



DRAFT

Minutes of the SPA AGM Meeting Held in the Masonic Hall, Lerwick on 10 August 2010

Present:

1 Welcome and Team Registration

2 The 2009 AGM minutes were proposed as an accurate record by Colin Irvine and seconded by Michelle Bundy.

3 There were no matters arising.

4 Chairman's Report

Dave said that last season there had been a bit of sahke up in the men's ranking and that it seemed to be working well with no major problems being reported. He said that off island competitions would be discussed as the night went on as would a number of other issues so he proposed to move straight onto the next item on the agenda.

5 Treasurer's Report

Carl spoke through the accounts for everyone's benefit. It was noted that the date at the top was 2009 and should read 2010.

Someone asked about attendance at mainland competitions and how much SPA contributed. Jeff Goddard advised that he had audited the SPA's accounts and could vouch for the fact that the local competition entry money went towards paying the team fees and that this made sense since most people playing the competitions were the same ones who wanted to attend mainland competitions. In other words league entry fees pay for the running of the local league and competition entry fees pay for team registrations at mainland competition. Everyone was happy with that structure.

6 Election of Office Bearers

In keeping with the election structure, only one third of the Committee places are available for election to committee at any one time. The following nominations took place:

Tracy Bussetil nominated by Michelle and seconded by Carl – 18 votes

Brian Thompson nominated by James Ramsay and seconded by Jackie – 20 votes

Martin Ramsay nominated by Ryan and seconded by Michelle – 20 votes

James Ramsay nominated by Sean Watt and seconded by Martin – 18 votes

Jackie Leask nominated by Michelle and seconded by Amanda – 18 votes

Ian Charlton nominated by Carl and seconded by Alistair – 21 votes

Votes were then taken for the office bearing positions and the results were as follows:

President – Dave Suckley, nominated by Sandra, seconded by Michelle

Vice President – Vic Johnson nominated by Dave and seconded by Alan

Secretary – Sandra Pearson nominated by Carl and seconded by Ian

Treasurer – Carl Cross nominated by Sandra and seconded by Jackie

All of the above received 22 votes.

7 No shows

Ian suggested that the team who don't turn up without first calling the opposing team in due time are forced to forfeit a match, unless they have a good reason for not turning up such as a car accident on the way to the match, etc. Martin said it would become very difficult to set an exhaustive list of what could be deemed to be a good reason. It was pointed out that some of the problem is that captains and vice-captains change their contact details but do not think to advise the committee so contact sheets cannot be updated and circulated. Robert suggested contacting a committee member directly in situations where a team feels aggrieved at the opposing team for not showing up and considers their explanation to be unreasonable. Robert's suggestion won by 21 votes.

8 Non-reporting of Cancelled Matches

Dave explained that it is imperative that cancelled matches are advised to the Results officer in any of the ways used to report results, i.e. either by text, phonecall, or email.

9 Not Declaring a Foul

Dave explained that the Association does not use referees and relies on trust and honesty from its players. It was included in the Captain's letter that the onus is on the fouling player to declare it. Agreement should be reached between the 2 players and only if they can't agree should their respective Captains become involved and if that fails then it should go to a re-rack. In the event that a player/team goes through all of these options and still feel aggrieved, i.e. suspect the player of deliberately trying to conceal a foul then they should let a Committee member know so that an eye can be kept on that player/team in case of repeat incidents against other teams. This was agreed unanimously.

10 Cup Tied Players

Players can swap at the half way stage but the competitions span the Christmas period. It was therefore agreed to split the competitions to reduce the chance of this happening. There were 21 votes in favour.

11 Men's Ranking

Dave introduced this issue and passed over to Michelle who explained how the rolling top 16 works and explaining she adjusts it accordingly after every competition so the ranking is always current. This was unanimous approval for this.

12 Men's Team Manager

Dave suggested putting in place a non-playing manager for the men for mainland competitions and events. Michelle suggested that the Manager would need to be appointed as soon as team is selected and that he should stay in place as manager until the event is finished. Jackie said she would agree with that as she found it difficult when she had to phone around the men leading up to Bridlington. Appointment of a non-playing manager was carried by 18 votes.

