

## **England Squash Masters ("ESM")**

### **Minutes of Players Meeting Held at Hull University At 1800 On 1 April 2022**

#### **Present:**

**ESM Players:** Mandy Akin, Allen Barwise, Nigel Belle, Brian Brock, Rebecca Czuczman, James Dubois, Nick Gollaglee, John Goodrich, Alison Goy, Ian Graham, Stuart Hardy, Karen Hume, Lance Kinder, Ann Manley, Andy Murray, Martin Pearce, Geoff Redfern, Nick Sheppard, Robert Smith, Tim Smith, Matt Stephenson, Aubrey Waddy, Mark Woodliffe, Polly Woodward

**Non-ESM Players:** Claire Bryars, Eunice Bond, Lynne Davies, Pauline Douglas, David Grant, Sian Johnson, Ian Ross

**Apologies:** No apologies were received.

#### **Welcome:**

The Chairman of the England Squash Masters Committee, Stuart Hardy, called the meeting to order.

#### **Approval of the Minutes of the Last Players Meeting:**

The last players meeting of ESM was held on 24 May 2019. Approval of the minutes was proposed by Robert Smith and seconded by Mandy Akin. The meeting confirmed approval by a show of hands.

#### **Chairmans Review of 2019-2022:**

Squash was more exposed to the impact of COVID than many other sports and ESM had not been able to run events between January 2020 and October 2021. The Committee had been concerned that after such a long period of time there would be a significant loss of players, especially in the older age groups but had been re-assured to see strong entries immediately in regional and major tournaments. COVID had resulted in changes having to be made to the operation of events and the Committee thanked all the players for their understanding. The Committee hope some of the changes will only be temporary but others, such as using referees at all tournaments, are intended to be permanent and should improve the running of events.

As a result of COVID there had been no Home International matches in 2020 or 2021 but they were due to resume later in April with the first scheduled to be held in Galway.

#### **Treasurers Report:**

ESM holds approximately £10,000 on deposit, this has not changed significantly through the period of the pandemic. The current level of entries means that the additional cost of referees can be covered at present without having to revise entry fees but the Committee is aware that there is now less headroom to absorb any further cost increases.

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

### **Election of Officers and Committee Members for 2022:**

The current Committee had all expressed a willingness to stand for re-election and no other nominations had been received.

Hon Chairman:	Stuart Hardy
Hon Treasurer:	Mandy Akin
Hon Secretary:	Nick Sheppard
Home Internationals:	Allen Barwise
Events Manager:	Brian Brock
Venues Co-ordinator:	Robert Smith
Sponsorship:	Andy Murray
Ordinary Member:	Rachel Wooldford

Nick Gollaglee proposed election of the nominated members, seconded by Tim Smith. This was approved by the meeting by a show of hands.

### **Plans for the Coming Season:**

The Committee intend to revert to a circuit of four regional tournaments in the next season. Prior to the pandemic there were concerns being raised that five events was too big a commitment for regular players both in time and cost and the Committee believe this reduction is warranted. The Committee expect the National Championships will be held in their usual time in February 2023. Looking further forward, the Committee have noted that this is the last year of Allam sponsorship for the PSA event to be held in Hull. The Committee is engaged with the PSA but at the moment there is no indication where and when the next PSA British Open will be held.

### **Adoption of New Constitution:**

The Secretary gave a presentation on behalf of the Committee explaining the background to the Committee's decision to seek to register England Squash Masters as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with a new Constitution. This change was originally considered as a result of the growth in popularity of ESM events but has also been given more focus by a better understanding of the risks being undertaken by the Committee and players, in particular the unlimited liability of the Committee and players in the event of a claim against ESM and the lack of a legal identity which means ESM cannot own property or enter into contracts in its own right..

The Committee recommended that the meeting accept the proposal to adopt the new Constitution and to seek registration for ESM as a Charitable incorporated Organisation. This was done by a show of hands.

### **Any Other Business:**

- a. **Use of single yellow dot balls.** The Committee agreed to poll players in older age groups on the use of a single yellow dot ball as the default instead of double yellow dot being used for all

currently. The results will be published in the Summer.

b. **Scoring.** The Committee agreed to poll all players on a proposal to amend the scoring at ESM events to PAR-15. The Committee noted that it would not recommend this proposal as it considered it would create major problems in scheduling events given the average entry size. The results will be published in the summer.

The meeting closed at 7:40pm

Nick Sheppard  
**Secretary**