

## ENGLAND SQUASH MASTERS

Record of the General Meeting of players held at Bury St Edmunds at 9.00 am on Saturday 28 September 2013. The ESM Terms of Reference require this meeting to be held every two years and to fulfil the functions of an AGM

The meeting was chaired by Martin Pearse and attended by approximately 20 players.

Martin reminded those present that Masters regional tournaments have now been organised by the ESM Committee (a sub-committee of England Squash and Racketball) for over ten years, culminating each season in the selection of England teams in each age group to play in Home Internationals against Wales, Scotland and Ireland. We have a high level of success in those internationals.

This season will see the number of points carrying regional tournaments extended to six with the addition of a north-west regional to be held at Grove Park, Stockport. In addition there are the National Championships and the British Open, both of which have a full range of Masters events. In addition, the European Masters Championships are to be held annually, and international matches for certain age groups are being organised against Germany and USA/Canada. It is also likely that there will be Masters Team Championships after the World Championships in South Africa.

Point a rally scoring (PARS) to 11 is being used by the younger age groups in the regional tournaments, and is gradually being extended upwards as younger players are more accustomed to its use in other events such as county leagues

The ESM web site has been constantly improving, thanks to the commitment of Adrian Wright for the first ten years. He has now been succeeded by Brian Brock, who explained that he is rebuilding the site to make it more user friendly for players, is extending the use of graphics and videos, and is exploring the possibility of streaming matches from Masters events.

Steve Mcloughlin (Treasurer) said that the Committee now has accumulated funds of £5400, due to a surplus of about £1k last year. He invited suggestions for the use of some of these funds, to be discussed later in the meeting. A detailed statement of income and expenditure for 2012-13 was available on request.

No new nominations had been received for membership of the Committee, and all the existing members, with the exception of Adrian Wright, were willing to continue. England Squash would be represented by one person instead of two. The Committee therefore comprises –

Chairman	Martin Pearse
Vice-Chairman	Stuart Hardy
Treasurer	Steve Mcloughlin
Secretary	Mike Clemson
Home Internationals	Dave Hardern
Women	Sam Moeller
	Beverley Mackay
Promotion/Sponsorship	Robert Smith

Trophies and prizes     Peter Alexander  
ESR Representative     Chris Nutley

The following items were raised under general discussion

1. The point was made that it is unfair to some players at regional tournaments if rounds are split between one day and the next, requiring some players to play twice in one day and not others. While it is recognised that scheduling is difficult because of pressure on courts and players preferred times of availability, it was agreed that, as far as possible, rounds should be played in a block on the same day.
2. Dissatisfaction was expressed about the seedings for the Womens events in the European and Masters Regional Championships. The Chairman agreed in principle with these complaints, but pointed out that there are a number of other countries involved, so that ESF seedings do not necessarily reflect ESM recommendations. It was agreed that advice on seedings should be supplied by the selectors for the various England Womens HI teams for all relevant tournaments. However, in view of the limited time frame (normally four hours) for Regionals draws to be expedited, it was up to the selectors to email recommended seedings at the closing time for entries.
3. It was agreed that an appropriate use of a proportion of the funds available to ESM would be to purchase T shirts, Fleeces or 'Hoodies' for all ESM registered players, with wording promoting England Masters squash and giving the address of the website. Alison Goy offered to deal with the distribution of the chosen items to players, as long as the supplier was Andy Murray.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked Peter Alexander for the use of the room, and declared the meeting closed.