

Minutes of ManCom (35) meeting held on Friday January 17 2020 at Great Ouseburn

Meeting started 6.05pm with all 9 committee members in attendance.

Chairman & Vice Chairman

Joseph Newsome (JoN) Rose Haynes

Secretary & Treasurer

Roger Green

Membership Secretary

Jean Rhodes

Competition Secretary

Robert Mumford

Junior Coordinator

Jill Newsome (JiN)

Team Captains

Pat Jones Arthur Jackson Francis Boatman

1) APOLOGIES – None

2) PREVIOUS MINUTES (ManCom 34, 34a and 34b on Jul 2, Sep 3, Nov 9) - Draft copies had been circulated shortly after each meeting and it was unanimously agreed that all 3 were full and accurate records and were therefore signed by the Chairman.

3) MATTERS ARISING

- **England match:** RG reported on emails exchanged with Lynn Dean. It was agreed to formally invite both the England Ladies and the England U21s for concurrent matches on Sunday October 18th. It was expected that there would be around 25 in each team and they would each play on 6 mats to a format agreed once numbers were finalised. We would plan to provide a buffet lunch. All details (captains, catering, organisation, cost etc) were deferred to subsequent meetings. RG to confirm our invitation with Lynn (Ladies) and Brian Baker (U21s)
Action RG and c/f
 - **Over 55 triples:** RG had made several enquiries asking for confirmation that this would go ahead on April 18 as stated in ESMBA minutes but had received no replies.
 - **Team strip:** 29 shirts had been sold and 13 now remained in stock (+ 2 jackets). PJ had now received confirmation that the on-line shop was available so anyone could order their own directly from the Zapkam site if required. Cost varies according to the number purchased. FB suggested placing a link to this on our website.
Action RG
 - **Player contact list:** This was last issued to all captains in July since when there had been 8 additional names added. A full review of the list would take place later in the year. As promised, RG will update the ESMBA with the availability of the 7 England players.
Action RG and c/f
 - **DBS clearances:** These had now been obtained for JR & RM plus Pete Arthur (Wolds), Bronagh Toleman (North Bay) and Janet Clark (North Duffield).
 - **Mats for BC 2020:** The Chairman had received a request from Andy Miles to borrow our 4 county mats for this year's competition and after discussion it was agreed that this would be denied. Our contribution as a county over the years had been substantial (especially AJ's involvement in collecting and transporting) and it was felt that the other 6 northern counties should now share this responsibility (as was agreed at their AGM).
Action JoN
 - **Bank mandate/on-line access:** A new mandate is now in place with RM replacing BS as a cheque signatory. Online access had been refused pending a change to the constitution authorising the Treasurer to have this facility. A proposal for this will be put to the AGM.
 - **Oct 20th complaint:** There had been no specific feedback after the letter of apology was sent out by AJ. However as the parents of the 3 North Bay juniors had now agreed for them to play in the next B team match, it was implicit that the matter was now acceptably closed.
- 4) FINANCES (figures rounded): The current balance was £8605 – a surplus for the year so far of £1244. RG expected this to reduce a little by year end.
- 5) MEMBERSHIP: JR handed RG details of 5 additional members bringing the total for the year up to 814 (39 clubs). Of these 11 were juniors and 17 were dual members.

6) COUNTY COMPETITIONS

- **2019/20 issues:** All competitions had run smoothly and mostly to time and all agreed that RM had done a great job. The following points were raised.
 - (a) The Mixed Fours had overrun by 2 hours and RM put this down to slow play on several mats that held up proceedings. RG suggested that, as there were only 4 groups of 4, the number of sessions in the R/R could have been reduced by “continuous play”. This would have reduced the sessions from 6 to 3. FB agreed to look at RM’s formats to see if this would have been possible.
 - (b) RM was asked to consider moving mat positions in the latter stages to prevent the necessity of having “idle” mats laid to avoid doing this. This could reduce the cost of “hiring” mats from Easingwold SMBC which this year amounted to £300. RM said this would present him with difficulties and he preferred not having to reposition mats.
 - (c) A suggestion was made that matches should be conceded in the KO stages where one team had no hope of winning. However JoN and RM both felt that games should be played to conclusion as shots gained could be a factor in determining qualification for Barnard Castle.
 - (d) It was agreed that in future, that where a late drop-out meant that some teams had a reduced number of R/R games, they should be allowed to “roll-up” in their vacant session. Also in cases of a no-show on the day the missing players should be contacted with some urgency in case the reason was down to a medical emergency.
- **Juniors:** RM had organised the day using a 3 and a 4 player group. AJ had run the target competition.
- **Little Cup:** Poster/entry form sent to all clubs but only a few entries received so far.

