



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held on the 21st November 2009
at the British Sugar Sports & Social Club

The AGM commenced at 11:00

The President welcomed all attendees to the 5th AGM of the English Pétanque Association and asked them to observe one minutes silence in memory of those members who had passed away in the preceding 12 months.

1. To confirm the date of notice of meeting.

Proposed: Ged Barton - Seconded: Faith Thomas Vote: All in Favour.

Attendees

Officers:

Mike Pegg	National President
Kevin Moss	National Secretary
Adrian Thomas	National Treasurer
Robert Parker	Umpire

Members:

Faith Thomas	Marie Pegg	Jack Milner	Maureen Milner
Graham Elcome	Debbie Elcome	Kim Elcome	Chris Barron
Richard Baker	David Pallett	Brian Stote	David Kimpton
Ken Buchan	Don Grimes	Mark Blackall	Helen Blackall
Trevor Blows	Anne Barton	Ged Barton	Francis Goodyear
Jonathan Sewell	Peter Griffiths	Sally Ann Sadler	John Roberts
Bernie Miles	Simon Bird	Peter Astle	Norman Guest
Jerome Morais	Toni Gates	Garry Gould	Bruce Rowland
Colin Taylor	Kim Lachani	Sofiane Lachani	Aris Savvides
Ian Hall (guest)			

2. To receive apologies for absence.

David Baxter	Dave Ciano	Lynne Ciano	Tiny Neville
Trish Neville	Alan Ranger	Cuckmere PC	Eric Brown
Bancroft PC	David Warmhurst	Flight Refuelling Club	Richard Powell
David Brooks	Kath Brooks	Clare Brooks	Graham Kirkham

Kernow Region	Les Stuart	Gareth Sullivan	Marion Halsey
Phil Boarder	John Thatcher	Rose Thatcher	John Edmondson
Eileen Riddington	Tony Moulding		

3. To approve the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.

Minutes approved with one amendment, Dave Brooks to be deleted from the list of apologies for absence.

Proposed: EPA MC - Seconded: Dave Pallet

Vote: For 18, - Against: 0, - Abstentions: 2

4. To receive the National President's Report.

I would normally structure my report around positive issues, results and achievements but this year has seen very few of those.

Instead of concentrating on preparations for the playing season, the start of our year was beset with a discipline issue concerning the conduct of several squad members that had represented our Association at an international event.

The MC appointed a Disciplinary Panel headed up by our National Umpire, John Thatcher to investigate. From the start they were hampered by our own rules, policy and procedures that were designed to deal with issues concerning one or two players and not several at once. The investigation tested our resources to the limit and the outcome was not satisfactory for anyone.

During this time the committee was being asked to commit to the European Espoirs series but because there are so few Espoirs there was the prospect of not being able to field competitive teams due to the possible disciplinary sanctions. We didn't have the luxury of waiting for the disciplinary issues to be concluded, the decision had to be made then and there, so we took the cautious route and opted out of the event.

The only positive thing to come out of this sorry affair has been the proposal from our Kent region that in part was tabled at the Congress and along with constitutional changes will be presented to this meeting.

In early March Pétanque Promotions Ltd our marketing company approached the Management committee seeking financial help by way of a loan so that they could purchase the necessary stock required for the year. Taking into consideration that since setting up PP Ltd our Association has benefited from payments amounting to over £20,000 the MC agreed to the loan to be paid back within 2 years but with two conditions.

1. PP Ltd carefully monitor all boules and accessories sales over the next 12 months and report back to the EPA MC at the end of the financial year with a full sales report.
2. PP Ltd presents a proposal to the EPA Management Committee to formalise the original outstanding "set up" loan.

Hindsight is a wonderful thing, it is clear now that the Management Committee should have required a far more detailed analysis of the proposal to change our international qualifying competitions before letting it go ahead. However, the proposal was presented to the 2008 Congress of Regions who made a few modifications; it was then approved at the AGM and put in place for this and the following year.

The first round of the Open League at the West Midlands venue met with controversy when the organiser changed the playing format to suit the small number of entries. This gave our Director of Playing, Martin Eggleton his first problem which he quickly solved on his return from Canada, but it was not to be the last issue he was faced with as the lack of entries for the Open League forced us to at first restrict the event to a single venue and then ultimately to cancel the last round.

Following the constant criticism he was receiving Martin decided that he had lost the confidence of the players and resigned, a huge blow to the MC as this is one of the most demanding and important posts on the Committee.

With no one volunteering to help, the administration of playing for the remainder of the year had to be covered by the Management Committee on top of the individual responsibilities we already have.

Clearly the Leagues have failed to attract interest or commitment, the idea that the top teams needed to play against each other more often had been around for some time and that needed to be put to the test. But we have learned that it is very difficult to mount a sustained and meaningful series with a small number of teams and today you will have the opportunity to adopt a proposal originating from our Chiltern Region and endorsed by the Congress of Regions which will see us return to the previous format of Grand Prix and Play offs.

We have all been affected by increasing costs throughout the year due to the world financial recession, the EPA is no different, the costs for International, European and National memberships have risen, added to this the strong Euro and weak Pound was cause for a major review of our budget for the current year. Early in the season but much later than we preferred it was announced that teams representing the EPA at the European and World Championships would have to contribute a much larger sum than in previous years. However, I'm pleased to report that we were able to reduce the players budgeted contribution of £500 each by half for the European Championship and we would have made every effort to do the same for the team going to the Women's World Championship had they participated.

In March the FIPJP announced a change to the World Championship by restricting the number of competing nations to 48 of which 25 places, including the World Champions, were allocated to Europe. At the same time the CEP introduced a new European Triples Championship for Men the outcome of which to decide which nations qualify for the world championship European allocation.

Our team for this now vital European Championship had a problem before they had even left for France; Ashley Jamieson broke his arm and was unable to play. Having already booked the flights hotel etc it was financially prudent to allow the team a replacement player rather than asking the next team in line to attend.

The team asked for Rowland Jones, which the MC approved and although they did not always play to their full potential they managed to qualify the EPA for a place at the 2010 Triples World Championship.

