



North Yorkshire Short Mat Bowling Association  
**Draft Minutes for the 23<sup>rd</sup> AGM**

May 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 7.00 pm - The Galtres Centre (cinema) – Easingwold

**ATTENDEES**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (9)**

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. <u>Chairman</u>                    | - Pat Jones  |
| 2. <u>Vice Chairman</u>               | - Joseph Newsome                                       |
| 3. <u>Junior Coordinator</u>          | - Jill Newsome   |
| 4. <u>County Team Captains</u>        | - Rose Haynes (A), Arthur Jackson (B), Pete Render (C) |
| 5. <u>Competition &amp; Mmb. Sec.</u> | - Lesley Harris  |
| 6. <u>Treasurer</u>                   | - Barry Simmonite                                      |
| 7. <u>PWA Secretary</u>               | - Roger Green  |

**CLUBS (11)**

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>Boroughbridge</u>    | - Jean and Ken Calvert, Dennis Mather               |
| 2. <u>Church Fenton</u>    | - Gordon Raggett, David Herbert, Paul Williamson    |
| 3. <u>Crossgates</u>       | - Anne & Mick Ridge                                 |
| 4. <u>Easingwold</u>       | - Joyce Hughes                                      |
| 5. <u>East Cottingwith</u> | - Richard Lochman                                   |
| 6. <u>Great Ouseburn</u>   | - Joan Ramsden, Megan Holtby, Sue Holtby (guest)    |
| 7. <u>Knaresborough</u>    | - Bryan Jones, Robert Harris, Pat & Derek Beardsley |
| 8. <u>Raskelf</u>          | - Dennis Jarvis                                     |
| 9. <u>Hambleton</u>        | - Gill Fletcher, Ken Thompson                       |
| 10. <u>Tollerton</u>       | - Alan Ward   |
| 11. <u>St. Cuthberts</u>   | - Ian Battersby                                     |

PJ welcomed the representatives from 11 clubs, who together with 10 colleagues, 1 guest and 9 Officers made a total of 31 attendees.

**(1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - Of the 31 clubs not present, 8 had offered their apologies.

1. Snaith
2. Marton
3. Stewart
4. Yedingham
5. Wilberfoss
6. Stillington
7. Kirkbymoorside
8. Scarborough

**(2) MINUTES OF LAST MEETINGS** - The minutes of the previous AGM on April 19 2013 had been circulated to all clubs shortly thereafter and the minutes of all 5 ManCom meeting had been made available on the website. Robert Harris had emailed a request to add the following wording to the AGM minutes at the end of the first point under **12-OPEN FORUM**.

***“Robert Harris challenged this response and the Chair agreed that no committee meeting/discussion would be held in future when a committee member/s were still in the competition.”***

The meeting agreed to make this change and then voted to accept these as a true record (with 3 clubs abstaining on the grounds that they had not read the minutes). The file copy was signed by the Chairman. The minutes of the subsequent ManCom meetings held on July 9, October 8, January 21, and February 10 had been published on the website for all to view and had all been already been agreed as a true record by ManCom.

### **(3) ANY MATTERS ARISING**

- There were no matters arising from last years AGM.
- RG mentioned a point that had been raised at the Feb 10 ManCom meeting regarding a dispute over points allocation in the Scarborough league. The league had referred the problem directly to the ESMBA and he asked that all clubs/leagues recognise that disputes should always be referred initially to our own committee for resolution.
- No one raised any other matters arising out of the published ManCom minutes.

### **(4) REPORTS from OFFICERS** (Copies of the full reports are filed along with the minutes)

(a) **CHAIRMAN** – PJ reviewed another good season which, she noted, had produced some excellent bowling across the board. In particular she mentioned

