



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WELSH PETANQUE ASSOCIATION

Date: SATURDAY, 6TH DECEMBER 2008
Time: 10.00 AM
Venue: ESPORATA HEALTH CLUB

Members Present:

Executive: Tony Smith, Don Jenkins, Bob Pugh and Scott Murray.

WPA Members: Peter Clark, Barbara Clark, Peter Mc Carthy, Dan Murphy, Gay Evans, Graham Attfield, Gemma Foster, Jean-Yves Robic, John Legge and Judith Smith (Recording the minutes of the meeting).

1. Confirmation of date of notice of meeting:

Tony Smith confirmed notice had been sent out on 22/11/08 as per C14.3

2. Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Roger Griffin, Derek Jones, Phil Bradshaw, Peter Westall, Stewart Spencer, Jim Hutchinson, Linda Hutchinson, Tansy Mayfield, Paul Mayfield, Claire Legge, Chris Brown and Jake Caston.

3. Approval of previous AGM minutes and any subsequent General Meeting

The minutes of the previous AGM were agreed: proposed by Jean-Yves Robic, seconded by Graham Attfield. There were no other minutes to agree.

4. President's Report

On January 1st 2008 the WPA became the internationally recognised governing body for our sport in Wales. The WPA as a member of the BPF together with the other two founding associations agreed to formally close the BPF, this process was formally completed when the final accounts were approved and adopted on the 16th August this year. The assets of the BPF after clearing any debts and reimbursing both the WPA and EPA junior contributions which were not used have been distributed between the 3 associations based on 2007 membership figures.

As always the Associations responsibilities are to look after the interests of the members, to devote time to the needs of the grass root players, provide coaching and umpiring to those members wishing to follow this path, but also these responsibilities now also include the qualification of teams to represent the WPA and Wales at European and World Championships level. Over the past 12 months the Executive has worked hard, just some of the things we have and continue to accomplish on your behalf are:

- International Membership
- Civil Liability Insurance
- A full Events Calendar.
- Informative website.
- WPA National Tournaments.
- International Representation for qualified teams.
- Welsh/European Cup for Clubs Qualifier knockout competition.
- Umpire and Coach Training.
- Attendance of an Umpire at National & Grand Prix Events.

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- A new Welsh playing top.
- A membership pin.
- Continued CRB screening.
- Beginning a dialogue with Schools through the 5x60 officers.
- The WPA continues to grow financially.

It has been my great pleasure to be the President of the WPA during this first year of international recognition and I am very grateful to the Executive for all their support and encouragement throughout the year and much of the above would not have happened without their hard endeavours.

There have also been disappointments notably coaching, this failed to materialise, with little or no coaching occurring in 2008. This situation must be resolved and I ask all those members who have qualified as a coach to make themselves known to the executive and again become proactive in turning this situation around. This also has to be a primary task for the new executive to provide a sustainable coaching structure for the future.

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

Singles Champion:	Tansy Mayfield
Shooting Champion:	Jean-Yves Robic
Doubles Champions:	Phil Bradshaw & Neil Dobbins
Mixed Doubles Champions:	Bérengère Demay & Gareth Spencer
Triples Champions:	Glyn Attely, Phil Bradshaw & Neil Dobbins
Welsh Cup for Clubs:	The Monkstone PC
Stuart Clarke Cup:	Matthew Franks & Phil Bradshaw
Presidents Cup:	Ian Bailey & Neil Dobbins

2008 Celtic Challenge Winning Team:

Don Jenkins, Coral Jenkins, Ian Bailey, Neil Dobbins, Jeff Ball, Rod Dobbins, Paul Mayfield, Tansy Mayfield, Gay Evans, Dave Cannan, Nigel Mason, Julie Bailey and Mike Jacques.

I would also like to thank all the members who took part in the Home Nations Championship and the EPA Inter-Regional Championships. I would like to mention a special thanks to the Junior Team who kept me very busy that weekend.

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

Invitation Tournaments:

Switzerland:	Matthew Franks, Phil Bradshaw & Neil Dobbins.
France:	Ian Bailey, Don Jenkins & Peter Westall.
Lithuania:	Tansy Mayfield, Paul Mayfield, Roger Griffin & John Barnes.
Czech Republic:	Jake Caston, John Legge & Chris Brown

Senior World Championship:

Dakar, Senegal: David Elston, Derek Jones & Peter Westall.