Reluctantly we have now reverted back to international qualification for juniors instead of having the benefit of the junior squad, squad manager and selection structure. This meant we had to appoint a manager to the successful team for the World Championship in Tunisia, Chris Allen who had considerable experience was our first choice but unfortunately he was unavailable due to work commitments and despite several emails, text messages and telephone calls we were unable to get a response from our alternative selection Jerome Rousseau. Given that this was an all male team requiring gender specific support the MC acted expediently and asked Gareth Sullivan one of only two male volunteers that had indicated they were willing to go. Gareth was supported by Kevin Moss as Head of Delegation who had agreed to deputise for me, perhaps not the most ideal situation as neither of these had been to this sort of event before but the MC felt they had no other option.

We had similar issues with the Women's team who should have gone to the World Championship in Thailand. They had asked the MC for either Chris Allen or Lee Jamieson to be their manager and could they also have a 4th player in case one of them fell ill.

We readily agreed to appoint Chris but it is a long standing policy of our Association not to allow a 4th player after a 3 player team qualified. They like all teams had the opportunity to include another player during the qualifying process, on this occasion this team, unlike the majority of others in the series chose not to do so.

The team made it clear that they would not go to Thailand without a 4th player so in an attempt to accommodate them we suggested that they choose a female manager who could play should one of them fall ill but this option was rejected by them. The MC was caught between a rock and a hard place, whatever we decided would be considered wrong by someone so we stuck to the policy and it was with great disappointment that I had to inform the FIPJP that we were not sending a team.

With a very rigorous Premier League planned and that the ultimate winner would be our champion triple the MC decided that there was no real need for a National Triples and not staging the event would also have the benefit of freeing up a day in an already congested playing calendar.

However, when the calendar was published there were a few very vocal objections from those that wanted to see a traditional triples championship and in response Martin reluctantly agreed to insert it into the calendar. It didn't really have any meaning, which is perhaps why there were so few entries. However, we are not the only Association to have a lower than usual number of teams entering National events as it would appear to be the same across Europe, perhaps another knock-on effect of the recession!

It was shortly after the Triples Championship that we suffered yet another casualty due to unfair and unjustified criticism. Both Richard Baker and Corinne Cooter who had volunteered to run the Triples Championship were subjected to adverse comments on an Internet forum about how the event was run.

Shortly afterwards Corinne decided that enough was enough and tendered her resignation effective from today, another major blow for the MC to endure. Corinne has served this Association since its inauguration with selfless dedication; she has been a valuable member of the committee on whom I would often depend for unbiased counsel and support.

The Committee asked for volunteers to cover for the remaining year of Corinne's appointment and were pleased to accept an offer from Angie Gaughan (Northern Region). Corinne has spent the last few months working with Angie to ensure a smooth transition; Angie's co-option to the MC becomes official after this meeting.

This year, and for a further two, the National Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles Championships were held at the home of the Harriers PC the Sandown and Shanklin RFC on the Isle of Wight. This long weekend event attracted similar numbers to previous years, which for a new venue was excellent. The feedback from those attending has been very positive and I think this will be reflected in even more teams going to the Island next year.

Whilst David Lavelle has made every attempt to carry out the responsibilities of the National Coach his family and work commitments have understandably taken first place. David has found it increasingly difficult to balance all his commitments and is now reluctantly standing down. At this point I would like to add my personal thanks to David for his many years service to both the BPA and EPA, David was very instrumental in the instigation of Youth Development and it was mainly due to his commitment and drive that our junior squad and selection process was so successful.

It is questionable that anyone on the MC, now or in the future, would have the knowledge to select a candidate to appoint to the office of National Coach or Umpire for that matter. Recognising these issues and to regenerate and strengthen both disciplines the MC is proposing to re-establish the commission structure who will be responsible for appointing the National Umpire and National Coach respectively, this will also ensure that our 15 Regions have a more direct input into Coaching and Umpiring matters.

When the BPA was disbanded the EPA assumed all of its rights and responsibilities including Schools Affiliation and the Schools Cup competition. Schools Affiliation has had limited success and little to no direct support from the EPA however, a few regions, notably Southern Counties through the efforts of Kath and Mike Knight have been very successful.

Taking this example of positive local activity into consideration the MC are proposing to move the responsibility of "Schools Affiliation" to our regions much the same way as club affiliation is currently dealt with. This should ensure that Schools Affiliation is given the credibility it deserves and with such local attention and effort development of this important area of membership should be achieved. In addition our proposal regarding the Schools Cup is designed to ensure that this event is firmly established on the National Calendar.

Despite reports to the contrary and the loss of 20 members when the Jersey Pétanque Association independently joined the FIPJP our membership this year has increased by 25 to 2746. This breaks down across our 15 Regions as 171 Junior/Cadets, 85 Espoirs and 2490 Adults; we also have 202 registered clubs and 2 affiliated leagues.

No report to the AGM would be complete without acknowledging the achievements of our members, I am sure you will join me in congratulating all those who have been added to our “Roll of Honour” this year, these are:

- Honorary Life Membership
Mark & Corinne Cooter
- Singles Champion
Rachid Hannache
- Doubles Champions
Dean Seville and Scott Ashby
- Mixed Doubles Champions
Dean Seville and Debbie Elcome
- Triples Champions
Martin Baker, Bruno Bove, Robert Silvy and Rachid Hannache
- Women’s Triples Champions
Vanessa Webb, Angela Jamieson and Debbie Elcome
- Junior Triples Champions
Max O’Rourke, Sam Blakey, Reece Gould and Ross Jones
- Over 50’s Doubles Champions
Lee and Angela Jamieson
- Champion of Champions
Doubles: Simon Bird and Sofiane Lachani
Triples: Bruce Rowland, Yousef Boussba and Mehdi Birra
Shooting: Eastern Region – Sofiane Lachani
- European Cup for Clubs
The Engine Pétanque Club
- Inter-Regional Championship and Challenge Tournament -
Division 1 – Kent : Division 1, Juniors – Kent
Division 2 – Isle of Wight : Division 2, Juniors – Combined
Challenge – Kent
- Home Nations
Richard King, Matt Shrimpton, Neil Phillips and Matt Whatley
Mike Tull, Mathew Slater, Harrison Ash and Ashley Odell
Teresa Bingham, Pete Bingham, Gary Durrant and Garth Fletcher
Richard Patterson, John Inglis and Mark Robertshaw
Geoff Booth, Chris Watkins and Simon Doble
Emma Jones, Jonathan Sewell, Toni Gates and Steve Zimmerman
Philippe Bonnet, David Mason and Brian Stote
Steve Golder, Fay Golder, Graham Elcome and Kim Elcome
Gary Atkinson, Josh Littley, Alex Bruce and Ben Littley
Amy Huntley, Daniel Baker, Georgie Wright and Emma Stockbridge

Of course 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.

