



## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2008

Held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2008 at the Blossomfield Club, Solihull.

The AGM commenced at 11:00

The President welcomed all attendees to the 4<sup>th</sup> AGM of the English Petanque Association and asked them to observe one minutes silence in memory of those members who had passed away in the preceding 12 months.

### 1. Date of Notice.

The date of notice was confirmed as the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2008.

Proposed: Kevin Moss Seconded: Martin Eggleton

Vote For 25, Against 0

### Attendees:

#### Officers

Mike Pegg	National President (MP)
Kevin Moss	National Secretary (KM)
Mick Bourton	National Treasurer (MB)
David Mason	Umpire (DM)

#### Members

Marie Morgan	Adrian Thomas	Annette Eggleton	Martin Eggleton	Richard Baker
David Baxter	Jonathon Sewell	John Roberts	Brian Stote	Faith Thomas
Barry Cox	Dave Brooks	Corinne Cooter	Mark Cooter	Lee Jamieson
Angie Jamieson	Debbie Elcombe	Ashely Jamieson	R David	Lee David
Jamie Lewis	John Lewis	Dave Pallett	Tony Moulding	Eileen Riddington

### 2. Apologies

Peter Howarth	Kath Brooks	David Lavelle	Paul Brooks	Clare Brooks
Mike Renouf	Helen Blackall	Adur Petanque Club	Mark Blackall	John Thatcher
Michael Gear	Denise Williams	Keith Davies		

### 3. Approve the minutes of AGM 2007

Proposed: Kevin Moss Seconded: Martin Eggleton

Vote: For – 10, Against – 0, Abstentions – 2

Minutes adopted with no adjustments

#### **4. National Presidents Report**

The EPA is now a little over 4 years old and this year we became the internationally recognised governing body for our sport in England. This has come about by the closure of the BPF which was formally completed when the final accounts were approved and adopted on the 16<sup>th</sup> August this year. The assets of the BPF after clearing any debts and reimbursing both the WPA and EPA junior contributions which were not used have been distributed between the 3 associations based on last years membership figures.

Our Associations prime duties still remain the same which are basically to look after the interests of the members, devote time to the needs of the grass roots, provide coaching and umpiring at all levels but now also includes qualification and selection of teams to represent the Association and England at European and World Championships. So it is natural for my report to include not only the business of the EPA but international issues that affect what we do.

During the past 12 months the Management Committee has worked with enthusiasm and determination, just some of the things we continue to accomplish on your behalf are:

- International Membership
- Events Calendar.
- CRB screening of our Coaches and Youth Development Officers.
- Civil Liability Insurance.
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Informative website.
- Junior and Espoirs international coaching.
- International Representation for qualified and selected teams.
- EPA Congress of Regions.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> International Open Tournament.
- Umpire and Coach Training.
- European Cup for Clubs Qualifier knockout competition.
- Junior Weekend of Excellence.
- EPA National Tournaments.

Most members of the Management Committee have individual responsibilities in addition to working as a team member and it is without doubt that all the work and achievements accomplished each year would not be possible had it not been for their commitment and drive. It remains a privilege to be the chairman of this committee and I am very grateful for their support, encouragement and hard work.

This year has seen the introduction of a new range of boules "La Boule Noire" to the variety of products available from our company Pétanque Promotions Ltd. Valuable income and sponsorship to the EPA comes from PP Ltd due to the efforts of the Directors Mick Bourton, John Roberts and Richard Baker who work without reward to ensure our company is a success, I extend my thanks to them for their commitment and continued service.

I am sure you will join me in congratulating all the EPA members who have been added to our "Roll of Honour" this year, these are:

- Honorary Life Membership  
Norman Guest
- Singles Champion  
Rachid Hannache

- Doubles Champions  
Dean Little & Keith Flack
- Mixed Doubles Champions  
Royston Williams & Clare Brooks
- Triples Champions  
Matt Eversden, Robert Silvy, Ben Gallimore & Steve Zimmerman
- Women's Triples Champions  
Sheila King, Lin Shrimpton & Fay Golder
- Junior Doubles Champions  
Samuel Blakely & Reece Gould
- Junior Triples Champions  
Robert Cooter, Alex Bruce, Jack Barrington & Andrew Willis
- Junior Shooting Champion  
Matt Silvester
- Over 50's Doubles Champions  
Steven Rice & Susan Kirby
- Champion of Champions  
Doubles: Chiltern – Miles Gooda & Matt Eversden  
Triples: Chiltern – Myra Huntley Adrian Emson & Alan Newland  
Shooting: Eastern – Simon Bird
- European Cup for Clubs  
Colne Angels PC
- Inter-Regional Championship and Challenge Tournament -  
Division 1 – Chiltern  
Division 1, Juniors – Northern  
Division 2 – West Midlands  
Division 2, Juniors – Thames Valley  
Challenge – Chiltern
- Home Nations  
Martin Baker, Rachid Hannache, Daniel Hill & Sofiane Lachani  
Lisa Edmondson, Emma Longstaff & Kim Lachani  
Dean Ashby, Steve Brown & Matthew Whatley  
Matt Eversden, Toni Gates, Robert Fox & Sam Blakley  
John Buckingham, Alan Routledge, Alan Whitehouse & Michael Renouf  
Jack Linstead, Brian Stote, Richard Powell and Pip Hamilton  
Alan Cregeen, Alex Bruce & David Blakely  
Michael Tull, Matthew Slater and Deborah Elcome

This list of outstanding accomplishments would not be complete without adding to it our members who have represented this Association and England at International events this year:

- Invite Tournaments  
Germany – Espoirs & Juniors  
Dean Ashby, Scott Ashby, Greg Davenport & Sarah Huntley  
Jack Barrington, Andrew Willis, Robert Cooter & Alex Bruce  
  
Netherlands - Espoirs  
Tom Hutchins, James Hart & Graham Galton  
  
Luxembourg - Women's  
Sheila King, Lin Shrimpton & Fay Golder

- International North Sea Pétanque Tournament in Copenhagen, Denmark  
Seniors: Martin Baker, Herve Bavazzano, Phil Claydon & Jerome Rousseau  
Women: Myra Huntley, Sarah Huntley and Amy Huntley  
Espoirs: Kris Smith, Dean Seville & Matt Shrimpton  
Juniors: Andrew Willis, Robert Cooter, Alex Bruce & Reece Gould
- Junior European Championship, Nieuwegein, Netherlands  
Andrew Willis, Robert Cooter, Alex Bruce & Reece Gould
- Women's World Championship in Samsun, Turkey  
Sheila King, Lin Shrimpton & Fay Golder
- Senior World Championship in Dakar, Senegal  
Matt Eversden, Robert Silvy, Ben Gallimore & Steve Zimmerman

There are many members of our Association that do not aspire to such great heights but who enjoy taking part. Their participation, friendship and good natured competitiveness ensure our competitions are a success, my thanks and that of the Management Committee for their support and commitment goes equally to them.

There have been a few external changes at the international level this year which will have some impact on our future events.

Due to financial and organisational problems the International North Sea Pétanque Tournament Committee agreed that this year would be the last North Sea Tournament. The presidents of the participating nations have continued a dialogue about a possible new or replacement event but to date nothing has been agreed.

The trial period for the European Espoirs event was considered to be a success so the Confédération Européenne de Pétanque (CEP) have decided to hold a separate Women's and Men's Espoirs Championship held at the same time with a qualifying stage in March and the finals in October of each year.

Meanwhile the Fédération International de Pétanque et Jeu Provençal (FIPJP) World Congress agreed to hold the "Senior" World Championship every 2 years starting in 2010.

At this present time the only World Championship to be held in 2009 will be for Juniors and this will be held in Tunisia.

If a host can be found before April 2009 there will be Women's World Championship however, after this coming year the Women's and Junior World Championship will be held every other year commencing in 2011 and alternating with the European Championships.

In December, as a member of the CEP Board, I will be attending a meeting between the CEP and FIPJP executives to discuss the possibility of introducing a "Men's" or perhaps "Senior" European Championship. This will be an important development for us especially as the 2008 World Congress agreed that only 48 nations should compete at the Senior World Championships in 2010.

The current plan is for nations to qualify for the World Championship through their Confederations, in our case the CEP. I understand the suggested quotas are for 16 to 20 nations to qualify through the European Confederation, 4 through the Asian Confederation, 2 through the Oceanic and so on. These figures have not been agreed and are to be debated further during the coming months.

