



## GENERAL MEETING

**Date:** Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2010

**Time:** 07:30pm

**Venue:** Panteg House

**Present:** Tony Smith, Jean-Yves Robic, John Legge, Derek Jones, Phil Bradshaw, Graham Attfield.

**Representatives from the following clubs:** Wheatsheaf, The Barn, Cardiff Bay, Brecon, Penarth, Wenvoe, Abergavenny, Caerleon, a total of 23 members.

**Apologies:** Kon Tomcyk, Barbara Vaughan, Claire Legge, Chris Brown, Linda Williams, Dave Jones, Brian and Jenny Spooner, Gareth Spencer, Dave Cannan, Peter and Diane Westall.

**Previous Minutes:** The minutes of the general meeting held at Wenvoe Arms on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2009 were agreed, proposer Jean-Yves Robic, seconded Judith Smith.

**President's Report:** Tony Smith apologised to the membership for this being the first general meeting held in 2010, however, he assured the members that the executive have been meeting regularly. Despite this various means of communication have been in use and the members have been kept abreast of issues.

The minutes of the FIPJP executive meeting (27/28 March 2010) have been received with the major points being: the FIPJP have a new web site, which they hope will be easier to use; the venue for the 2010 World Championships has been changed, from Taiwan, and will now be held in Turkey, the qualifying competition will be five timed rounds using the Swiss system; during the World Championship medical studies will be carried out, a questionnaire and medical examination at registration; the 2011 Ladies World Championship will be held in Hanoi, and the Juniors in either New Caledonia or Taiwan; the FIPJP propose that continental confederations organise Confederation Cup competitions for those years between World Championships, this will not apply to Europe as we already have the European Championship in place.

The CEP has confirmed the date and format of the 2010 Ladies European Championship; the time and date of the CEP congress has been set, we await the agenda; during the congress the draw for the 2011 Espoirs Championship will take place, for members born in the years 1989 to 1993 inclusive, the intention to take part in these Championships is needed two weeks prior to the congress; the 2011 Men's European Championship will be held in Sweden and the Espoirs in Denmark.

At home our congratulations go to the Wales A team for winning the Celtic Challenge for the fourth consecutive year, the Wales B team for their efforts and to Wenvoe Pétanque Club for hosting the event. Also our congratulations to the following members for qualifying for the World Championships (Matthew Franks, Phil Bradshaw, Neil Dobbins and Cyril Royer) and the Ladies European Championship (Gemma Foster, Gill Brace, Berengere Demay and Sue Foster), and for winning the following National titles – Mixed Doubles (Gay Evans and Ian Bailey) and Doubles (Jeff Ball and Mike Jacques). It was however disappointing that the Singles, Shooting and Triples were cancelled due to lack of entries, if there is a renewed interest they may be added to the end of the playing calendar. Congratulations go to those teams that have qualified for the Home Nations and the Inter-Regional Championships and

**Welsh Petanque Association**  
48 Summerfield Drive, Llantrisant, Pontyclun, CF72 8QF  
<http://www.welshpetanque.org.uk>  
[secretary@welshpetanque.org.uk](mailto:secretary@welshpetanque.org.uk)



Challenge Cup. The Wheatsheaf Boule Club will be contesting the first round of the EuroCup next weekend and we wish them good luck and ask that as many members as possible go along to support their efforts to reach the second round of the competition. Also congratulations go to Abergavenny Pétanque Club for their efforts to expand their junior section, we now have 17 registered junior players in the WPA, and it was good to see them playing in the recent Abergavenny Open where a total of five juniors and one espoir competed in the plate final and 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> play-off. There will be no junior element to the upcoming Home Nations but we have arranged a junior competition with the EPA, to be held at Burnham on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2010, this will require three triples teams and we hope this will become an annual event.

Currently the membership stands at 2 honorary, 195 adult and 17 junior members, a total of 214 members (146 male and 68 female), with an average age of 51.6 years.

The executive is aware that the late notification of the playing calendar, and lack of a meeting at the beginning of the season to arrange venues, caused issues for some clubs, therefore the draft calendar for 2011 will be available by the AGM.

