

Minutes of the Devon Petanque AGM held at the Isca Centre, Exeter, on Monday 4th January 2010 at 7.30pm.

Present: Brian Bonner, Keith Brealey, Thierry Hacq, Chris Jeffrey, Mac Paterson, Gary Smith, Doug Spiller, John Thatcher, Rose Thatcher, Dave West

Agenda

1. Apologies: Lyn Jeffrey, Russell Laughton, Ann Paterson, Liz Preston, Ric Preston, Barry Scott, Diane Scott, Peter Smith, Judith Wooldridge, Walter Wooldridge

2. Minutes of last AGM: approved. Matters arising:

~Constitution: John Thatcher to produce a fully-updated text.

~EPA insurance: details can be found on the Regional website.

~Coaching session: arranged by Ric Preston but postponed because of a fixture clash. To be attempted again this year.

3. President's report: The Region had continued in tick-over mode through 2009. The Devon League was held again but this year with only 3 teams. The annual contest with Kernow was staged at a very wet Vogue St Day in July and our unbeaten record in these encounters was preserved, though only just. In September we combined with Kernow again in the Inter-Regional Championships and came within 1 game of climbing off the bottom of Division 2.

The usual Regional competitions were held during the year, the results being:

~Singles winner – John Thatcher

~Pairs winners – Barry and Diane Scott

~Triples winners – Brian and Audrey Kempshhead and Josie Tidmarsh

A minute's silence was called to remember Sheila Smith and to express our heartfelt condolences to Gary on her loss. The President remembered Sheila's considerable personality and willingness to contribute to debate, without fear or favour. She would be much missed.

The President expressed his concern about EPA membership levels and availability of players for the next Kernow match in June/July and the Inter-Regional Championships in September. An attempt would be made to canvass all members re availability and willingness for the latter competition as soon as cost details for Brean Sands were known. The EPA had to book this venue 2 years in advance so is committed to it this year, but other venues are being looked at for 2011.

The Regional Officers were thanked for all their help during the year.

4. Treasurer's report: The region had made an in-year surplus of £83.01 from a gross income of £1100.00. Leaving aside EPA fees, the main contribution to the surplus had been fees from Regional competition bringing in £245, combined with lesser outgoings than previously for Brean Sands uniforms and for website hosting. Total assets at financial year-end were £992.62, including £596.92 in the bank account. There was some debate about raising the annual precept coming to the Region from EPA membership, but it was pointed out that we had already confirmed the £15 total EPA membership rate for the current year with the EPA. The accounts were approved unanimously (proposed Gary Smith, seconded Doug Spiller).

5. Presentation of trophies: the meeting was reminded that the Triples trophy had been missing for some years, and Mac Paterson was asked to look at the minutes of recent times to see who had had it. The Singles trophy also needed replacing. The League trophy was awarded to Keith Brealey,

captain of the victorious Isca team.

6. Election of officers: The following were elected to the Regional offices:

- ~President – John Thatcher
- ~Vice-President – Gary Smith
- ~Secretary – Mac Paterson
- ~Treasurer and Membership Secretary – Rose Thatcher
- ~League and Fixtures Secretary – Liz Preston
- ~Regional Coach – Ric Preston
- ~Regional Umpire – John Thatcher
- ~Public Relations Officer – Russell Laughton

The list was unanimously approved (proposed Dave West, seconded Keith Brealey).

7. Any other business:

~Website: still being maintained by Mike Pegg. The Constitution should feature among the documentation mounted there. A contact in each club should liaise with John Thatcher re website content (as well as acting as the contact for local newspapers).

~Ottery St Mary terrain: this is to stay at Salston Manor until at least Spring; lack of water supply and therefore functional toilets will however limit events that could be arranged there. A new site is to be provided in Strawberry Lane at some point in the summer. Isca is very willing to offer Ottery use of the Whipton terrain and, if required, the option of staging the Charity Shield competition there.

~Fixtures: As well as the Charity Shield, Ottery hopes to stage the East Devon Mixed Pairs in August. The annual game with Kernow is due to be held in Devon this year, and June 13th is currently a designated regional date in the EPA calendar. Pig on the Hill was a possible venue. The Inter-Regionals will take place in Pontins Brean Sands on September 18-19. Liz Preston will be compiling a more comprehensive list of fixtures for the season. The Devon League will hopefully run again and Tiverton will be encouraged to be involved after dropping out last year.

~Recruitment: EPA membership needs a drive; although there are comparatively few EPA events in the area, access to national competition and the cover of EPA insurance are both considerable membership benefits. More could be done (although some good work is already being done) in bringing the game to schools. Individual clubs should approach local schools; a schools cup could be run by the EPA.

~European Cup: the tendency of this competition to dissolve into a morass of walkovers and consequent lack of up-to-date fixture information was aired. John Thatcher agreed to raise the matter with the EPA.

~Newsletter: Mac Paterson agreed to produce by the end of March a pilot issue of a regional newsletter to reach all the membership, with a content distinctively different to the website.

~Next AGM: the aim is to meet again on November 22nd 2010, as the soonest feasible date following the auditing of the accounts. A venue would be looked for in the Tiverton area, to make travel more equitable. Thanks were offered to all, especially the contingent from Pig on the Hill, for attending in such wintry conditions.