if there were any nominations from the floor but there were none.
- The Chairman asked if all the Officers prepared to stand for re-election on the nomination list could be voted in en-bloc. This was agreed by all present and all were re-elected unanimously.

(6) OPEN FORUM

(a) TEAM SELECTION POLICY – This policy is reviewed each year and during previous discussions ManCom had noted that under the current policy most of the better county players were only selected for around half of the games enjoyed by most of the less competent players. Concern had also been expressed that none of the 3 teams were achieving the level of success it was felt that we as a county were capable of. In the ESMBA inter-county competition (ICC) this was probably because we had been entered at too high a level but next year the team was being moved from the ‘Premier’ to the ‘A’ division so their performance should improve. In the NESMBA league, after winning Division 1 for three consecutive years (2010, 2011 and 2012) we were now not even managing to remain in Division 1. It was felt that our objective as a county Association should always be to become the top county in the North as well as the top county in the country. To achieve this we need to move away from the existing culture which seemed to treat the 3 teams as 3 discreet “mini-clubs’.

JoN outlined the plans for next season. A pool over 100 players had been identified and each would receive a letter over the next few weeks giving everyone the opportunity of stating their availability for ANY of the fixtures arranged for ANY of the teams. The returns, once received, would then form the basis of an overall availability list from which all teams would be selected. Selection would be done by a selection committee of the 3 elected Captains and their appointed vice-captains and would be on a match by match basis.

In the discussion that followed, concern was expressed that this new system could mean that players currently used to playing in the ‘A’ and ‘B’ teams would be displaced by “premier” players keen to get more games - even that the ‘A’ team may be composed entirely of such players. Some felt that the team spirit currently enjoyed by the ‘B’ team could be threatened.

RH said that player’s performance should be a factor in selection. Nobody had a right to a team place simply because they had habitually played in the past. Some current players could be considered not up to county standard.

RG said that we should not be concerned in running 3 “social clubs” but in picking winning teams. Players should look to their own clubs and leagues for “social bowling” but if they wanted to represent their county they must be prepared to work for their place.

JoN concluded by saying that nothing is set in stone and further discussion on the details are yet to take place. However he urged all those receiving letters to make sure they responded and included any comments they wished to make.

(b) Venues for 2015/16 – The possibility of relocating 2 of the 4 county competitions from Swinton to Easingwold was discussed. The advantages/disadvantages of both venues with regards to meals, temperature, space, cost and spectator viewing were all raised. The Secretary read out a letter from the BSA club with regards to their heating problems. A straw poll showed a majority in favour of such a move so the fine details will be further discussed at the next ManCom meeting.

Discussion of Items (c) to (f) had been requested by Knaresborough SMBC and the Chairman asked Robert Harris to speak on their behalf.

(c) Election of team captains – The proposal was that captains should be elected by their team members rather than be elected by the whole membership at the AGM - a procedure already used successfully at Knaresborough. KT pointed out that a change to the constitution would be required and then asked who would select teams in the first place. Robert was unable to explain this dilemma and the proposal was not seconded from the floor.

(d) Merge the Premier and A teams – Robert noted that the plans already presented regarding the team selection process shared the same objective of fielding the strongest teams in both the ICC and the NESMBA league so no further discussion was required. .

- (e) **Team selection for NESMBA championships** – Robert withdrew this proposal which was not therefore discussed.
- (f) **Notification of committee posts** – Although Robert also withdrew this proposal, KT asked for discussion to go ahead. RG said that all documentation had been sent to clubs over 3 weeks before the AGM. With the financial year ending on March 31st a few days is needed to allow the Treasurer to finalise draft accounts before distribution. If 4 weeks' notice is now to be required, the AGM date would have to be pushed further into May. Further discussion then centred around the need to canvas clubs for people to fill the posts on the committee. The view was expressed that clubs were not aware of the current incumbents or that any member could stand for any post. Robert said that it could be conceived that the committee was a “closed shop” – a suggestion received with incredulity by ManCom several of whom expressed their willingness to stand down if there was anyone interested to taking on their post. AW said that most clubs experienced difficulty in filling administrative posts and ManCom should be congratulated on the work they do. The Secretary agreed to remind clubs in good time next year that they could forward nominations for any post in good time.
- (g) **AOB** – The Secretary pointed out that next May marked our 25th anniversary as a county Association and ManCom had discussed the possibility of holding some sort of social event to celebrate the fact. He asked clubs to think about any ideas they may have and let him know so they can be pursued.

IB asked for consideration to be given regarding a general press release to be published across the county in the press publicising the game with a view to generating some interest in taking up the sport.

No other points were raised so the Chairman thanked all for their attendance and closed the meeting @ 21:45hrs.

RBG May 3 - approved for issue by ManCom w/e May 11