

Minutes of Man Com meeting - Monday 14th April 2014 at Great Ouseburn (2.30pm)

1 Apologies for absence: Were given on behalf of PR. (PJ JoN JiN RH AJ BS LH RG all present)

2 Minutes of last meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on 10th February were signed as a true record.

3 Matter arising: There were no matters arising which did not feature on this agenda.

4 Policy Register Changes

- a) Changes to the **Constitution** had been agreed via email by all ManCom members and had already been sent out to clubs for consideration prior to the AGM. The matter of trustees was discussed as the current 3 named persons had expressed a desire to have their names taken off for reasons of advancing age. It was agreed to approach Janet Clark (JN), Keith & Joyce Hughes (RG) and Derek Beardsley (PJ) as replacements. The trustees would only be called upon should the Association be dissolved and financial liabilities need to be managed as defined in the Constitution, section 10.
- b) A modified **Substitution Policy** (NESMBA Finals) had been agreed via email by all ManCom members. The main change had been to allow substitutes in the event of work commitments. LH however now expressed her view that such a policy should not really be required at all. She felt that the County Championships should not be used as qualifiers for two different competitions but just for the Nationals only. The players for the NESMBA Finals should be selected separately (possibly by the county team captains) in an attempt to put forward our best overall team. Another alternative was to have a separate qualifying competition for Barnard Castle but it was generally felt that the diary would not permit this. Changes on this scale would need considerable additional time to organise and would require discussion/agreement with members. The matter would therefore be brought up for discussion at the AGM following the Competition Secretary's report.
- c) Amendments to the **Discipline Procedures** had been agreed via email by all ManCom members. The Chairman would now always be the first point of contact and would act as the gateway for all complaints and would make the initial decision on how best to proceed.

Prior to consideration of the **Team Selection Policy** for 2014/15, there was discussion of a request received unofficially by RH from members of West Yorkshire SMBA to join our A team so they could play in the ICC. RH reported that she was aware that there was support amongst some of our younger A team members for such an idea although others were opposed on principle. A lengthy discussion of the issue centred on what were seen as serious knock-on effects including suitable kit, selection procedures and personnel, justification of such a move to the wider membership and ripple effect in our other teams. Opinions were split over the implications and desirability of such a move and it was agreed that we could do nothing further unless we receive an official request via our Chairman from their Secretary and RH will request her WY contact to pursue this if they are serious. If received, it would be discussed at the forthcoming AGM. RH also suggested that our 3 county teams should be renamed in line with the ESMBA convention and it was agreed from henceforth they will be known as the Premier, A and B teams (formerly A, B and C) (4 votes in favour with 3 abstentions).

Changes to last year's Selection Policy incorporating the following factors were then discussed.

- Recognition of a list of players from which Captains should draw their teams. This would be made up of England squad players; County Championship finalists; those on the Order of Merit; other players recommended by their clubs. (However it was recognised that no NYSMBA member should in fact be excluded from consideration if they show an interest.)
- A and B team players should be given the opportunity to nominate themselves as "reserves" when the availability letters are sent out. Such players will be the first to be considered to move up into the A and Premier teams if opportunities arise either during the season or at the end of the season. The A and Premier Captains must know who these "reserves" are at the beginning of the season. It was

recognised that not all players are looking to progress and some are perfectly happy to remain at their current level.

- Initial selection letters would not inform players of their anticipated playing position or discipline as these would remain fluid depending on factors such as performance and availability. It was agreed that if people are dissatisfied with their given playing position for each match they should discuss this with their Captain who will attempt to resolve concerns in the interests of the whole team. Captains must be free to move players around within the disciplines in order to form what they consider to be the best team and also to drop players who are performing badly. Players initially selected should not therefore consider they have a guaranteed place for the entire season.
- The selection for the Premier team would now involve the Captain and Vice-Captain and two others with the Captain having the final say.

RG to circulate the amended policy to ManCom for final approval/agreement/comment before adding to the Policy Register.

