

English Petanque Association
Annual General Meeting
held on 28th March 2015
at Holiday Inn Reading South
Reading RG2 0SL



Officers Present

Martin Eggleton (ME) – National Vice President (Chair)

Tony Mann (TM) – National Secretary

Cary Bush (CB) – National Treasurer

Members Present

Nigel Ashby (NA)

Robin Ralph (RR)

Ken Buchan (KB)

Peter Astle (PA)

John Roberts (JR)

Brian Forbes (BF)

Ann Barton (AB)

Sue Sandy (SS)

Martin Hughes (MH)

Ged Barton (GB)

Colin Senneck (CS)

Ray Keemer-Richards (RKR)

Jeanne Couch (JC)

Mike Sheppard (MiS)

Jerome Morais (JM_o)

Annette Eggleton (AE)

Beverley Stevenson (BS)

Bob Parker (BP)

Zena Forbes (ZF)

John Thatcher (JT)

Colin Roper (CR)

Robert Gaywood (RG)

Rose Thatcher (RT)

Mary Sheppard (MaS)

Janice Keemer-Richards (JKR)

Faith Thomas (FT)

Neil Stevenson (NS)

Stephen Love (SL)

Tony Thompson (TT)

Adrian Thomas (AT)

Jim Marstin (JMa)

Mags Yates (MY)

Peter Wright (PW)

Tiny Neville (TN)

Ron Yates (RY)

Dave Pallett (DP)

David Baxter (DB)

ME welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced himself, explained Mike Pegg was ill and sent his apologies and held a moment's silence in memory of those no longer with us.

1. To confirm the date of notice of the meeting.

The Preliminary Notice of the meeting was confirmed as being sent out on 7th February 2015 by the National Secretary.

2. To receive apologies for absence

Simon Adamsdale

EPA AGM 2015 Draft

Richard Baker

Simon Bird

Adrian Aldred

Mark Blackall

Brian Burfitt

Helen Blackall

John Chambers

Moiya Clark

Loren Butt

Dawn Constable

Barry Cox

Alan Constable

Graham Elcome

Kim Elcome

Wendy Cripps

Trevor Harris

Alec Hayton

Alan Forse

Robert Herrick

Kath Knight

Kate Herrick

Therese Lewis

Eileen Maguire

Gerry Lewis

Mike Pegg

Richard Powell

Bernie Miles

Julie Sankey

Robert Young

Ron Riddick

3. To approve the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting –29 th March 2014

ME asked if there were any errors, omissions or corrections? There wasn't so ME asked for someone to propose the approval of the minutes.

Proposed – KB Seconded – JC

In Favour 35 Against 0 Abstentions 3

4. To receive the National President's Report

ME read out Mike Pegg's report. ME asked for questions. There were none.

ME concurred with MP and thanked TM for his work as National Secretary for the past 4 years.

5. To receive and, if so resolved, adopt the Association's accounts, Auditor's and Financial reports (for the financial year ending 31st December 2014) CB presented the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2014.

CB highlighted the following :-

Income & Expenditure Account

Income

- 13% increase mainly from the sale of stock from Pétanque Promotions Ltd (PPL), which was nearly £5k at Inter-Regional Championships
- Club Registration Fees – increased and includes additional Affiliated League
- Competition Entry Fees - increased by 16% mainly due to additional Singles Qualifier and Veteran's Championships (held every other year)
- Players Contribution - down due to the cancellation of the Men's World Championships
- Overall income increased by £6.6k of which £5k was from sale of PPL stock

Expenditure

- Cost of membership - mainly processing fees of the IMG system of which 72% for National Fees and 28% for Regional Precepts paid for by the EPA
- Competition Expenses - down due to cancellation of the Men's World Championships and accruals from the previous year for the 2nd , 3rd placed Triples teams not being utilised
- Travel & Meetings – are flat, 72% relates to playing (Home Nations and international) and 28% relates to the administration of the EPA
- Printing, Postage & Stationery - higher mainly due to the posting of the anniversary pin badges and higher toner costs
- Insurance expenses is a full year in 2014 opposed to only 10 months in 2013 but relatively is a 5% increase
- Miscellaneous Expense – Home Nations Accrual and transfer of £5k from sale of PPL stock to Club Small Grant Fund

