

ENGLAND SQUASH MASTERS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT ESR HQ MANCHESTER ON FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2013

PRESENT

Martin Pearse (Chairman), Stuart Hardy, Peter Alexander, Robert Smith, Chris Nutley and Mike Clemson

APOLOGIES received from Dave Hardern, Steve Mcloughlin, Bev Mackay, Sam Moeller and Matt Baker

MINUTES of the meeting held on 5 January 2013 were approved

MEETING WITH ENGLAND SQUASH AND RACKETBALL

The Officers (Martin, Stuart and Mike) had met beforehand with Jim Lord and Chris Nutley to review the relationship between the Masters Committee and ESR. It had been agreed that Martin would submit regular reports to Chris on the activities for which the Masters Committee is responsible, for inclusion in the reports on ESR activities (which go, inter alia, to the ESR Board) and that, on occasions, the Masters Committee would be invited to send a representative to report at a Board meeting. Mike would forward ESR staff reports to all members of the Masters Committee

Martin would approach the Editor of the Squash Player magazine (Ian McKenzie) to request more publicity for Masters activities

There was a general discussion on the further integration of the Calendar of Masters activities, to further encourage maximum participation of Masters age players in all the activities relevant to them, including County Masters Championships, Inter-County teams, the Regionals etc. The Masters Committee representatives felt that there is a case, on the grounds of time and cost commitments, for the first phase of the Inter-County Championships to be played on a regional basis, and for neutral venues to be used where County teams would otherwise have unduly long journeys. It was agreed that Chris and Martin would liaise over the Calendar to see what can be achieved. It was noted that there is a particular need to increase participation by women. Once the Calendar is finalised, it needed publicising to all eligible players with information as to how to get involved

As regards suitable venues for Regionals, it was agreed that Martin should liaise with Jon Carney (Facilities Investment Manager) for information about venues which have had investment to improve their facilities

Jim reported that the ESR web site was in the process of transition, which would hopefully lead to improvements. It was noted that the financial support given by ESR for the management of the ESM web site should in future be paid to the ESM Committee

PLANNING OF REGIONALS 2013-14

Following the discussions agreed in the previous item, Martin will share with Chris provisional dates and venues for the Masters Regionals in 2013-14. It was agreed that we need to encourage host venues to do more local promotion of the event, including getting a certain number of local entries at a discount entry fee

The first Regional will be the East of England at the end of September either at Bury St Edmunds or another venue which Peter Alexander recommended as an alternate. It will be followed by the North of England at Pontefract at the end of October, followed by the West of England a month later. As the courts at Bristol had been cold and damp, it was agreed to consider Wolverhampton LT and Squash Club as a venue for this tournament. The South of England would be held on the first weekend of 2014, with Colets to be approached instead of Broxbourne. The Midlands in February would again be held at Coventry, but only on a one year at a time basis.

It was agreed that the North West Regional run at Grove Park should be added to the list of points-carrying tournaments on condition that it is held in March 2014 and run on the same basis as the others (ie the Masters Committee to receive entries and do the draws, Brian Brock to manage the event etc.).

If this is accepted, players points will be taken into account from their five best regionals

There was some discussion about the implications of increased entries for Regionals for the numbers of courts available. Rather than use a second venue, it was agreed that on occasions semi-finals and finals should be played on Sundays as well as the finals of the Plates

It was agreed that qualification for selection for England should remain as now – ie playing in at least two points-carrying tournaments, one of which must be the Open or Nationals

INTERNATIONALS

Dave Hardern had reported that all arrangements were in hand for this years Home Internationals. The Nottingham weekend is booked, the cost to players being £165. It was agreed that women asked to play in two age groups should be subsidised to an agreed amount. It was also agreed that women who did not meet the eligibility criteria above could still be considered for selection in order to fill teams. Finally, it was agreed that Jamie Goodrich qualified to play in two of the England teams

Jim Lord reported that there is a possibility of shirts being made available to all England teams in time for this years Internationals

Martin reported that discussions were ongoing about matches against Germany, and the possibility of taking some age group teams to the USA. A team event in Hong Kong and/or South Africa, immediately following the World Championships, was being discussed with Andrew Shelley (WSF)

FINANCE

Steve Mcloughlin had circulated an update to Committee members, concluding that, when all outstanding income and expenditure was taken into account, the Committee would have a balance in hand of approximately £6k. He would circulate a full report at the end of the season.

It was agreed to give Brian Brock a voucher in the sum of £500 for him to spend as he wished, in recognition of his input to the web site and the Regional tournaments (which he does on an expenses only basis)

Martin reported on a potentially significant deal with a Vitamin Company, which Jim Lord had agreed to look at in more detail

ALLAM BRITISH OPEN

Chris reported that all arrangements were in hand, and that he would appreciate the help of Committee members in encouraging maximum participation. Mike was making provisional soundings about a Masters Social evening on the Friday evening at the Hull University Sports Centre (where the Masters event is being played) to be jointly hosted by the Masters Committee and the Vets Club of Great Britain, and to feature, inter alia, the presentations to Masters Players of the Year (? By Dr. Allam)

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed, and no arrangements were made for the next meeting