- d) **Fees and Charges Policy** - BS proposed that membership and competition fees be kept the same. It had already been agreed that the Secretary's honorarium should be decreased from £50 to £30 to keep it in line with others. There was discussion around the holding of raffles at inter-county home games and it was agreed that this would be up to the Captain of each team. PJ and AJ wanted these to continue for the A and B teams but it was agreed that the Premier team would no longer hold them. This was because the provision of prizes was always down to the same few players and also it had been noted that some opposition teams did not hold them and/or did not support ours very fully. The idea of increasing the 2014/15 match fees to cover the loss in revenue was discussed but discounted. This would be reviewed next year.
- e) There were some minor amendments agreed to the **Safeguarding Policy**.
- the provision of space for email contacts on the PCF (parental consent form).
 - The provision of space to give consent for sharing of information with the ESMBA (namely the Under 21 manager) if requested.
 - Changes from "Child Protection" to "Safeguarding" and "CRB" to "DBS".

5 Other business

Prior to discussing the other items on the agenda the Chairman wished to bring up two questions which she had been asked specifically to bring to the meeting by members of her club.

- Would it be possible for ManCom minutes to be sent to the club Secretaries via email? The general feeling was that this would be no different to publishing them on the website from where they can be downloaded so this current practice would continue.
 - Could additional general meetings other than the AGM be held? It was pointed out that the current practice of having a limited number of meetings was down to time and financial constraints and had been agreed at the AGM in 2011. Prior to that 2 general meetings per year had been held but they were generally very poorly attended. The Chairman can still call a general meeting should issues arise that specifically required club approval. Should any member disagree with items in the ManCom minutes or wish for further discussion, they may contact the Chairman who can then call a general meeting if it was felt necessary.
- a) AJ reported that the **Diary for the 2014/15 season** had been completed and put on the website even though there were a few unconfirmed dates. The U18 Nationals qualifiers (which clashed with an England weekend) would need to be moved and alternative dates were discussed. It was agreed to try and rearrange this for Saturday 20th December and he would contact JC re: Bubwith and would keep the Committee informed. He had also brought the date of the Mixed Fours national qualifiers forward by 2 weeks (to November 22nd) to fit in with the YNL dates. This would mean that the closing date for entry to the Championships would have to be no later than 25th October to allow time for all the organising/administration required.
- b) A draft **Vote of Confidence** in the ManCom had been circulated to members for comments but because there was not unanimous agreement on the need for this it had not been placed on the agenda for the AGM.

