



# North Yorkshire Short Mat Bowling Association

## Minutes for the EGM

April 29<sup>th</sup> 2016 @ 8.30 pm - The Galtres Centre (theatre) – Easingwold

### ATTENDEES

This meeting was scheduled for a 6.30pm start but was delayed awaiting the arrival of the ESMBA Chairman. It was therefore preceded by the 25<sup>th</sup> AGM for which there are separate minutes. Apart from the attendance of the ESMBA Chairman the attendees were the same as for the AGM with representatives from 11 clubs, who together with 8 colleagues and 8 Officers made a total of 28 attendees.

### MANCOM (MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE)

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|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. <u>Chairman</u>             | - Pat Jones                              |
| 2. <u>Vice Chairman</u>        | - Joseph Newsome ( <b>JoN</b> )          |
| 3. <u>Secretary</u>            | - Roger Green ( <b>RBG</b> )             |
| 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                            |
| 8. <u>Junior Coordinator</u>   | - Jill Newsome ( <b>JiN</b> )            |

### ESMBA

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| 1. <u>Chairman</u> | - Barry Hedges |
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### CLUBS

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|---------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>BSA</u>             | - Richard Good ( <b>RG</b> ) & Matt Fenwick |
| 2. <u>Church Fenton</u>   | - David Herbert                             |
| 3. <u>Crossgates</u>      | - Anne & Mick Ridge, Joyce Perry            |
| 4. <u>Easingwold</u>      | - Joyce Hughes                              |
| 5. <u>Great Ouseburn</u>  | - Joan Ramsden & Ken Thompson               |
| 6. <u>Hambleton</u>       | - Jean Rhodes                               |
| 7. <u>Knaresborough</u>   | - Bryan Jones, Pat & Derek Beardsley        |
| 8. <u>Raskelf</u>         | - Dennis Jarvis                             |
| 9. <u>Wilberfoss</u>      | - Sue Douthwaite                            |
| 10. <u>Yedingham</u>      | - Edrene Rumley                             |
| 11. <u>North Duffield</u> | - Mark, Hayley & Daniel Agar (from 7.30pm)  |

### A. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – These were the same as for the AGM

1. Carlton
2. Marton
3. Stewart
4. Stillington
5. Thornton le Dale
6. Tollerton

PJ reminded those present that this EGM had been called to consider a single proposal only and any discussions would be limited to that single topic. Any attempts to broaden the topic to other issues would be ruled “out of order”. Although the proposal had been circulated to all clubs in advance of the meeting she asked the Secretary to read the proposal out.

**B. PROPOSAL** – Constitution SECTION 15 – LEAGUES. Delete all wording after “....*league basis*” on line 1 up to and including “....*that association*” on line 5.

The revised section would then read

***“Member clubs may compete with one another on a league basis. League organisers shall lodge a copy of their leagues Constitution and Rules with the Secretary and shall keep him informed of any subsequent changes to these”***. This is exactly as it was prior to last year’s AGM.

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She then introduced Barry Hedges, the Chairman of the ESMBA. Because ManCom had taken the decision not to support the proposal, Barry had agreed to our request to attend to put the case for the proposal. He apologised for his late arrival which was due to congested traffic conditions. He then proceeded to explain why the ESMBA committee had felt that the change made last year should now be reversed, making the following main points.

- They felt than anyone registered as an ESMBA member via any county association should be free to play wherever they chose.
- They felt that the change had in effect imposed conditions on the league in which that club played and as the NYSMBA did not run the league competition it had therefore impinged on their independence.

RBG re-iterated the NYSMBA position.

- It was agreed that the change imposed a restriction on NYSMBA clubs but not on league competitions. Neither the Scarborough league nor the ESMBA had satisfactorily shown how they considered that league competitions had been adversely affected.
- Leagues should accept that any clubs taking part in their competitions should always abide by their county constitution. Clubs are administered by their county association and not their leagues.
- We had no wish to interfere with any league competition and have always recognised their independence in organising their various competitions.
- As an independent Association of clubs we should be entitled to introduce restrictions on our member clubs provided any such changes are democratically agreed by those clubs.

