

North of England Short Mat Bowling Association

Annual General Meeting Held on Zoom 3/7/2022

Attendance

Chairman: Alan McCallum, Vice Chairman: Arthur Jackson Secretary: Andrew Bebbington, Treasurer: Michael Shaw, League Secretary: Bill Burn, Competition: Secretary Andy Miles. Derbyshire: Rachel & Howard Cooper. Durham: Trevor Burns & Paula McCallum. Humberside: Kath Fussey & Graham Stubbs, Staffordshire: John Skelding. Stockport: Clint Crowther & John Pajak, West Yorkshire: Timothy Pearson & Janet Pearson. North Yorkshire: Robert Mumford & Pat Jones.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** None

2. **Minutes of AGM 2021.**

3. **Matters arising.** None

4. **Chairman's Report** A. McCallum See attached

5. **General Secretary's Report** A. Bebbington See attached

6. **League Secretary's Report** B Burn See attached

7. **Competition Secretary's Report** A Miles See attached

8. **Treasurer's Report & adoption of Accounts** M Shaw See attached

9. **Agree fees and subscriptions for the 2021/22 season**

Items 8 & 9 Michael Shaw presented the accounts and proposed that there should be no increase to the fees and subscriptions for the coming season. This was accepted, by a unanimous vote. He explained that due to some significant cost reductions it may be possible to reduce the fees and subscriptions the following season.

Proposals

10. **Durham SMBA – J. Rhodes.** See attached

Modifications to NESMBA rules relative to ESMBA Laws F9 and F10.

After some discussion a vote was taken: 14 Against the proposal, 4 for, with one abstention. The proposal was defeated.

11. **West Yorkshire SMBA - A Miles** See attached

Changes to rule 24 (multiple teams in the League)

After some discussion a vote was taken: 12 For the proposal, 7 against. The proposal was carried.

12. **Durham SMBA – J. Rhodes.** See attached
- Changes to rule 24 (multiple teams in the League)
- This proposal was withdrawn as a result of the decision taken in the previous vote.

13. **North Yorkshire SMBA – R. Green.**

Change to Rule 22 (Dress Code).

The proposal was carried. For 16. Against 3.

14. **NESMBA Committee**

Change to Rule 24 (A) & (B) (Replacing the word “game” with “matches”).

The proposal was carried unanimously

15. **NESMBA Committee**

Change to Championship Rule 5 (Non league bowlers and bowlers from outside the County)

The proposal was carried. For 13. Against 6.

16. **NESMBA Committee**

To add to Rule (27) (to add sanctions for inappropriate behaviour).

After a long debate no vote was taken and it was decided that the executive committee should discuss the matter further.

17. **NESMBA Committee**

To award a prize of £100 to the winners of each league with the main trophy.

The proposal was carried unanimously.

18. **Appointment of Auditor to check annual accounts**

Michael Shaw proposed Julian Yates to act as auditor, this was accepted unanimously.

19. **Date and Venue for 2022 Annual General Meeting**

It was decided that the AGM should again be held on Zoom on Sunday 4 June 2023..

20. Election of Officers

Chairman	Arthur Jackson	North Yorkshire
Vice-Chairman	Graham Stubbs	Humberside
General Secretary	Andrew Bebbington	Stockport
League Secretary	Bill Burn	Stockport
Competition Secretary	Andy Miles	West Yorkshire
Treasurer	Mike Shaw	Stockport

The Officers were voted in unanimously en-bloc.

21. AOB

Andy Miles advised the meeting that the new trophies for the Championship winners had arrived. He arranged with Mike Shaw and Bill Burn to distribute trophies to Staffordshire and North and West Yorkshire.

22. Close of meeting

Meeting closed 12.50 pm

NESMBA Chairman's Report 2021-22

After an unsure start as to whether Durham could field a team and for this season, I'm happy to say we have. That left us with the task of providing a chairman. I was pressganged into a position that I've thoroughly enjoyed.

Congratulations to Staffordshire A and North Yorkshire C for winning their respective leagues.

The Barnard castle finals weekend went off extremely well. That was primarily due to Andy & Barbara Miles excellent organisable skills. So, a huge thanks to both of you. Graham Foote for organising the umpiring and all the umpires. Mark & Simon should also be commended on a stalwart job of picking up and dropping of all 16 mats and equipment. Thank you also to the four counties who provided the mats and equipment. As always the games were played in a friendly competitive spirit. Congratulations to all winners.

I would like to thank all my fellow committee officers who have helped me throughout my year as Chairman .