- c) The ESMBA (Brian Claessen) had asked whether we would be willing to host the **Under 21 International** against Wales in 2015. Whilst it was agreed we would be happy to do this, the only weekend available would be that of 18/19th April. The Galtres had provisionally been booked and RG would inform BC.
- d) **County blazer badges** are available for purchase by any player completing 4 county games and stock is low. RG suggested replacing these with metal badges and adding “silver” and “gold” upgrades for 25 and 50 games respectively. However, after discussion it was agreed that there is no real need to award any sort of badge so stocks will not be replenished.
- e) The purchasing of **2 new mats** had been suggested last year and if this was to go ahead we would have to register our interest with ESMBA soon. After discussion it was felt that the two Galtres Centre mats were still adequate despite being used weekly and showing signs of wear. RG suggested that with a view to the future, enquiries could be made with the Galtres about the possibility of sharing the cost of two new mats with them (and Easingwold SMBC?) when replacements became necessary. AJ to pursue.
- f) **Stock renewal**
- BS would order 1000 new stickers along with scorecards once the total requirement for the season had been established.
 - BS reported that the stock box of shirts (in the Galtres cupboard) were 5 shirts short. After discussion the whereabouts of 3 were known by RH/JN but 2 remained un-accounted for.
 - The original order for 55 additional shirts (for the A and B team + extras for the Premier team) had been delivered with an unwanted GFORCE logo on them. Although the retailer had found a way of stitching over the logo this was unacceptable and we had been allowed to keep these (foc). These would give us a large reserve stock to be stored at AJ’s. The correct new shirts (without GFORCE logo) were now ready for collection. All captains would keep a stock of 8 shirts for use by substitutes and maintain their own stock lists.
 - All new kit sold would be subject to a £5 discount on first shirts and fleeces. Second-hand shirts were valued at £10 as this is the amount reimbursed to players handing them back and could then be sold on at that price.
 - We had run out of Rule Books and it was agreed not to order any more until after this year’s RRM when the ESMBA should produce a new issue. If anyone requires one in the meantime they can obtain the 2010 issue direct from the ESMBA.
- g) **Support for England players**
- At a previous ManCom meeting it had been suggested that rather than support a charity, the NYSMBA should support its own young players. It was agreed that any player (still in full-time education) who was accepted into the England squad should be given a payment of £50 to help with expenses, as an acknowledgement of their success. Payments would be made once their place had been confirmed after the annual trials.
- h) **A second letter from Robert Harris**
- Following the judgement on his original complaint made at the previous ManCom meeting, Robert had written to the Chairman once again. Although this letter was submitted as “an appeal” he had not questioned the conclusions that had been arrived at but was however questioning the procedure used and the lack of adherence to published guidelines. This letter was therefore treated as a second complaint. A draft reply had been prepared answering his written points but after discussion it was decided more appropriate to invite Robert (at short notice) to attend in order to present his concerns verbally. (Robert was contacted by phone at this point)
- Once he arrived there followed a frank, honest and open discussion during which he and all members present had the opportunity to speak openly and without prejudice. Robert pressed home the various concerns he had put in his letter and the Committee members confirmed that they had all been in agreement with the way the original complaint had been handled and felt their final conclusions had been fairly arrived at. The Committee stated that they were keen to improve on the existing methodology for dealing with disciplinary matters and with that in mind, amendments to the Constitution had been circulated to all clubs for consideration at the AGM. The Discipline Procedure Policy had also

been modified and had been agreed earlier in the meeting. Robert was reminded that, like any other NYSMBA member he could recommend further changes and he was invited to submit any ideas he had in writing to the committee for consideration.

After a much discussion, it became clear that the committee had failed to convince Robert that his original complaint had been handled legitimately. However, neither had Robert convinced the committee that they had misunderstood some parts of it thus leaving some issues unaddressed. The Chairman therefore finally concluded that both parties would have to “agree to disagree”. Robert agreed that a formal reply to his letter would not be required.

Robert also took the opportunity to raise the question of how “unsportsmanlike behaviour” should be defined and he stated he would like to see a set of guidelines defining this. RG (as the NY umpires manager) invited him to document any ideas he had and agreed to circulate these to all North Yorkshire umpires for their comments.

- i) The **next meeting** would be held on Tuesday 8th July at 5.30 at North Duffield.

6 The NYSMBA AGM agenda

Some items were reviewed whilst the members waited for Robert Harris to arrive.

a) **NESMBA**

- A proposal from Staffordshire to give money to league winners in lieu of mementoes had been received. It was agreed that we would abstain from this vote unless we could put in an amendment to have a single memento to be kept in the Galtres trophy cabinet. RG would find out if this was possible.
- A second proposal from Staffordshire was to play each discipline (at Barnard Castle) off to a finish before beginning the next one so that people would not be waiting around to play later rounds. It will be recommended that we vote against this as it would not reduce the length of the competition - in fact it could lengthen it as the present arrangements do allow quarter finals, semi-finals and finals (in different disciplines) to be played at the same time if different players are involved.
- The current Competitions Secretary had requested that round robin play should result in only one team going through to the knockout. It was agreed to recommend a vote against this as teams travel a long way to only be guaranteed three games.

- b) **ESMBA matters** - RG would report on these to our AGM (e.g. that there were proposals to change the constitution to which we had responded)

- c) RH and PJ would attend the NESMBA AGM on 15th June.

The meeting closed at 10.55 pm after over 8 hours (a record length!)