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- Marketing & Advertising – 2013 expense was for Coaching DVDs and 2014 expense for anniversary pin badges

Bad Debts – members who do not pay bills are now charged a £5 admin fee for each month unpaid (2 individuals currently have not paid bills)

Balance Sheet

- Cash in Bank - just over £55k partly related to accruals for the Club Small Grant Fund and other accruals over time
- Sundry Debtors – year end receivables for new membership licences, Membership Secretary Float and debts
- Accruals - £25k for Club Small Grant Fund (incl £5k for sale of PPL stock), General Reserve, Top Team Prizes (includes £3k for the Men's Team from the cancelled World Championships) and Advanced Membership Fees

CB invited questions :-

GB asked what action the EPA Management Committee (EPA MC) will take against the individuals who have not paid their bills? CB explained their licences were currently suspended so cannot take part in either National or Regional competitions. CB's recommendation to the EPA MC is they are taken to the Small Claims Court.

MH sought clarification if the debt relates to players who have represented our Association? CB explained they relate to the purchase of boules at Hayling Island.

ME explained the current process for players representing our Association is to pay their contribution upfront before travel.

GB asked if there was agreement that due to the sale of the PPL stock our Association has not made any loss regarding PPL? CB responded saying it was very profitable.

DB sought clarification of the total figure for Miscellaneous Expenses in the Profit & Loss? CB explained the accrual for Hosting the Home Nations is negative.

ME invited GB as Auditor to make any comment. GB said his job was made easier as everything was in order.

KB asked what the Rent was for? CB clarified this was for the Association's storage facility. ME clarified it holds trophies, scoreboards etc.

ME asked if there were any more questions on the Accounts or Auditor's Report and as there were not asked for someone to second them :-

Proposed – AE Seconded – JT In Favour 40 Against 0 Abstentions 0

ME thanked CB for the accounts and GB as Auditor.

The accounts and Auditor's report can be found in Appendix 2.

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

ME confirmed there was no proposal from the EPA MC to increase fees or subscriptions this year.

TT asked if consideration for fee increases would be made every other year rather than leaving it for long periods? CB confirmed it would.

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

Proposal 1 – EPA Management Committee

ME read through the introduction to the EPA MC proposal for changes to our Association's Constitution & Rules. ME explained he, KB and Alan Forse, had worked on the proposal looking at the Code of Good Governance and is their thoughts on how to restructure, take the Association forward using best practice and to now bring this to the membership.

GB sought clarification the proposal had come from the EPA MC? ME confirmed it had.

GB asked to have sight of the EPA MC Meeting minute where this was agreed confirming this was a technical point he was raising. TM referred to Mike Pegg's report where he had said the proposals were worked on by 3 members of the EPA MC and ME had clarified these members to be ME, KB and Alan Forse. TM clarified Mike Pegg had alluded in his report agreement was not reached by the whole of the EPA MC on all of the presented proposals but the EPA MC had agreed to present the work completed by ME, KB and Alan Forse to the AGM.

TM confirmed there is not a minuted agreement from an EPA MC meeting. GB asked without minuted agreement how the EPA MC could put forward this proposal? ME acknowledged this was a very valid question and said though there was no formal vote it was agreed to bring this package of proposals forward.

GB said this should be minuted and asked if there is a formal minuted proposal from the EPA MC? TM confirmed there is not.

GB suggested to the Chair the proposal is incorrect and should not be placed before the meeting.

MH said because so much work had been conducted and there were so many important changes he would prefer a debate about each item bearing in mind there was not agreement from the EPA MC and treat them as items for discussion.

GB fully understood the points raised and the amount of work conducted but said the Constitution, as voted for by the members, means this meeting has no powers to vary it. GB suggested the motion be withdrawn and to be discussed and debated under Any Other Business (AOB).

ME clarified the AGM or an EGM are the forums to put forward Constitutional changes via a properly presented proposal.

AE supported moving the motion for a discussion under AOB and coming back to an EGM at some later point.

NS felt the EPA MC must had discussed this proposal and therefore had intent to put forward a

proposal. ME confirmed there had been a number of meetings where this was discussed but the exact proposals had not been minuted.