Alan McCallum (Mac)

NESMBA General Secretaries Report 2021

My first season as General secretary has been an interesting experience. I haven't got everything right, but I am learning fast! A big thank you to Mike Shaw for his invaluable advice and assistance.

We managed to get through the season with only a few league matches unable to be played due to Covid. It was great to get back to Barnard Castle for the annual Championships. And I look forward to next year at a new venue. Thank you to Andy Miles for his efforts in organising the tournament and ensuring that everything runs smoothly on the day.

Finally, thanks go to all the committee for their efforts during the season, without which there would be no Inter-County competition.

Andrew Bebbington

NESMBA General Secretary

LEAGUE SECRETARY REPORT SEASON 2019-20

I am pleased to report to you all we have had another good season from my point of view, unfortunately covid was going to cause us some problems. We had four games cancelled due to the pandemic, one in the first division and three in the second division with points being awarded to all teams.

Congratulations to first division winners Staffordshire and second division winners North Yorkshire C.

Average winners for the first division was Josh Towey Staffordshire with an average of 10.28. Second division average winner Francis Boatman North Yorkshire 11.17.

I would be grateful to the two areas secretaries who have not supplied next season fixtures to do so ASAP. I thank all secretaries who have already supplied their fixtures for the coming season.

May I remind you all that match result sheets should either be sent via post or email ONLY. Last year a number of result sheets were sent via messenger which I won't accept this season.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow committee members, secretaries, captains and all players for your support and help throughout the season which make my life as league secretary an easy one.

Bill Burn (League Secretary NESMBA)

Competition Secretaries Report presented by Andy Miles

This year's competition took place on the weekend of the 12th and 13th March 2022.

Mats were provided by Humberside, West Yorkshire, North Yorkshire and Durham and I'd like to thank the committees of each of these counties for their help with these.

To say organising this year's event had been difficult would be an understatement. It's probably been the most stressful ever, but we got there. I would like to thank Simon Smith and Mark Breame from Humberside for transporting the mats five hours each way.

One week before the competition, I call around all the involved parties, sports centre, caterer etc, to check everything is OK. Imagine my shock to be told by the Sports Centre that we had no booking that weekend. After a frantic 15 minutes, they discovered that the booking form had been filed but not actioned. Everything was now OK; they would cancel all the bookings for the weekend but ours.

2022 Roll of Honour

Fours	Winners	North Yorkshire	S Duffin, J Rudd, N Flynn, D Newsome
	Runners Up	North Yorkshire	Ji Newsome, D Agar, J Clark, Jo Newsome
Singles	Winner	Stockport	B Holbrook
	Runner Up	Stockport	M Clancy
Pairs	Winners	Staffordshire	J. Towie A. Lamb
	Runners Up	West Yorkshire	D. Cookson K. Siddle
Trips	Winners	West Yorkshire	R Lewis T Farrar D Cookson
	Runners Up	West Yorkshire	S. Briggs D. Sands J Packer
County Shield		Stockport	
Alice Hollas Trophy		West Yorkshire	

NESMBA Treasurers report 2022

It was nice to return to a full season of bowling with a full season completed and the end of year Championships as always, a great success

I have included in this year's accounts a snapshot of the 2019-20 accounts, as a guide just for comparison, as there was no bowling or accounts produced in 2020-21 so any references to income / expenditure is to be viewed as 2021-22 V 2019-20 accounts

Affiliation and IC League Fees

Affiliation remained the same, IC Fees up by £35 due to NYSMBA entering a 3rd Team. Trophy cost replaced with trophies being replaced by cash, as agreed at the end of season championships.

Championships

320 entries V 321 so a reduction of £5

Raffle up by £8

Teasdale hire down by £10

Official's expenses were down by £30.35

Umpire expenses down by £100 due to Umpire illness causing rescheduling of duties with the umpires sharing the extra work without taking extra expenses.

Mat transport down by £15.09, many thanks to the people who did such an excellent job providing the resources to transport all the mats and the equipment.

Trophies up from £211.48 to £1267.00 this was due to replacing the main four trophies at a cost of £1055, so an increase in cost of £1150.85

Administration

No charges were received or charged for – Copying, Printing, Postage, Stationery

AGM Costs and Officers Meetings, no costs were incurred due to the meetings taking place by Zoom, so a saving of 116.15

Website domain name fee remained the same at £10

No Honorariums were taken by the officers this period

Others

Bank Interest was down by £2.20 Due to changes by the HSBC, our then bank, we started to receive bank charges, the schedule of charges they were going to apply would have meant that we would have likely received approximately £120 per year in charges from them, so the decision was made to change banks to Virgin money, this will hopefully reduce the charges considerably, this was actioned and is now completed.

