

Minutes of the Inaugural Meetings of the British Petanque Federation held at Luton PC, Stopsley, Luton, England on Saturday, 6th November, 2005.

1. Present:

Executive Committee Members:

M. Eggleton (EPA) J. Roberts (EPA)

J. Watson (SPA) C. Montgomery (SPA)

D. Murphy (WPA) G. Evans (WPA)

Delegates to the Annual Congress:

M. Pegg (EPA) J. Middleton (EPA) L. Jamieson (EPA)

Mrs. M. Montgomery (SPA)

D. Jones (WPA).

2. Apologies for Absence:

Mr. J. Roberts offered apologies for absence from Mr. Moss and Mr. Brooks, both Congress delegates from the EPA who were able to attend.

3. Quorum:

It was agreed that the meetings of the Executive Committee and of the Congress were quorate.

4. Matters Arising:

The meeting opened at 10 am.

It was agreed that the first order of business was to hold the first meeting of the Executive Committee and then to proceed to the holding of the first Congress.

4.1 Matters Considered by the Executive Committee:

4.1.1 President of the BPF and Chair of the meetings. Vice President of the BPF.

G. Evans proposed D. Murphy as President of the BPF. The proposal was unanimously accepted without a vote being called. The President took the chair of the meeting.

G. Evans proposed J. Watson as Vice President of the BPF. The proposal was unanimously accepted without a vote being called.

4.1.2 The President expressed his thanks for his appointment and welcomed colleagues to the first meeting.

The President then went through the relevant agenda items which had been circulated prior to the meeting. He stated he would, as required, choose and provide details of the Secretary and Treasurer in due course, but confirmed that he proposed that the Secretariat and headquarters of the BPF during his presidency should be based in Cardiff at his offices there. The next Executive Committee

and Congress to take place on 5th November 2005 at Cardiff (at Cardiff Yacht Club). The proposals were accepted without a vote being called.

4.1.3 The President explained the BPF required a fully qualified Umpire to act as one of the links, apart from the President, between the BPF and the various national and international bodies and committees to which the BPF is to affiliate, in particular the FIPJP, the CEP and NSC, and he proposed that the post of internationally accredited Umpire to the BPF be offered to Mr. M. Pegg, Mr. Pegg consented to the appointment, and the proposal was unanimously accepted without a vote being called.

4.1.4 The President referred to the Technical Advisory Group as a function, but not a standing committee, of the BPF and proposed that it be formed, and the proposal was unanimously accepted without a vote being called.

4.1.5 The President proposed the first appointment to the Technical Advisory Group to head its technical function be Mr. Pegg because of his experience as an Umpire. The proposal was unanimously accepted without a vote being called.

4.2 Matters Considered by Congress.

The President confirmed that the first meeting of the Executive Committee of the BPF was concluded and the President welcomed the Delegates and invited the Delegates to join the Committee and to form the first Congress of the BPF and to consider the matters set out on the agenda which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

4.2.1 There was no formal report to Congress from the Executive Committee other than a brief report by the President as to the appointments made and to be made, and as to activation of the Technical Advisory Group, and the location of the headquarters of the BPF.

4.2.2 It was agreed to take items 5, 7 and 8 of the agenda together.

The BPF Constitution.

The draft BPF Constitution (draft version 0.6) was considered.

After discussion the following amendments were unanimously agreed without a vote being called. References are to the numbering used in the draft document:

- (a) 3.4: Deletion of all words after "rights", and insertion as a consequential amendment of the words "subject to 8.7".
- (b) 3.4.3: Deletion of "General Assemblies", insertion of "Congresses."
- (c) 4.2 and 4.3: Deleted. Consequential amendment, renumbering 4.4 as 4.2.
- (d) 6.: Deletion of "one calendar year" and insertion of "annual commencing on the first day of March in each year".
- (e) 8h.: After "... Umpire to act among other things as a link", insert "(but not so as to replace the role of the President as the primary link)". Consequential amendments, delete "and to" before the words "establish a Technical Advisory Group", and delete "and to" before the words "establish a Technical Advisory Group". Delete the words "and to" before the words "appoint team managers".
- (f) 8.4.11: Insert "draft" before "budget", and change "budget" to "budgets".

- (g) At the conclusion of the document insert "This Constitution was approved by the Congress held in Luton, England, on the Sixth day of November 2004."

4.2.3 Appointment of GB Team Managers.

- (a) There was a wide ranging discussion on this subject. Congress instructed the Executive Committee to select and invite suitable persons to act as GB Team Managers for GB Teams, to be mandated to act as managers for two seasons commencing in 2005 and to be appointed where possible by April 2005.
- (b) Mr. J. Roberts offered to act as the overall manager of all GB teams for one year, given he was intending to retire from the administration of the sport after one year. The President thanked him for the offer which he said would be considered. However, later in discussions on this subject, Mr. Roberts objected to plans to involve Mr. Pegg and others in arriving at suitable formats for playing the qualifying events on the basis that he was of the view that he, alone, had been appointed to this task. The President stated that that was not the case. The discussion became somewhat heated and at one point Mr. Roberts began to leave the meeting. He was eventually persuaded to remain.

4.2.4 The Resolutions proposed by the Executive Committee and the Members as listed in the Schedule to the Agenda.

The resolutions were considered and the attached schedule sets out the resolutions which were adopted in the form in which they were adopted by unanimous agreement without calling a vote.