We have to remember that many members of our Association do not aspire or wish to play at such a high level, but who enjoy taking part and are critical to the future of the association through their continued membership and their participation in club, league and open competitions. They have my sincere thanks and that of the Executive for their continued support.

This year for the first time as President of the WPA I have attended both the Confédération Européenne de Pétanque (CEP) Congress held in Holland during the Junior European Championships and the Fédération Internationale de Pétanque et Jeu Provençal (FIPJP) World Congress held during the recent World Championships in Senegal.

Attending these two congresses has allowed us as an Association to understand the workings of these two very important institutions and also more importantly to be seen to be taking an active role in the sport both in Europe and Internationally. We have also begun to open lines of communication to other Federations and more importantly to make new friends.

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

The FIPJP World Congress agreed to hold the "Senior" World Championship every 2 years starting in 2010. It is my understanding that the competition in 2010 will be open, but subsequent competitions will be Male only. The World Congress also agreed that in future only 48 nations should compete at the Senior World Championships.

To achieve the 48 nations the current plan is for qualification through their Confederations, in our case the CEP. I understand that the suggested provisional quotas are for example between 16 to 20 nations to qualify through the European Confederation, 4 through the Asian Confederation, 2 through the Oceanic and so on. These figures have not been formally agreed and are to be heatedly debated by the various Confederations during the coming months.

In 2009 the only World Championship currently scheduled is for juniors and is planned to be held in Tunisia. If a host can be found before April 2009, there will be Women's World Championship however, after 2009 the Women's and Junior World Championship will be held every other year commencing in 2011 and alternating with the European Championships.

A number of modifications to the playing rules were agreed during the World Congress which will require the publication of a new rule book. I am currently awaiting a revised copy of the rules from Mike Pegg, once this has been received this will be disseminated to existing umpires and WPA members.

In 2008 the FIPJP appointed a medical officer to oversee drug and alcohol testing under the World Anti Drug Agency guidelines. The first step in this process has now been taken as this year the FIPJP carried out random breath testing of players at both World Championships. The limit of alcohol in the blood is set at 0.35mg much lower than it is to drive a car in the UK. A player who fails the breath test is suspended from play until such time as they can pass the test. Therefore players intending to qualify for European and World Championship competitions should be fully conversant with these new regulations.

Finally, I would like to thank the following Executive members who through personal circumstances resigned during 2008 and also those members who have decided not to stand for re-election this year, they are Alison Walton, Richard Trego, Roger Griffin and Bob Pugh. I would especially like to thank Bob Pugh for his total commitment as Vice President Playing throughout 2008.



The WPA exists to serve its members by providing the opportunity to play at all levels, we all come together to play and enjoy this wonderful simple if not at times frustrating sport. It is this spirit that is at the core of the WPA making it a successful organisation for the sport in Wales.

Tony Smith
National President

Comment: Peter Clarke asked if any additional members were CRB checked. Tony Smith said that Jean-Yves Robic, Linda Williams, Scott Murray and he were.

The President advised that although Roger Griffin is resigning as Secretary, he will continue to serve the WPA as Child Protection Officer in charge of obtaining CRB checks.

5. To receive and, if so resolved, adopt the Association's Accounts and the Auditor's and Financial Reports.

The President presented the accounts to the meeting, in the absence of Peter Westall. Gay Evans queried the sum of £404.30. The President explained that these were executive expenses for attending the FIPJP Congress (£315.65) and World Championship Playing Shirts (£88.65). He explained that the shirts were required due to the exceptionally high temperatures in which the play was undertaken in Senegal. The total was circa £800, the majority of which was covered by the players, raising the money through sponsorship to cover their costs and 60% of the cost of the flight to Senegal for the President to attend, the other 40% was covered by sponsorship from businesses that the President dealt with.

Gay Evans wished it noted that the team should be congratulated on their efforts in obtaining such good sponsorship.

Tony Smith said that a lot of teams had been proactive throughout the year in obtaining sponsorship to help them in competitions.

Gay Evans suggested it would be a good idea for the WPA to try to get sponsorship in advance for competitions. Peter Clarke suggested it would be a good idea to show the level of sponsorship raised in the Accounts in order that members could see how much had been raised by those participating in competitions, etc. Tony Smith agreed that this was a good idea, but said that sponsorship was not shown in the Accounts because the sponsorship money was not banked with the WPA.

Dan Murphy asked if the WPA had any debtors or creditors. Tony Smith responded by stating that debts of £96.00 (£32.00 each) for refund of the 100 club were shown for Dan Murphy, Gay Evans and Gwyneth Grahame.