Just a note on this, due to problems with the HSBC bank during the change our funds were temporarily frozen, unless two officers attended one of the main banks, in person at the same time to process any payments.

As this was totally impractical to do Andy Miles and myself used our own funds to pay all the costs of the end of season championships, trophy costs and expenses, during the time our funds were not able to be accessed and our monies transferred to our Virgin Account.

I have lodged a complaint about the HSBC's handling of this transfer with the banking ombudsman, and it is at the moment being investigated by them, I will report further when their findings are relayed to me.

Annual Trophy Donations were £350

So, with an opening balance of £3606 and a closing balance of £3739 this resulted in a slight increase of £133

Michael Shaw

NESMBA Treasurer

PROPOSALS

Jean Rhodes - Durham

(24) MULTIPLE TEAMS IN THE LEAGUE

(a) Areas with two teams in the NESMBA league ('A' and 'B' teams).

- (i) The 'A' team must submit a list of 30 players for registration by the NESMBA League Secretary and players from the 'A' list shall not be permitted to play for the 'B' team.
- (ii) Any other player may play for the 'A' team but after playing two 'A' team games will not be eligible to play for the 'B' team and their name shall be given to the NESMBA League Secretary for addition to the list of players previously registered.

(b) Areas with three teams in the NESMBA league ('A', 'B' and 'C' teams).

- (i) The 'A' team must submit a list of 30 players for registration by NESMBA League Secretary and players from the 'A' list shall not be permitted to play for the 'B' or 'C' teams.
 - (ii) The 'B' team must submit a list of 30 players for registration by the NESMBA League Secretary and players from the 'B' list shall not be permitted to play for the 'C' team.
 - (iii) A 'B' or 'C' team player may play for the 'A' team but after playing two 'A' team games will not be eligible to play for the 'B' or 'C' teams and their name shall be given to the NESMBA League Secretary for addition to the 'A' team list of players previously registered.
 - (iv) A 'C' team player may play for the 'B' team but after playing two 'B' team games will not be eligible to play for the 'C' team and their name shall be given to the NESMBA League Secretary for addition to the 'B' team list of players previously registered.
- (c) All lists of players must be given to the NESMBA League Secretary before any matches are played by any team in an area.

REASON FOR PROPOSED CHANGES TO NESMBA LEAGUE RULE (24)

In Season 2017/18 North Yorkshire A won promotion to division A beating Durham by a single point.

During the season a non-starred A team player who previously had won both his matches for the A team against Durham was included in the B team where he again won both his matches against Durham.

While one cannot be certain if he had not been playing for the B team that Durham may have won both matches and consequently Division B it does raise the questionability of the fairness of Rule 24.

The existing rule asks for 12 players from each team to be starred which in effect permits a team not to star their top players so they can use them for the lower team.

We would contend that the rule as it stands creates an unfair advantage to those with two or more teams who under the current rule may manipulate players of higher ability from one team to another and that it be amended to create a more level playing field for all competing teams.

PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO NESMBA RULES RELATIVE TO ESMBA LAWS F9 AND F10

(9) ABSENTEE PLAYERS

- (a) No change
- (b) No change
- (c) No change
- (d) No change
- (e) A Triple or Fours game shall commence in accordance with Law F(10).
- (f) No change

(10) PLAYING WITH A MISSING PLAYER

- (a) In a single Fours game if a player is absent the number of bowls shall be made up by the Lead and Second players playing three bowls each but one quarter of the total shots scored shall be deducted from their score at the end of the game. Fractions shall be taken into account.
- (b) In a single Triples game if a player is absent the number of bowls shall be made up by the Lead and Skip playing three bowls each but one third of the total shots scored shall be deducted from their score at the end of the game. Fractions shall be taken into account.

REASON FOR PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO NESMBA RULES RELATIVE TO ESMBA LAWS F9 AND F10

The aim of the game of bowls is to allow players to play a sport that they can enjoy, meet existing friends, make new ones all in a friendly atmosphere.

The aim of playing in any league is to provide a competitive playing ground between different teams at a level suitable to their playing capabilities.

When a team is short of a player or players the existing rules provide a method of play which allows the team to continue their individual match either triples or fours and satisfy the points scoring system.