A number of modifications to the playing rules were agreed during the World Congress which will require the publication of a new rule book. John Thatcher and I are currently preparing a revised course for existing umpires and new candidates alike. This gives our Association the ideal opportunity to ensure that all of our umpires are fully conversant with the rules and the chance for them to improve on their current grading.

In 2008 the FIPJP appointed a medical officer to oversee drug and alcohol testing under the World Anti Drug Agency guidelines. The first step in this process has now been taken as this year the FIPJP carried out random breath testing of players at both World Championships. The limit of alcohol in the blood is set at 0.35mg much lower than it is to drive a car in the UK. A player who fails the breath test is suspended from play until such time as they can pass the test. I expect the CEP to discuss introducing similar testing at the spring meeting in April.

A few months ago our Association invested a considerable amount of money into coaching by sending David Lavelle and Richard Pratt to an International Coaching course in Paris which was run by the CIEP. I am happy to report that despite turning up at the wrong venue on the first day they managed to catch up with the others on the course and have both done extremely well as just a few weeks ago I received their International Grade 1 Trainer certificates.

It is expected of David and Richard to use their training and new qualification to improve the quality of our coaching and to bring our grading system and coaching methods further into line with our friends in mainland Europe.

We had a very successful Congress of Regions in July of this year, the regionally appointed delegates who attended this meeting represented a little less than 2000 of our members which is far more democratic and helpful than in the past when the Congress was for individual members and attended by less than 10 people representing themselves.

Based on the most recently received regional returns our current membership figures are:

	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Total</b>		
<b>Adult</b>	<i>1663</i>	<i>798</i>	<i>2461</i>		
<b>Espoir</b>	<i>88</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>111</i>		
<b>Junior</b>	<i>110</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>161</i>	<b>Registered Clubs</b>	<i>200</i>
<b>Total Individual Membership</b>	<i>2733</i>			<b>Affiliated Leagues</b>	<i>3</i>

We recently held the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Open at Godmanchester with 56 teams from England, Wales, Germany, Netherlands, France and Slovakia competing for the Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze awards. Plans are already in hand to repeat this event in 2009 but are subject to either finding more sponsorship or a less expensive venue.

Despite rumours to the contrary the Inter-Regional Championship and Challenge Tournament will be held at Pontins, Brean Sands in 2009 however, due to other events which clash with our tournament it will now be over the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of September (19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup>). A new poster and further details will be published to our regions following my meeting with Pontins in the New Year.

To conclude, whilst our teams who qualified to represent us at the women's and senior world championships were not as successful as we had hoped we have had international success from our junior and espoirs teams. The new EPA Academy for cadets and minors is designed to give a firm foundation for the development and achievement for our future members ensuring further successes at this level.

Our Association continues to attract participation from over 2700 members on a regular sporting basis both nationally and locally through our 15 regions and registered clubs. This commitment to our sport and our association makes the English Pétanque Association what it is today, a collection of people who come together to enjoy our sport, a successful organisation and governing body for pétanque in England.

## 5. National Treasurers Report

I have pleasure in presenting to this meeting the audited accounts of the Association for the year ending 29th February 2008.

During the year 2006/07 the Association changed its principal Bankers to HSBC and as a result of this a large amount of the previous sum shown as sundry creditors was put on deposit with the bank for a term of 1 year. This amount is still on deposit and brings in additional income of between £80.00 and £85.00 per month. In addition the Association has a Business Money Manager Account, in other words a short term deposit account. Surplus money can be paid into this and obtains interest but it can be withdrawn on demand when required. This account has been paying approximately £20.00 per month interest. These amounts are being received during this current year and are not therefore shown in the accounts presented.

Firstly I must apologise for an error in the wording of the accounts. Under expenses there is an item stated as Honorarium. No Honorarium was paid and in fact the amount of £999.00 refers to Marketing costs. The error has been brought to the attention of the Auditor.

Once again the accounts showed a surplus of income over expenditure increasing the Revenue Reserve to £20,228.00. At the first meeting of the Management Committee it was agreed that most of the surplus from last year should be placed in special reserves. A total of £6,500 was therefore placed in the special reserves and divided as follows; - Coaching £2,000.00, Junior and Espoirs £3,500.00 and Playing and Umpiring £1,000.00.

