



Welsh Petanque Association

Annual General Meeting – Monday 30th October 2006 8.00pm held at the ROF Club, Glascoed.

Present (executive): Richard Trego, Chris Jones, Dave Cannan, Gay Evans, John Legge, Tansy Mayfield, Dan Murphy, Derek Jones.

Apologies: Peter Westall, Diane Westall, Phil Bradshaw, Coral Jenkins, Don Jenkins, Jenny Tottle, Glynn Attley, Chris Jones.

Representatives of: Tradesman's Arms, Wenvoe PC, The Barn PC, The Wheatsheaf PC, Panteg Phoenix PC, Caerleon RFC PC, Abergavenny PC, ROF PC, Penarth PC & Brecon RFC PC.

1. Opening

Dan opened the meeting by distributing minutes from the previous General Meeting, the Agenda, and the accounts. He reminded the meeting that there would be a ballot for contested positions, but that uncontested positions would not be voted upon. He asked if there were any further nominations for positions: none were received and nominations were duly closed at 8.50pm. He confirmed that the date of the meeting was notified in due course and in a timely fashion.

1.i Minutes of previous AGM: Tony Smith raised a question in response to the previous year's minutes: he asked if the accounts had been audited as agreed: Dan noted the auditor was not available to supply a report but that they had been submitted and would be presented at a future meeting. It was proposed that the minutes were accepted, and this motion was duly seconded.

1.i Minutes of previous Open Meeting: the minutes were accepted.

2. Presentation

Dan presented a cup for the winners of the Welsh League 1 to replace the one that disappeared.

3. Reports

3.i. President's report: Dan presented and spoke to his report. Dan noted that the membership had increased, that more people were entering WPA competitions, and that the standard of playing had increased considerably in the past year. The juniors have done particularly well. He noted that not only were local competitions well supported but that a number of major events had been hosted in Wales including the Grand Prix, the North Sea committee.

3.ii. Accounts & financial report: Dan spoke to the income and expenditure balance sheet supplied. He noted that the income had risen considerably since devolution so that more money was staying in Wales.

Tony Smith asked about the expenditure from the 100 club. Dan stated that no monies had been spent in the previous accounting year. Tony suggested that therefore a dash might be put next to the entry to indicate that no money had been spent.

Peter Clarke asked about expenses for the North Sea tournament which took place in Norway this year: the expenditure was for Derek Jones to attend the tournament as Umpire to extend his skills and experience: it had been agreed unanimously by the Executive to support this. Peter asked whether a report had been supplied by Derek to reflect on what he had gained from this. He had supplied a spoken report to the most recent Executive in which he noted what a valuable experience it had been. A number of the people present at the meeting said that they would welcome further feedback to the general membership to see the benefit. It was suggested that the president request a written report.

Pres.

John Prosser noted there was such a limited amount of sponsorship for the WPA, citing the example of sponsorship for the Home Nations 2006. He suggested that more effort be made to attract more support and he offered to give information of ways to pursue more financial support. In relation to the Home Nations, Peter Thomas stated that he had been asked to contribute to the design of the programme – but at very short notice. He suggested more advance planning for sponsorship and supporting materials would be useful.

3.iii Fees: Dan noted that the Exec had recommended that the current fees for leagues etc would remain the same.

4. Motions To amend the constitution

4.i. Mechanisms to remove members of Executive Committee (proposed by Abergavenny PC): Peter Clarke spoke to this. Article 5.4.i would be amended to state that if a member of the Exec fails to

attend 3 consecutive meetings they would be made to stand down, and disbarred from standing for an EC position again for 2 calendar years. An election would be held to replace that member. The Club proposed this, as there is no sanction for non-attendance in the present Constitution. The motion was duly seconded by Austin Jones.

Kevin Hughes asked if the APC meant Executive meetings only, or general meetings. It was confirmed that this referred to Executive meetings only.

Tony Smith asked to clarify whether it referred to appointed positions or elected positions. Peter Clarke said that it should apply to either case.

Peter Thomas asked why someone should be disbarred from standing for 2 years when there are annual elections. Tony Smith noted that the caveat about being disbarred for 2 years was not required because the electorate would probably not wish to vote for that person anyway. Peter Clarke stated that the only way it could act as a sanction was to have a fixed term penalty.

The motion was duly voted on and carried.

ii. To reduce the Executive Committee to five people (proposed by Panteg House).

Kevin Hughes spoke to this. He noted that the Committee used to stand at 5 and that this had run the region successfully in the past. He stated that this might allow the Exec to meet more quickly and be more responsive. The posts that would be lost were – YDO, Coach, Press officer, Umpire. The proposal was seconded by Chris Brown.

Brian Spooner asked what level of attendance was required for the Exec to be considered quorate. Dan noted it was not set down anywhere, but that it was assumed to be 50%. Peter Clarke noted that under the proposal the Exec would be quorate with just 3 members attending. John Prosser noted that the Executive needed to be as representative as possible and should therefore remain larger. Paul Mayfield noted that if the Exec is left to appoint people to specialist posts (e.g. YDO), it is left to 5 people to choose it may not reflect the desire of the membership. Peter Clarke noted that many of the difficulties in calling meetings was dependent on the accountability of the members – if members of the Exec are subject to sanctions then it becomes more likely that quorate meetings can be called.

Panteg withdrew the motion.

No other proposals were received.

5. Elections and Appointments

Tansy Mayfield (Exec member, not standing for re-election), John Legge (standing for an uncontested post), Tony Flynn (ordinary member) agreed to act as returning officers.

Dan explained the process for voting for the contested posts and read through the list of nominations for these posts. Peter Clarke (APC) asked whether it was constitutional for people who were not present at the meeting to stand for election. Dan noted that it was very unusual for an election to take place with one of the candidates absent – however, it is not disbarred by the Constitution. Therefore the nominations for absent members would stand.

Tansy summarised the discussion held by the Executive about the disparity between absent candidates being allowed to put a statement forward and not being present to respond, versus candidates being present to take questions. Peter Clarke noted that the EC had been put in an untenable decision in making this decision. Tansy stated that, following discussion, both Dan and Gay (the present candidates) were happy to answer questions.

5.i Uncontested positions: the following candidates were officially appointed to the Executive as the positions were uncontested: Tony Smith was declared Press officer; Roger Griffin was declared secretary; Alison Walton was declared YDO; John Legge was declared VP playing; Dave Cannan was declared VP.

5.ii. Contested Positions: Kevin Hughes read out Peter Westall statement as candidate for treasurer.

Dan read out a statement on Gay Evan's behalf as candidate for treasurer. Gay invited questions: none were raised

Roger Griffin read out Don Jenkins's statement as candidate for president.

Dan made his statement as candidate for president. Dan invited questions: Peter Clarke asked how communication might be improved. Dan noted that more regular Exec meetings (rather than responsive meetings) would help to ensure regular updates.

The elections were duly held for these two positions. 64 members voted, and votes were checked by John Legge and Tansy Mayfield.

Treasurer: Peter Westall was elected 40 to 24

President: Don Jenkins was elected - 37 to 27

5.iii. Election of delegate to BPF Congress: John Legge stood as a delegate and was duly elected to attend the Congress in Scotland.

Any Other Business

Appointment of auditors: It was agreed to leave this to the Executive to appoint auditors for the forthcoming year.

Appointment of Arbitrators: It was agreed to leave this to the Executive's decision

NOTE: Three items were submitted by APC – but they agreed to withdraw them due to the lateness of the hour

Closure

11.20pm meeting closed.