



Minutes of the EPA Management Committee Meeting Held 20th March 2010 at Best Western Hotel, Leamington Spa

In attendance:-

Mike Pegg – National President (MP)
Adrian Thomas – National Treasurer (AT)
Angela Gaughan – National Membership Secretary (AG)
Richard Baker – Director of Promotions (RB)

David Baxter - MC Regional (DB)
Graham Elcome - MC Regional (GE)
Debbie Elcome - MC Regional (DE)
Jonathan Sewell - MC Regional (JS)
Ken Buchan - MC League (KB)
Chris Barron - MC League (CB)

John Thatcher – National Umpire (JT)
Brian Stote – National Coach (BS)

1. Apologies

Kevin Moss – National Secretary (KM)
Toni Gates - MC Regional (TG)
Gareth Sullivan - MC Regional (GS)

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

Minutes from the MC meeting held on 26th September 2009 were considered.

Item 4 Finance should read:-

- Coaching what and where is the coaching budget being used

These minutes were adopted subject to this amendment.

Minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2009 (post AGM briefing) were considered.

Item 2 should read:-

“To co-opt Angie Gaughan to the position of National Membership Secretary. MP explained that this was due to the resignation of Corinne Cooter. All members present were in favour of Angie being co-opted. MP to invite Angie to the next meeting”

These minutes were adopted subject to this amendment.

MP advised that due to recent events he wanted to restructure the agenda slightly and would deal with item 8 first.

8. Management Committee – Sharing the workload etc.

Due to increasing workload and external commitments Kevin Moss has indicated that he is unable to completely fulfil the role of EPA Secretary. Kevin advised that he is able to assist in various areas such as:- CRB clearances, European Cup for Clubs and some activities of the Director of Playing including receipt of competition entries, organisation of international teams (arranging travel etc), working up a training programme for organisers and the playing calendar for 2011 and the initial plans for the European Championships in 2014.

There was some discussion that the items listed by Kevin in some areas involved more commitment than the position of Secretary.

DB offered to take over some of the duties as Secretary. MP thanked DB for his offer which he welcomed as DB is one of the more experienced officers on the MC. It was agreed that DB would assist KM with the duties of secretary.

DB asked that to ensure a faster turnover of information it might be easier to use teleconferencing. MP has some reservations with 12 or 13 people trying to talk at once or missing information as more than 1 person is talking at once. It was felt that teleconferencing might be useful when an important decision was required in a short time. DB was asked to investigate the teleconferencing facility. It was decided that a teleconference might be held on a fortnightly basis for a trial period.

There are a number of events that still need organisers. DE asked about having regional organisers. MP indicated that this had been tried with limited success as there have been variable responses from clubs/regions. MP advised all members of the MC that they may receive notification that they are required to run an event.

The titles weekend will be organised by MP. JS indicated that he would be ok to organise/ provide organisers for the Home Nations qualifier on 04/07/10 at Luton and the Mens top 16 (day 2) on 27/06/10 at Letchworth.

The over 50's at Brighton is to be organised by DE and CB to assist.

AT and RB to organise GP3 at Crondall on 06/06/10. Mens top 16 (day1) and Womens top 8 at Rayne Swan on 20/06/10, AT said that he may be able to assist with this, but could not confirm.

Triples at Bury St Edmunds on 25/07/10 still needs an organiser. MP will ask if KM can provide an organiser for this event.

DB suggested that in the absence of a Director of Playing it might be appropriate to form a playing committee to undertake the duties of the DoP. This was considered a good idea and needs to be investigated further.

3. Officers Reports

Finance

AT due to PC problems he has encountered delays in providing budgets and additional information. AT said that as we have a new auditor there may be some changes to how the accounts are presented and as soon as he is aware of these changes he will advise the MC.

As the Ladies team did not travel to the World Championships there will be a surplus of income over expenditure. Although this is not a problem now, it may be highlighted in future years. Last years playing income was substantially reduced due to the problems with the Premier and Open leagues.

The income for the Home Nations Qualifier 2010 will show as a nil income over expenditure as any surplus is to be returned to the players to offset their expenses.

AT is suggesting that some of the surplus income from last year should be placed into a reserve with a view to covering the costs of a European Championship (Women's or Juniors) to be held in England, possibly in 2014.

JS asked what benefits would the EPA receive in holding this championship. It was felt that it would provide greater opportunities for sponsorship, increasing public awareness and also increasing in members. It was agreed to put £5,000 into a reserve with a view to hosting a European Championship in 2014.

DB indicated that as an active member of the CEP it is only right that we should consider hosting a prestigious tournament. It reinforces our role within the CEP "club"

KB indicated that he thought Kent owed money for some coaching kit purchased through David Lavelle. MP asked KB to go back to David and get the details so that AT could raise an invoice.

