

## The Marches Petanque

Chair  
Ian Williams  
Gwylordyfain  
Craswall  
Hereford  
HR2 0PP

Secretary  
Melanie Williams  
Gwylordyfain  
Craswall  
Hereford  
HR2 0PP

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at Seven Stars, Clehonger on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7:30pm

Present: Stella Acton; Tracy Adams; Steve Bradley; Jens Bryan; Barbara Clarke; Michael Hewitt; Martin Hudson; Phil Lear; Adrian Reeve; Helen Reeve; Ian Williams; Melanie Williams; Andy Wright

Apologies: Alan and Barbara Turner; Rob Thomas; Roy Wilkes; Eric Acton; Roger Marshall; Matty Taylor

Minutes of last meeting were agreed as a correct record.

There were no matters arising.

The Chair reported that the Winter League had been a success and was congratulated by members for a smooth-running season – helped by fortnightly fixtures which gives time to catch up on games if necessary.

Other Officers had nothing to report.

Summer League had 16 entries thus far, with closing date the following day. Teams lost to the league are Seven Stars, Portway Goldz, Mortimers Cross, Barristers and Tram Tracks. Possible new teams are Oak at Gladestry and Wilton Bridge. Martin and Phil (WB) explained they have no lighting which might make evening play tricky. They were advised that builders' lights on stands are available for modest sums and will investigate further. At present, it looks as though there will be 8 teams in each division with positions decreed by standings at the end of 2019 season. The season is due to start on 20<sup>th</sup> April. It will be tricky to arrange because there are limited pistes and several venues with multiple teams.

Beeline Competition – This has been poorly supported in recent years and the Executive suggested a change to the organisation. Instead of playing into September and October, when the evenings turn cold, the idea to play as a one-day event was mooted. This was discussed and with no dissenters, it was agreed to try this for one year and see how it went.

### **Date for Beeline – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August**

Summer League Knockout Cup – this competition was originally brought in to fill spare weeks when playing in three divisions. It will be put forward as an end-of-

season extra for this year and see how it goes. Entries will be sought before the July meeting when more concrete arrangements can be made.

Marches Competitions – these have been held as Closed events in the past, open only to Marches players. It was suggested that perhaps we could encourage more players if they were to become Open events. It was pointed out that numbers have been in decline over the last ten years or more. Should competitions become open, only Marches players would be eligible for Marches Cup points, meaning the Cup would effectively remain a closed competition. Following discussion, it was agreed to trial Open competitions.

Dates of competitions were determined as follows:

**24<sup>th</sup> April Triples and Coche Throwing**

**26<sup>th</sup> June Pairs and Pointing**

**11<sup>th</sup> September Singles and Shooting**

Any Other Business:

The new rules require a little clarity. When strings are live, the jack is valid if thrown/placed right up to the side strings. However, when strings are dead, as in Marches rules, the jack should be thrown/placed 50cm from side strings. The new rule that the thrown/placed jack should be 50cm from back does apply to Marches.

Stella explained that the Bell now closes at 10pm on Wednesdays. She asked that their home matches begin at 7pm in order that they are completed a little earlier. This was agreed as an exception, given the circumstances around the pub closing time. In exceptional circumstances, it was agreed that, if opposition players were unable to all arrive by 7pm, the order of play could be changed to begin with doubles or even singles. This will be reviewed in July at the next Committee meeting.

Finally, it was noted that there is a small number of players without a team this year. Should any team be short of players, please contact the Secretary, Melanie, who will put them in touch.

The meeting closed at 20:33