

North Yorkshire Short Mat Bowling Association

Minutes of the 38th ManCom

January 5th 2021 7.00pm

This meeting was conducted using Zoom.
(JoN, JiN, RG, RH, RM, PJ, FB in attendance)

1) **APOLOGIES** – AJ was unable to take part as his PC has no camera/microphone.

2) **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING** Nov 10 2020 (available on the NYSMBA website)

RG pointed out that the decision to review our “Discipline/Appeals” policy (as recommended in the ESMBA minutes for 8th/9th Feb 2020) had been omitted. The same applied to a brief discussion regarding our Constitution (para 5.1). Once the minutes were annotated to show these omissions, they were accepted as a full and accurate record by all present. They were then signed on behalf of the Chairman by the Secretary.

3) **ANY MATTERS ARISING**

Facebook – JoN and FB are still looking at what we should/should not do. **Action JoN**
Irthing Valley IBC (Cumbria) – An email had been sent to this club informing them of our decision to accept them and asking for member details and payment of the required fees. Apart from an acknowledgement, nothing further had been received. **Action RG**
Constitution – To comply with the requirements of para 5.1, AJ and FB (whose names had not been submitted by their clubs) would be registered with the ESMBA. **Action RG**

4) **FINANCES** – There had been no further income/expenditure since the last meeting, so the balance remained at £7,588. The only known future costs were RG stationery expenses and annual charges for the website and ESMBA insurance which would be about £450. Regarding honorariums (normally £30 per committee post), all Officers were prepared to forgo these. After discussion however, it was felt that three committee members should still receive a payment. JiN, who had spent much time and incurred travelling costs whilst advising clubs who had applied for “Safe Bowls” status would receive an increased amount of £100. RG who had 3 posts would have a reduced amount of £50 and RM would receive the standard £30.

5) **MEMBERSHIP** – There had been no additional registrations since the last meeting, so the total remained at 37 clubs and 420 members. 13 clubs had registered only 5 members which is the minimum acceptable in our constitution (see INSURANCE below). RG had asked the ESMBA Membership Secretary whether the table of membership details for all counties shown on their website would be updated but no reply had been received. This table has not changed since 2019.

6) **INSURANCE**

ESMBA Civil Liability and Equipment insurance scheme. On December 15th all Clubs, Leagues and Associations that make use of this scheme had received an “IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION” from the brokers, Sutton Winson. The content raised 2 points that needed clarification.

(a) Minimum membership: Clubs were informed that they must have a minimum of SIX members registered with the ESMBA. This requirement conflicts with our own constitution which stipulates that clubs can be NYSMBA members with a minimum of FIVE members and this year 13 of our clubs had registered with this minimum. RG had written to both Sutton Winson and the ESMBA to ask where the minimum of SIX was documented as he could find no reference to this in either the ESMBA constitution or any of the documentation received from Sutton Winson. The SW reply had stated that the minimum of SIX had been “**provided by the ESMBA**” and “**all clubs must abide by this new regulation**” in order to renew their insurance at the end of February. There had not been an answer from the ESMBA. How and when the figure of SIX was arrived at therefore remains a mystery. Even though no explanation had been provided, the Chairman directed RG to advise the 13 clubs to register one additional player asap so that they would not run the risk of losing their club insurance cover.

To clarify a point raised by RM, RG pointed out that the above is different from the ESMBA Personal Accident cover. This is a separate insurance provided as a “member benefit” for all players who have been registered with the ESMBA.

(b) Breaching the ESMBA constitution: The letter also stated that Clubs which “**only register the minimum number of members rather than each and every individual are in breach of the ESMBA Constitution clause 3h**”. However, this clause relates not to “Clubs” but to “County Associations”. It was unclear therefore what was meant, and it was agreed that an explanation should be sought. **Action RG**

7) ESMBA/GOV Covid Rules – JiN had queried the last bulletin (Dec 1st) issued by the ESMBA which had given the go ahead for Tier 2 “Safe” clubs for Singles play “**from different households and support bubbles**” seemingly in contradiction to GOV guidelines. They had verbally admitted to this but had not issued any written clarification. With the new GOV imposition of a National “lockdown” from today (Jan 5th) no bowls of any sort is permitted u/f/n. The next GOV review is planned for mid-February.

8) NYSMBA COMPETITIONS

The rapid spread of the Covid-19 virus and the imposition today of a 3rd national “lockdown” means that the short/medium term future of the game both locally and nationally remains uncertain. Whilst the NHS vaccination program has begun and would no doubt gather speed, current best estimates of 2 million per week still means that it would still not be until early summer that a majority of the population would be treated.

Therefore, having cancelled the Mixed Fours and Triples after the last meeting it was now decided to cancel all remaining competitions for this season. It was agreed that we had done the correct thing in keeping the door to competitive play open but with the pandemic situation now worse than ever, it was right that cancelling all plans was the safest course to take. There will now be no need for us to apply for NYSMBA “Safe Bowls” status.

The Galtres bookings for January 17th, 31st, February 14th and 27th and March 7th would be released. **Action AJ**

All the entry fee cheques received will be destroyed and all clubs will be advised.

Action RG RM

9) ESMBA National Finals – The outstanding Finals for the 2020 Singles, Pairs, Triples Fours and Under 18s (in which we have 13 entries) are scheduled to take place in early April. We await the decision of the ESMBA as to whether these will go ahead (although it seems unlikely).

10) FUTURE – At the moment all plans for 2021-22 are on hold although it is hoped that a full season of Competitions (including the postponed match against the England Ladies) and Inter-County games will once again prove to be possible. The ESMBA have stated that they intend to hold two AGMs this year (one for 2020 and one for 2021) but no details or dates have yet been received. Our own AGM is scheduled for April 23rd and it was agreed that it would be advisable for this to be a “live” meeting (rather than a repeat of the “email” version used last year or a Zoom meeting). If necessary, the date will be moved into May and a roomy venue found that would enable social distancing.

All present stated that they are prepared to submit their names for re-election although the post of Membership Secretary will be advertised as vacant.

11) OTHER – It was agreed to send a small donation of £100 to the Galtres Centre as a “thank you” for their help in the past. It was recognised that the cancellation of all our competitions would be a substantial loss to their regular income.

The next Zoom meeting will be Tuesday March 2nd at 7pm.

The Chairman terminated the meeting at 8.05pm

Roger Green (Secretary)

January 6th 2021

(This DRAFT copy was approved for circulation by ManCom on January 7th)