Finally, it has recently been stated that I “pull the strings” or “have control” or even “manipulate and dominate” the Management Committee, what silly and absurd claims. The Management Committee is a team; we work as a team and make decisions as a team. We may not always agree with each other or like a decision that’s been made, but we always stand by the majority decision.

It has been a privilege to work with all of the members of this years Management Committee; Martin Eggleton, Adrian Thomas, Richard Baker, Kevin Moss, Corinne Cooter, David Baxter, David Lavelle, John Thatcher, Graham Elcome, Debbie Elcome and more recently Angie Gaughan. I am very grateful for their dedication, their support and their continued friendship.

Mike Pegg - National President

5. To receive and, if so resolved, adopt the Association's accounts, Auditor's and Financial reports (for the financial year ending 28th February 2009)

I present my first report for this AGM of the audited accounts of the Association for the year ending 28th February 2009, although I have only been involved with the final 2 months.

The accounts show a deficit of expenditure over income of £1927, reducing the Revenue Reserve to £19296, this still allows for the liabilities inherited from the BPA, an item that I will raise later.

Income

The income received for membership was similar to last year while the National Events showed an increase of £4500. The Bingo Lotto raised £1000, and the change in banks has resulted in a far better interest return on our deposits.

Expenses

In general are in line with expectation; Membership Fees for 2008 reflected the final costs relating to the BPF which is now a past expense. The Travelling and Management costs are higher mainly due to the increase in running costs.

Events, Competitions etc

The English International Open again produced a full entry but unfortunately resulted in a net loss of £3,000. This was the factor in the Management Committees decision to cancel this year’s event. The International Events cover the representative competitions held during 2008, including World Championships and the final North Sea Tournament. The remaining costs are basically in line with expectations, however in Coaching this includes the training course attended by the National Coach.

The Bank/Cash balance as at the 28th February is £36,000.

As recommended by the Auditor, we will have to decide during the coming year how to distribute some of the reserves that have been gained over the time of the BPA. It could be club aid, regional aid or a specific project, but the management committee will liaise to see how best to distribute these funds.

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

Adrian Thomas, National Treasurer

copies of the **Auditor’s Report & Audited Accounts for the Year Ending 27th February 2009** are available to all EPA members from the National Treasurer

- Simon Bird Where does the Income from Brean Sands show in the accounts.
- Adrian Thomas In the Nett playing figures
- Simon Bird The cost of National Events seems higher than in the BPA Days
- Jonathan Sewell This is because we are reading this as Expenditure when it should be Income
- Simon Bird What does it cost to run each event.
- Adrian Thomas This is what I am preparing for the accounts of 2009-10
- Simon Bird It would seem that having 6 organisers/umpires for the Champion of Champions was excessive.
- Mike Pegg Officially there was only 1 organiser and 3 umpires the others were MC members who turned up to help. We should have 3 umpires for each lane of shooting and 2 umpires for the championship.
- Jonathan Sewell It would be good to have a breakdown for costs for each event
- Mike Pegg Adrian has already stated he would preparing our accounts with more detail in future
- Brian Stote How much of the coaching budget was used for the International School
- Adrian Thomas Approx. £1900.
- Jonathan Sewell How do this year's accounts look
- Adrian Thomas We are looking at a Break Even figure due to not attending the European Espoirs or Ladies World Championships

Proposed: Adrian Thomas, National Treasurer - Seconded: Marie Pegg

Vote: For 25 - Against: 0 - Abstentions: 2

6. To determine the rates of registration fees and subscriptions.

The National Treasurer recommended no increase for 2010

7. To consider and, if so resolved, approve motions submitted in accordance with the Constitution and Bye-laws:

The President informed the meeting that he would not be taking the proposals in numerical order as some of them replied on others being agreed.

Proposal 11 – Umpire/Coaching Commissions

To form umpiring and coaching commissions to ensure consistency in training, examination and assessment and deal with all matters relating to their respective disciplines.

This requires a modification to the Constitution under section 5 Structure:

- 5.5 Commissions
 - 5.5.1 Umpiring
 - 5.5.1.1 The Umpiring Commission shall be composed of all the Regional Umpires under the Chairmanship of the National Umpire.
 - 5.5.1.2 It will ensure consistency of umpiring through training, examination and assessment and deal with all matters relating to Umpiring Pétanque in England.
 - 5.5.1.3 The National Umpire shall call a meeting of the Umpiring Commission at least once in every calendar year.
 - 5.5.2 Coaching
 - 5.5.2.1 The Coaching Commission shall be composed of all the Regional Coaches under the Chairmanship of the National Coach.

- 5.5.2.2 It will ensure consistency of coaching through training, examination and assessment and deal with all matters relating to coaching pétanque in England.
- 5.5.2.3 The National Coach shall call a meeting of the Coaching Commission at least once in every calendar year

Jonathan Sewell Why do the EPA feel that they cannot appoint to these roles

Mike Pegg Whilst the existing MC members may have a good idea of who the right National Umpire/Coach may be there is not guarantee future committees would. It stands to reason that commissions for each discipline would know the candidates better than this committee especially if they are working as a team. Add to this that it would go some way to ensure our regions are more involved with coaching and umpiring.