TM confirmed there was discussion at EPA MC meetings about the proposals but formal agreement over exactly what to take forward to the AGM was never reached. TM clarified a lot of discussion within the EPA MC took place via email as they only meet periodically but no consensus of agreement by the EPA MC was met.

KB agreed with GB that the proposal should not be put forward at this AGM. Further KB said this should be postponed for a later EGM or AGM but to be discussed under AOB and other forums. JT said as a Regional President he felt 28 days was not enough for him to discuss the proposed changes to members of his region.

NA spoke about the EPA being democratic and members transferring responsibility to those on the EPA MC. NA felt in principal we should accept the proposal as put forward by the EPA MC.

GB interrupted saying the EPA MC had already said they were not in agreement over the proposals. NA asked the Chair if there were members of the EPA MC who were opposed to the proposal being put forward? ME said there were differences of opinion as to what proposals were to be put forward.

GB felt it had been confirmed the EPA MC proposal had not been put forward in accordance with the Constitution. Though GB understood NA's views he said the EPA MC are elected by members and should act in accordance with the Constitution as voted on by the members.

ME said he noted GB's point and said he would on behalf of the EPA MC withdraw the proposal but discuss them under AOB without any vote being taken.

MH read out article 12.1.4 of the Constitution "To consider and, if so resolved, approve motions submitted in accordance with the Constitution and Bye-laws:

(a) to amend the Constitution, (b) proposed by the MC,.... ". MH sought clarification the argument being debated was the EPA MC didn't put the proposals forward? ME replied there was not any documented minute of agreement for the proposals.

RR asked if the Constitution states the EPA MC must all be in agreement? ME agreed it does not but said it was the documented evidence.

BF felt we should be more pragmatic as we were rejecting a lot of good work and surely we should be passing a motion regarding these proposals?

ME understood BF's point but should we make any changes this could be challenged as being unconstitutional further down the line. ME apologised on behalf of the EPA MC for not properly presenting the motions.

ME paused the meeting at 12.30 so those present in the EPA MC could discuss the withdrawal of the motion. The meeting resumed at 12.43.

ME confirmed the EPA MC were withdrawing their motion and proposals 1 through to 20.

Proposal 2 – Kent Pétanque Association

ME invited DB to present the proposal.

DB explained the Playing Commission was introduced to replace the Director of Playing, a post that could not be filled. DB said it was ridiculous an organisation concerned with the playing of pétanque does not have a constitutionally appointed body for the organisation of pétanque.

ME replied the EPA MC are volunteers of our members and they have sought people to perform these roles. ME concurred with DB adding we need the right people to run our sport and we need to challenge people to come forward.

JT fully supported the proposal clarifying it is not for one person to always be present and needs to be shared. KB clarified the Playing Commission consists of people nominated not just by the EPA MC but also our Regions so the challenge is also for our Regions.

ME read Kent's proposal "This AGM calls on the EPA Management Committee to enact the constitutional provisions for a Playing Commission during 2015".

Proposed – DB In Favour 40 Seconded – JT Against 0 Abstentions 0
ME added he would look to the members to help him make this happen.

8. To declare the election of Management Committee members (Affiliated League and County Region).

Management Committee – Affiliated League – (2 vacancies / 1 nomination)

Candidate: Kenneth Buchan

Nominated by: Kent Petanque League – Mike Cubitt (President)

ME declared Kenneth Buchan appointed.

Management Committee – County Region – (4 vacancies / 2 nominations)

Candidate:

David Baxter

Nominated by: Kent Petanque Association – Corinne Cooter (Acting President)

Candidate:

Alan Roden

Nominated by: Chiltern Region – Neil Stevenson (President)

ME declared David Baxter and Alan Roden appointed.

9. To declare the election of National Officers

National President – (1 nomination)

Candidate: Martin Eggleton

Nominated by: David Baxter, Robert Gaywood, Sheila King

ME declared himself National President. ME thanked people for their support saying he was looking forward to the next 2 years. ME said he has both played and organised pétanque over the past 25 years and has been on the National MC, been Kent's President for the past 10 years and is all about playing and the players and is keen to attract more members and is an enabler. ME's day job is a Management Consultant previously with Lloyds Bank and IBM but now has own consultancy. ME has a broad number of skills and will do some stuff but will encourage others to do things and provide guidance. ME introduced AE saying he could only do this with her full support adding she will be seen doing things. ME thanked everyone saying he was looking forward to the next 2 years and taking the sport forward.