The £3,500.00 for Juniors/Espoirs includes £1,500.00 paid by Petanque Promotions Ltd from the surplus on sales in 2007. The Directors of Petanque Promotions asked that any amount paid at the end of 2007 go towards assisting Junior and Espoirs.

The income received for membership was up £5,000.00 on 2006/07 and there was a slight increase in fees paid for National Events. Sponsored events raised £988.00 in respect of the charity event organised by Rapleys and run by PP Ltd.

Again there were significant savings on the expenses side, particularly on store costs, where PP Ltd now picks up part of the rent. There were also savings on printing, telephone costs, travelling expenses and management committee costs.

By far the largest outlay was in respect of the English International Open. Since this was the first year of this event teams were slow in entering but I am pleased to say that in 2008 there was nearly a full house.

If I can now go back to the money shown as sundry creditors both the Auditor and I think some of this can now be released. Rather than it going into the general fund I would like to see a set amount used each year to benefit grass root players, i.e. perhaps some form of club aid. I would ask the new committee to give this some thought.

I am sorry to say that these are the last set of accounts I will present as I am not seeking re-election this year. I have served 14 years in this position and think it now time for someone else to take over.

I have enjoyed being the Treasurer of firstly the BPA and most recently of the EPA. I would like to thank everyone, both past and present members of both Associations for their help over the years. In particular I would like to thank Ged Barton particularly for all the help he gave me when I first started and his willingness to give advice whenever I needed it.

I would also like to record my thanks to David Kimpton, who when he was Secretary of the BPA put a lot of time into helping me. Since the formation of the EPA, I am grateful for the help received from Mike Pegg, John Roberts and Fred Stirland. I wish my successor all the best.

I will not completely be losing touch as I have already indicated to Mike Pegg that I will be willing to help out on specific projects, if so required. I also intend to continue my Directorship of Petanque Promotions along with John Roberts and Richard Baker.

I now ask the meeting, subject to any queries, to approve the accounts for the year ending 29th February 2008.

LJ asked why there was £999 expenditure shown against Marketing, MB replied that this was for the expenses, travel etc for the Director of Promotions

LJ asked exactly how much money was in the bank, MB replied £50k approx.

JR proposed a vote of thanks to Mick Bourton for looking after the finances of the EPA and its predecessor BPA. This was endorsed by all.

MB then proposed the accounts be accepted.

Vote For 26, Against 0, Abstentions 0

## **6. Determine the Fees for 2009**

The Treasurer recommended no increase for 2009

The President then made a presentation to Mick Bourton to mark his dedicated service to our Association.

## **7. Proposal from the Congress of Regions (to be ratified)**

### **Playing structure for 2009.**

**(presented by M. Eggleton, Director of Playing)**

#### **Senior Competition**

To create a two tier system consisting of a Premier League and Combined League. There will be annual promotion and relegation between the Premier League and the Combined League.

The Premier League will consist of 8 teams and will play seven matches through out the year, envisaged to be on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday each Month (March – September).

The format will be Rolling Barrage, with points awarded according to position on each day. There will be a small entry fee for each days play. The cumulative points will be totalled and a league table produced.

In addition to regular competition amongst the top teams the aim is to also encourage them to participate in competitions across Europe. In order to support them with this the EPA will grant bursaries to the Top 4 ranked teams (anticipated to be around £150 per team), which will be paid in April, May, June, July, August, September. This bursary is to be used to take part in suitable European Competitions (for example as per the FIPJP Calendar) and will be paid out based on the submission of a completed match report to the Director of Playing.

All International Representations (Senior World Championships, formal invitations etc) will be fulfilled from within the top 4 ranked teams at the time that entrants are required.

#### **Combined League**

The Combined League will be run around a series of regionalised competitions, but will not be region specific. It will consist of 4 – 5 simultaneous competitions run on a league and knockout system. There will be a small entry fee for each days play.

There will be six competition days through out the year, it is envisaged that these will tie in with the Premier League and play on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday each Month (April – September)

The competitions are to be run by the hosting region, which will retain a portion of the income as a commission for running the event and to fund necessary expenses.

Points will be awarded based on position that each team finishes on each day. All teams across all of the feeder competitions will be ranked in a single table based on their accumulative points awarded.

### **Promotion and Relegation**

Promotion and relegation will be via a Play Off day, which will take place in October.