Brian Stote How do you see this happening when there are only 5 Regional Coaches and 5 unofficial Regional Coaches

Mike Pegg I think it is likely that the situation you are stating is a direct result of the demise of the Commissions at the time of the closure of the BPA. The commissions worked well under the BPA although some regions still failed to get involved. Reviving the commission structure for both disciplines should also help the incumbent officers as they would have more support to carry out their duties instead of shouldering all the responsibilities themselves.

Brian Stote Would the initial invitation extended to all regions regardless of the official/unofficial position of the Regional Coach

Mike Pegg In the first instant I would say yes, but the long term plan should be that only "qualified" coaches or umpires would be invited.

Proposed: EPA MC - Seconded: Dave Kimpton

Vote: For 28 - Against: 0 Abstentions: 1

Proposal 12 – National Umpire & National Coach Appointment

To transfer the authority of appointing the National Coach & National Umpire from the EPA Management Committee to the Coaching and Umpiring Commissions respectively requiring the following modification to the Constitution.

Art. 5.4.3 Appointed Officers

The EPA shall have the following Appointed Officers

- a) The National Umpire shall be a qualified umpire of the EPA and shall hold office as a nominee of the Umpires' Commission, which shall have powers to revoke a nomination.
- b) The National Coach shall be a qualified coach of the EPA and shall hold office as a nominee of the Coaching Commission, which shall have powers to revoke a nomination.
- c) The National Youth Development Officer shall be appointed by the Management Committee

Proposed: EPA MC - Seconded: Faith Thomas

Vote: For: 30 - Against: 0 - Abstentions: 0

Proposal 13 - Amendment to the Constitution

Clause 5.4.6

Add “, subject to any amendments as may be agreed at the AGM” to the end of the last sentence.

Proposed: Chiltern Region - Seconded: David Kimpton

Vote: For: 27 - Against: 0 - Abstentions: 2

Proposal 14 - The EPA to publish its guidelines for the selection of team management for international events.

Such guidelines to include the criteria (qualifications, experience etc) to be used for the selection of manager(s), the role of the team (and any pre-existing manager) in that process and the EPA's expectation of that team manager(s)

Ged Barton What does the EPA think to this Proposal

Mike Pegg I don't think the MC has an issue with this proposal, it will give the new work group a starting point.

Proposed: Chiltern Region - Seconded: Toni Gates

Vote: For 23 - Against: 0 - Abstentions: 6

Proposal 15 - The EPA hold an EPA Title Shooting Competition (culminating in a head to head semi final and finals) at the EPA Titles Weekend.

Dave Kimpton This is difficult to do especially as peoples game goes off afterwards. Should this not be a decision of the MC not the AGM

Richard Baker The event is now on the IOW for 2 further years would this mean people would attend

Jonathon Sewell That this would be no less fair than current

Richard Baker When would it be played

Jonathon Sewell Over 1 day

Ged Barton This would lead to a very long day.

Jonathon Sewell How long would be needed

Mike Pegg It takes about 20 minutes per player to complete all 5 disciplines

Simon Bird That the idea was right, perhaps a Friday afternoon at Brean Sands was a better time

Mike Pegg The problem with that is not all teams are present on a Friday afternoon but he agreed that we should have a dedicated shooting championship. In the past when the Association scheduled a shooting event nobody turned up

Sofianne Lachani Where was this

Mike Pegg Burnham PC, Thames Valley.

Proposed: Chiltern Region - Seconded: Gary Gould

Vote: For: 6 - Against: 19 - Abstentions: 8

Proposal 17 - The National President to serve for up to 3 years then stand down.

May not seek re-election for 1 year. May carry out any other function for the EPA during this stand down period

Reason will get new blood and ideas and give the incumbent a rest.

After debate this proposal from the Great Western Region failed to be seconded and therefore failed

Proposal 18 - Membership.

New club or individual membership signed after ~~August~~ September 1st or later will run through the following season at no additional cost.

Reason to sign up clubs and individuals during the winter and latter part of the season
 Note this motion may stand down after the review however to allow a recruitment campaign
 to start with immediate affect we ask this is carried now

- Don Grimes In the Region Membership has dropped. The February Renewal date is difficult to sell as it is outside of the playing Season. That during the season a number of people would joined but would want more than a part membership. This could be linked to the membership review in the Chiltern Proposal
- Mike Pegg Is this proposal for new members only
- Don Grimes Yes
- Jack Milner He had some sympathy for this proposal. That we used to have this system
- Mike Pegg That particular system was voted in for a one year period only.
- Jack Milner This would help with Winter League participation
- Bruce Rowland Membership would be easier to sell in the summer. This would mean an 18 month licence
- Mike Pegg The proposal actually covers 19 months
- Bernie Miles Asked if this would make the Insurance around the come and try (3) easier
- Mike Pegg It wouldn't make any difference to that restriction set by our insurers
- Jerome Morais This would be 18 months membership for 1 years subscription
- Kevin Moss This proposal would allow new members the opportunity to play at the Inter Regional Championships for 2 seasons
- Ged Barton The timing should be altered to 1st September and this would be 18 months
- Mike Pegg Proposed that the proposal was amended to read the 1st September, this was Seconded by Jack Milner
 Vote: For: 28 - Against: 2 - Abstentions: 1, the amendment was therefore carried
- The amended proposal was the voted on
 Proposed: Great Western Region - Seconded: Jonathan Sewell
 Vote: For: 31 - Against: 0 - Abstentions: 1

Proposal 16 Amendment to the Constitution

The existing Article 11 to be replaced with the following:

8. Discipline

8.1 Introduction

This Disciplinary Code forms part of the terms and conditions of membership of the EPA. It also forms part of the terms and conditions of participation in tournaments, competitions and other events organised ~~and by~~ /or sanctioned by the EPA or in which the member is representing the EPA.

8.2 Conduct

Each member, ~~player and official of the EPA~~ is responsible and accountable for ~~his~~ **their** own conduct in connection with the sport of pétanque. They must conduct themselves at all times in accordance with the highest standards of disciplined and sporting behaviour. Any conduct that falls below these standards and that harms or undermines the sport of pétanque in any way shall constitute a Disciplinary Offence under this code.

