

North Yorkshire Short Mat Bowling Association

Minutes of the 45th ManCom meeting
Jan 31st 2023 at 6.30pm (Chez RD - Easingwold)

Attended by:

Joseph Newsome, Jill Newsome, Pat Jones, Robert Mumford,
Arthur Jackson, David Randon, Roger Green, Rod Dawson

1. **APOLOGIES** - All 8 committee members were present.
2. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (Sep 6 - 2022)** – There were no corrections requested so the minutes were signed by the Chairman as being an accurate and full reflection of the subjects discussed.
3. **ANY MATTERS ARISING**
 - **Facebook:** The NYSMBA page (**North Yorkshire Short Mat Bowls**) has been operational since September and has 75 members. Posts have so far only been made by JGN and RG. Anyone can submit posts although JGN as moderator has to approve before they are made generally visible.
 - **Equipment:** 8 new jacks were purchased, and the 8 old jacks were refurbished.
 - **Division 2 winners £100:** There were no suggestions for its use so the amount has now been credited to our a/c as a donation from the “Tornados”.
 - **Lloyds bank a/c:** Finally went fully live on Nov 10th about 14 weeks after the original application. No problems – easy to manage online.
 - **NESMBA EGM:** With support from Humberside and Staffordshire our request for an EGM was accepted. At the meeting on Oct 17, we strongly made our case and the proposals we put forward were (almost) unanimously passed The Northern Championships are once again open to all our members.
 - **Committee vacancies for 2023-24:** AJ confirmed he is standing down as Tigers captain but is willing to continue liaising with the Galtres and other counties to set up the IC fixtures. RG had been notified in writing of a candidate willing to take over. There was much discussion regarding the Secretary post once RG stands down. It was agreed to increase the publicity for this and to point out that at its basic, the job is relatively simple. It does NOT include management of the website which is a separate function. RG will review the job statement.

4. **FINANCES** (RG had circulated a breakdown of income/expenditure yet to come)

- **Current situation:** Current balance was £8390 but this is expected to drop to around £6900 after known further income/expenditure, leading to a small deficit for the year.
- **Galtres charges for 22-23:** These had increased by around 10% and were now £116 for half the hall and £188-£209 for the full hall for a full day. It had been agreed not to charge the standard kitchen rate of £18.50 but instead to levy a “hot water” charge of 15p per cup. This would result in a saving of around £150 for the year.
- **ESMBC mat hire charges:** These would amount to around £300 for the year.

5. **MEMBERSHIP** (DR had circulated a breakdown)

- **Current situation:** 685 members from 37 clubs – slightly up on last year.
- **BB email re: fees:** An email from Brian Baker (ESMBA membership Secretary) had been circulated in which he suggested that the levy of a club fee was outdated and that charging the full fee for dual members was unnecessary. The implications of implementing these suggestions were discussed. Financially this would reduce our income by nearly £600 and to maintain our balance, we would therefore have to raise individual fees by £1pp to compensate. It was considered that the small charges we levy are fair to cover such things as insurance, website, and other “office” costs and that in general, the membership fees also afford ALL members the opportunity to play for our county and take part in any of our competitions. However, it was final decided leave things as they are.
- **Club constitutions/Gender/Safeguarding Officers:** In another email from BB it was confirmed that a 3rd gender classification was still being considered. Also there was to be an Open Forum discussion (AGM) regarding making the appointment of Safeguarding Officers in each club, mandatory. Finally, it was considered in the best interest of counties to ensure that all their clubs had a written constitution. It was agreed that we should amend our own constitution to make this a condition of membership and that we should keep a copy from each club on file. There is an ESMBA template available which lays down the key sections that each club constitution should include.

6. **ESMBA**

- **AGM – 22 July** - RD expressed a willingness to attend. No details had yet been received. The “Extra End” Newsletter is sent out to all clubs whenever received.

7. NESMBA

- **Championships 2023** – All who had attended agreed that York was a far better venue than Barnard Castle.
- **AGM – 4 June** – AJ mentioned that there would be a proposal to update Rule 17 regarding the completion of all IC matches by the 3rd week in March. The meeting would be held via Zoom.
- **Dress Code:** It was proposed that the NESMBA rules should allow for writing on the back of shirts for instance to show club names. A proposal to this effect will be put forward.

8. COMPETITIONS

- **Current situation:** All completed without incident. There had been a total of 342 entrants with 220 for the Nationals. The latter high entry had resulted in our county getting more Finals places than any other with 4 places in all disciplines apart from 2 (which had 3 places).
- **Triples** – A complaint from the umpire had been voiced over the way in which the Final had been played. Whilst no rules had been broken it was considered that maybe this had not been in the spirit of the competition, especially in the light of a suggestion from the players that the result could be decided on a coin-toss.
- **Little Cup** – Although more than last time, the 13 entries received would make it an awkward competition to organise. RG would canvass clubs and JGN would post on Facebook in an attempt to get 1 or 3 more. A decision whether to go ahead or cancel was left up to RM.

9. COUNTY TEAMS

- **Current situation:** The TIGERS had a single match remaining but could not achieve promotion; the TERRIERS still had two to play and could not avoid relegation whilst and the TORNADOS had three left and could possibly still get to 2nd place with some good final results.
- **2023-24 teams:** Of the known pool of 96, 85 players had been used and all 3 captains felt that in spite of the difficulties of turning out a full 20 for each match, they were confident that another season with 3 teams would be possible.
- **Teams warm-up day 2023:** It was agreed to hold another day (Sept 17th) for all current and any prospective players. However, there needed to be much more forethought about the format so it was more structured and purposeful than last year. Maybe the 2019 mixed format of exercises, a “nobble” and a mixed-up match should be considered. Captains to get together to plan.

10. SAFEGUARDING

- **Safeguarding Awareness Day:** This had been held by JiN on Sept 26 and had been useful to the 12 people from 8 clubs who had attended. Another would be held if there was enough demand.
- The bi-monthly **Safeguarding News** issued by the ESMBA/BDA is circulated to all club contacts as they are received. There have now been 7 of these and links are provided to each one on our website. The latest is for February.
- JiN had reviewed our **Safeguarding Policy** and suggested some minor modifications to which all present agreed. The updated policy would be added to our safeguarding page.
- **DBS** (Disclosure and Barring Service). These have now been carried out for 17 people (from 13 clubs). They are paid for out of NYSMBA funds.

11. CALENDAR for 2023-24

- **ESMBA competitions** – The dates had been issued just before Christmas and have now been included in our on-line diary.
- The running of the **SMTF British Open** and the **NESMBA Northern Championships** on the first 2 weekends in January was confirmed.
- The **Singles, Pairs Triples and Fours** Championships would be on the equivalent dates as this year but the **Mixed Fours** would be held a week later.
- RM requested that the **O55 Pairs** be held prior to Christmas if possible.
- **Junior Singles** – no date set.
- **Little Cup** – there was concern that the poor entry this year may be because it was being held on weekend when 2 IC games were being played. Maybe it would be better to have this as one of the first competitions of the year, rather than the last.
- JiN said the **North Duffield Christmas Triples** would be on Dec 16.
- **Northern Ladies/Gents match.** JiN agreed to repeat last year's successful event on Sept 16th.

12. OTHER

- **The pre-AGM ManCom meeting** would be on Apr 4 (since changed to Apr 11) at Wheldrake. No other date was set.
- **AGM** – RG asked for all Officers annual reports to be sent to him by April 1st so these could be circulated to clubs with the agenda and accounts. .

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm after thanking RD and his wife for supplying refreshments.