7) COUNTY TEAMS

• **2019/20 issues:**

- (a) **Feb 2 fixture:** As this was a double header, it was agreed that the B team should play on the county mats at the near end of the hall with the A team at the far end. This was in recognition that they are in with a serious chance of promotion and should have the small advantage of using the “normal” set up.
- (b) **Communication:** AJ felt that when he had been seeking players to make up a shortfall in his team he had not been fully informed by PJ as to who was available. The meeting suggested that as long as he was told of the 20 selected for the B team, he was free to ask anyone else on the contact list to play.

• **What to do for 2020/21:**

- (a) **ICC:** As a result of informal discussions that FB had had with most of the regular Premier team players, it was suggested that the time had come (after 7 years) to opt out of this competition. The reasons and implications were fully discussed after which those present voted unanimously to leave. RG was asked to confirm this decision with Steve Bailey and request a refund of our 2020/21 entry fee (£85). **Action RG**
- (b) **NESMBA league:** In view of the above decision, much discussion followed as to whether we should now apply to enter a third team in the NESMBA competition or to remain as we are with just two teams. The latter option would make places in either team much more competitive and this would improve the overall quality of both teams giving us much more of a chance of doing well in this league. It was noted that before joining the ICC we had won Division 1 in three consecutive years but had made no impact in this top division ever since. However, if we entered a third team these players would continue to get a share of county games. After a long and at times impassioned debate the committee were split on which was the best way forward and it was finally decided that the decision could only fairly be made if all county players were canvassed. RG would put a small questionnaire (referendum?) together which would be issued to all those playing on February 2nd when all 3 teams were playing. Captains would also contact any key players not selected on this day for their views. **Action RG, FB, PJ, AJ**
- (c) **Captain vacancy:** AJ confirmed his decision to stand down as the A team captain. There had been an enquiry from AN OTHER about taking on this responsibility but he/she had

finally decided not to go ahead. The search for a replacement would continue once the decision regarding a 3rd team had been made.

8) JUNIOR COORDINATOR

- **Safeguarding:** JiN briefly went through the work she had done on further developing our Safeguarding Policy. She had made use of the templates provided on the ESMBA site and had modified them so they could be adopted by us and our clubs. She had also prepared some sheets that should be displayed by all clubs who must be prepared to nominate one of their number as their Safeguarding Officer. There was also a sheet to be displayed that contained her name (as County SO) and also Lynn Dean (as ESMBA SO). She will circulate all these to ManCom and she asked for everyone to take time to read them and be involved in making relevant comments.
- **Code of Conduct:** Codes of conduct are already used in some other counties and also the England Ladies. JiN had adopted the one provided by the ESMBA which she felt that our teams and all our clubs should sign up to. These would also be circulated.

The rollout of both the above to be discussed at the next meeting

Action c/f

9) WEBSITE/HANDBOOK

- **Handbook:** Only 8 survey forms had been returned with most “rubber stamping” existing content and a few indicating some information they felt should be dropped.
- **Website:** RG proposed changes to the Home page to make searching the site easier and quicker. These would mean that hovering over any of the existing 8 links at the top of the page would produce a “drop down” list of the sub-pages available. The 5 big round buttons would be removed (superfluous) and the “introduction” video link would be relocated. These changes would be chargeable as they relate to the basic structure of the site and affect all pages – something he is unable to do. Bow House had indicated that about 3 hours work would be required. The meeting agreed that this work should go ahead. **Action RG**

10) NESMBA/ESMBA

The minutes of the AGMs and any subsequent committee meeting are passed on whenever received. RG had confirmed with Andy Miles that the 2021 date for Barnard Castle has been moved back to March 20/21 so would not clash with the Finals for the National Mixed Fours & Over55 Pairs. It would however clash with the ICC semi-finals but that is no longer of any concern.

11) OTHER BUSINESS

- **Constitution change:** A small change will be submitted to the AGM (see 3 above)
- **Discipline/Complaints Policy:** RG had re-read this when it looked as if it might need to be invoked recently. He expressed the opinion that it was cumbersome and too involved. The fact that ManCom members could not be involved in handling complaints but they must go to a sub-committee seemed to him to be too inflexible. A review of the procedure should be carried out but no-one seemed keen. **Action c/f**
- **Windows 7:** Window 7 support had ended and the cost of upgrading to Windows 10 would be looked at. **Action RG**
- **Diary:** Although AJ would be leaving ManCom after the AGM, he was happy to keep his responsibility of agreeing dates for county fixtures and other competitions.

No-one raised any other points so the Chairman called the meeting to a close at 9.35pm, thanked all for attending and RH for providing refreshments.

The next ManCom meeting will be in mid-April just before the AGM. Date to be agreed.