AT asked BS if he had any other information from David Lavelle regarding any other purchases from regions. BS said that he had received a substantial amount of info from David there did not seem to be anything relating to purchases. AT to contact David Lavelle to get an update on any purchases.

MP advised that Pétanque Promotions Ltd have repaid a substantial part of the short term loan. It is the aim of PP Ltd to repay the full amount within the agreed timescale of 2 years. PP Ltd has also indicated that it is looking to clear the original set up loan from the BPA as an ongoing procedure.

The budget for the current year is set as close to break even as considered possible given the volatile nature of last years income. A small amount of funds have been made available for Coaching and Umpires Commissions set up costs and also towards the workgroups.

The playing income has been assessed on the following team entries:

Mens GP – 20 teams
Womens GP – 12 teams
Espoirs – 8 teams
Juniors – 8 teams
Mixed Doubles – 32 teams
Singles – 65
Triples – 16 teams
Shooting – 16
Doubles – 50 teams
Over 50's – 24 teams

Budget for players contribution for the Worlds is set at £1,000 for now but if the costs reduced then the contribution will decrease.

After some discussion AT advised that elements of the budgets need to be revised and he will endeavour to send out this new budget as soon as possible.

Playing – Organisers/Prizes/Venues

MP said that the perpetual trophies are in a poor state of repair and need replacing. Trophies to be presented as the end of National titles have received a mixed reception. Some really liked the glass souvenirs and some didn't.

JT asked should we consider offering cash prizes. It was agreed that cash prizes for the National titles, Singles, Doubles, Mixed Doubles, Triples and Over 50's. With £50 per player for the winning team, £20 per player for the runners-up and £10 per player for the losing semi-finalists.

Champion of Champions to be held in York, JT to contact the Northern Region for confirmation they can host the event.

Espoirs GP 1 is to be cancelled due to lack of entries. MP has contacted some Espoirs regarding the poor entries and has been advised that some of the players were unaware of the competition, but also there is no European or World Championship representation to play for. JS suggested that should the EPA receive an invitation that the Espoirs championship winners should be offered the opportunity. MP pointed out that invitations are generally offered with the expectation of a top performing team to attend.

It was suggested that to maximise the possibility of teams entering competitions that emailing entry forms direct to each player should be considered. Whilst this is an option it must be remembered that a mass email may be sent directly to spam inboxes.

Membership

Membership currently stands at 569 Adults, 24 Juniors representing 44 clubs. This is however early in the renewal season and this figures will obviously increase. Can the Espoirs be identified on the database? AG said she might be able to sort via age but would check.

Promotions

As a result of attending a CCPR meeting it was clear that we don't monitor what our regions are doing. We don't give specific instructions directly to our regions and so it is difficult to regulate. Are our expectations of what regions do, too high or too low?

The regions appear to think that they are separate from the EPA (the MC) when in fact the regions are the EPA and the MC is only one part of the whole association.

Whilst it may be impractical to read every regions minutes, but if regions could feedback to the MC any points raised in meetings. The MC could then work with the regions to resolve these issues.

DE & GE to create some survey forms to issue to members. They should liaise with RB and MP before issuing. Members of the MC should email DE and GE with any questions they consider appropriate for inclusion.

RB has not yet heard back from London Macadam regarding whether their insurance will cover for the Bastille Day event in Battersea Park on July 11th. Rapleys is not going ahead this year, but John Roberts is hopeful that this will restart next year.

Bingo Lotto closed after 4 weeks and it is probable that after expenses have been covered that there will be no funds available from this.

Umpiring

JT and MP have recently run an umpires course.

Kent has been asked to confirm who wants to apply to take the umpires course.

JT is to write to inactive umpires to see if they wish to renew their licences. AG will provide address details for JT. JT will consider running a course at a central location and inviting applications from all regions.

MP advised of that the FIPJP are pushing for Continental Associations, CEP, Oceania, Asia etc. to create a new level of Umpiring at Continental level.

The grades for Umpiring and Coaching are Club, Regional, National and International. As the grades reflect the level of competency MP feels that the posts of National Coach and National Umpire has led to confusion regarding how qualified these posts are. JT is a qualified Umpire at National level and BS is a qualified coach Regional level.

Rather than have the title of National Umpire or National Coach these positions on the MC should reflect the nomination from the relevant commissions to the MC. Therefore he is looking to amend these posts to Chairman of Umpiring/Coach commission. The title of the post on the MC is to some degree irrelevant, and it is much more important for the EPA to identify the qualifications and level of competency.