Tony Smith stated that there were no other creditors.

Peter Clarke said if the Executive knew what the cost of insurance would be next year. Tony Smith said that he did not, but that this would be looked at by the new vice President Playing early in the New Year.

Tony Smith read out a statement to the meeting that had been prepared by an independent auditor as follows:



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Executive Committee and Members of the Welsh Pétanque Association.

I have audited the accompanying balance sheet of the Welsh Pétanque Association as of 2nd October 2007 to 3rd December 2008 and the related statements of income, retained earnings, and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Associations Executive Committee. My responsibility is to express an independent opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

My audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. It also includes assessing:

- the significant estimates and judgements made by the Executive in the preparation of the financial report; and
- whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Welsh Pétanque Association circumstances consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I have obtained all the information and explanations I have required.

In my opinion:

- proper accounting records have been kept by Welsh Pétanque Association as far as appears from my examination of those records;
- the attached financial statement present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Welsh Pétanque Association as of 2nd October 2009 to 3rd December 2008 and the results of its operations cash flows the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United Kingdom.

My audit was completed on 3rd December 2008 and my unqualified opinion is expressed as at that date.

Name of Auditor Lisa Joanna Owen

Address 13 Mary Street
Seven Sisters
Neath
SA10 9BG

Tony Smith confirmed that the report would be filed with the financial statement for 2007/8.



Peter Clarke asked if the Reserve Account paid interest. Tony Smith confirmed that it did.

6. To determine the rates of registration fees and subscriptions

Tony Smith advised that there would be no change in membership fees for the forthcoming year.

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

There were no motions submitted.

At this point, Tony Smith apologised that he had omitted to invite Bob Pugh, position Vice President Playing, to present his report, as follows:

European Cup For Clubs

Following their victory in the Welsh tournament, the Monkstone Inn hosted the Club Champions Léman Pétanque of Switzerland. Although unsuccessful in progressing to the next round, all involved agreed it was an extremely successful event and the Monkstone PC did a sterling job of hosting their visitors.

WPA Grand Prix Qualifier Series

The four rounds of the 2008 Grand Prix series were held at Panteg House, Abergavenny, Wenvoe Arms and, a new venue for this year, Dinas Powys RFC. Each terrain offered something different, with Dinas Powys proving a particular challenge.

The standard of play of all 18 teams competing was very high again this year, and the revenue generated by these events provided a substantial portion of WPA funds.

There was some criticism of the final standings and, as a result a meeting was held to discuss possible options for changing the format for 2009 and beyond. As a result, 2009 will see the introduction of a Play-Off system for the Teams finishing the Grand Prix Series in places 1-4 and a similar one for the Teams finishing in places 5-8.

WPA National Competitions

The numbers of Teams and Players entering all National Competitions was disappointingly low this year compared to 2007. There was no obvious reason for this, although the soaring cost of fuel may have played a part. Contact with the VP(P)s in England and Scotland indicate that numbers were low across the country at events this year, some Competitions even being cancelled as a result of insufficient numbers.

The weather played a major part in the 2008 Playing Calendar, with the WPA National Mixed Doubles being moved to another date and the WPA Development Triples and Inter-Counties competitions being cancelled. In addition, we were forced to cancel the WPA Open Triples and Open Mixed Doubles – again due to the very poor entry numbers.

WPA League

A mixed season for the WPA League in 2008 saw the arrival of a new Club, Euroclad, and the Season having to be extended to complete all fixtures. It quickly became apparent that a number of Clubs had over-extended themselves by entering more Teams than they could



comfortably accommodate. Eventually the League completed by the end of September, and the League Cup & Plate Finals reaching their conclusions at the Wenvoe Arms.

Vice-President (Playing)

On a personal note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who provided support, advice and guidance throughout the Season, making the job easier than it would have otherwise have been.

In particular, I would like to thanks Tony Smith, Derek Jones and John Legge.

Robert Pugh
Vice President (Playing)

In comment to the report, Peter Clarke asked if the qualification procedure for 2009 would change. Bob Pugh said that the playing form will not change. There will be 4 Grand Prix qualifiers with the best three qualifying results taken. The top teams will all play each other in a play-off which means all teams will play each other.

There will be a Top 8 play off for positions 1 to 4 and a separate play off for places 5 to 8.

Dan Murphy said that in the last playing year. Bob Pugh confirmed that there was a lady's qualifier held at the Barn. Dan asked what the Executive had planned for the ladies next year. Tony Smith said that if a venue can be found, there will be a ladies qualifier. Jean-Yves said that the WPA had been invited to Brittany where there would be a ladies competition.