- Ben Render, Joseph and David Newsome, Jacinta Townend and Danny Langdon who were all selected for the England squad.
- The county A team which had some very hard games and even though they did not win many, gained further valuable experience in the ESMBA Premier ICC.
- A very successful season for the county B team which were convincing Division 2 winners.
- The county C team which had a very enjoyable and successful first season ending as runners up in Division 2.
- The County Championships were well attended and as usual we witnessed some outstanding bowling.
- The Northern Championships did not bring us as much success that we had hoped for and our only finalists were Anne and Mick Ridge, Andrew Leng and Ben Render in the Fours who met a very much in form West Yorkshire team.
- In the National Championships we had two semi-finalists in the Singles and although we were hoping for an all North Yorkshire final, Ben Render and Sean Conroy were both narrowly beaten.
- Our younger bowlers played well throughout the season and at the National U18 Singles Jamie Smith made the semi-final, just losing after a very good game.
- The England U21 squad, which included Danny Langdon, Josh Burrow and Cameron Breeze, played against a representative team from North Yorkshire, made up of mainly our younger players. England won 29 -19 but an enjoyable bowling day was experienced by all who took part.

Finally, PJ thanked all the members of the Management Committee for their hard work, help and assistance over the past year and who between them did an excellent job.

(b) **TREASURER** - Accounts for 2013/14 had already been circulated to clubs and BS made copies (with some minor changes) available to those in attendance.

- He was delighted to report a record surplus for the year of over £1800 leading to a final bank balance of nearly £6000. This was mainly due to the increase in both the annual NYSMBA fees and the entry fee for the County Championships.
- Because of this healthy balance, ManCom had agreed to make a payment of £50 to any Junior (or someone continuing with full time education) who was selected into either the full or U21 England squads. This nominal payment will be made in recognition of their achievement and would help a little with the expenses that selection incurs.
- The honorariums for the Secretary had been reduced to £30 in recognition of the reduced responsibilities of this post. He recommended that all other fees remain unchanged.
- In answer to a question from GR, he said that the increase in the surplus from the County Championships was due to the increase in the entry fee, a record number of entries and several productive raffles.

(c) **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY** – LH highlighted the following.

- Final membership for the year was 896, a decrease of 11. This included 8 “dual” registrations.
- The loss of 1 club (Darley) with 8 members.
- Good increases at Flixton (+9), Cayton (+8) and N Duffield (+6)
- Main reductions were at Barn and Knaresborough (-6) and Scarborough (-5).
- 8 clubs had over 30 members with only 2 clubs less than 10.
- Junior membership had recovered from last year’s low of 14 to 25. 15 were at N Duffield and 4 at Great Ouseburn with 6 more at 5 other clubs.
- The figures she had received regarding age breakdown showed roughly 60% of members were male whilst a quarter were under retirement age (65).

She ended her report by thanking all club contacts for their help and cooperation. Without this, the job would have been much more difficult. She concluded this, her 2<sup>nd</sup> annual report, by confirming that although she had found the post enjoyable she would not be standing for re-election.

(d) **PWE SECRETARY** - RG reported on his work during the season in keeping the website up to date with amongst other items 50+ reports, 60+ photos and table and KO updates for 6 leagues. In addition

- The Policy Register had been put online as promised last year and the minutes of all ManCom meetings were made available shortly after each meeting. This was in line with the committee policy of open and non-secretive administration.
- He asked for approval to set up an “In Memoriam” page listing members who had passed away. This would be retrospective and would be built up of any names supplied by clubs. No-one voiced any objections to the idea. Clubs will be informed.
- He asked all club email contacts to keep a regular check on both the site and their inboxes so that nothing of relevance to their clubs is missed.
- The Handbook had been maintained at 56 pages and clubs had between them asked for a total of 328 copies. He had been disappointed to learn that some members were not aware of the existence of the Handbook. He reminded clubs that it is produced for the benefit of all members and urged all clubs to ensure that everyone in their clubs were given the opportunity to read a copy.
- There had been a record number of entries to the puzzle and a random draw showed Joyce Hughes (Easingwold) to be the winner of the £25 prize.
- He thanked those who had made contributions and reminded all members that any (bowls related) article would be considered for inclusion. Deadline was the end of July.

(e) **CAPTAINS**

(i) A Team – RH reported on another tough year in the ESMBA ICC in which the team failed to win any of their 6 matches in what is acknowledged to be the toughest group in the country. They had however reached the semi-final in the ‘consolation’ knockout having scored a convincing win over London SMBA by 34-6. During the season, there had been several instances of core team players being unavailable for legitimate reasons and finding reserves, especially at short notice had often proved difficult. This had led to the inclusion at times of players who had not played county games before. 28 players had been involved and she thanked them all for their commitment and support. Finally she congratulated the other 2 captains on their success and Joseph Newsome for his help as vice-captain and wished next year’s teams the best of luck.

