

ENGLAND SQUASH MASTERS ("ESM")

RECORD OF PLAYERS MEETING HELD AT HULL UNIVERSITY AT 1800 ON 24 MAY 2019

PRESENT :

ESM players : Yawar Abbas, Mandy Akin, Nigel Belle, Howard Cherlin, Mike Clemson, Sharnine Coleman, Simon Evenden, Barry Featherstone, Tony Gay, John Goodrich, Alison Goy, Ian Graham, Nicky Green, Sarah Howlett, Karen Hume, Ken Johnson, Steve Johnson, Geoff Redfern, Joe Richardson, Alistair Swift, James Tosney, Aubrey Waddy, John Woodliffe, Mark Woodliffe, Rachel Woolford

Non-ESM players : Lynne Davies, Pauline Douglas, Sian Johnson

APOLOGIES : No apologies were received.

WELCOME : The Vice-Chairman of the England Squash Masters Committee, Stuart Hardy, called the meeting to order and welcomed those present to the University of Hull as the venue for the British Open Masters tournament for 2019. The masters event was being co-hosted at the university together with the Allam British Open and Stuart noted the efforts made by both the University and PSA staff to make the masters players welcome.

APPROVAL OF THE RECORD OF THE LAST PLAYERS MEETING : The last players meeting of ESM was held on 9 June 2017 and the record of the meeting is available on the ESM website. Approval of the record was proposed by Jonathan Gliddon and seconded by Rachel Woolford. The meeting confirmed approval unanimously.

CHAIRMANS REVIEW OF 2017-2019 : The Vice-Chairman reported on behalf of the Chairman, Jonathan Gliddon, who had taken a short sabbatical from ESM from which he was now returning. The 2018 and 2019 seasons had seen a continued increase in participation at the ESM regional tournaments, which continue to be organised and managed by Brian and Roz Brock with assistance from the ESM Committee. In response to concerns of overcrowding of the calendar, ESM intend to reduce the number of regional tournaments from 6 to 5 for the 2019-2020 season. The National Masters Championships were held at the Northern Club in Manchester in 2018 and at Nottingham Squash Club in 2019, both times in conjunction with the Senior Championships. England teams continued to perform extremely well in the home internationals, winning 13 / 13 in 2018 and 12 / 13 in 2019. The ESM circuit is highly regarded globally however it can always be improved. The Vice – Chairman encouraged players to give feedback and ideas on changes that would further benefit ESM, for example ways to encourage more female participation. This is an area where funds may be available from England Squash to help implement any proposals.

TREASURERS REPORT : The Hon Treasurer presented the financial report. For 2018-2019, ESM made a profit of approximately £1,000 from the running of regional tournaments after all fees and costs. Since ESM took responsibility for the management of the National and British Open Masters championships, these events have broken even. There is currently around £6,000 held in the ESM bank account. The Treasurer noted that ESM is not intended to run as a profit making organisation and, subject to maintaining a prudent balance, invited players to consider and propose ways in which the surplus could be utilised.

A question was raised from the floor asking for clarity about the payments to or from host clubs and whether this was similar to the structure of payments for organising events sanctioned by the European Squash Federation ("ESF"). The Vice-Chairman confirmed that ESM is not affiliated to

either ESF or to England Squash, and does not make payments to either body in respect of its tournaments. ESM pay clubs court fees in respect of hosting an event and all revenue from sales of food and drink are retained by the host club. In contrast, ESF charge organisers a hosting fee for the right to run a tournament.

Approval of the Treasurers Report was proposed by Robert Smith and seconded by Nick Sheppard. The meeting confirmed approval unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2019-2021 / PRESIDENTS ADDRESS : The floor passed to the Hon President of ESM, Martin Pearse, who addressed the meeting. The Hon President noted the continuing improvement in the standard of squash being played at ESM events and in particular that of the ladies entering. The Hon President also thanked Stuart Hardy for taking more responsibility during the Chairmans sabbatical and proposed a vote of thanks from the meeting for the Events Co-ordinator, Brian Brock, who has done so much to ensure the successful running of ESM events.

The Hon Secretary, Mike Clemson, reported that he would not be standing for re-election to the committee in any capacity.

Two ordinary members of the committee, Zoe Shardlow and Marcus Hayes (co-opted), had resigned and were not standing for re-election.

Linda Taylor is invited to attend ESM committee meetings as a representative of England Squash.

The following nominations were received :

Hon Chairman :	Jonathan Gliddon
Hon Treasurer :	Steve Mcloughlin
Hon Secretary :	Nick Sheppard
Home Internationals :	Alison Goy
Events Co-ordinator :	Brian Brock
Ordinary Members :	Stuart Hardy
	Mandy Akin
	Allen Barwise
	Robert Smith

The number of nominations matched the number of committee members required under the ESM Terms of Reference. Mike Clemson proposed election of the nominated members en bloc. This was seconded by Aubrey Waddy and approved by the meeting unanimously.

PLANS FOR THE COMING SEASON : Robert Smith reported on the selection of venues for regional tournaments for the 2019-2020 season. He reiterated that ESM pay host clubs a fee to cover court usage and that clubs retain all revenue deriving from food and drink sales during events. ESM received 9 applications from venues interested in hosting events in 2019-2020 and these were reviewed with reference to the published Guidance Notes for Clubs. As noted previously, entry numbers for tournaments continued to increase which has led to particular pressure on scheduling of matches for the Friday. The meeting was advised of the following potential changes which may be introduced to allow tournaments to continue to run efficiently :

- a) Tournaments will start promptly at 1400 on Fridays.
- b) No election of start time for players first matches. Instead, Friday matches will be banded in descending age group order where possible.
- c) A cap on the total number of entries accepted for a tournament.

The current framework of PAR-11 and PAR-15 scoring by age group was introduced in 2017-2018 with the intention to periodically review its operation. The committee will this year review the scoring system and whether the use of PAR-11 should be extended further up the age groups. It was noted that European and World Squash events use PAR-11 exclusively.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS :

- a) Use of single yellow dot balls. The current default for all age groups is to use double yellow dot balls unless both players agree otherwise, in which case a single yellow dot ball may be used. There was a proposal from the floor to amend this for older age groups so that a single yellow dot ball is used unless both players agree to use a double yellow dot ball. The committee will review this as part of the survey of players this summer.

- b) Presentation to Mike Clemson. The many years of contribution to ESM by the outgoing Hon Secretary, Mike Clemson, were recognised. The meeting thanked Mike for his enthusiasm and involvement having been a member of the ESM committee since its inception. As a token of regard for his effort Mike was made a Vice-President for life of ESM and presented with tickets for a day at Wimbledon.

THE PLAYERS MEETING WAS THEN FORMALLY DECLARED CLOSED, WITH THANKS TO ALL PRESENT

PRESENTATIONS TO PLAYERS OF THE YEAR : Stuart Hardy presented trophies to the three ESM players of the year for 2018-2019. These were Geoff Redfern (WKS), Sarah Howlett (CBE) and Jeremy Goulding (AVN).

RAFFLE DRAW : ESM had organised a raffle open to all masters players at the British Open with prizes donated by the masters event sponsor, Karakal. The winners of the draw were :

Philip Leek	Free entry to a regional tournament in 2019-2020
Alistair Swift	Free entry to a regional tournament in 2019-2020
Sarah Parr	Karakal racket bag
Karam Singh	Karakal racket bag
Darren Withey	Karakal racket