JT has received from the CEP a questionnaire asking for confirmation regarding the current state of Umpiring within the EPA. JT has returned this with appropriate details.

There are no rules changes for the current year, but there are some proposed changes to be ratified by the next International Umpires Commission that if accepted will come into force for 2011.

Coaching

BS gave details of the expectations of the Coaching Commissions and his interpretation of these instructions. BS is looking to start rolling out the revamped grade 2 over the winter. It is envisaged using existing grade 2 coaches as “guinea pigs” to assess the format and advise of any modifications required. Once this has been completed the grade 2 will be rolled out nationally.

MP indicated that funding may be available to BS to send someone to the coaching school in Paris in order for that person to qualify as a grade 1 National coach. BS is considering whether the costs are appropriate as from what he has seen of the course it still focuses on technique.

BS feels that grade 2 coaches should be dealing more with the motivation and tactics elements of play.

MP advised that in France what we call a Club coach is considered a trainer where they instruct the basics of holding and throwing boules catering for the early stages of play and development. MP went on to explain that a coach is a more highly trained individual who will work with teams on tactics, mental approach etc.

BS is considering setting up a system of advisory coaches. These are experienced players (not necessarily with a coaching qualification) at International level who will be able to pass on their accumulated knowledge and experiences. Currently there is no method of passing this knowledge on to emerging talent.

This system may be used at “Academy days” where players are mixed “not melee style” but with the intention of trying to match players with complementary talents and skills.

MP asked how many coaches of each grade do we have?

30 grade 3 – Club
9 grade 2 – Regional
0 grade 1 – National

There are a number of inactive coaches. BS is compiling a list of inactive coaches with the intent of finding out if they wish to refresh their qualifications.

4. Work Group Reports

MP advised that item 9 on the agenda regarding Schools Affiliation will be dealt with as part of these topics.

Fund Raising/European Championship

A volunteer is required to lead this project.

Tiered Membership

JS has formed a “virtual team”. JS was pleased with the initial responses he has received. He is currently collating these responses and will report on this later.

JS is aware that a preliminary report is due to be put before Congress.

Team Managers

KB has made little progress on this project as yet, but is looking to contact players and previous managers to obtain their views and comments. Once this feedback has been received he would look to providing a job role description. There is also the option of providing a list of suitable candidates for the position of team managers.

BS has previously worked on this issue and has drafted a team managers role. BS will pass this information to KB.

Venues

TG has been working on this via an online survey. Some of the information is sketchy and needs confirmation.

Senior Representation

GE has done a little work into the background. MP reminded GE that he is looking for information from Senior players into what they would want from the EPA when they are to represent the EPA at International events.

Juniors

DE has started work on this and is looking to establish what the best method of communication is. Would Junior players respond more positively to messages via email, Facebook, Twitter, letter or some other way. DE is looking into what competitions Junior want and what sort of prizes are wanted etc?

Espoirs

As above.

9. Schools Affiliation

DE has produced a draft questionnaire to be issued to regions. MP suggested that it asks for more information regarding exactly what regions are doing to contact schools and if it has worked.

We need to collate what has worked for the regions and then try to pass this on to regions that may be struggling in this area.

5. International Events

More information will be available after the Spring meetings of the CEP and FIPJP.

6. Invitation Events

Holland

KM and RB are attending as team managers with Lisa Edmondson acting as female chaperone.

Luxembourg

Invitation has been accepted and top team from the qualifying series will be invited to attend. This is an ideal opportunity for the team playing in the European Championships to practice under competition conditions.

Czech Republic

This is an open competition and will be posted on the website for anyone to attend should they wish to do so.

Club de Chalon-sur-Saone

May be offered to the Triples Champions, but this will be confirmed at a later date.

Funding

Previously Invitation events have been at the expense of the teams taking part. Last year there were some bursary payments given to Premier league teams in an effort to take part in competitions outside England.

It was agreed that should teams offered invitations through the EPA may apply to receive a bursary of £150 per team (triple) to offset their expenses. Payment of the bursary is subject to the MC receiving an in-depth report about the event within 10 days.

8. EPA Titles Weekend – Promotion, Flyers etc.

MP will shortly be producing the posters for these events and these will include the entry forms.

As with last year an incentive in the form of a £10 refund to all players who take part in all 3 events over the weekend.

AOB

MP passed details of the chalet prices for the Inter-regional weekend.

JS asked if details of the previous years winners could be added to all posters so that people are aware of whom the defending champions are.

Dates of next meeting

8th May – MC meeting
24th July – EPA congress
14th August – MC meeting
9th October – MC meeting
20th November – AGM

Adopted at the Management Meeting held on the 8th May 2010

Signed:



Mike Pegg - National President