

## ENGLAND SQUASH MASTERS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 5.15 PM ON FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2014 AT ESR HQ MANCHESTER

PRESENT Martin Pearse (Chairman), Mike Clemson, Stuart Hardy, Chris Nutley, Dave Hardern, Robert Smith and Brian Brock (invited to attend)

APOLOGIES were received from Steve Mcloughlin, Sam Mueller and Peter Alexander

MINUTES of the Committee meeting held on 15 February 2013 were approved

### PRESENTATION TO ESR BOARD

Martin reported that he had attended the ESR Board meeting the previous day by invitation, and done a presentation on the history, current activities and scenario for the future of England Masters squash, which had been well received by the Board. The main thrust of Martin's presentation was to raise the profile of Masters Squash, which makes up the majority of the squash playing population, give it more recognition and ask for two representatives on the ESR Board.

Specific matters discussed were ESRs role in recommending venues for Regionals, particularly where ESR had made major investments in improved facilities, how the Masters Committee can assist in promoting participation, the future of the Inter-County Championships, and PARS/HIHO. It was also confirmed that there are no plans for a Masters players ranking system at present. A full transcript of the presentation is available from Martin

There followed a discussion about the general level of participation in the sport, including how it is currently monitored, and what efforts Masters squash could make to influence Sport England's responses to players surveys

### MATTERS FROM PLAYERS MEETING HELD AT BURY ST EDMUNDS ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2013

Stuart Hardy had liaised with Andy Murray of Iprosport to design a range of polo and T shirts for men and women. After much consultation, shirts of the agreed design had been ordered from Andy and distributed to most players by him with assistance from Alison Goy at the various regional tournaments free of charge. A range of garments featuring ESM, including shirts, hoodies, fleeces and shorts, were now available for sale and would be featured on the website with a link for players wishing to purchase. ESM receives a small commission on each sale.

Stuart, in conjunction with Andy, has also designed the new England kit for players representing England, including an extra shirt free for players who order two. This kit,

also available through the website, can be ordered by any England player, past or present

## REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

- (a) It was agreed that the number of regional tournaments should remain at 6 for 2014/15, with players best five points results to count
- (b) It was agreed that, in view of the increasing numbers of entries, a minimum of six courts was required at regional venues, and this was preferable to the use of an additional venue. Martin would liaise with Jim Lord over suitable venues recommended by ESR, and consult with the Committee by means of a conference call to be facilitated by Robert, about any changes before the drawing up of the Calendar for 2014/15, which would be done in March/April in conjunction with Chris Nutley
- (c) Arrangements for the North West regional appeared to be going well
- (d) The Guidance notes for players and for host venues would be reviewed and updated by Mike and Brian and circulated to the Committee for comment and approval
- (e) It was agreed to ask ESR for three referees for the finals of regional tournaments in 2014/15

## HOME INTERNATIONALS

Dave reported that arrangements for the England 2014 Home Internationals were on schedule. Wales have confirmed their invitation, and suggested that the womens over 55 teams might be expanded to five a side. This has been agreed by England, Scotland and Wales, and a response from Ireland is awaited

Pending the invitation from Ireland, they have suggested the inclusion of a three a side Mens Over 75 event. This was agreed as a trial only

An invitation is awaited from Scotland, due to changes in date occasioned by the final date agreed for the British Open, which has been on different weekends in May in each of the last three years

In response to a request from Ireland, it was agreed that the Mens Over 35/40 should be scored PAR to 11. It was also agreed that, to be consistent with other competitions, this should be extended to Mens Over 45. Dave would ask Sam to canvass the women about the same applying to the Womens Over35/40

Dave also suggested that we needed to amend the rules in respect of the number of the points to be awarded to the winning team – to be increased to five so that the team winning the most number of matches is guaranteed to finish at the top of the points table. This was agreed.

Dave was thanked for his work in organising the Home Internationals

## OTHER INTERNATIONALS

Martin reported on plans for Women's Over 45 and 50 against Germany, being organised by Sam Moeller. Plans were also afoot to take Mens teams to Canada and USA in the autumn, being co-ordinated by Willie Hosey and Richard Millman respectively. Consideration was also being given to an event after the World Masters Championships in South Africa, but not at Hong Kong

It was agreed that ESR should inform the WSF on our behalf of our objection to the possible basing of the World Championships in Johannesburg, for reasons of security and altitude

#### PUBLICITY

There was a discussion on the lack of publicity for Masters Squash, both in the Squash Player and other locations. Chris would include any information sent to him, in the monthly updates issued by ESR. Martin would contact Squashsite re the inclusion and updating of a Masters page

#### FINANCE

Steve had circulated a report to all Committee members showing a current balance of £7500 and a continued surplus on regional tournaments. There was some discussion on the nature of the prizes for winners and runners-up at regional tournaments, to be given further consideration. The next players meeting agenda would include inviting suggestions for the use of our surplus funds

#### WEBSITE

It was agreed that the Committee should purchase a new lap top and any appropriate software by Brian on our behalf. Thanks were expressed to Brian for his work and commitment to Masters Squash

#### BRITISH OPEN 2014

Chris said that he would organise any Masters Social event during the Masters Championships.

#### PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

It was agreed that those selected should receive a trophy and a case of wine, the latter to be organised by Robert. The three recipients (to include at least one woman) should be confirmed at the British Open (suggestions to Martin, please) and the presentations done at the first regional in September

#### NEXT MEETING

To be arranged