

North Yorkshire Short Mat Bowling Association

Minutes of the 36th ManCom

September 1st 2020 6.00pm

This meeting was conducted using Zoom.

After several “technical” problems, RG connected at 6.10, PJ at 6.15 and RH at 6.40.

1) **APOLOGIES** – AJ had already apologised for attending late due to a hospital appointment but in the event he could not make a successful connection (no sound) so did not take part.

2) **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING** (available to view on the NYSMBA website)

Acceptance of the minutes of ManCom 35 (Jan 17 2020) as a full and accurate record was agreed by all present. These were then signed on behalf of the Chairman by the Secretary.

3) **ANY MATTERS ARISING**

- England match – ESMBA had agreed to re-arrange for 2021-22
- Team strip – Link to ZapKam on-line shop added to website
- County players – Website listing had been updated. To be revised next year
- HSBC – On-line banking had now been authorised after 3 attempts over the last year.
- Safeguarding – Clubs to be reminded of decisions taken at AGM regarding Code of Conduct and Safeguarding statement.
- Handbook – RG had taken the opportunity of the current situation not to produce a printed Handbook for this year but had set up a pseudo version on-line. This would be made live and clubs informed.
- Website – The menu enhancements had gone live in February. Content is constantly being reviewed.
- Windows 7 – RG had obtained a new laptop (Windows 10). It was agreed that RM should do the same. An allowance towards the cost was agreed.

4) **FINANCES** – The annual accounts (accepted conditionally at the AGM) had now been checked and signed by Paul Whitcombe. The only expenditure since the AGM had been the annual donation to the YAA and the balance therefore now stood at £7,644. In view of the uncertainty of the season ahead RG had prepared a rough forecast of expected Income and Expenditure. Although both would reduce we could expect our balance to reduce by around £400 during the season.

5) **MEMBERSHIP** – Jean Rhodes had resigned in June (moving away) and although all clubs had been informed, no one had showed interest in the “job”. Jean had since passed all files and documentation to RG who had informed the ESMBA that he would be the NYSMBA membership contact u/f/n. James Smith (ESMBA Membership Sec.) had already sent out the ESMBA annual registration request and county database. This had now been divided up by club and the usual requests to update it would be sent out to all clubs in mid-September.

The ESMBA fee of £4 was still required but after some discussion it was agreed by a majority to reduce the NYSMBA fee from £2 to £1 (this season only) in recognition of the

financial “hits” that many clubs may now be facing. This would potentially lose us £800 in income, but our strong financial situation could cope with this.

We had been made aware that several clubs are considering not opening this year. RG pointed out that if these failed to re-register, they would in effect be “resigning” from the NYSMBA. This would have several implications. As non-members, all details (contact names/numbers etc) would have to be removed from our files and website (GDPR). If they used the ESMBA insurance scheme for their equipment and liability cover they would not be able to renew this when their policy expires at the end of February. They would not be able to enter any competitions and would be ineligible to play in any leagues should these start up. Individuals would also lose the PA cover they enjoyed as ESMBA members.

He suggested that all such clubs should be strongly encouraged to keep their membership alive by paying the £10 club fee and registering the minimum number of 5 members. This was unanimously agreed.

In view of the fact that there would be no printed Handbook this year (and possibly never again) it was important that members were encouraged to keep a regular eye on the website which as well as latest news contains all the contact lists formerly found in the Handbook. It was agreed by a majority that “business cards” be printed for distribution to all members with a message to that effect. This would be paid for out of the money saved on the Handbook.

6) COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

There was much debate regarding whether we should plan to hold these or follow in the footsteps of the ESMBA and knock them all on the head immediately. Their playing guidelines were quite stringent but did allow “County Open Competitions” from December. It was assumed that they would change the 1 hour per session stipulation by then to enable extended play. The other guidelines were awkward but all “do-able”.

As the leagues were all suspending their competitions and the IC matches had all been abandoned it would be nice to have something competitive in the calendar that keen players could look forward to. In any case no one disputed that it was our duty to go ahead if we could do so safely. RG had circulated a scale plan of the Galtres centre which showed that there was room to play on 6 mats whilst maintaining social distancing. However, we could not follow the format used in previous years or cope with the same numbers of entries. RG had proposed a modified format and suggested a cap in entries to limit numbers.

After positive discussion it was agreed after a majority vote that we would plan for

- a) The Singles to go ahead as normal over a single day
- b) The Pairs, Triples, Over55 Pairs and Mixed Fours would each be played over 2 days. The round robins on one day and the knockouts on another. The latter two would also be National qualifiers if the ESMBA confirmed their stated intention to hold these.
- c) There would be no Fours competition and probably no U18 Singles (tbc)
- d) The 8 Galtres bookings made for October/November would be released.

A new schedule was agreed using dates already booked at the Galtres. Entry forms would be sent out and placed on the website in early October and the closing date would be

November 7th. There would be no cap on entries. The entry fee would remain as £5. Entry cheques would not be banked until after each competition had taken place.

This final decision to go ahead or not would be taken at another ManCom on November 10th when we would know whether there had been an adequate number of entries and whether the ESMBA or Government guidelines had altered. We would also have by then obtained, ESMBA “Safe Bowls” status which required us to have addressed the nitty-gritty of the ESMBA and venues guidelines.

7) LITTLE CUP - Three of our pre-booked dates in Feb/Mar at the Galtres would be retained for now. These would be used for one or two Little Cup type competitions or maybe even something new.

8) THE FUTURE – Concern was expressed that the current situation would undoubtedly result in a slump in membership and maybe even the permanent loss of some of our smaller clubs. We need to start thinking of ideas to redress such a situation in time for the 2021-22 season. RM pointed out that he himself had “discovered” Short Mat on “social media” and JoN and FB agreed once again look at the usefulness of having a NYSMBA FaceBook page with an emphasis on preventing any possible misuse. RG remained sceptical as to how such a facility would encourage recruitment. There had been initiatives in the past including coaching days, leaflets and fliers and a feature on Radio York but none of these had made any impact. He felt that recruitment was largely a local responsibility down to individual clubs wanting to expand by publicising their activities locally. JoN expressed some disappointment that his offer of making his PowerPoint presentation at venues across the county had not been taken up.

9) OTHER

JiN said that 7 applications for “Safe Bowls” status had been submitted so far. The “risk assessment” submitted by Thornton-le-Dale had been praised by the ESMBA as it was felt to be most comprehensive. She had obtained their permission to put this on the website as an example for other clubs to see to assist them in filling in their own R/A.

RH mentioned that the GO Village Hall committee was insisting that all hall users (including bowls) must wear masks. FB said this was not in line with government rules which excluded the mandatory use of masks whilst partaking of sport. JoN felt that GO should negotiate these conditions with their hall committee.

Next meeting Tuesday November 10th. Consideration would be given to making this a “face-to-face” meeting if this were felt to have advantages over Zoom. If we once again used the latter, we would have to think about purchasing a copy of Zoom that allowed more than the default time of 40 minutes.

The Chairman terminated the session at 8.30pm

Roger Green (Secretary)

September 3rd 2020

(This DRAFT copy was approved for circulation by ManCom on 4th September)