Scott Murray asked if the Grand Prix will have the same qualifying system. Bob Pugh confirmed that it would, as far as he was aware. Tony Smith said that there will be a General Meeting to discuss this, and this was not an issue for the AGM.

8. To declare the election of National Officers

Dan Murphy said that nomination forms had not been received by members, as in previous years. Tony Smith conferred with Don Jenkins on this point, and Don stated that he believed that nominations had not been sent out in advance in previous years and members were free to stand for any post. Tony Smith advised that nominations could be sent out in advance in future if the membership wished. However, at this point the meeting would continue.

Present: no nominations received. Peter Clarke said if members could nominate from the floor. Tony Smith advised that nominations closed on 14 November. Gemma Foster said that if people had known there were vacancies, people may have put themselves forward.

Tony Smith advised that points 14.1.2 and 14.1.3 do not provide that the information regarding nominations be sent out in advance of the AGM, and any member who wished to stand was free to do so, regardless of whether a post was vacant or occupied. Tony Smith confirmed again that if members wished, in future years AGM information would be sent out by post to all members, including nomination forms.

Standing down: Secretary: Roger Griffin; Vice President Playing: Bob Pugh



Nominations: President: Tony Smith,
Vice President: Don Jenkins
Vice President Playing: John Legge,
Secretary: Graham Attfield
Umpire: Derek Jones,
Press Officer: Phil Bradshaw,
Coach: vacant.

Barbara Clarke stated that as Secretary of Abergavenny Club she wished to take information back to her members to consider. From the floor, John Legge pointed out that any vote/comment made at an AGM was personal to the member, and not a "proxy" vote for a club.

Tony Smith asked for any nominations from the floor as the members present had raised this issue. There were no nominations received. Tony Smith advised that in the absence of any other candidates, those presented would be elected.

Tony Smith confirmed that he would check the Constitution clauses regarding nominations, i.e. 14.1 and 14.3, and these will be presented at an Extra Ordinary General Meeting convened especially to ratify the required changes in the constitution.

9. To appoint an Auditor or Auditors

Tony Smith stated that, as in previous AGMs, this appointment had lain with the Executive, but if anyone wished to put themselves forward as Auditor they were welcome to do so. No nominations were put forward. Tony Smith confirmed that the Auditor of the 2008/9 accounts, Lisa Owen, would be approached to undertake this task.

10. To appoint Arbitrators

Tony Smith said that in previous years the appointment of an Arbitrator, when required, had been dealt with by the Executive. However, if anyone wished to put their name forward to undertake this role, they were invited to do so. No nominations were put forward.

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

Jean-Yves Robic (Penarth) asked the Executive to consider changing the Associations trouser colour from white to black. Tony Smith advised that this would need to be considered at the next General Meeting **Action**

Peter Clarke (Abergavenny) asked if the Executive had been contacted by Andrew Lloyd regarding alternative competitions to the North Sea Championships. Tony Smith advised that to date they had not been, but the Executive is waiting to hear how the CEP is going structure their Championships in the future.

Dan Murphy (Cardiff Bay) asked, if in the future will the number of teams in the World Championship be limited, as the top teams are saying that the lower teams should not be invited. Peter Clarke asked what the cut off point for invitations is. Tony Smith said that he believed the top 16/18 teams would be invited.

Peter Clarke asked the Executive to consider if information could be sent to 2/3 people within a club and not just the secretary. The Executive said they would consider this.

Dan Murphy asked when the General Meetings would be held during the year. Tony Smith said the Executive would draw up a schedule, which will be presented at the first General Meeting, date to be confirmed. **Action**



Peter Clarke said that members need to be informed of changes that Executive make. Dan suggested that bullet points from Executive meetings could be placed on the website. Gay Evans said members should have been advised that the Executive were going to spend money on shirts. Don Jenks that that it was agreed to have a new strip and it was agreed that if you qualify you will have a new shirt. Don said that most of the money for the shirts came from the people who took part in the qualifiers.

Peter Clarke said that if people go to competitions on behalf of the WPA, they must wear their Welsh kit. Don Jenkins said rules are in place to ensure this happens and Bob Pugh sent all members a letter stating that they had to wear their Welsh shirts.

Tony Smith presented Dan Murphy will a Presidential Pin.

Tony Smith closed the meeting and thanked all members for attending.

The meeting closed at 12 noon