(ii) B Team – AJ thanked all the B team players for their performance in winning 6 of their 7 matches and coming top of Division 2 in the NESMBA league. They will now be promoted to Division 1 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time (the previous 2 occasions being via the “back door” due to adjustments in the size of the Divisions). He congratulated PR and the C team for their excellent first season and wished the A team all the best for next season.

(iii) C team – PR thanked everyone in the C team and the Management Committee for their support in his first season as team captain. Over the season, everyone had got to know each other and had

built up a happy group with a good team spirit. He pointed out that the introduction of the team had led to 27 new players having county games during the season. He particularly thanked PJ as his vice-captain and Joan Ramsden for handling the raffles.

The "Practice Day" for all teams will be September 13<sup>th</sup> and AW expressed his hope that it would be better organised than last year. Although AJ and PR explained why things had been a little chaotic, AW stated he would not be available to play in the coming season.

(iv) Selection Policy for 2014/15 – Last year's policy had been reviewed and updated by ManCom and was now in the Policy Register. The main change had been to give all those selected in the B and C teams the opportunity at the beginning of each season to nominate themselves as candidates for promotion into the team above should the opportunity arise. The A and B team captains could therefore start each season with a list of those wanting to progress and they should consider these players as their primary reserves. RH/JN(Jo) commented on the difficulty of finding suitable players at short notice when those asked had made other commitments but the new policy at least identifies those who should be given a chance before co-opting non county players. IB felt that those nominating as reserves should be asked to commit themselves if required. RH (Robert) felt that the NYSMBA should consider subsidising travel costs to away matches as it was possible that people felt less able to commit to ICC games because of the distance and cost of travel GR agreed that the changes to the policy were in the right direction.

**The meeting was informed at this point of a recent ManCom decision to rename our county teams. They will now be referred to as Premier, A and B instead of A, B and C.**

(f) **COMPETITION SECRETARY** – LH reported on the following highlights from the season's various competitions.

(i) COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

- An increased entry across all disciplines
- Overall, Rose Haynes and Simon Holtby were the most successful bowlers winning the Pairs, Triples and Fours titles. Ben Render, Sean Conroy, David Newsome and Gordon Raggett had also had good results.
- The Junior Singles was won by Danny Langdon for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running – a first.

(ii) NORTHERN ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

- We had been allocated the usual 4 places per discipline with an extra place in the Singles and Fours.
- West Yorkshire had dominated the competitions winning all 4 disciplines
- Ann and Mick Ridge with Andrew and Mary Leng were runners up in the Fours
- Dave Herbert reached the semi-finals in the Singles

(iii) NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Record entry resulting in 3 Finals places for the Singles, Pairs, Triples and Mixed Fours and 4 places in the Fours and U18 Singles
- Highlights were Ben Render and Sean Conroy (Singles) and Jamie Smith (U18 Singles) who all reached their semi-finals

(iv) LITTLE CUP

- 20 teams entered requiring 10 mats
- Won by Arthur Jackson, Dennis Jarvis, Sue Pittham and Doreen Sorley

LH ended her 3<sup>rd</sup> year as Competition Secretary by thanking all who had helped in any way in all of the competitions and the bowlers who took part for ensuring they all ran so smoothly. She concluded by confirming that she would not be standing for a 4<sup>th</sup> year as she is planning to concentrate on her

participation in the various competitions without the responsibility for their organisation. The Chairman then thanked her for all her hard work during her time in this post.

(g) **JUNIOR COORDINATOR** – JN(Jill) reported on her first year in this post highlighting the following.