The following conditions were then imposed:

- a) The Committee will appoint the manager from any interested parties. 22 votes
- b) Reasonable expenses (accommodation & travel) will be paid. 21 votes

13 Issues from the Captains Minutes

The matter of the timing for the semi's and finals of competitions was raised with the request that they start later in the day since there are only a few folk involved. Ian queried the sponsors ability to turn up if it was later. Jackie said it would not need to be too late since, in the case of Norscot, the bar staff generally wanted to get away. Sean Watt proposed a 2pm start seconded by Martin whilst Michelle proposed a 3pm start and was seconded by Colin. A vote was taken and the 3pm start was successful with 10 votes for to 8 votes against.

The condition of the balls at different venues was also an issue of some contention, as was the state of the tables. Martin said they should be brushed and ironed before matches. Frustration was also felt at the absence in some establishments of a spider and rest. Sandra said she would put something to that effect in venues letters but the SPA had no authority to force venues to do so and perhaps the home teams would have more leverage with the venue owners if they raised it themselves. It is hoped that a combination of both will make a difference.

14 AOCB

The issue of the best 5 from 7 competitions for intercounty was raised. It was agreed that this was the right way to structure it.

Ian asked if there was possible for his team to change their name without having to go back down to the 3rd division as, when they were younger, Me balls winna drop had been a good enough name but now that they were all a bit older they found it a bit embarrassing. It was decided that any team wishing to change it's name would be considered on a case by case basis at the AGM but when it was for thoroughly valid reasons then there would be no objection.

Ryan asked how long was reasonable to wait on a team that was late in turning up without prior arrangement having been made between the 2 teams. There was a lot of discussion on this point with different options being proposed. It was recognised that players often have to work late or have other valid reasons why they could not all be there at 8 and there needed to be some flexibility to ensure that teams did not have to cancel matches if all their players couldn't be there at 8pm, or worse still have to drop out of the league altogether. It was finally agreed that the whole team did not need to be there at 8pm but there did need to be at least one player there to write out the sheet and be ready to start the match. Others could come later so long as play was not halted and it was ok to leapfrog a player who wasn't there in order to keep the match moving.

Sarah asked about the Les Scott Memorial. Michelle proposed dropping the Alex Morrison cup and replacing it with the Les Scott Memorial. Sandra said that Alex

(Piper) Morrison was instrumental in setting up the SPA and was a founder member so maybe it would be better to drop the Market Cross instead. Dave said that Joe Saffian had put that cup up when he owned the butcher shop at the Cross but that it had been closed for a lot of years now. There was some discussion on it all and it was agreed to change the Market Cross cup. *SEE FOOTNOTE

Sean asked for the Intercounty cup to be moved to April instead of February. It was pointed out that that would clash with Bridlington. The committee will speak with Orkney to see what they say.

Martin asked how many teams were entered for the 2010-11 league. Michelle advised him there were 36.

Michelle is to get an inventory of the memorabilia from 2002 held on the pallet at Carl's work and offer it for sale to the membership through the website first and anything left after that could be sold online to anybody else who might want it.

LBC queried the Shetland Times' advertising of cup matches. It was explained that all SPA can do is submit the information but can't force them to print it however if it became a regular problem then the Committee would write to the Editor.

The format of the Market Cross cup was discussed with the suggestion that having it over 2 legs was a waste of time as most teams played double headers to get it out of the way in one night. There was a lot of general opinions expressed including the fact that there are no doubles frames anymore except in the doubles competition. Martin proposed changing the Market Cross format to one leg with 3 doubles frames and 2 sets of 6 singles frames, and was seconded by Sean. Michelle counter-proposed 3 sets of singles and was seconded by Carl. Both proposals were put to the vote with Martin's suggestion winning 10 votes and Michelle's winning 4 votes. The Market cross cup will change to 1 leg made up of 3 doubles and 2 sets of 6 singles. Tirval suggested a curry for both teams who made it to the final. This was also agreed.

Martin suggested an addition to the rankings whereby anyone who wins a singles competition should be an automatic choice as a wild card. This was approved unanimously.

Dave thanked everyone for their attendance and for putting their confidence in him as their new President.

FOOTNOTE: It transpired, after the AGM, that there was clear confusion amongst folk as to which competition they thought they were voting on to be replaced by the Les Scott Memorial Cup. Some folk thought it was the Alex Morrison, other thought it was the Market Cross, whilst the remainder thought it was the Jubilee cup. The committee put around a text to all captains a few days later asking if there were any objections to the Jubilee Cup being the one that changed to become the Les Scott Jubilee Cup. Only one objection was received so this went ahead, with the Alex Morrison cup staying unchanged and the Market Cross cup becoming 1 leg with a 3x doubles and 2 sets of 6 singles being the format.