8.3 Commencement of Disciplinary Proceedings

Any act or omission by any member, ~~player and / or official of the EPA~~ that constitutes or is capable of constituting a Disciplinary Offence shall in the first instance be considered by the National Umpire of the EPA, acting either on ~~his~~ **their** own motion or on referral or complaint from a third party. The National Umpire ~~or an Investigating Officer appointed by the Management Committee~~ shall undertake ~~or direct~~ such investigations as ~~he~~ may ~~be deem~~ necessary, and every member, ~~player and / or official of the EPA~~ (whether or not they are the subject of the complaint) shall be obliged to co-operate with such investigations. Any failure to cooperate with such investigations may itself constitute a Disciplinary Offence under this code. If the National Umpire ~~or Investigating Officer~~ decides to charge a person with a Disciplinary Offence under this code, then ~~they~~ shall send a report to the ~~Chairman of the Disciplinary Panel Management Committee~~ together with all the relevant evidence.

8.4 Composition of the Disciplinary Committee

The ~~Disciplinary panel Committee appointed by the Management Committee~~ shall comprise a chairman and not less than 4 other members ~~elected at the AGM in accordance with article 7.1.5~~. The Chairman shall not be a member of the MC. ~~The MG may appoint one or more EPA members of suitable standing to fill any vacancies should the number of panel members fall below 5.~~ . For the avoidance of doubt, with the exception of the National Umpire, members of the MC may be members of the Disciplinary ~~Panel Committee~~. ~~When the Chairman of the Disciplinary Panel receives a complaint from the National Umpire or Investigating Officer, the Chairman shall convene a three-person Disciplinary Committee from the members of the Disciplinary Panel to hear the complaint.~~ No person with a close interest in the matters that are the subject of the complaint may sit on the Disciplinary Committee hearing the complaint.

11.5 Proceedings of the Disciplinary Committee

The Proceedings of the Disciplinary Committee shall be in accordance with The Disciplinary Committee Procedures as approved by the AGM from time to time.

11.7 Appeal

Either the ~~defendant~~, ~~the complainant~~ or the National Umpire ~~or Investigating Officer~~ may ~~lodge an~~ appeal against any aspect of the decision of the Disciplinary Committee. Such appeal shall be resolved by ~~Arbitration in London by and in accordance with the rules of the Sport Dispute Resolution~~ an EPA Appeal Panel comprising of three arbitrators none of whom shall be officers of the EPA, members of the Management Committee or members of the Disciplinary ~~Committee~~. Notice of the appeal, including a copy of the decision being appealed against, a specification of the particular aspect(s) of the decision being appealed against, and a statement of the full grounds on which the appeal is based must be filed with the ~~Sports Dispute Resolution Panel, with a copy being served on the MG~~ EPA President, within ~~twenty one days of the date of~~ the time specified in the published Disciplinary Procedures. ~~written decision.~~

- Ken Buchan outlined the reasons for this proposal. The process worked on the court system process of innocent until proven guilty. That Kent had asked for some feedback from the Management Committee.
- Mike Pegg That the Management Committee had appointed a working group to look at the proposal and had come up with a number of amendments. These were handed out to the meeting.
- Jonathan Sewell Why the changes to 11.6
- Mike Pegg This was due to the costs to the individual and the association which according to the Agency involved is currently around £1k with 50% of that being on non-refundable deposit. This would make an appeal financially out of the range of some members and would be in danger of making the appeal process only available to those that had the money.
- Ken Buchan Agreed that this was ok.
- There was then a vote on the amended proposal with the changes made by the working group.
Amendments proposed by Ken Buchan Seconded by Chris Barrow
Vote: For: 27 - Against: 0 - Abstentions: 4
- Mike Pegg Then opened the floor up to discuss the now amended proposal
- Bernie Miles 11.4 Worried about a Disciplinary Panel being fixed at an AGM. There are currently not enough volunteers for MC positions without further requirements. That there would be no guarantees that any panel at an AGM would be independent of the claimant or accused. That the discipline committee should be put together by the MC
- Ken Buchan That the proposal allowed for people to be called into the committee
- Mike Pegg Considered it much safer to appoint a panel case by case.
- Dave Kimpton Asked if this could lead to a ballot
- Faith Thomas Felt that this part of the proposal meant that the membership didn't trust the committee
- Chris Barron That we should appoint as required
- Ken Buchan proposed that the amended document should be further amended to read. The EPA MC should appoint a Chairman and 4 other members as the Disciplinary Panel. This was seconded by Jack Milner
Vote: For: 26 - Against: 0 - Abstentions: 3, amendment carried.
- Bernie Miles 11.5 Concerned that not being able to change the procedures without going to an AGM, would prefer this to read "by the Management Committee"
- Ken Buchan This needs to be consistent across all Cases. The current rules are not fit for purpose
- Mike Pegg The current articles were adopted from the BPA upon devolution and were seen fit for purpose at that time.
- Ken Buchan Would not be happy to allow the procedures to change on an ad-hock basis
- Brian Stote Could we clarify 11.3
- Jack Milner 11.5 should be approved by the AGM to keep transparency
- Richard Baker This would tie the hands of the disciplinary committee
- Ken Buchan There is enough flexibility in the procedure document
- Bernie Miles proposed the amendment to read Instead of by the AGM to read by the Management Committee, this was seconded by Richard Baker
Vote: For 11 - Against: 11

The President used his casting vote and voted against the amendment, therefore this amendment failed.

Mike Pegg That 11.6 should be 11.7 as we need to keep in the opportunity (currently 11.6) for any County Region to refer their cases to the MC.

Mike Pegg proposed this amendment; this was seconded by Bernie Miles

Vote: For: 28 - Against: 0 - Abstentions: 3

The amended proposal (as above with modifications in red) was then voted on

Proposed: Kent Region - Seconded: Toni Gates

Vote: For: 27 - Against: 0 - Abstentions: 3

Proposal 1 – Schools Cup and Affiliation

After reviewing the current situation and taking into consideration which regions successfully promoted schools affiliation and the number of schools that affiliate to the EPA proposes that the following changes are made to schools affiliation.