4.2.5 BPF and International Playing Calendar 2005. Qualifying Series, Formats of Play, etc.

- (a) The draft initial playing calendar for 2005 was considered. It was clear it could not be completed during the meeting as information was still awaited from external bodies. It was also clear it was going to be a complex task. The Congress instructed the Executive Committee to complete and publish the calendar as soon as it was possible to do so.
- (b) Consideration was given to the qualifying series and formats of play and other matters relating to qualifying for the various GB teams – Seniors, Ladies and Juniors. There was a vigorous and lengthy discussion. Views were strongly expressed. One area concerned the opportunities provided for Ladies to compete at the international level in our sport. There was said to be a perception among Lady players that they were not being afforded the same or an equal opportunity to qualify for GB teams as the Senior Male players. It was pointed out that there were clearly going to be serious difficulties with the playing calendar this forthcoming season and, in practical terms it was not going to be possible to have completely similar systems.

Eventually, agreement was reached without a vote being called. The Congress instructed the Executive to prepare competitions based on the following principles, and to prepare appropriate and necessary competition rules. Mr. Pegg was invited to lead further discussions within the Executive Committee and the Technical Advisory Group on finalising the precise formats and rules of competition.

Principles adopted for the qualifying programme were to follow the general playing principles used previously but to incorporate the following:

- (1) There were to be 5 British Grand Prix matches, one each in Scotland and Wales, and three in England, the third such to overlap with the one in Scotland. The calendar was likely to be under extreme pressure in April and early May 2005 because of international championship dates. It would not be possible in 2005 to offer the Ladies the same number of qualifying events as the Senior

Teams. It also seemed inevitable that that some Ladies and Juniors events would have to be on consecutive weekends, and would likely involve playing on some Saturdays.

(2) The grand prix events would follow a six round snake format, leading to a Last 16 competition over a weekend at which a rolling barrage format would be used.

(3) The Ladies qualifiers would consist of a six round snake format leading to a Last 8 at which a rolling barrage format would apply.

(c) European Cup for Clubs 2005.

It was agreed unanimously without a vote being called that the current format would be retained for this competition for the 2005 season only. Arrangements for the 2006 season would be left to the Executive Committee to consider and bring forward proposals.

(d) Exeter: Titles Weekend.

The President was requested by Congress to seek clarification from the President of the EPA as to whether the traditional Exeter weekend of British Titles competitions was considered by the EPA to be an EPA or BPF event, and the Executive Committee was instructed by Congress to plan accordingly depending on the response.

4.2.6 Fees and Budgets for the next two years.

The budgets prepared by Mr. David Baxter for the playing years 2004/5 and 2005/6 were carefully considered and discussed. It was felt that they might not adequately reflect the likely levels of BPF expenditure given that the BPF had no other funds than competition entry fees and membership fees which were due to come in from next April onwards and which would probably not become available until well into the season. Particular concerns were expressed at the budget figures for the Junior World Championships to be held in Canada in July 2005. It was considered that £5,000 budgeted might not be enough to cover a 5 or 6 strong party staying in Canada for 5 or 6 days. There was also concern at the funding of officials at grand prix events, or in dealing with complaints handling, in CRB checking and other such things. The budgets seemed very light in several areas. After consideration Congress instructed the Executive Committee to consider further the funding requirements of the BPF and how they might be improved or secured.

It was resolved unanimously and without a vote being called to note the budgets as drafts for the years 2004/5 and 2005/6, and to adopt the membership licence fees proposed in the two drafts at £2.50 per year for both adults and juniors and that that level be maintained for two years. The Executive Committee was authorised to set the level of BPF competition entry fees, fines and other fees and service charges.

4.2.7 Auditors

On considering the appointment of Auditors it was appreciated that there appeared to be anomalies in that in the Constitution 8g and 8.4.19 appeared to conflict. It was agreed unanimously without a vote being called to refer the matter to the Executive Committee and if appropriate to take advice from the Treasurer when appointed as to resolution of any anomaly.

4.2.8 Arbitrators

The President advised that this item be withdrawn from the Agenda as the Constitution as adopted did not provide for such to be appointed. This was accepted and the item withdrawn.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 The President proposed and it was unanimously accepted without a vote being called that the Executive Committee would wherever possible conduct its business and that of the BPF generally by email or telephone rather than by formal meetings.

5.2 It was proposed by the President and agreed unanimously without a vote being called that Mr. M. Pegg be invited to act as the webmaster for the BPF's website, which Mr. Pegg agreed to accept.

5.3 The President announced he was going to offer a prize of £100 from his own monies for the successful designer of a logo or badge for the BPF. He would publish details on the Federation's website shortly.

6. Closure

There being no other business the President thanked those attending, and Luton PC for its hospitality, and declared the meeting closed.

AFTERNOTES:

Treasurer:

Mr. Russell Jenkins, Chartered Accountant, appointed Treasurer.

Mr. Richard Roberts LIB, appointed Secretary.

Offices: 19 St. Andrews Crescent Cardiff CF10 3DB. Tel.: +44 (0) 2920 221300.

2nd Congress and Executive Committee meeting: 10.30 am on Saturday 5th November 2005 at Cardiff Yacht Club, Cardiff Bay, Cardiff.

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Chair of the Meetings.

Checked by:
Witness

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Witness