

Minutes of ManCom (25) meeting held on Tuesday 8th February at Harrogate

Meeting started 6.35pm and was attended by all but one of the committee:

Chairman & Vice Chairman

Secretary & Treasurer

Competition Secretary

Junior Coordinator & PWA Secretary

Team Captains

Pat Jones, Joseph Newsome,
Roger Green, Barry Simmonite

Mark Agar

Jill Newsome, Roger Green

Rose Haynes, Arthur Jackson, Pat Jones

1 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Membership Secretary - Jean Rhodes

2 - MINUTES OF LAST MANCOM MEETING (11/10/16) - These were approved unanimously as a correct record and signed by PJ.

3 - MATTERS ARISING

County banner – A quotation of £23 had been obtained from Foxes for a simple banner. The size, design, colour and wording was discussed and it was agreed to purchase one banner for each team. They would be displayed at inter-county games, county competitions and at the NESMBA Championships. **Action PJ**

4 – NESMBA

League Secretary - Liam Smith (Stockport) had resigned in early December and in spite of an offer from Bill Burn (Stockport) to take over his duties, they had since been taken on by the League Secretary, David Rutt. Bill was prepared to stand at the AGM and it was agreed that we should formally propose him.

Barnard Castle – Stockport had once again offered to run the raffle on both days. (RG would purchase some prizes from our county).

Rule 24 – RG would prepare an amendment to this rule (starring players) and circulate for approval.

Action RG for all 3 above

5 - ESMBA

Minutes - had been received for the AGM (Jul 16), Seminar (July 30/31) and 2 committee meetings (Aug 27, Oct 8) and these had all been circulated as received. No-one present raised any particular points but RG stated that he felt the quality of the minutes was poor being full of grammatical, punctuation and spelling errors making them a “hard read”. The Minutes Secretary had recently stepped down and it was hoped that the quality of reporting could be improved by whoever took over.

Newsletter – Issues of this had been produced for September, October and January. The November/December issues had not been possible due to website/email problems. All 3 issues had been circulated to all club Secretaries. (RG had written to Rachel Cordy with some small articles for inclusion).

ESMBA insurance scheme finances – RG had written (Jan 18) to Barry Hedges/Barbara Mills as directed regarding publishing the financial details of this scheme alongside the main accounts each year. A reply was still awaited.

6 – FINANCES

The **Current balance** is £9066 although this will reduce by several hundred pounds by end of year (Mar 31) when several outstanding payments clear. It was agreed to continue with the **ESMBA insurance** at £107. This provides 3rd party liability cover and £5000 worth of equipment cover. BS offered his thanks to both MA and JR for their accurate and timely submission of cheques received for banking. **Bolt Bowls** - The payment of £45 for their Handbook advert was still outstanding – RG

will contact them again. **Action RG**. It was agreed to pay the printing expenses of £41.89 incurred by Church Fenton SMBC in setting up their open recruitment day. Whilst the outcome had been disappointing, it was an initiative worthy of support and it was agreed to consider similar reimbursement for any other club showing a similar initiative. **Action BS**

7 - MEMBERSHIP

Current membership - In the absence of JR, RG reported that this stood at 824 – a reduction of 43 over last year and the lowest recorded total since 1999. This follows the downward trend in membership that had been taking place nationally (as noted by RG in his capacity as ESMBA Registration Secretary). BS pointed out that he knew JR had several additional registrations to submit.

ESMBA Registration – To date, it had been NYSMBA practice not to register any members with the ESMBA who joined after March 31st and therefore only to charge them £1.50 between April and August. For those who took part in competitive play (e.g. summer leagues) this was in fact against ESMBA rules. After discussion it was agreed that ALL members notified by clubs will be registered with the ESMBA whatever month they joined and the full fee of £4.50 will be payable.

Dual members – Members who join 2 or more clubs had up to now only been charged £4.50 for their “primary” club and £1.50 for their “secondary” clubs. This had often led to confusion and meant the Membership Secretary had to establish which one was their primary club and then arrange for a rebate to their secondary club. After discussion it was agreed that to simplify matters any such dual members must pay the full fee from ALL the clubs they belong to. This will require a small change to the constitution at the AGM. **Action RG**

Playing for 2 or more clubs – Further discussion arising out of the above established that the Ryedale and White Rose leagues both allowed players to represent clubs other than the one they had registered with (their “home” club). It was agreed that if leagues wanted to allow this it was up to them but they could not allow non-ESMBA members to compete.

JR had stated that she had enjoyed her first year as Membership Secretary and expressed her wish to continue in this position. PJ thanked her (in absentia) for all her hard work.

