

North Yorkshire Short Mat Bowling Association

Minutes of the 39th ManCom meeting

April 6th 2021 at 6.00pm

(This meeting was conducted using Zoom)

Present: JGN, JN, PJ, RM, AJ, RH, FB

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE had been received from Roger Green who had been in hospital and the members of ManCom extended their best wishes to him for a speedy recovery. In the Secretary's absence JN recorded minutes.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

ManCom 38 – Jan 5th 2021, available on the website. RG would be instructed to sign these as a true record as this meeting was being held on Zoom.

MATTERS ARISING

- Discipline/Appeals Policy – c/f to future meeting
- Facebook – no further progress
- National finals 2020 – it is hoped that these will be held in September when all qualifiers for the 2020 finals would be invited to take up their places. A venue was being sought. There had been no result received of a survey of the qualifiers carried out by the ESMBA.
- Irthing Valley – in light of current circumstances, the club had decided to withhold from joining for the time being.
- Minimum membership – the clubs only registering 5 players and using the ESMBA insurance scheme had been asked to increase this to 6 and had done so – anything further would be addressed at the next meeting when it was hoped RG would be in attendance.

FINANCES

- RG had circulated the Annual accounts and Treasurer's report. No one had any queries. It was noted that the Treasurer saw no reason to alter any fees for the coming season and that despite having reduced income and increased administration costs, we were still in a healthy position to approach a new season with optimism.
- After 3 years in the position, RG had informed the ManCom that he was willing to stand for another year but would be relinquishing the post at the 2022 AGM.

MEMBERSHIP

- RG had circulated the Membership Secretary's report and, after taking on the post at short notice due to the sudden resignation of the previous incumbent, he had informed ManCom that he would not be standing for re-election at the AGM. Those present were urged to spread the word to find someone willing to do the role and to spread the expertise of the ManCom further – i.e. outside those already on the committee rather than existing members taking on multiple roles.

ESMBA/GOV Covid rules update

- There had been some confusion over the ESMBA's route map back to bowls which supplied somewhat contradictory information and guidance. RG had kept ManCom up to date with other counties' responses which had largely mirrored our own. It was agreed that whilst ESMBA had asked for counties to obtain Safe to Bowl Status for county venues, we would wait until after 21st June to see how government guidance at the time changed our

need for such. Our first need would be 9th/10th October which would give us enough time to seek the necessary paperwork. JN suggested that whatever the government situation, she felt the ESMBA would not have changed their stance significantly to make a difference to the requirement to have something in place but that it was unrealistic to do it now before the clearer picture was known.

NESMBA

- There is to be a meeting on April 15th to discuss the nature the coming season's IC league would take. JGN and AJ would attend the meeting by Zoom.
- Much discussion ensued regarding the issue of having 2 or 3 teams in the league. The main observations were recorded as:
 - From the recent member canvassing carried out by the Secretary, it is apparent that we do not have enough interested members to run 3 teams. 50 out of 69 players had expressed that they would be available for all games for which we would need 60 players.
 - PJ and AJ reported from their own canvass that they would have 18 and 20 definite players for the B and A teams respectively. FB was using the Secretary's canvass as his indication for C team availability.
 - If we chose to go to 2 teams there was the question of who would captain the two teams. AJ informed the meeting that there was someone interested in taking on the captaincy of A team should he resign next year.
 - It was noted that 'selecting' players to support 3 teams had been problematic for some time.
 - If we are required to have a Safe to Bowl status on current guidelines, only 6 mats would be available for use at Easingwold. As a venue, Easingwold is larger than some that we visit, so it would be expected that other county venues may well not obtain the certificate.
 - A different format, restricting matches to singles, pairs, and triples would alleviate the need for more than 6 mats (for us and 3 for other venues) and would make it easier for all counties to find teams as it is highly likely that all counties are in a similar position to ours with regard to a hesitant return to bowls from some members.
 - Travel restrictions may come into play – even if the government allows car sharing, members may not want to, and would not always be able to drive themselves.
- It was therefore agreed that AJ and JGN would suggest to the meeting that due to numbers of people who may be reticent to return as normal and in view of the likelihood of having reduced space to utilise for mats, that the league should be run without fours to enable a season to go ahead. They will then decide if we will enter a third team based on any decisions made – i.e., if the season is to go ahead 'as normal', we will enter 2 teams and if the format is changed to teams of 12 rather than 20, we will enter 3 teams. The question of captaincy will then have to be addressed accordingly.

ESMBA

- RG had circulated his thoughts regarding the proposals to be aired at the AGM which ManCom had agreed could be sent to the ESMBA. JGN informed the meeting that as a serving ESMBA officer he had to support the ESMBA's proposals. It was agreed that whoever represented NYSMBA at this AGM would support our views. The date of the AGM had been set provisionally for 24th July and our representatives would be sought in due course.

2021/22 season

- AJ confirmed that the dates for the County competitions had been booked with the Galtres venue and were on the website. All empty weekend dates would be available for inter county matches based on 3 teams and four disciplines.
- Discussion took place regarding refreshments and raffles but decision on this was deferred until rules on social distancing were known. Although it was agreed that raffles do bring in essential revenue, it could be a good idea to do without these for a year.

A.O.B

- **AGM** –
 - It was unanimously agreed that if we could wait until social distancing rules were relaxed, a real face to face AGM was preferable and we would need to ascertain if there is a legal need to hold it within a certain time of the last one. The constitution had been looked at but it did not seem to clarify this. It was mooted that usually AGMs had to be held within 15 months of the last one which would take us beyond June when it was hoped we might be able to meet normally. RG would be asked to check on this and a date would be set accordingly.
 - All officers were willing to stand for another year, (with the exception of Membership Secretary as previously recorded), – this may be affected by the outcome of the NESMBA meeting on 15th April.
 - There were no proposals to put forward.
 - All officers were asked to produce an annual report for the AGM even though there was little for most people to report.
- **Ladies Game**- if we were to end up having 3 teams in the NESMBA, there would be no diary capacity to hold this and in the light of current restrictions it was agreed to put it back until the situation was more normal.
- **Next meeting** – PJ expressed the view that the outcome of the meeting on the 15th would lead to more discussion being necessary around county teams and that we might need a meeting quite soon after this if we were to reduce to two teams – definitely well in advance of any AGM so a meeting would be arranged when the outcome was known.

The Chairman thanked people for their attendance and the meeting closed at 7.20.