National Secretary – (no nominations)

ME said we had no candidate and asked if anyone was interested in the role to speak to him afterwards.

National Vice President – (2 nominations)

Candidate:

Martin Hughes

Nominated by: Richard Powell, Neil Dilley, Jack Blows

Candidate:

Neil Stevenson

Nominated by: Gareth Sullivan, Sean Prendergast, David Dent

ME explained a postal ballot of all members was held. TM clarified it was Constitutionally necessary for the EPA MC to approve a ballot, and they did so on 2nd March 2015. Members registered with our Association at this time (1905) were therefore eligible to vote.

ME opened the sealed envelope containing the vote and declared for the National Vice President Ballot the Arbitrators confirmed on Thursday 10th March 2015 they received from the National President all unopened envelopes relating to the above mentioned ballot, as received by him. The envelopes were opened and a total of 617 voting papers were received. Of these 5 were rejected. The votes recorded for each candidate were as follows:

Martin Hughes 384 Neil Stevenson 228

Martin Hughes 384 Neil Stevenson 228

All papers have been retained by the Arbitrators and will be destroyed after the 2015 AGM. Signed

and dated as a true record of the count by Ged Barton, Robert Herrick and John Thatcher.
GB said subsequent to the report the Arbitrators returned all paperwork to the National President at his request.

ME declared Martin Hughes as the National Vice President and welcomed him to the EPA MC. ME also thanked Neil Stevenson and said he would like to discuss with him at some time his involvement. TM and ME thanked the Arbitrators for all their hard work on the ballot.

National Membership Secretary – (1 nomination / 1 year term of office due to vacancy)

Candidate:

Ray Keemer-Richards

Nominated by: Peter Clarke, Jenny Clarke, Janice Keemer-Richards

TM clarified and apologised for the AGM paperwork showing Ray had been nominated by himself when it was in fact Janice Keemer-Richards.

ME declared Ray Keemer-Richards appointed.

Director of Promotions – (no nominations / 1 year term of office due to vacancy)

ME said we had no candidate and asked if anyone was interested in the role to speak to him afterwards.

10. To declare the election of Arbitrators.

Candidate:

Gerald Barton

Nominated by: Ann Barton, Tony Mann, Mike Pegg

Candidate:

Robert Herrick

Nominated by: Peter Lynas, Graeme Kirkham, Susan Williamson

ME declared Gerald Barton and Robert Herrick appointed.

11. To appoint an Auditor or Auditors.

The EPA MC nominated Gerald Barton as Auditor.

GB said he had been the Auditor for some years and gave notice this will be his last year as Auditor to give time to find someone new.

ME declared GB appointed.

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

JT – Titles Weekend

JT explained the Titles Weekend was going back to ISCA PC in Exeter, Devon this year. The Devon Region had produced information about accommodation options, including 10 camping pitches by the terrains (on a first come first served basis). The information document will be going up on the EPA Facebook page soon. JT asked everyone to pass the information around their clubs and members. CS asked if it was a 3-year deal. ME confirmed it was with periodic reviews

CR – Coaching CR provided an update on Coaching this included :-

- 3 new coaches in the Thames Valley Region recently appointed
- Club Coaching Courses in East Midlands to take place
- Applications from Anglia, Eastern, Kent, London, Chiltern and Thames Valley
- New Coaching Licences will be produced
- DBS certificate and Coaching Licences will be brought in line
- Coaching Certificates will also be produced
- Club Advanced and County Coach level are currently being worked on and will be announced shortly
- Looking for someone to lead on the Espoirs Squad and Youth Development CR asked everyone to support their juniors.

AT – D Soriano AT asked the EPA MC if they had any plans to overturn the ban on D Soriano? ME replied this was not under discussion, the disciplinary was completed, closed and reached its conclusion.

PA – Registered Office

PA asked if the registered office address for the Association would remain the same? ME said this would form part of many items to be reviewed in the transition.