- The successful visit of the England U21 squad in March to play a team of our own younger players. Our organisation and venue had impressed the England U21 manager who has now invited us to host next year's international event against Wales.
- We had 26 players U18 – a good core but concentrated in only 14% of our clubs. She saw the recruitment of young players as a priority considering the impact some of our former juniors have made on the national scene.
- Danny Langdon, Cameron Breeze and Josh Burrow had recently travelled to Camarthen to play against Wales.
- Danny won our Junior Championship and together with the runner up Jamie Smith, Cameron and Megan Holtby had played in the National Finals in Derbyshire. Jamie had reached the semi-final.
- The U21 England trials are coming up and we are expecting two more of our young players (including Daniel Agar who is only 10) to attend.
- She commended ManCom's decision to make a small payment to all those selected thus giving official county backing to the big commitment made by these youngsters and their families. (see 4b above)

(5) **ESMBA NEWS** – RG reported as follows

- Minutes of last year's AGM and 4 committee meetings had been received – usually several months in arrears.
- Last year's AGM was attended by RH, PJ and RG and a report of proceedings had been posted on our website. Because the annual accounts had not been available (due to the Treasurers illness) there was an EGM later in the year attended by RG and RH. There had been no time to scrutinise the figures so we had abstained from voting for acceptance. Subsequent analysis had thrown up several queries and we had written to the ESMBA for answers but had yet to receive any reply. Fees and honorariums had remained unchanged.
- The U18 Woodbridge competition had been discontinued. The trophy would now be presented to the winner of a plate competition that would be introduced as part of the national U18 Singles.
- There was a presentation of the "Countdown" discount facility that has been introduced as an ESMBA perk. All members can now access this via their membership number.
- Withdrawal from the BDA was confirmed with great hopes being vested in a new body called the Association of Bowling Codes (ABC). Very few details of the latter have been received.
- The Chairman and ICC Secretary had taken on an "administration" role with a shared remuneration of £10,000. They hoped that during this "experimental" years the running of the ESMBA could be substantially improved at reduced cost.
- This year's AGM, followed by the RRM, will be on July 12. About 20 changes to the ESMBA constitution had been received with a simple explanation that these were to "reflect the Administration" role and "tidy up other parts". No detailed rationale had been received. We had replied with several concerns and saying we could not support the changes in their present form.
- It is expected that Chris Hopkins' long tenure as Chairman will be challenged by an alternative candidate. Official details still awaited.
- We had put together and submitted 12 proposals for changes to the rules for consideration at the RRM. These had been "vetted" by all our own umpires and fully discussed by ManCom before being submitted for consideration.
- This year's National Club Championships are on July 13<sup>th</sup> – RG has details and entry form for any club interested and he would place these on the website.

(6) **NESMBA NEWS**

- No committee meetings had been held. RH and PJ had attended last year's AGM in Leeds but there had been no significant developments. All Officers remained the same although chair rotated to Durham with North Yorkshire (PJ) as vice-chair.

- Proposals received for this year's AGM on June 15 (Leeds) include replacing Divisional winner's trophies with cash; playing all disciplines right down to Finals before starting next discipline; going straight to QFinals from round robin (group winners only to qualify). PJ and RH to attend as our delegates.

**(7) PROPOSALS** – Full details of 5 Proposals to modify the Constitution had been circulated to all clubs with a full explanation of the reasons they were being put forward. Each proposal was read out in full by the vice-chairman before questions and a vote on each. (ManCom not allowed to vote).

- (a) Proposal 1 - Alteration to 3-MEMBERSHIP
- (b) Proposal 2 - Alteration to 4-ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS
- (c) Proposal 3 - Alteration to 11-QUORUMS AND VOTING
- (d) Proposal 4 - Alteration to 6-COMMITTEE MEETINGS (a minor grammatical change in word order was proposed by IB and agreed by all present)

These four were all passed by those present with one club abstaining.

(e) Proposal 5 – Complete rewording of 14-DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

Discussion of this proposal centred on a suggestion from IB that it may not be appropriate to contain such detail in the Constitution but should be the subject of a separate “annex”. RG pointed out that such a document did exist in the form of our “Disciplinary Procedures” in the Policy Register and was to be considered as a supplement to the Constitution wording. RH (Robert) was concerned that anything not in the Constitution could be changed by the Management Committee without reference to the members. RG said that this proposal was seeking to improve on the current wording which had been in the Constitution for 20 years without query but which had been considered as inadequate in the light of a recent complaint. Others suggested a comprehensive review of this whole issue with suggestions to see how the ESMBA and other organisations document their procedures. When it came to the vote, the proposal was passed by 4-2 with most abstaining. The Chairman promised that all the comments would be taken on board and that ManCom would re-visit this area with a view to seeking advice and making further improvements. It was a difficult area and important to get it right but in the meantime, the re-writing of this section was an improvement on the current wording.

