



## MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

**Date: Thursday, 23 June 2011**

**Time: 07:30pm**

**Venue: Brecon RFC**

**Executive:** Linda Hutchinson (Treasurer), Jean-Yves Robic, (Vice-President) Chair; Judith Smith (Publicity Officer) note-taker

**Representatives from the following clubs:** Wheatsheaf, The Barn, Cardiff Bay, Brecon, Wenvoe, and Panteg, a total of 11 members.

**1. Apologies:** Tony Smith, Brian and Jenny Spooner, Dai Canon, collective members of Wheatsheaf PC

### **2. Previous Minutes:**

Judith Smith apologised that the minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2011 were not available for the meeting to discuss; this was due to an administration error. These will be sent to attending members for information and will be agreed at the next scheduled General Meeting. Unconfirmed minutes of 31/01/11 and this meeting will also be hosted on the WPA website.

### **3. Matters Arising:**

None, due to absence of appropriate minutes.

Vice-President requested any items for Any Other Business. The following were requested:

- League structure and scoring;
- Uniform; Competitions;
- Juniors

These items were added to Any Other Business

### **4. Officers Reports**

#### **4.1: Vice President:**

- **Cup for Clubs:** The WPA have advised the CEP that there will not be a Welsh club taking part in the Cups for Clubs competition as the club which qualified, Sir Henry Morgan's, declined to take part. The WPA has banned Sir Henry Morgan's for entering this competition for one year. No appeal was received from that club. An alternative club was approached but due to Sir Henry Morgan's late withdrawal, it was considered too late for the second team to make arrangements. The WPA have asked the CEP if this withdrawal will affecting club's ability to enter this competition in future and to date there is no indication that any sanction will be imposed. The club that enters the Cup for Clubs in 2012 will receive those monies raised for this year and well as 2012 funds.
- **Grand Prix Series:** GP series is complete. The Swiss System worked well, despite some hiccups. 16 teams took part. Teams who finished in the top 8 have been invited to Brean Sands. Contracts have been sent to all participants. All participants are required to stay on site overnight and for the duration of the competition.



- **Competitions:** The WPA do not have a competition to offer the top 6 teams due to lack of competitions in England and Europe at present. The National Singles unfortunately had to be cancelled due to lack of entries. Currently there are only 3 teams that have entered for the National Doubles on 3 July. Gay asked how many teams were required. VP said that at least 8/10 teams. VP said that the Executive were disappointed that members do not want to compete for national titles.

WPA is considering setting up a large competition to which they would hope to attract over 40 teams from England and Wales; Chepstow could be a possible venue.

The Junior World Championship competition is still not confirmed but will probably be in Turin in September 2011.

The Ladies World Championship is currently still designated as Vietnam.

#### 4.2 Treasurer

- **Current funds** stand at £6,628. £2,765 has been received in membership subs (225 members, of which 11 are juniors and 2 honorary).
- **New members** - 52, mainly from Monmouth.
- **Cup for Clubs** £240 was raised for Cup for Clubs and this will be ring-fenced for 2012 Cup for Clubs competition.

#### 4.3: Publicity Officer

- A3 and A4 club advertising posters have been printed. These were handed out to club reps at the meeting. The Publicity Officer requested that members ensure these posters were displayed in various locations, such as schools, sports centres, libraries and shopping centres to get as wide a distribution as possible.
- The WPA attended a Disability Sports two day event (Wheelchair Extravaganza) at NIAC, UWIC in Cardiff on 17 and 18 July. The event was very well attended and interest was had from disabled and able bodied participants. This event has been running for 9 years and it was the first time Pétanque took part. It is intended to make this an annual event for the WPA.
- The Executive are currently looking at a new design for WPA pins. These pins are very popular with competitors both home and abroad and it is intended to make the pins a collectable item. There is a small supply (circa 40) of current pins that will be used for new membership.

#### 4.4: National Coach

In National Coach's absence due to illness, the Publicity Officer read the National's Coach's prepared report.

- 3 members have undertaken Part 1 of the Club Coach qualification; 2 members from Monmouth have also undertaken Part 2.
- Peter Beresford, an EPA Grade 3 coach has been transferred to the WPA.
- A junior coaching session was undertaken at Monmouth on 18 June, and another session is to be announced soon.
- A Grade 3 coaching course is to be run at Monmouth, provisional date 10 September.
- National Coach will be announcing a coaching meeting where current and new coaches will meet to discuss future strategy.
- WPA is looking to affiliate to the CIEP – coaching arm of the FIPJP; this will give the WPA access to international coaches.



