

## ENGLAND SQUASH MASTERS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 5.00 PM ON FRIDAY 13 FEBRUARY  
2015 AT ESR HQ

PRESENT; Stuart Hardy (who acted as Chairman), Mike Clemson, Peter Alexander, Chris Nutley, Dave Hardern, Steve McLoughlin and Brian Brock

APOLOGIES; were received from Martin Pearse, Helen Gould and Robert Smith

MINUTES of the meeting held on 27 September 2014 were approved

MEMBERSHIP of the Committee. Sarah Parr and Alison Goy had both declined. It was agreed to leave the membership of the Committee as is for the time being, bearing in mind that the players meeting to elect a new Committee, inter alia, was due to be held later in the year

### REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

- (a) It was noted that, because of the number of entries, the women's over 35 and 40 events had been separate at the Midlands Regional. However, in view of the short time before the Home Internationals, it was agreed that there would be a joint team (three over 35, two over 40) for this year at least, as agreed with the other home countries
- (b) It was agreed that a request from a player to put players from the same county (and/or those known to play each other regularly in their home area) in different sections of the draw, and to avoid putting older age groups on courts known to be cold(er), should be borne in mind when doing the draw and scheduling matches
- (c) Steve raised the issue of winners then avoiding marking the next match. It was agreed that Brian should advise Martin/Steve of any regular culprits
- (d) It was noted that the liaison at ESR for the provision of referees is now Gayle Pink
- (e) PARS/HIHO. It was noted that PARS to 11 is now used at regionals for the over 35/40 and 45s (men and women) and for the early rounds of the Mens Over 50. It was agreed that a referendum of players in the 50 – 54 age group should be done to ascertain their views about the further extension of PARS. Stuart offered to organise this in conjunction with Brian. For consistency, Chris would consider using the same scoring systems for the various age groups in the Nationals and British Open tournaments
- (f) A proposal from a player that the 'minnows' at regional tournaments should be given a bye in the first round, instead of the seeds, was not agreed
- (g) The Chairman's action in respect of a players behaviour on court was noted and endorsed
- (h) It was agreed that entry fees must be received and cleared before the draw is done, if not, the player will be excluded from the draw. Refunds or a credit for a future regional will be made for players withdrawing before the closing date for entries, but not thereafter

- (i) Brian notifies Martin of players who regularly withdraw at short notice before a tournament. They will be advised that their entries for future tournaments may not be accepted, and a note to this effect will be included in the updated Guidelines for Players
- (j) It was noted that Masters registered players need to be individual members of ESR
- (k) It was reported that Colets would not be available next season, and there was also a suggestion that venues should be rotated to avoid the same one always being the last. It was agreed that Martin and Stuart would review venues and dates for 2015-16. It was noted that venues need to be affiliated to ESR

## HOME INTERNATIONALS

- (a) Dave confirmed the dates for 2015 (see minutes of last meeting) but said that the Scottish venue still has to be finalised
- (b) The proposal of a mixed W60/M75 team was not accepted. Subject to the agreement of the other home countries, there would be M75 teams (3 a side) but not W60. The W55 would be three a side, with the option of playing 'friendlies' at 4 and 5 between those countries able to bring additional players
- (c) Dave would suggest to the other home countries that scoring should be the same as at the masters regionals – ie 35/40 and 45 to use PARS to 11

## OTHER INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

Martin reported in notes circulate to those attending this meeting that matches in Europe were unlikely, that Australia is too far and there is little interest from the USA. Canada is a strong possibility, and there is also the suggestion of a team event at the World Masters in Johannesburg. Stuart is visiting the USA and will check out the situation there

## WORLD MASTERS 2016

It was agreed that Brian should publicise a request for likely entrants to contact Martin or Stuart, so that a Co-ordinator could be selected to work with the players in respect of shared travel and hotel accommodation, and possibly some form of get-together in the preceding months. It was further agreed that this committee would sponsor kit only. The question of what kit and for which players was left for a future meeting

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Steve reported that he would circulate a full statement within the next fortnight, but it appeared likely that we would have funds of circa £9k by the end of the season. We should consider options for the use of this accumulated surplus. It was agreed that Brian's partner's (Ros's) expenses in attending to help run regional events, should be included in Brian's claim, and that this should be backdated to the start of this season

## RANKING LISTS

Stuart proposed that a ranking list in each age group should be compiled at the end of each season for the interest of the players, and to remind them that the points lists, although used in part to select England teams, are not ranking lists as such. Stuart would compile it in conjunction with team managers. It was agreed, however, that Squashlevels ([www.squashlevels.com](http://www.squashlevels.com)) already provides this information, as the results from regionals are now being included

## PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

The committee was reminded that we select three people annually who have made a significant contribution to Masters squash both on and off the court. Stuart had compiled a list of former recipients, and it was agreed that an Honours Board should be established on the web site. Suggestions for recipients for 2014/15 should be made to Stuart

## ENGLAND SQUASH AND RACKETBALL

It was reported that, following a cut in funding from Sport England, ESR was undergoing a reduction in staffing and consequent restructuring with a new Chief Executive (Keir Worth). Martin was seeking a meeting with Keir to clarify the future role and relationship as regards ESR and the Masters Committee (which is currently a sub-committee of the ESR Board). Chris apologised for the delay in ICC results appearing on the ESR web site, due to staff illness

## DEVELOPMENT OF MASTERS SQUASH

While discussion on this item was largely held over pending the outcome of discussions with ESR, the committee was invited to consider running some 'B' tournaments to widen Masters involvement, or some 'Cross Agenda' tournaments eg M55 v W35, M60 v W40 etc.

## OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Mike reported on an approach from Amy Tilley of the Squash and Racketball Foundation, seeking to interest Masters players in supporting its work financially. It was agreed that Brian should obtain appropriate material from Amy and feature it in the next newsletter and on the web site
- (b) Martin's report on the 'horrendous' seeding of the Dutch Open Masters  
And subsequent successful action was noted and endorsed

## PLAYERS MEETING

It was agreed that the general meeting of players, due in 2015, should be held during the Open Masters at Hull University on Friday evening, 15 May, to be followed by the presentations to the Players of the Year and a Masters Social organised by Chris Nutley

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.00 pm