This year, for the first time, we had two requests for transfer from the EPA to the WPA, and whilst these were accomplished we did not follow the correct procedure as laid down by the CEP. This procedure is now documented on the WPA web site and if it is not followed properly may adversely affect a future transfer.

**Vice President:** Jean-Yves Robic reported that there was a junior assessment day at Abergavenny, eleven juniors attended and carried out exercises and games. From this process teams were selected for various events, but some could not go to the Junior European Championships, therefore we were not represented at that event. The team to represent the WPA at Brean will comprise a number of new junior members.

**Secretary:** Graham Attfield reported that the insurer had sent a document, on the basis of information required by the Financial Services Authority, that required the WPA to state whether it was selling insurance and therefore acting as a financial service provider; we will respond to this negatively.

**Treasurer:** The accounts were presented; Dan Murphy about the change in the current account from November 2009, in the absence of the Treasurer the response was deferred and Peter Westall will report back; a question was also asked about accounting for and costing the last presentation meeting, this was addressed by Tony Smith.

**National Umpire:** Derek Jones reported that several introduction to umpiring courses had been undertaken; to progress this further would require courses to be arranged with the British Umpire Board; fees to cover the cost of these courses must be levied by the WPA but individual clubs can raise these funds through the Community Chest.

**Publicity Officer:** Phil Bradshaw reported that articles were supplied to the press on a weekly basis, but he had no control over which ones were published; articles were written in an effort to promote the game and may not therefore appear accurate to members; also accuracy was dependant on the organisers of events giving the correct details to the publicity officer; local reporters had been invited to events but it was difficult to get them to attend. Car stickers could be prepared for members to publicise the sport; Phil was asked to provide three quotes before this could be considered.



**Membership Structure:** A paper proposing changes to the membership structure had been prepared by Graham Attfield and Peter Westall, and circulated to the membership prior to the meeting. A lengthy discussion took place during which it became obvious that to adopt the proposal a change would be required to the constitution and that the WPA could be construed as “selling insurance” (see Secretary above); the proposal was therefore rejected. The executive is to look at this again and report back to the AGM with any further proposals they may have.

**WPA Competitions:** John Legge reported that he had been looking into this issue, and had considered unofficial feedback; this effectively came to the fact that virtually all sports had a reduced entry for events in the last few years, possibly as a result of the economic downturn; but more specifically he had received comments about the lack of prizes, that competitions were too official, yet were poorly organised with a poor format for the events.

Steve Brace commented that the calendar was crowded and members wanted time off between events; Peter Clarke commented that in his opinion money prizes were not the way forward and the WPA should not take that route in an effort to increase entries; Tansy Mayfield and Gay Evans stated that the ladies wanted more respect and felt that there should be more days devoted to the ladies qualifiers; Steve Brace suggested that men’s/junior events could be run alongside the ladies events (this was tried in 2010 and did not attract an entry); Dan Murphy commented that the calendar was confusing with ladies events not properly defined; Tansy Mayfield and Stewart Spencer commented that WPA Championships should be prestige events and suggested that shirts should be awarded to the winners for them to wear in the following year (this was adopted during the 2010 season and doubles and mixed doubles winners received shirts at the presentation event); Phil Bradshaw and Bob Pugh stated that a general meeting to settle the calendar at the very beginning of the season was a necessity, and that the calendar must be clearer; following this Gay Evans commented that the current diary form on the web site was not easily understood; Bob Pugh reported that there were currently no major problems with the league but some matches needed to be played to catch up with the others.

**Position of Youth Development Officer:** Tony Smith reported that Scott Murray had tendered his resignation due to the expected commitment in relation to the Duke of Edinburgh’s award scheme; the WPA wish him well for his future endeavours and to thank him for his efforts over the past two years; members are invited to stand for this post as this is vital to the development of the sport in Wales.

**Position of Espoirs Development Officer:** Jean-Yves Robic reported that the category of Espoirs (18 to 22 years old) was likely to soon be recognized at full International level by the FIPJP; was also have a number of members moving from junior to espoir over the next few years and the WPA needs a leader to develop this age group; members are invited to put themselves forward for this role which is vital to the development of the sport in Wales.

**Review of the Constitution:** Graham Attfield reported that a group of members would be formed to review and recommend changes to the current constitution.

The meeting closed at 09:25pm.