



Annual General Meeting – Minutes

Date: Tuesday 5th May 2026

Venue: Harpole Bowls Club

Time: Meeting commenced at 19.15

Attendance: 20 NSMBA members: Fred Pearson, Jenny Pearson, Dave Ekins, Val Jones, Wendy Lovell, Dave Cheeseman, Bob Clarridge, Pam Clarridge, Chris Terry, Tim

Gunter, Jan Fox, David Bibey, Edward Strawbridge, Mike Edwards, Wendy Kean, Nicky Frost, Adam Hawkins, Paul D’Inverno, Sue Gunter, Eddie Carter. Attendees were from 4 clubs; Harpole, Old Stratford, Pytchley, Sherrington.

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chair Sue Gunter opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. It was noted that attendance consisted of 20 members of the NSMBA.

Apologies : Chris Weston, Chris Hopkins John & Diana Adams

Kate England from ESMBA gave a short input on her development role and took questions relating to general development of grass roots clubs and the possibility of setting a 2 league ICC competition as players are discouraged from playing as they feel they will always be beaten by the best teams. Kate thanked everyone and stated they are looking at developing a newsletter and that she would take the points raised, back to ESMBA. She also stressed that her email address be circulated in order she take questions and answer any queries.

2. Approval of Minutes of the 2025 AGM was agreed.

•No other matters arising were revealed

3. JF All reports would be taken as read. All reports were accepted as read apart from Treasurer which was discussed. JP stated that there was no stock valuation report with the documentation. JF apologised and thanked JP for raising that point. JF to forward the report to JP.

4. Treasurer's Report

- Presentation of the 2025–26 accounts
- Auditor's statement
- Approval of accounts

5. PD update on the new website. PD thanked Brenda Hart for the work previously completed by Brenda. PD gave a general overview and rationale for the new website also stating the NSMBA logo will be used not the Rose of the Shires. He also expressed that clubs need to send him content and proposed that a section on the website will be dedicated to clubs. All present appreciated the work carried out by PD. SG also stated NSMBA now have a Facebook site.

6. **Proposed Rule or Constitutional Changes**

- Presentation of proposals submitted in accordance with NSMBA rules
- Discussion and voting

DE outlined the proposal for the changes to the constitution. Including the need for players who represent different clubs must be a member of each club and register membership of each club with the NSMBA with additional fee. FP exemplified one player he knows is a member of 5 different clubs so could be expensive. General discussion. JP raised a number of points with the proposed constitutional changes as outlined below:

Point D in relation to behaviour, act in line with constitution should add` to be followed up by safeguarding officer`

Point C Clubs outside of Northamptonshire can only be members of NSMBA at the discretion of the committee. Those members not registered with ESMBA cannot compete in qualifying matches.

Point B the word NORMALLY should be underlined,

Point C current members who play in qualifiers must be prepared to play for the County if asked. General discussion on this point resulted in agreement that the word **must** is to be changed to **should**.

Point 7 B the words outlining dates ie `last day of January, 1st of February and draft last day of April should be in bold. 7C should be 2\3 majority

A vote was taken on the amendments within the constitutional proposal with 18 for and 2 abstentions resulting in the proposal for the changes to the constitution being approved.

12. Election of Officers for 2026–27

- Treasurer. Nicky Frost was proposed by SG and seconded by JF all attending members voted in favour of NF being NSMBA Treasurer.

TG was elected as NSMBA Safeguarding Officer by a full majority and will be a member of the committee.

- Committee Members

PD, ME, WK, DE, AH, Jan F were all duly re-elected onto the committee.

13. Any Other Business

NF proposed that cheques would not be accepted for payments. JP raised the payment by BACS to confirm that this will be the method for all payments to NSMBA, BC stated elder members do not use BACS so his club will pay for all. It was explained that due to efficiency and costs incurred when dealing with cheques it is not sustainable therefore BACS will be the method. All in attendance agreed.

SG proposed an increase of registration fees to £3 NSMBA, £25 for affiliation, £20 club registration. All present approved the increase.

SG prior to COVID there was a fee to enter the leagues, this was dropped post covid to encourage a return. It is proposed to reinstate a fee for clubs wishing to play in leagues. Following a general discussion, it was agreed by all present that a charge of £5 per team per league be introduced.

SG has secured a 25% reduction on the purchase of trophies, which was well received by all.

SG All clubs must have a safeguarding officer in place by 2028. TG in his capacity as NSMBA safeguarding officer will be visiting every club to support this requirement.

JP wanted to thank the committee for the very positive approach being taken for the betterment of the NSMBA.

DC asked what information is required to join the NSMBA general discussion took place providing advice and guidance.

AH raised an idea to create a 4-league competition following general discussion he will put something together for a discussion at the NSMBA committee meeting.

Harpole Bowls Club offered to hold the next AGM TBC

15. Harpole Bowls Club offered to hold the next AGM TBC, Date of Next AGM TBC

SG expressed that it would have been encouraging to see greater representation from clubs across Northamptonshire and emphasised the hope that more clubs will attend future AGM, thanked all those who attended and closed the meeting.