ME went on to say one of the challenges for him and the new EPA MC is to work with TM and Mike Pegg on the handover. ME acknowledged a lot of hard work had been done pre-season but there was still work to be completed as we go forward.

EPA MC – proposed Constitutional changes

ME introduced the proposed changes produced by ME, KB and Alan Forse saying the Constitution had not been thoroughly looked at for 10 years. ME then introduced KB to lead the discussion. KB talked about the Sports & Recreational Alliance (SRA) Code of Good Governance and how the EPA MC adopted it shortly after it came out. KB said it is similar to other codes of governance, sharing a lot of common practices, adding the SRA Code also covers the safeguarding of the sport. KB said a lot of good work had already been conducted and achieved building up Codes of Conduct for Members, Coaches and the EPA MC. KB said the EPA MC was now moving on towards the structure and function of the EPA MC. KB explained the SRA Code talks about a Board of Directors, which is the EPA MC, and they have legal responsibilities, whether they like it or not, and part of the proposal is to put this in the foreground for our members benefit. The EPA MC is there to make policy decisions but should be implementing policies its members want.

Proposal 1 – Amend definition and powers and duties of the MC – KB said this is a cosmetic proposal redefining the EPA MC away from being a MC and towards a governing body.

Proposals 6- To reduce the number of designated National Officers & 7 – To enable the MC to nominate candidates for membership of the MC

KB explained this was a move towards making the EPA MC more roles and skills based. KB clarified the EPA MC are all volunteers and have a dual function to make decisions and do jobs. The proposal was to provide more flexibility to allocate these jobs to people best able to do them. KB explained a number of National Officers are elected without any qualification or experience. KB clarified the proposal would remove the elected positions of National Membership Secretary and Director of Promotions to be replaced with appointed people by the EPA MC.

MaS asked if there were job descriptions? ME replied there were but this does not prevent someone unqualified from being appointed. MaS thought it should if they were unsuitable and ME explained currently if there is only one candidate they are elected.

GB said the appointment of officers should not be placed in the hands of a few people on the EPA MC when we are an Association of members and should be answerable to them. KB argued this is not what was being proposed and the jobs within the EPA MC should be allocated to those best qualified. KB stated the EPA MC would not appoint people without those names going before the members to be voted on.

TM observed the proposal talks about the previously elected National Officers being appointed by the MC (Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) yet the proposed Constitutional changes do not cover this? KB agreed.

NA put forward a scenario where the EPA MC decide they should have 10 members and once they are appointed then the EPA MC decide who does what? ME clarified those appointments come from 2 pools : 1) the membership and 2) the EPA MC.

AT expressed confusion about the vetting process? ME said the EPA MC would present at an AGM candidates they've nominated who they feel are best suited for that job for the members to ratify. AT presented a scenario of the members putting forward someone else to a job as well as the EPA MC.

ME explained the EPA MC do not say who the members should chose. ME said the responsibility of the EPA MC is to demonstrate their person is the best for the job. GB strongly disagreed and reiterated the decision should be with the members and at no time should there be any vetting by a small group within the EPA MC saying who the members should vote for. There was confusion over whether the membership and the EPA MC could nominate candidates for a National Officer role such as Treasurer. ME clarified this could happen and a vote would take place and the EPA MC would have to abide by the outcome. Both AT and GB expressed great care needs to taken over the wording.

TT asked if the EPA MC were going to recommend a candidate to a post and at the AGM the members would either agree or disagree with the recommendation. ME said this was correct. TT asked if the members disagree do the EPA MC expect the members to then have a candidate? ME said it would remain the responsibility for the EPA MC to find a candidate.

CS felt the Association is short of volunteers now and this proposal would make it even less likely people will volunteer. ME said this has been discussed, is best practice and should be attempted even though it will be a challenge.

SS felt this was no different than what is already happening today. ME said it is very similar but takes away various roles to a skills based approach. SS said we see the profiles of candidates and the members are more than capable of choosing if they think the person is suitable. ME cited we had a vote for the Vice President role but there was not any vote for the President role and though he believes he has the necessary skills others may think he has not, yet under the Constitution he is in place for 2 years.