Unfortunately under the existing rules if you are a player short in one of these two disciplines with your side losing two bowls each end the bowling becomes less than enjoyable and mentally demoralising and it is very hard to sustain a competitive nature.

Our proposal allows for each team bowling the same number of bowls per end with the simple deduction of shots by dividing by 3 or 4 at the end of the game.

*** This has also been applied and used successfully by the Irish Indoor Bowling Association**

County Durham has a small pool of players unlike all other teams within the NESMBA and does unfortunately on occasion have to play opposing teams with a player or players short. Some players have voiced that had they known they were going to be short of a player they would rather not have bowled at all. This would be a retrograde step both for Durham and the opposing team as their games would be forfeited to them.

ANDY MILES – WEST YORKSHIRE

(Background)

Existing Rule 24

(24) MULTIPLE TEAMS IN LEAGUE – Where Areas with multiple teams entered in the NESMBA League and also a team in the ICC, then the ICC team should be treated as above any 'A' team. In this case the following must apply

- (a) The ICC team must have all its players starred.
- (b) Any 'A' team must have 12 of its players starred.
- (c) All such starred players must be registered with the NESMBA League Secretary before any matches are played.
- (d) This will permit any ICC player to play for any 'A' team but not any other lower team.
- (e) Any other members who play 3 games for any 'A' team will automatically become extra starred players and they will not be allowed to play for any lower team for the remainder of that season.

Proposal

To change the rule to allow a level playing field for other County/Areas with single teams or 2 teams in the leagues.

Having substitution for two teams in the same division creates a conflict of Interest. Having Substitution from multiple teams down to one team gives a great advantage over other teams in the lower division.

Amended Rule - Please note there are two alternative rule 24-e

(24) MULTIPLE TEAMS IN LEAGUE –

Where Counties /Areas have multiple teams entered in the NESMBA League, the teams should be renamed to represent their position in the leagues.

- (a) All but the bottom team should have 12 players starred. Starred players cannot play for any other team than the one they are starred for.
- (b) Any member who plays 3 games for a team above theirs shall be automatically starred to that team and be bound by (a) above.
- (c) For any County/Area with more than one team in the same division, no interchange of players whatsoever will be allowed between those teams.
- (d) If a County/Area has more than 2 teams, any player not starred may play for one of the other teams, but may only substitute into one team. They shall then be classed as locked to that team for substitution.
- (e) If a County/Area has 2 teams in Division 1 and one team in Division 2, one team from Division 1 must be nominated to allow substitutions. No substitutions will be allowed from the other team in Divisions 1.

Alternative to E above

If a County/Area has 2 teams in Division 1 and one team in Division 2, Five players from each of the 2 teams in Division 1 will be nominated to allow substitutions to Division 2.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

1. At this years Championships due to the lack of available trophies and cost, it was agreed by all counties to award a prize of £100 to the winners of each league along with the main trophy.

It is proposed to carry this on now going forward.

2. To amend Rule 24 (A) and (B) to replace the word “game” with “matches”.

3. Championship Rules – Rule 5.

Background

Players can only play for the Area / County they have been playing for. No player may enter that has played for a County outside of the Northern Zone. Unless said players have played at least two games in the NESMBA league for the Area / County they are entering through in the season concurrent with the NESMBA Championships at Barnard Castle

The wording around number of games that must have been played is not very clear. Multiple complaints were received at this years Championships by committee members about people bowling who had taken no part in the season.

Proposal

To change the wording to make it clearer about non-league bowlers and bowlers from outside the County they are entering through.

Revised Rule to read

Players can only play for the Area / County they have been playing for.

All entrants must have played two matches/four games for the Area / County they are entering through.

No player may enter that has played for a County outside of the NESMBA, unless said players have played at least two matches/four games in the NESMBA league for the Area / County they are entering through in the season concurrent with the NESMBA Championships.

4. To add to Rule (27) - The Executive Committee are authorised to apply appropriate sanctions for any behaviour likely to bring the game into disrepute.

To give the executive committee powers to take action against individuals responsible for inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour.

ROGER GREEN – NORTH YORKSHIRE

To amend rule 22 to read:

DRESS – Ladies will wear mid-grey or black skirts, culottes or tailored trousers with plain white above the waist and gents will wear mid-grey or black tailored trousers with plain white shirt above the waist. Areas may dress in their own Area colours provided ALL players in the discipline are the same. The colour below the waist may be either grey or black with no requirement for team members to be the same.

(The intention of this rule change is to move towards black for all players in the future)