He also pointed out that the only affected club had never attended the 2015 AGM to argue against the change and subsequently had never lodged any sort of complaint themselves. They had chosen instead to leave the NYSMBA and join the Humberside Association.

ER stated that as an ESMBA member she felt let her down over what she saw as their mishandling of the whole issue and made the following points.

- The proposal by the Scarborough league to write to the ESMBA had been taken at an unconstitutional meeting without an agenda.
- She had however agreed to the letter being sent to the ESMBA as she was confident they would then investigate the validity of the “complaint” as well as whether the NYSMBA change had followed the democratic process.
- She now realised that they had not done this and had made a judgement based simply on the basis of this one letter without reference to the NYSMBA.
- Having treated the Scarborough letter as a “complaint” the ESMBA should have complied with their own complaints procedure which they had not.

She added that the bad feeling that the issue had generated had indirectly led to some clubs leaving the Scarborough league to form the new Dales league although RG stated that his own club (BSA) was joining this new league simply to cut down on travelling time.

After hearing the points raised BH conceded that in retrospect, the ESMBA handling of the issue could have been better. He conceded the following points.

- The Scarborough letter should not have been treated as a “complaint”.
- The Scarborough league should have been advised to try and resolve their issues with the NYSMBA before approaching the national body.
- The NYSMBA should have been consulted for their input.

AR pointed out that when she and her husband moved from Derbyshire, the Chairman of the Scarborough league had told them that they were unable to play in that league until they had been registered with the NYSMBA, even though they were ESMBA registered via Derbyshire. This was at odds with the stance he had now adopted with regard to the Humberside player.

MR wanted BH to know that the change to the NYSMBA constitution was properly publicised in advance of last year’s AGM and was accepted by a large majority after discussion. The club that had since taken issue with the change were not present to present any objections.

RG asked what the position would be if the meeting voted against the ESMBA proposal. BH advised that he could not say categorically as he would have to report back to his committee first. However, he pointed out that the ESMBA had never suspended any county association in the past and it was unlikely they would do so in this case. He recognised the strength of feeling shown by the NYSMBA in their letters and emails as well as in the points raised by those present tonight. His recommendation to his committee would be to accept the desire of North Yorkshire to leave the change in place and if his committee agreed, he would ensure a letter to this effect would be sent to the NYSMBA.

PJ then asked if anyone present, having heard the discussions, would now be prepared to second the ESMBA proposal. As no one came forward, the proposal was unable to go forward for a vote and was therefore deemed to fall.

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 With the EGM business now concluded the meeting officially ended. PJ asked BH if the meeting could take advantage of his presence to answer some additional questions and he agreed.

RG asked for an update regarding ESMBA membership cards to which BH replied that it was now very likely that the use of the “lifetime” laminated cards would be discontinued and counties would have to revert to the old method of manual preparation of cards that would be valid for a single year. RG stated that his club (BSA) had never received ANY cards last year but BH confirmed that cards had been sent out for all those initially registered in 2014/15. RBG confirmed that he had sent out the cards to all clubs shortly after they were received (Feb 2015).

DH asked for further details of the proposed ESMBA “Personal Accident” insurance. BH was currently working with the insurers to thrash out details and had only recently received specific documentation which will be circulated to all counties shortly. He confirmed that an EGM would be held (immediately prior to the AGM in July) in order to propose a levy of £1 per member fee to cover the cost. His opinion was that this would be a good deal but that to secure the rate, it would have to cover all ESMBA members – there would be no opt-out. DH asked what would be the situation if clubs already had their own Personal Accident cover e.g. under a general village hall policy? BH was not certain and this scenario would need to be looked into. He pointed out that this new cover would be additional to that provided for clubs under the existing ESMBA block policy which only provided “Personal Liability” cover (not “Personal Accident”).

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 PJ thanked Barry for making the long and tiring journey to address the meeting and then finally she thanked all present for their attendance, wished them a safe journey home and declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm.  
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**RBG - approved for issue by ManCom w/e May 10**