KB said there is a difference between Regional nominated EPA MC members and EPA MC Officers. KB explained Regionally nominated EPA MC members would have to convince their Region they are suitably qualified before the Region would endorse them. Whereas with EPA MC Officers only 3 members need to propose the individual and there is not the same level of filtering. FT said the danger with this is you could get one Region dominating the EPA MC and added candidates can put whatever they like into their profile. ME said one of the safeguards within the Regional EPA MC Members is each Region can only have a maximum of 2 members. JT said KB was providing a brief on the SRA Code but we have moved onto Proposal 7.

MH said it is important for all organisations to review whether they are fit for purpose and this is a good time to do so though he had reservations about the EPA MC choosing candidates. The SRA Code talks about identifying roles and responsibilities and if there is a job needing doing that the EPA MC does not have the necessary skills for you should co-opt someone who has. MH cited the EPA Junior Squad as an example and his hope this is extended to the Espoirs. MH suggested we are trying to fix a problem we don't already have and this is not the right way to solve it.

RKR expressed confusion saying for the role of National Membership Secretary three people proposed him and as no one else stood he has the job. RKR asked if we were moving to people standing for the EPA MC and then the EPA MC deciding who does the job? ME agreed adding if no one has the skills then the EPA MC can go and get the right person.

TN said care should be taken over the word "vetting" and recounted an example of another organisation, which used the word and led to legal action. ME said the EPA MC need to further review these proposals and the communication needs to be earlier, fuller and clearer.

ME said Proposals 1, 6 & 7 had been covered and moved on to the remaining proposals.

Proposal 2 – To rename County Regions as Regions – ME explained this was a rewording exercise only. JT agreed with the proposal but asked within the Constitution for a Region Committee to be referred to as a Regional Committee.

Proposal 3 – To revoke the entitlement of Affiliated Leagues to nominate candidates for election to the MC – ME explained currently Affiliated Leagues have 2 positions they can put forward candidates to on the EPA MC and there are 3 Affiliated Leagues at present. ME explained this is a re-balancing exercise giving the ability back to the Regions. TM corrected the proposal document

clarifying we have 15 County Regions and not 14 as stated.

Proposal 4 – To limit any one County Region to have no more than 2 of its members in the County Region section of the MC at any one time – ME said this is to prevent one Region from controlling the EPA MC. SS observed some Regions are bigger than others and suggested the EPA MC should be proportionally represented. ME replied we have this at Congress level.

Proposal 5 – To replace the Playing Commission with a MC sub-committee – ME explained this move as bringing the Playing Committee in line with other sub-committees. JT felt using the phrase “onerous position” was unhelpful. TM expressed his concern the two things our members care and contact us most about are playing and membership/licence matters. TM was concerned we propose removing the Playing Commission along with the position of Chair of the Commission and the role of National Membership Secretary from the EPA MC and asked where this leaves our members? ME said TM was absolutely right and we should be the enablers of the sport.

Proposal 8 – Extending the term of Office of Arbitrators to 2 years – ME explained this was to bring this in-line with other positions.

TM asked CB if he had recommended to the EPA MC that the Auditor should also have a term of office of 2 years? CB confirmed he had. ME acknowledged this.

Proposal 9 – To extend the National President’s term of office to 4 years – ME explained someone coming in to lead the organisation needs time and 2 years is too short. ME said the 1st year is understanding the organisation and formulating a strategy and vision. The 2nd year is the implementation with the 3rd year seeing the benefits and this is a standard model. ME said at present with a 2-year term we could have a continuous churn and not see the benefits adding we had been lucky to have Mike Pegg in office for 10 years. GB asked ME about the 4th year asking if this was the re-election year and ME said it was. MH did not think a 4-year term was a good idea for two reasons :-

- 1) Accountability – concern over having someone in office for 4 years, saying it is healthy to have a more regular turnover
- 2) Commitment – how do you convince someone to sign up for 4-years?

BF returned to Proposal 3 and observed with 15 Regions it is possible to have Regions with no representation on the EPA MC. ME acknowledged the EPA MC is not a representational Board as in terms of the old BPA Council. ME said one of the key things for him and the new EPA MC is looking at engagement. BF asked ME to closely look at the representation of every Region? ME said he would. JT commented this is already available via the National & Regional Officers meeting and has bridged this gap for the last 3 years. GB recommended the EPA MC to have a Regional represented Council, which would serve as a check & balance as he felt the Association had suffered from a lack of communication with its members.