The play off will consist of the Top 12 Ranked Teams from the Combined League and the bottom 4 from Premier League. Play will be 2 Barrage Rounds after which the top four teams will be promoted to the Premier League.

There will be no fee for the play off day.

### **Transition**

To determine the initial 8 sides to form the Premier League the two qualifiers in 2008 will be used. The Swiss system will be used.

### **Other Groups**

#### **Espoirs**

Teams must be made up of 4 players. All qualification series will be based on the current European Competition system. In that teams will play in two rounds against each other, the first round will consist of 1 Triple & 1 Single game; the second round will consist of 2 Doubles games. The winner being the team with the most game wins, in the even of the teams being tied on games points difference will be used.

There will be 3 competition dates with the winning team from the series being eligible to represent England.

#### **Juniors**

Will follow the Espoirs format of 4 players per team with matches played over two rounds. There will be 3 competition dates set and the winning team of the series will be eligible to represent England.

#### **Titles Weekend**

Will continue as is and will take place over the May Bank Holiday.

#### **Ladies**

Will continue as is with Two Qualifiers and a Top 8 Play off.

### **Comments on Proposal from the floor.**

D Brooks made the following comments :- The Swiss system is now defunct, 2 tier system will dilute the system, no chance for anyone to improve, 3 years ago 65 teams now only 31, it will take 2 years to qualify, (ME said it would only take 1 year), when will we hold competitions for Juniors Espoirs, 1<sup>st</sup> Qualifiers should be null and void.

MP explained that the future of the International Game was uncertain and that this year Swiss was to be used for qualification before Barrage and Knockout.

JL said that this proposal was a major change and that it was ridiculous to have the Top 8 decided from only 2 qualifiers.

ME explained that there had to be a transition period and that this was explained at Congress.

JL said that some teams may have got to the Top 8 with an element of luck.

LJ said that using the Swiss System for the 2 qualifiers was madness.

ME said that the reason for having 2 qualifiers at the end of 2008 was due to the World Championships originally being planned for June 2009. MP continued to explain that if the proposal was defeated then the 2 qualifiers would be part of the previous system used the year before.

LJ commented that this was change for change sake. LJ then urged the meeting to vote against the proposal.

ME responded that the Top 8 and the combined leagues could be held at the same venue on the same day. That if the top 8 was held at a smaller venue then we could find more challenging terrains. By having a top 8 we could attract potential sponsors.

A further debate was then held with all members present at the AGM having an opportunity to have their say. A debate was then had as to whether amendments could be made to a proposal that had already been voted on by Congress. It was agreed that the MC would convene and debate this. The AGM was therefore adjourned.

AGM adjourned at 12:30 and reconvened at 12:50.

The Management Committee stated they would like to accept amendments but according to advice received it was not in accordance with our constitution. The Congress of Regions had put this motion to the AGM for ratification not amendment.

MP stated it was now time to take the proposal to the vote.

Vote For 15, Against 9, Abstentions 4

Proposal Endorsed and Adopted.

## **8. Election of Officers**

### **National Treasurer**

Candidates, who must have been a Member for not less than 4 years at the closing date for nomination.

Candidate: **Adrian Thomas**  
Nominated by: Michael Tull, David Osborne & Susan Marshall

### **National Membership Secretary**

Candidates, who must have been a Member for not less than 2 years at the closing date for nomination.

Candidate: **Corinne Cooter**  
Nominated by: Mark Cooter, Glenys Johnston & Jenny Cooter

### **Director of Promotions**

Candidates, who must have been a Member for not less than 2 years at the closing date for nomination.

Candidate: **Richard Baker**  
Nominated by: Martin Eggleton, John Thatcher & Kevin Moss

Standing for election unopposed the President (MP) declared these candidates duly elected.

### **Management Committee - Affiliated League**

Each affiliated League may nominate a Candidate, who must have been a Member for not less than 2 years at the closing date for nomination.

Candidates: No Nominations

### **Management Committee - County Region**

Each County Region may nominate Candidates, who must have been members for not less than 2 years at the closing date for nomination.

Candidates: No Nominations

The President expressed his disappointment by the lack of candidates for the County Region and League Delegates. He explained that these important members of the Management Committee were potentially the future elected officers, national Treasurer, Secretary Director of Player and President.