**(8) DIARY for 2014/15** – AJ had once again taken on the task of coordinating all dates and booking the Galtres, Swinton and Bubwith as required. The complete diary was now on the website pending inclusion in next year's Handbook. JN (Jo) pointed out that the U18 Singles would have to be moved due to a clash with an England weekend and AJ was hoping this could be relocated to December 20<sup>th</sup> (tbc). RG pointed out that the date for the Mixed Fours had been brought forward by 2 weeks to avoid YNL dates and was to be held on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. This means that the closing date (for all Championships) would be a week earlier than normal.

**(9) ELECTION OF OFFICERS** - A list of nominations had already been circulated to all clubs (RG apologised for an error in the names of the proposer/seconded for the Chairman)

- The Chairman asked if all the 8 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 8 were re-elected unanimously.
- There had been no indication from any club regarding members prepared to stand for Secretary, Membership Secretary or Competition Secretary.
- RG stated that after a lot of thought he was prepared to fulfil the roles of the former 2 posts. In the past he had done both jobs over several years so knew what was involved. In practice he had continued to perform the Secretaries role since his resignation 3 years ago although some tasks had been re-allocated to other ManCom members and some had been shared. The post of Membership Secretary could not be left open in the hope that someone would still come forward as the collection of fees at the start of the season was vital. He was proposed for both posts by Derek Beardsley and seconded by Joyce Hughes and elected unanimously.

- The key post of Competition Secretary remained vacant and the Chairman said that ManCom would between them try to ensure that all 7 of our competitions would still go ahead although this could not be guaranteed at this stage.
- Paul Williamson (GO) had expressed his willingness to continue as the Association “Accounts Checker” and was once again appointed after a proposal from IB (seconded by DJ). BS expressed his thanks to Paul for this year’s check.
- Don Glensor, Arthur Rathmell and Brian Stoker had all asked to “retire” from their appointments as the Associations trustees. Keith Hughes (Easingwold), Janet Clark (North Duffield) and Derek Beardsley (Knaresborough) had all been approached and were willing to be considered and the meeting agreed to the appointment of all three.

## **(10) LEAGUE REPORTS**

- AJ reported that there would be 2 new teams in the Kyle Valley league. (Note that the team from a new club in Husthwaite would need to apply and join the NYSMBA before competing).
- AR reported that Scarborough club were changing venues and returning to St Saviours Church Hall (their original venue)
- DB pointed out that the WRSL would be going to Norfolk this year in addition to having a visit from Cambridge.
- GR gave details of the successes in the Selby league.

## **(12) OPEN FORUM**

### **(1) Proposal from West Yorkshire SMBA**

PJ read out an email recently received from the Secretary of the WYSMBA (Stephen Packer) requesting a merger between their A team with our Premier team under a “YORKSHIRE” banner. Stephen’s players were enthusiastic about the idea which they saw as a way of strengthening our team by combining the strengths of both sides to make us more competitive in the ICC.

In the discussion that followed feelings were mixed with some voicing strong views against such a move whilst other felt there may be benefits. A “straw poll” however revealed a majority of those present were not in favour. The Chairman concluded that the idea should not be totally ruled out at this stage and should be made known to all clubs. When the views of the wider membership were known it would be discussed further in committee.

### **(2) Selection of players for the NESMBA Championships**

DJ proposed that the County Championships should no longer be considered as qualifiers for playing at Barnard Castle but that the County team captains should select those to attend exclusively from those playing in the 3 county teams. RH (Robert) suggested the possibility of separate qualifying competitions but realised that dates were unlikely to be found in an already cramped calendar. Several were strongly opposed to the idea on the grounds that it would remove the opportunity for non-county players to make it into a top level competition and could very well reduce the entry into the County Championships. After discussion a “straw poll” was taken revealing an overwhelming majority against the suggestion.

No other points were raised so the Chairman thanked all for their attendance and closed the meeting @ 21:50hrs.

(RBG/JN May 7)