DB said he was dismayed when he received the EPA MC proposal having been an architect of the current Constitution. DB felt if it needed so many changes then it must be broken. DB said the current Constitution was a move away from the representational BPA Council model to a modern management method. DB felt we had lost engagement and representation and as such we had lost member’s sense of obligation. DB said the unintended consequence of not having Council was there is no vehicle for members to become involved at a National level. DB said they tried to put in checks and balances and to keep members engaged via Congress when they wrote the current Constitution. DB felt Congress had failed because it was dealing with too difficult and technical playing matters for a meeting of that size to deal with saying Regions had more representation than was good for them. DB said now he was on the EPA MC he would be taking a close look at representation and executive powers and to look at getting increased involvement.

GB agreed with DB saying if we had Council the EPA MC could have presented their proposals to the Regions who could have then consulted with their members and fed back. NA felt we impose higher standards for our Association than other organisations do. NA said he would only attend a National meeting to find out what was going on or if he was concerned about something they were doing, adding these are not good reasons to attend. NA likes the idea of having a skills based body

getting on with functions without interference.

ME said the EPA MC have to demonstrate to the Regions, Clubs and members they have the skills, are doing the job and there is two-way communication. ME thanked TM for reminding him when he re-joined the EPA MC to use the phrase “our Association” rather than “the EPA” or the Management and the members.

TM clarified the proposal put forward by ME, KB & Alan Forse was not to do away with Congress. TM said it was clear from our last National & Regional Officers meeting, where the EPA MC asked if Congress and the Officer meetings were fit for purpose, that our Regional Officers were equally divided. TM said he felt the proposal put forward was a healthy one, whereby we do not tie ourselves to having to hold Congress if no motions are put forward, which our current Constitution does. TM cited last year when neither the EPA MC nor our Regions put forward motions and we took a common sense approach to seek agreement from our Regions to cancel Congress and avoid the expense for all. TM said the feedback from our Regions was that the National & Regional Officers meetings were valuable. The EPA MC introduced these meetings 3 years ago because they identified the disengagement with our Regions and saw these meetings as a mechanism to re-establish our engagement with them. TM said this had helped to bridge the gap and there was room for both Congress and the National & Regional Officers meetings. TM acknowledged the EPA MC had been seeking to move away from a representational committee towards a focus on a skills & role based committee. TM felt it needed to be a healthy balance of the two, as if we moved too far one way we will disengage with our Regions and members but if we move too far the other way we could end up with a representational committee without the skills required for the roles.

Proposal 11 – To remove the disciplinary clauses from the constitution – ME explained very few organisations have their Disciplinary Procedures detailed within their Constitutions. Further ME explained the Procedures should be in the hands of the EPA MC and a lot of work had been conducted on new procedures. MaS was happy with a stand-alone procedure but added because of past issues within her Region (Southern) over the procedures she felt this was why the Region was poorly represented at this AGM. MaS said good points were raised at the last AGM but felt before the procedures are removed from the Constitution it should be published so others can have their input. JT agreed saying we need to see what is going to replace the procedures within the Constitution before it is removed. ME acknowledged this but said we cannot consult with all members and take account of 2000 people’s feedback so the EPA MC should be left to direct. MaS felt good alternative ideas could come forward. ME said he understood this but he did not wish to disenfranchise those whose input is not incorporated and there is a balance between full engagement and direction.

TM re-iterated the point raised by MaS and JT, saying the EPA MC put forward a proposal to remove the detail of the Disciplinary Procedures from our Constitution but did not share with the members what was going to replace it. TM said this was necessary and agreed with MaS & JT. ME said he noted this.

Proposal 12 – To enable alternative procedures to be formulated for balloting members – JT said if the postal ballot is going to be replaced then the members should know what it is going to be replaced with.

ME agreed, explaining we had to go to a Postal Vote for the Vice President and the proposal provides the EPA MC with the flexibility to look at other more cost effective methods of balloting all members without being too prescriptive.