1. To change the responsibility of Schools Affiliation from the EPA as a National body to our County Regions the same as our clubs affiliate.
2. To monitor Schools Affiliation by way of quarterly reports from the County Regions to the EPA National Coach and or YDO.
3. To re-launch the Schools Cup, in 2010 as a “National Schools Competition” held at a central location to our membership perhaps at a school or related venue.

Proposed: EPA MC - Seconded: Graham Elcome

Vote: For: 26 - Against: 0 - Abstentions: 0

Proposal 2 – Competition Organisers.

The EPA proposes to recruit and train a number of regionally based ‘National’ Competition Organisers who under the authority of the Director of Playing will be appointed to run EPA National Events.

Simon Bird Each region should have an organiser for its own events

Mike Pegg This is what we are proposing but with some support to ensure consistency

Richard Baker That we have no Director of Playing

Proposed: EPA MC - Seconded: Chris Barron

Vote: For 30 - Against: 0 - Abstentions: 1

Proposal 3 – World and/or European Championship

Move to a system where we play 3 qualifying Grand Prix. The **top 16** from those tournaments then play **2 tournaments** (at different venues) **rank the teams**.

~~The precise number of tournaments to be decided at the Congress/AGM.~~ Once a team has qualified for Worlds/European’s a coach/team manager is allocated to them to monitor their performance and arrange for them to play in top competitions.

The ~~remaining teams from the top 16 teams will be~~ **are** offered coaching opportunities to play abroad. ~~The top 2 from the top 8 would be invited to participate in the following years top 8, should they wish to do so.~~

Ged Barton Who appoints the team manager, this is already covered in another proposal

- Mike Pegg Normally the Director of Playing after consultation with the MC
- Bruce Rowland Is the Worlds and Europeans in the same year
- Mike Pegg No
- Kim Lachani What playing system would be operated at the 3 Qualifying Events
- Mike Pegg Not decided as yet but the FIPJP are now using Swiss for the qualification rounds followed by poules and then Knockout
- Bernie Miles Would year 2 be a top 8 or 10
- Jonathan Sewell The top 2 would be invited to participate
- Mike Pegg This would need to be included in the competition rules
- Bruce Rowland The last Grand Prix would be likely to be under attended
- Bruce Rowland proposed an amendment to Top 16 as this would keep people interested in the 3rd Qualifier, Seconded by Simon Bird
Vote: For: 15 - Against: 11 Abstentions: 2. This amendment was carried
- Bruce Rowland proposed that the entire final Paragraph starting with “the top 2”. Should be withdrawn. Seconded by Ged Barton
Vote: For: 17 - Against: 2 - Abstentions: 8. This amendment was carried
- The amended proposal (as above with modifications in red) was then voted on.
- Proposed: Chiltern Region - Seconded: Bob Parker
Vote: For: 29 - Against: 0 - Abstentions: 1

Proposal 4 - Nationwide Opens

The EPA to work with the regions to establish a national series of Opens (with cash prizes).
Aim to establish an umbrella sponsors for the series and a sponsor for each Open.
This series to form the basis of the “EPA Masters” with a suitable reward for winning.

- Chris Baron Will this clutter the Calendar further
- Jonathan Sewell We were looking at events already in the Calendar, EPA Open, Detling Classic etc. The regions to have the opportunity to host a series of events
- Bruce Rowland Would the EPA be sponsoring these events
- Mike Pegg How these events are to be financed has not been included in the proposal so at this time neither I or the MC can answer that question. I hazzard a guess that the regions wanting to host an Open would also need to consider funding but I would hope the Association would have the funds to provide some support (umpires etc)
- Brian Stote an assurance that if no sponsor events would still happen
- Ged Barton This would fall to the region
- Jonathan Sewell The MC to work with the Regions.
- Faith Thomas Who would run them
- Mike Pegg Again this is not stated in the proposal, I would assume the regions!
- Proposed: Chiltern Region - Seconded: Toni Gates
Vote: For: 30 - Against: 0 - Abstentions: 0

Proposal 5 - Home Nations

1 day qualifier at central location. This qualification is separate to world or European qualifiers. The Nett revenue from this event is to be used to fund players in expenses against travel and accommodation or travel.

- Graham Elcome This year the team that represented the EPA was probably teams 9 to 16.
- Mike Pegg Yes, traditionally we have never sent our top teams. When we had a top 16 we would only invite teams 9-16 to represent the Association.
- Ged Barton Concur that we should have a ringed fenced amount for this event, however concerned that this could lead to all events being ring fenced
- Mike Pegg The EPA dos contribute towards this event by paying for the Kit etc.
- Toni Gates The players could be no worse off than currently
- Richard Baker It could end up with a Nett deficit
- Proposed: Chiltern Region - Seconded: Toni Gates
Vote: For 19 - Against: 6 - Abstentions: 6

Proposal 6 - Champion of Champions

Only regional winners and runners up are eligible to play in this event. No regions to schedule regional tournaments that clash with C of C. reward to be offered to the winners (eg entry to EPA Open)

After debate this proposal failed to be seconded and therefore failed

Proposal 7 - Working Groups

For the EPA to form, as part of its structure, a series of Working Groups (virtual if necessary), drawing on the expertise available in the regions.

These groups are to tackle ALL areas of the sport for example

Finances / fund raising

coaching and team managers

juniors

espoirs

senior representation

venues

The aim of these groups is to concentrate on improving the sport in their given section.

They will work closely with all regions sharing ideas and structures. These groups will work with the national coach, YDO etc but will take on a lot of the pressure and work load.

- Jonathan Sewell Encouraged that this has already happened today
- Brian Stote How would the proposal work
- Jonathan Sewell This is a discussion document not legislation
- Graham Elcome How was it to work, how many people?
- Mike Pegg Suggested that perhaps 2/3 people working on each group

Proposed: Chiltern Region - Seconded: Bernie Mile
Vote: For: 17 - Against: 1 Abstentions 9

The President informed Jonathan Sewell that he and the MC would hope members of his Region will take an active part in the "work Groups"

Proposal 8 - Grass Roots Development

For the EPA to work with the regions to generate and implement a strategy for the development of grass roots boules in the country. Such a strategy to encompass youth development, shared learning, promotional activities and "grass roots" competitions.

