

WELSH PETANQUE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7th November 2007 R.O.F Club 8.00pm

Present: (Executive) Dave Cannan, Roger Griffin, Don Jenkins, Derek Jones, Tony Smith, Richard Trego, Alison Walton, Peter Westall.

Representatives from the following clubs: Abergavenny, Barn, Caerleon, Monkstone, Panteg, Penarth, Wenvoe, Wheatsheaf.

Apologies: Tansy Mayfield, Chris & Sandra Jones, Ian & Julie Bailey, Phil Bradshaw, Rod Dobbins.

Nominations: Don Jenkins (President) asked if there were any further nominations for positions on the WPA Executive. None were received and Don announced that nominations were therefore closed.

Previous Minutes: The minutes of the AGM held on 30th October 2006 were accepted (proposed Tony Flynn; seconded Chris Brown).

Matters Arising: (i) It was confirmed that Derek Jones's report on the North Sea tournament had been submitted to the Executive.

(ii) It was noted that audited accounts from the previous WPA Executive remained outstanding.

President's Report: Don was pleased to report that the WPA had had a very good year. It had held more tournaments and more members had played than ever before. The WPA league now had 23 teams competing in three divisions. The 2006-07 season had stretched from January to October, a sign perhaps of global warming or a revitalized zest for the game.

The European Cup for Club had got the year started. The Wales qualifiers for this event had proved a great success with The Wheatsheaf coming out on top. They were accompanied to the GB play-offs by The Monkstone who then lost in the final to a very strong English team.

The Celtic Challenge was held at Abergavenny in May and was regarded by all as a resounding success. Abergavenny PC could be justifiably proud of their achievement in hosting this event. Wales 'A' won the challenge convincingly. Again Wales provided the top triple but this time there were two: Paul Bond, Neil Dobbins & Rod Dobbins and Kevin Hughes, Christine Hughes & Chris Jones.

The WPA Open Weekend held at the end of May was affected by appalling weather. Nevertheless, competitions took place on all three days. The big success of the weekend was the turnout for the mixed doubles on the Monday.

In June Brecon RFC PC hosted the ladies top 8 Qualifier and the BPF International Qualifier. The organisers and players were extremely complimentary about the venue and the superb organisation provided by Brecon PC. Two WPA triples went on to finish in the top 8 teams. Another first.

The Home Nations Championship was played in Inverness Scotland on 11/12th August. The WPA took a comparatively inexperienced team to compete on a very challenging terrain. Although Wales finished in third place, many of our players came of age and there were some remarkable success stories. Wales Juniors came second with nine good wins.

The EPA Inter-Regional Championships were held at Brean Sands on September 8/9th. The WPA was competing in Division 1. Historically Wales have moved up and down between the two divisions on an annual basis and this year was no exception, with Wales failing to stay up. However, there were some excellent results from many of our least experienced players and a very creditable performance from the Wales Juniors. Don took the opportunity to congratulate all those who had represented Wales during the year and in particular those who had done it for the first time. Don felt that the standard of play was improving in the association, which could only bode well for the future.

Don congratulated the WPA National Champions:

National Singles:	Steve Brace
National Doubles:	Phil Bradshaw & Neil Dobbins
National Triples:	Coral Jenkins, Peter Westall & Don Jenkins

Finally, Don wished to say a few words about the WPA Executive. It had been one of the best committees he had ever served on. The members had all striven to contribute not just in their allocated areas but also in every other area. Each and every one had made a huge contribution. The Executive had achieved some of the objectives they had set themselves and made progress in many. There was of course still much to do. The decision made a week before to devolve the WPA from the BPF would allow our association to take full control of our sport.

It was with sadness that Don had to report that two members of the Executive, Dave Cannan and John Legge, had decided not to seek re-election. Dave had elected to stand down after long and valuable service. His talents were obvious as a great people person and someone totally respected for his honesty, integrity and common-sense approach. Don sincerely hoped that Dave would continue to make a contribution from the wings.

When Keith Lord retired as VPP no one thought that there was anyone who could fill his shoes. Then along came John Legge, a relatively inexperienced player who volunteered to take on the task. He was an immediate success. John had now structured the playing side of our sport to an incredible level. Few people would realise just how much time and energy John had put into this role and we owed him a huge debt of thanks, and indeed his wife, Claire, for her patience.

Don called upon all those present to thank these two outstanding members in the time-honoured fashion.

Financial Report: Peter Westall presented a detailed financial statement for the period 27/12/2006 to 21/10/2007. Tony Jellings raised a query about insurance for the three associations within the BPF and Don reported that the WPA had taken control of its own insurance when the EPA would not agree to a global policy for all three associations.

Membership Fees 2008/09: Don proposed that club membership of the WPA should increase from £20 to £30 a year. This proposal was passed with no votes against and two abstentions. Don then proposed that individual membership of the WPA should remain unchanged at £10 per player. This was passed unanimously.

Elections for WPA Executive Committee: The following nominations had been received for the various posts of national officers:

President:	Tony Smith
Vice President:	Don Jenkins
Vice President Playing:	Bob Pugh
Secretary:	Roger Griffin
Treasurer:	Peter Westall
Umpire:	Derek Jones
Youth Development Officer:	Alison Walton
Coach:	Richard Trego
Press Officer:	Phil Bradshaw

Since none of the above positions were contested, all candidates were officially appointed to serve on the WPA Executive Committee for the next year.

BPF: Don reported that a BPF meeting would take place on 24th November. The BPF would not be dissolved at this meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the means and timetable by which the BPF would be wound up. John Legge was appointed as WPA delegate to the BPF with Tony Smith and Roger Griffin appointed as the WPA's representative officers to the BPF.

Appointment of Auditor and Arbitrator: These appointments were left with the Executive to decide.

Any Other Business: Brian Spooner (Penarth) suggested that teams should be required to give at least 24 hours notice to the opposing team if they were unable to fulfil a league fixture and lose points if they failed to do so. Tony Jellings (Wenvoe) favoured fining teams rather than deducting points and this was agreed by Chris Brown (Panteg). Don Jenkins asked the V-P Playing to look into this aspect and to report to clubs if he felt that there was a need to alter the existing rules in any way.

Tony Jellings proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing President.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.