ME said there were a number of online systems out there we could look at. TM explained he had conducted an exercise the day before on email addresses of all our current members and highlighted the following :-

- 67% of members have a unique email address, adding this is a good start
- 33% of members don’t have a unique email address and the EPA MC would need to look at how

those members are incorporated in any online vote

- only 2% of members do not have an email address on the database
 - 31% of members share an email address with one or more other members. The challenge for the EPA MC is to ensure their invite to any ballot reaches each of those individuals
 - of the 31% of members with shared email addresses it ranges from 235 different email address being shared by 2 members, to 1 instance of an email address being shared by 20 members
- TM clarified these are not reasons why the EPA MC cannot conduct online ballots but these challenges need to be overcome.

ME clarified the proposal was to enable the EPA MC to not be handcuffed to only being able to conduct postal ballots. TT suggested all Regions and Clubs could encourage their members to each have their own email address.

Proposal 13 – To remove the entitlement of members to requisition an EGM – ME explained there is a current discrepancy between who can requisition an EGM and who can attend. ME added the proposal seeks to rectify this and give more emphasis to the clubs rather than just 50 members, explaining some individual clubs have more than 50 members, so that more groundswell support is required.

DB agreed there is a discrepancy but felt the Constitution is a balance between member's rights and delegation to the EPA MC. DB felt 50 members should still be able to requisition an EGM even if they are all from one club. ME said there is a current inconsistency, this needs to be resolved, this was the EPA MC's proposal and going forward we can agree with the membership.

Proposal 14 – To clarify the definition of independent members – ME explained this is clarification of an Independent member only being at Regional level, within the Region they live, and not at a National level.

Proposal 15 – To clarify the minimum membership requirements for Registered Clubs – ME said there is no change here just clarification of the members required.

Proposal 16 – To introduce a procedure for the appointment of Auditors – ME said this looks at including a procedure for appointing Auditors and will also look at their term of office as previously discussed.

Proposal 17 – To clarify the procedure for the election of the National President and MC Members (Region) – ME explained this goes back to the Good Governance. TM clarified the proposed new Articles 7.2.2 and 7.2.3 of the Constitution as written in the supporting document were not included within the proposed Constitution submitted and causes confusion.

Proposal 18 – To clarify the financial components of the Membership Fees – ME explained this is to clarify the National Fees and Regional Precepts.

Proposal 19 – To clarify the Association's duty to insure its members – ME said this is to clarify the Association's duties regarding insurance. DB felt we should not be referring to the rules of the CEP and FIPJP in our Constitution. ME explained we affiliate to both organisations. JT asked if General Liability Insurance is the same as Third Party Liability Insurance and were Mann Broadbent aware of this and is it going to cost more money? ME will look into this and added because "General Liability" is capitalised it should be defined and referenced.

Proposal 20 – To make minor grammatical improvements and to make other corrections – ME explained this proposal was just a tidy up.

BF – Indoor Arena

BF explained he had become friends with Fleming Jensen who challenged him to put on a European or World event. BF asked how active the EPA MC is at establishing an indoor arena? ME said he has obtained the criteria from the CEP and finding an appropriate and affordable indoor venue is a challenge. ME said an indoor event was held in Godmanchester and this cost in the region of £20/30k and it is finding the funds more than the venue, which will be the challenge. ME said finding sponsorship would be difficult as we have little to offer back or a unique selling point to make us attractive to sponsors. ME said finding the land and building a venue may be achievable but finding the people and money to run it on day-to-day basis without employing people will be difficult. ME said he would love to host a CEP or FIPJP tournament but need to have a business case and the Worlds would cost in the region of £750k. NS spoke about a project he was involved with in the Chiltern Region with an indoor purpose built venue but there was not a business case. NS said he received little commitment from other Regions or the EPA to use the venue.

ME thanked everyone for turning up and their input saying he enjoyed an inter-active meeting. TM thanked ME for presiding over the AGM at short notice and GB congratulated ME for handling a difficult meeting very well. ME said he is looking forward to the next two years. KB asked the meeting to give a vote of thanks to the retiring EPA MC President and Secretary for their work for the Association over the years. ME gave his personal thanks to Mike Pegg and TM.

Meeting closed at 16.45.