This would be a mixture of freeing up the calendar (see above) to allow the local opens to begin flourishing again, advertising campaigns, school initiatives etc. Basically, for the EPA to offer a proposition to players no matter at what level they play.

Don Grimes Would this not be a part of the working groups

Jonathan Sewell Happy for this to be part of those groups

Proposed: Chiltern Region - Seconded: Toni Gates:

Vote: For 13 - Against: 9 - Abstentions: 7

Proposal 9 - Tiered Licensing

For the EPA to conduct a feasibility study in implementing a tiered licensing (eg 3 tiers for club, regional, national) with the bottom level being (eg) £5). The study would look at the feasibility in terms of how this will affect membership and (importantly) income needs and report back to Congress next year.

We could then start to run competitions by license type (as well as Opens) which would create a progression.

Dave Kimpton Would like to think survey could be done on previous lines. Could lead to a reduction in ordinary members but a huge hike at the top end

John Roberts This had been looked at previously

Mike Pegg I have a copy of the previous survey conducted by John Roberts which could help whoever conducted the survey. Of course as David has indicated there is a real threat that a tiered membership structure may result in a loss of members.

Jonathan Sewell That's why this is a study

Jack Milner Tiered Licensing is a must

Bernie Miles SCPA could benefit from a tiered structure

Jack Milner He would be happy to be a part of the working party

Bruce Rowland Membership is currently not expensive, but constantly what does the EPA do for me. We should educate members as to what they get.

Proposed: Chiltern Region - Seconded: Jack Milner

Vote: For:21 - Against: 9 - Abstentions: 1

Proposal 10 - Proposal for Disciplinary Procedures

1. Once the Disciplinary Committee has been convened, its Chairman shall send a written notice to the National Umpire or Investigating Officer, the complainant and the defendant

(a) identifying the members of the Disciplinary Committee

(b) detailing the complaint which the defendant must answer

(c) specifying a venue, date and time at which attendance is required for a hearing of the complaint

(d) specifying a deadline by which any challenges to its composition must be made

(e) specifying a deadline by which requests for the attendance of witnesses should be made

(f) specifying a deadline by which the defendant must submit a written reply to the complaint and any other evidence upon which they intends to rely in his their defence

The notice to the **complainant and** defendant shall be accompanied by all of the evidence on which ~~the any~~ **charges** are based.

2. If ~~either~~ the National Umpire **or Investigating Officer, the complainant** or the defendant requests attendance of any of the witnesses the **Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee** shall send a notice to the witness requiring ~~his or her~~ **their** attendance at the hearing.

~~3. If a member of a Disciplinary Committee is unable or unwilling for whatever reason to hear the complaint, then the Chairman of the Disciplinary Panel may at his absolute discretion appoint another member of the Disciplinary Panel as a replacement or appoint a new Disciplinary Committee~~

3. The **complainant and** defendant may attend the Disciplinary Committee for a hearing of the complaint. For the avoidance of doubt however, provided that due notice of the hearing has been given, if the **complainant or** defendant fails to attend, the hearing may proceed in ~~his~~ **their** absence.

4. The procedures applicable in respect of the hearing before the Disciplinary Committee shall be determined by the Disciplinary Committee as it shall see fit, provided always that such procedures shall be consistent with the requirements of fairness. The procedures shall be advised to the parties at the beginning of the hearing, and the parties shall be entitled to propose amendments to the procedures in the particular circumstances of that case. **To ensure the fairness and transparency of the hearing the procedures followed by the Disciplinary Committee should be published together with the final decision.**

5. It is hereby acknowledged that requirements of fairness are not fixed, but depend for their content on the particular facts and circumstances of the case in question. Nevertheless, they shall usually include at a minimum the following:

5.1 The **complainant and** defendant shall be entitled to be accompanied at the hearing by a person of his ~~their~~ **choice** who may speak on ~~their~~ **behalf**. The **complainant and** defendant and ~~his their~~ **chosen** person shall be entitled to be present for the whole of the hearing other than the private deliberations of the Disciplinary Committee.

~~6.2 The National Umpire shall bear the burden of proving, on the balance of probabilities, that the Defendant has committed a Disciplinary Offence.~~

5.2 The **d**efendant may admit the charge at any time, in which case the Disciplinary Committee shall proceed immediately to hear submissions as to what sanctions (if any) should be imposed.

5.3 The National Umpire **or Investigating Officer** may present oral, written or video evidence from third parties. In such cases the **complainant and** defendant (or ~~his their~~ representative) shall be given a reasonable opportunity to cross-examine (through the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee) those who have given oral evidence and to make representations as to the contents of any written or video evidence.

5.4 The **complainant and** defendant may present oral, written or video evidence from himself or from third parties as **they think** appropriate, in which case the National Umpire **or Investigating Officer** shall be given a reasonable opportunity (through the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee) to cross-examine such witnesses and to make representations as to the contents of any written or video evidence.