## 5. Home Nations 2012

A letter will be going out to all club secretaries asking those interested to present a formal bid to host the Home Nations in 2012. The letter will contain full details of what is expected of the hosting club. The date of the Home Nations is not yet set but is likely to be 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in August (after 2012 Olympics). Clubs will be required to play a major part in supporting the WPA Executive in this important event. Dan Murphy asked if the WPA would consider any fund raising events. The VP said that these could be considered for the end of the year if there is space in the playing calendar.

2011 Home Nations is being held in Nottingham. The WPA will provide £30 to each participating player which will be given to individuals on the day of the competition.

## 6. EPA Inter-regional Championships

VP reported that the venue for the EPA Inter-regional Championships 2011 is being held at Brean Sands. There is a requirement for all competitor teams to stay for the whole weekend. Failure to comply will result in sanctions that will impact on the WPA. A message will be sent to all participants notifying them of this requirement.

## 7. WPA league v The Marches

Jim Page, Brecon, advised that the Marches have 12 teams set for the above competition to be held on 24 July. VP confirmed that the WPA will invite the Welsh teams who took part in the Grand Prix series from the bottom qualifiers up. Monmouth PC will also be invited to take part. Players will be required to wear red shirts, which can be club shirts, passed year's Welsh shirts or a plain red shirt. Current Welsh shirts cannot be worn as this is not an international competition. This is a free event. The event will be opened to general membership should insufficient GP series teams wish to compete.

## 8. Any Other business

### • 8.1 League structure and scoring

Bob Pugh presented a proposal to the meeting for discussion. At present league positions are determined by counting the number of games won. If there is a tie points for and points difference are included. Last seasons Division 1 saw two teams with same number of games, so this was decided on points. However, the second team had actually won more points. After meeting discussion, it was suggested that a system whereby teams gain 3 points for a win, 1 for a draw and 0 for a no win (as in football) would be a fairer system. Jim Hutchinson kindly volunteered to undertake a feasibility study on this and present to the next meeting in conjunction with Bob. **Action:** Bob Pugh to put forward proposal at AGM.

### • 8.2 Uniform

Graham Attfield (Barn PC) wished the membership to note its disappointment that the male team entering the World Championship in 2010 did not wear matching kit and were using inappropriate language on the piste – the competition was televised and it does not portray the image that the WPA should be presenting to current and potential members.

VP responded the WPA takes The Barn's comments on board. However, unfortunately, some other teams taking part also did not wear matching kit and would have been using inappropriate language. He advised that the FIPJP only ask teams to wear matching shirts, there is no stipulation for matching trousers. However, the WPA will ask teams to wear white trousers on the first day and matching trousers for the remainder of the competition. The majority of the membership concurred with the VP's suggestion, although no vote was taken at this meeting. WPA Exec will also be reminding players of conduct issues whilst representing the WPA.



- **8.3 Competitions**

**Use of Swiss System**

Graham Atfield (Barn PC) said that the Swiss system works well, as long as there is at least 32 teams. There were a couple of incidents where competitors played on the same piste more than once. The Barn requested assurance that this will not happen again. VP said that the Swiss system will continue to be used and if there are only 16 teams repetition is likely as there are only 16 pistes available. Pistes could be allocated manually if the competition organizer deems required and appropriate.

**Grand Prix Qualifiers**

Graham Atfield commented that some teams tend to drop out at the 4<sup>th</sup> qualifier stage and this skews the results of the competition. In response, WPA Executive said it would like to consider the following options – make the 4 competitions compulsory; hold 3 qualifiers and drop the last 8. All qualifiers are to be paid for in advance to encourage attendance and in particular make administration more manageable.

- **8.4 Juniors**

Graham Atfield (Barn PC) wished it noted that the club was aware that Jesse Robic played in the Grand Prix Qualifier series. The Barn asked if there had been a change to the rules that would allow juniors to enter this senior competition. If the rules of entry had been changed membership should have been notified and the Barn PC would have entered a junior.

VP responded that juniors entering the Qualifiers had been discussed in meetings last year, in order to give them access to more competitions. Bob Pugh (Wenvoe PC) said that he believed juniors could not play in senior competitions if there was a specific junior section within that competition, otherwise they could enter.

VP said the Barn PC should have contacted WPA if they wished a junior to play in the Qualifiers.

Barn PC objected strongly to this and stated that they required clarification of the rules of entry and a letter of apology personally sent to Erin Bressington, who, they felt, had missed an opportunity to enter the Qualifiers.

The meeting closed at 21:45.

**Date of next meeting:** 15 September 2011. Venue to be confirmed.