8 - COMPETITIONS All agreed that MA had fulfilled the multiple tasks associated with organising and running of our competitions superbly and PJ asked for the committees thanks to be recorded. MA stated he was happy to continue in post for 2017/18 (and rumours that he would be on an extended 6 month holiday next year proved to be unfounded!). AJ had informed him of the dates that had been booked for next year’s county competitions and it was agreed that he should ensure all the three Galtres bookings ran to 6.00pm. This would allow a comfortable cushion in the case of an overrun (that had embarrassingly been the case in this years Mixed Fours). **Action AJ**

9 - PWA SECRETARY RG had responded to the letter from Sue at “**Bowlswear**” regarding the reasons behind the re-positioning of her advert in the Handbook. Her reply confirmed that she was keen to continue with us but would prefer a position on the inside front cover. It was agreed to continue with having a coloured cover (inside and out) and as a goodwill gesture the charge for Bowlswear would not be increased for colour next year. RG had once again been approached by one of the premier team players regarding setting up a NYSMBA **Facebook** profile. Further discussion showed a high degree of scepticism regarding the benefits to the county at large and worries regarding the control over the quality and type of content. The view was expressed that Facebook was primarily a social media more suited to individual use than corporate use. It was agreed to extend an invite to the player concerned to attend the AGM to provide the opportunity of “selling” the idea to the membership at large. **Action RG**

10 - JUNIOR COORDINATOR JiN gave BS the names of those juniors qualifying for the annual £50 subsidy this year. **Action BS** She was planning to canvas schools across the county to see if they would be interested in a taster session at a local club. If they were, she would liaise with a short mat club in their area to hold a daytime after school session for those interested. To this end, she would prepare a flier for distribution during June/July with a follow up in early September.

RG pointed out the mass of information now available on the ESMBA website regarding “Safeguarding”. He wondered whether this should be studied with a view of ensuring relevant information and procedures were being adopted in our own clubs. JiN would have a look but felt that the training and background she already had as her schools safeguarding officer meant she was fully aware of our responsibilities.

11 - COUNTY TEAMS

New over-jackets – The captains had been asked to canvass their teams to gauge interest. This had produced about 20 who were interested. PJ felt that her people needed to see an example of the style that was being proposed and JiN/JoN would attempt to provide one for players to see before the end of the season. The quoted price was £35.

Selection policy – RG had circulated a draft modified policy for the 2017/18 season as it was felt that the current version was cumbersome, overinvolved and inflexible. This was discussed and agreed and would be published on the website. A canvass of players would not be carried out this year as this had proved time consuming and costly. All 3 captains should be well aware of the feelings of their current team members regarding any desire to change teams and current players were free to approach their captains with any concerns they may have about their current position. All county members must however be made aware that the opportunity to be considered for selection was available to one and all and RG will write to all clubs pointing this out and requesting nominations. **Action RG**

Starring – There was discussion regarding the way the NESMBA rule regarding “starring” players was carried out. Currently it was mandatory for ALL Premier team players and 12 A team players to be starred. None of these could be selected for the B team during the course of the season, even in an emergency. (As stated in 4 above we are to submit a proposal to change the Premier team requirement at this year’s NESMBA AGM). After a lively discussion it was agreed by all captains that initially only players who had no wish to be available for selection in the B team should be starred. This would potentially increase the pool of players who could be approached by the B team captain in emergencies.

Practice Day – This will be held on Saturday Sept. 23 and will be run by JiN along the same lines as the last 2 years. A suggestion was made that the 3 captains should use this day to observe any new players to assess their potential rather than take part in actual play. When writing to all clubs requesting nominations (see above) RG would point out that any such nominations should do their best to attend this day to be assessed. JiN repeated her view that none of the teams should be picked until after the practice day.

12 – AOB

Jacks – RG to find out the cost of re-coating the county jacks. **Action RG**

Dress code – After a discussion on the interpretation of the dress code published for the county championships it was agreed that this should be reviewed and clarified. **Action MA**

County mats – AJ wondered why the county mats had not been used for the county Fours – thus incurring rental costs for 4 Easingwold SMBC mats. RG/MA explained their reasoning for this but it was decided in future that the county mats would always be used in the county competitions held at the Galtres.

Coaching – JiN mentioned that she had been invited to hold a coaching session at 3 clubs (Escrick, Seaton Ross and Melbourne) and with the assistance of JoN and DN these had taken place. The clubs had insisted on making a nominal payment for these and the money received (£50) had since been passed on to 3 charities.

Nominations for Office – RG reminded everyone that nominations (with a proposer and second) must be with him by March 31st. Failure to do this would result in the position being advertised as “vacant”. (Only vacant positions could be contested from the floor at the AGM.) All clubs will as usual be notified of the nominations in advance of the AGM (as required in the constitution). **Action RG**

There being no further business, PJ thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 10.15pm. **Next ManCom meeting Tues 4th April – venue to be confirmed. (AGM 28th April).**