- 5.5 Members of the Disciplinary Committee may ask questions of any of the witnesses at the hearing, including the defendant.
- 5.6 After all evidence has been heard the National Umpire or Investigating Officer, the complainant and the defendant will be entitled to make submissions to the Disciplinary Committee.
- 5.7 The Disciplinary Committee is entitled to take account of hearsay evidence and written evidence from parties not present at the hearing but where such evidence conflicts with first hand evidence or evidence from parties present at the hearing the Disciplinary Committee has a duty to attach greater weight to first hand evidence or evidence from those present at the hearing. Subject to the foregoing the Disciplinary Committee shall decide in its absolute discretion what weight, if any, to give to evidence presented to it.
- 5.8 The Disciplinary Committee shall decide all of the issues presented to it fairly and impartially
6. The Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee shall be entitled to suspend or adjourn the hearing for the purposes of investigating any matters arising in the course of the hearing or for any other reason. Such suspension or adjournment shall last only for as long as shall be reasonably necessary.
7. At the conclusion of the disciplinary hearing, the Disciplinary Committee shall confer in private in order to reach a decision. Decisions of the Disciplinary Committee shall be made by majority vote, without right to abstain.
8. Where the Disciplinary Committee is satisfied on the balance of probabilities that the defendant has committed a Disciplinary Offence, then the Disciplinary Committee shall impose such sanction(s) as it shall see fit, ranging from take no further action to expulsion from membership of the EPA. In its discretion, it may invite further submissions from the parties as to what sanctions if any should be imposed prior to making that decision.
9. The Chairman shall inform the complainant and defendant of the Disciplinary Committee's decision, including the reasons for it, in writing within 14 days of the decision being made, and in any event prior to any public announcement being made. Unless an appeal is submitted to the EPA President detailing the grounds for appeal within one calendar month of receipt of the decision the decision shall be binding upon the defendant. The EPA may publicise the Disciplinary Committee's decision after it has been notified to the complainant and defendant and the period for submitting an appeal has passed without an appeal being lodged. ~~The decision shall be binding upon notification to the Defendant. The EPA may publicise the decision after it has been notified to the defendant.~~
10. The Chairman of the Appeal Panel shall inform the complainant and defendant of the Panel's decision, including the reasons for it, in writing within 14 days of the decision being made, and in any event prior to any public announcement being made.

The decision shall be immediately binding upon notification to the defendant. The EPA may publicise the Appeals Panel's decision after it has been notified to the defendant.

- Bernie Miles The read out all modifications that had been worked on by the working Group. He went on to explain that these would ensure that both parties would be dealt with in a fair and open way.
- John Roberts All references to HE should be they and HIS should be their's
- Ged Barton He concurred with the Appeal Panel part
- Bernie Miles These are the procedures to support the constitutional change just made
- Ged Barton That the complainant should also have the right to appeal
- Mike Pegg Read out the entire amended procedure
- Graham Elcome Is it compulsory for a Public Announcement
- Mike Pegg No this was at the discretion of the Management Committee or recommendation by the Disciplinary Committee and/or Appeal Panel

The amendments were then voted on

Proposed: Bernie Miles - Seconded: Ken Buchan

Vote: For 29 - Against: 0 - Abstentions: 0

The amended proposal (as above with modifications in red) was then voted on.

Proposed: Kent Region - Seconded: Jack Milner

Vote: For: 30 - Against: 0 - Abstentions: 0

8. To declare the election of National Officers.

National President

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

Candidate: Mike Pegg

Nominated by: M Bourton, A Gaughan, S Sadler

Candidate: Jerome Rousseau (Nomination withdrawn Friday 30th October)

Nominated by: H Bavazzano, R Powell, D Hancox

National Secretary

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

Candidate: Kevin Moss

Nominated by: M Pegg, M Halsey, P Boarder

Director of Playing

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

Candidate: Herve Bavazzano (Nomination withdrawn Friday 30th October)

Nominated by: R Powell, D Hancox, D Kimpton

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.

Candidate: Martin Baker (Nomination withdrawn Monday 2nd November)

Nominated by: West Midlands PA (Officers: B Stote, D Hancox)

Candidate: David Baxter

Nominated by: Kent PA (Officers: M Eggleton, A Eggleton)

Candidate: Debbie Elcome
 Nominated by: Southern Counties (Officers: B Miles, K Elcome)

Candidate: Graham Elcome
 Nominated by: Southern Counties (Officers: B Miles, K Elcome)

Candidate: Toni Gates
 Nominated by: Chiltern Region (Officers: J Luke, J Sewell)

Candidate: Jonathon Sewell
 Nominated by: Chiltern Region (Officers: G Sullivan, S Fane)

Candidate: Gareth Sullivan
 Nominated by: Chiltern Region (Officers: J Sewell, A Roden)

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.

Candidate: Chris Baron (Nomination not accepted as the League is not affiliated)
 Nominated by: Southern Counties League (Officers: B Miles, K Elcome)

Candidate: Ken Buchan
 Nominated by: Kent Pétanque League (Officers: M Nash, C Senneck)

Arbitrators

Candidates, who must have been members for not less than 5 years at the closing date for nomination.

Candidate: Gerald Barton
 Nominated by: P Webb, D Piggin, A Barton

Candidate: David Kimpton
 Nominated by: J Rousseau, D Hancox, C Powell

Candidate: Les Stuart
 Nominated by: M Blackall, K Gartland, P Webb

Candidate: Tiny Neville
 Nominated by: C Lea, P Neville, M Sheppard

9. To appoint an Auditor or Auditors.

The auditor for the last few years has been P. D. Lumley-Holmes who has recently stated that he does not wish to continue with this audit.

I have made enquiries with local auditors and recommend we appoint Travis & Co of Liphook in Hampshire. The audit will be controlled by the senior partner – M Travis, Travis and Co were established in 1989 and is an accounting firm that services both business and individuals. They strongly support the local community, charities and organisations and will be happy to take on our business.

Proposed: Adrian Thomas - Seconded: Marie Pegg

Vote: For: 32 - Against: 0 - Abstentions: 0

10. To consider such other business as the Presiding Officer may admit. (No vote to be taken)

There was no any other business presented to the president or secretary in advance, but time allowed for the opportunity for some questions. All Answered by Mike Pegg

Don Grimes Could software be used to put a photo direct on the membership card
Mike Pegg **We would investigate this**
Bruce Rowland When would the dates for 2010 be available
Mike Pegg **Some work had been done already, publication would be as soon as possible**
Garry Gould Would the EPA be publishing the Junior World Championship Reports
Mike Pegg **Reports are for the MC and the attention of the National Coach**
Toni Gates Why had the remaining reports been withdrawn from the website
Mike Pegg **Part of the website tidy up**
Brian Stote Timescales for Coaching Commissions
Mike Pegg **As soon as possible, David Lavelle has offered to help**

All other questions were related to the proposals already discussed.

Mike Pegg then closed the AGM with some thank you's, Bob Parker for deputising for John Thatcher, British Sugar for hosting the AGM and all those members who attended.

AGM Closed at 14:25

Adopted at the 2010 Annual General Meeting held on the 20th November 2010

Signed:

Mike Pegg - National President