

2023 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Venue: February 22nd 2023 @ 7.30pm – The Anchor, Little Paxton, St Neots

1. Present and Apologies:

- Anchor – Dave & Val Sellick, Graham Mulchinock, Brian Hyde, Frank & Sandra Bailey. Apologies from Toni Scrivener
- Crown – Brenda & Pete Bol, Alison Owen & Neil Stubbs
- Bell – Simon Black & John Bowskill
- Barley Mow – Apologies from Philip & Martin Gatward
- Unattached – Steve Holton, Mark Underwood & Matt Warren

2. Election of Officers

Dave Sellick had volunteered to take over from Simon Black as Chairman at the 2022 presentation night. Steve Holton formally proposed the appointment which was confirmed by the meeting. It was agreed that the roles of Secretary and Treasurer were unnecessary at the present time.

Steve Holton has done an enormous amount of work behind the scenes for the league. Dave Sellick proposed and the meeting agreed that a new position of Honorary President be created for Steve which he duly accepted.

3. Minutes from the 2020 AGM

Minutes of the 2020 AGM were approved by the meeting.

4. Financial Report

See Addendum 1 for a financial summary.

Cash in the bank at the beginning of the season stood at £182.43

Income from Competition fees was £154.00

Expenditure on engraving and medals for the League winners was £120.70

Closing cash balance for the season is £215.73

5. Matters Arising

At the 2020 AGM it was agreed that whilst Referees/Umpires are not required for doubles and triples games, they do help to speed up play in singles matches. There was concern though that use of a Referee (the League doesn't use qualified Umpires even though the rules occasionally refer to them) could lead to conflict of interest, disagreement over decisions and undue pressure being placed on those volunteering to Referee. It was agreed that the new committee should review the existing rules and circulate any proposed amendments. Unfortunately the pandemic break didn't allow this to happen. In the absence of any amendments Dave Sellick put forward a proposal to the meeting to use 'Markers' for the singles games. The role of the Marker is defined in addendum 2. The meeting agreed that the proposal should be adopted and the Rules updated accordingly.

A request was made to try and identify suitable courses to allow individuals to train as Umpires or at least get up to date with the rules. Dave Sellick agreed to look into this – Matt Warren subsequently forwarded an email he had received that day from Petanque England covering this very subject – DS to investigate.

6. League Teams

John Bowskill has taken over from Simon Black as captain of The Bell. Brenda Bol and Dave Sellick remain as captains for the Crown and Anchor respectively. There was no one present from the Barley Mow to confirm the situation with the team though a number of the players had already indicated to the Chairman that they would continue to play this year. Should the team need help reforming before the season starts, then Steve Holton agreed to become acting captain until a more permanent solution is confirmed.

There has been a number of people wishing to join a team and the Chairman was confident that a fifth team could be created. POST MEETING NOTE: Matt Warren and Mark Underwood are looking to create a team from people they play with in the Cromwell League.

With 5 teams, the format would involve playing each team 3 times (twice would be too few and 4 times too many). It may be that the third games are played at neutral venues – Steve Holton and Dave Sellick to investigate.

A question was asked as to the minimum age people should be in order to play in the League. The meeting agreed that the minimum age is to be set at 12 years old.

7. League Team Subscriptions and Competition Fees

It was agreed that team subscriptions were not necessary for this season. Competition fees to remain at £2 per player.

8. League Start Date

Dave Sellick proposed that the League would start on 3rd May with two friendly meet-ups prior to that. A request was made to include a clear week near the end of the season to allow matches postponed due to inclement weather to be played before finals night. POST MEETING NOTE: Season will now start 26th April with 12th and 19th April being pre-season Open Practice Sessions.

9. AOB & Member Propositions

Dave Sellick raised the situation regarding the rules surrounding the Jack position when thrown at the start of each end. The Rules state that it must be at least ½ metre from the end boundary but no mention is made about the side boundaries. National Rules (of which ours is an abridged version) state that there is no minimum distance from the side boundaries. This should be our default case. However, the meeting agreed that providing both teams agree, the jack may be moved up to 30cm (12 inches) from the side boundary. The Rules are to be updated accordingly.

ADDENDUM 1

2022 Financial Summary

2019 Season	IN	OUT	BALANCE
Opening Balance			£97.63
League Fees	£225		
Competition Fees	£220		
Trophies & Medals		£260.20	
Other		£100	
Closing Balance			£182.43

2022 Season	IN	OUT	BALANCE
Opening Balance			£182.43
League Fees	£0		
Competition Fees	£154		
Trophies & Medals		£120.70	
Other		£0	
Closing Balance			£215.73

ADDENDUM 2

Addendum to the St Neots & District Petanque League Chairmans' Rules

The League doesn't use qualified Umpires for its matches (even though the rules, an abridged version of the national rules, refers to them on a couple of occasions). The use of a team member as a Referee in the past has led to conflict of interest, disagreement over decisions and undue pressure being placed on those volunteering to Referee. The League therefore, has agreed at the 2023 AGM that a 'Marker' should be used for the singles games to speed up play. Markers are not required for pairs and triples games.

The role of the 'Marker' (who can be an individual from either team) is:

- a) To toss the coin to see who starts first.
- b) To ensure that the Jack is set within the correct confines of the piste.
- c) To give guidance as to who has the nearest boule to the Jack.
- d) To fill holes made by the boules as requested by the players.
- e) To update the scoreboard.

However, the 'Marker' is not required to measure unless specifically asked to do so by the players. The final decision regarding the holding of a shot lies with the players (or by the Team Captains should arbitration be required) and the 'Marker' should not remove any boules prior to both players reaching that decision.

A 'Marker' should remain impartial at all times during the game and is not allowed to give advice on what shot should or shouldn't be played.