

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of England Squash Masters held 7:30pm at Solihull Arden Club on Friday 7th June 2024

Present :

ESM Full Playing Members :

Stuart Hardy, Nicholas Sheppard, Mandy Akin, Allen Barwise, Robert Smith, Brian Brock, Gemma Barber, Catherine Ruffle, Ian Graham, Nigel Belle, Karen Hume, Tony Webb, Tim Burrell, Michelle Knight, Nick Gollaglee, Barry Featherstone, Ros Featherstone, Peter Cossey, Peter Alexander, Alison Goy, Dean Newberry, Leo Kingston, Tom Burton, Richard Kelleher, David Palmer, Matt Stephenson

ESM Associate Playing Members : Peter Shivas, Bea Spitse

Apologies : No apologies were received

Welcome :

The Chairman, 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 1st April 2022. Approval of the minutes was proposed by Allen Barwsie and seconded by Matt Stephenson. The meeting confirmed approval by a show of hands.

Trustees Report 2023-2024 :

The Chairman presented the Trustees Report (see Appendix 1) and opened the meeting for questions of which there were none.

Financial Report 2023-2024 :

The Treasurer presented the Financial Report for 2023-2024 (see Appendix 2).

- ESM's financial position at the end of the year is considered satisfactory by the Trustees however operations did show a small loss over the full year as a result of the decision to offer promotional t-shirts to all players during the season. The Trustees have reviewed this and have decided not to repeat the offer of free shirts in future. Nick Gollaglee asked if it was possible for a shirt to be available for players to purchase. This is being discussed with the ESM kit supplier, iProsports. More generally, all provision of goods and services by third parties must be benchmarked and a review of suppliers will be done as part of the ESM rebranding exercise over the coming year.
- The Trustees are engaged in discussions with England Squash for a repetition of grant support from them for ESM activities that align with their strategic objectives to grow squash.



Registered Charity No. 1203363

Elections :

Two Trustees were retiring and standing for re-election :

Gemma Barber

Alex Perry

Allen Barwise had expressed a desire to become a Trustee and stood for election. With no other candidates and no objections raised, the election of the Trustees was confirmed. The number of Trustees is now at its upper limit of nine.

Any Other Business :

Leo Kingston asked if it would be possible to expand the MO75 teams for the Home Internationals to five players. Allen Barwise (Home Internationals Co-Ordinator) responded that it was extremely unlikely the other nations would be able to field teams of five. It would also be difficult to incorporate extra matches into the schedule for the weekend.

The meeting closed at 7:55pm

Appendix 1

England Squash Masters – Trustees Report 2023-2024

This last year has been one of significant changes for England Squash Masters (ESM) and the culmination of a twenty-year long process. From its start as a sub-committee of England Squash to becoming a stand-alone organisation, to now being registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the committee as Trustees, ESM has grown and improved over the years. Many thanks should be given to all the people who made this possible including our founder, Martin Pearse, and all the committee members over the years, ably supported by the Events Manager Brian Brock.

The stated purpose of ESM is to advance the amateur sport of Masters Squash and the Trustees believe the organisation has been successful in doing so again this year. The ESM Regional tournaments are near capacity and competitive with an average entry of 177 players. The major events, the British Open Masters and the National Championships, were also very well supported with 293 and 245 entries respectively. With ESM nearing a ceiling on capacity at Regionals, the Trustees agreed to introduce new Bronze Tier events with the intention of reaching clubs we have not been previously and introducing Masters Squash to an entirely new audience. Two events were held successfully and the Trustees intend to and expand it to six events next season. The Trustees try to continually improve the Masters experience for players with better software, England Squash Referees, improved scheduling to offer more matches and better prizes. The ESM database of some 1,608 full playing members, plus 420 associate members reflects how popular Masters Squash is and how it is vital in the retention of players to the game as they get older.

On the financial front, the Trustees appreciate the support shown by the players, the venues and all the volunteers who help run the events. In order to keep events accessible, the Trustees believe it is important to control the costs associated with running them. The Trustees consider that the benefit of adding England Squash qualified referees for all events has justified the consequent increase in costs and will continue to arrange for them to be present. The Trustees continue to liaise with England Squash and share their objectives of player retention and female participation. We will support them in moving to their new individual membership scheme. Also, the Trustees have been working closely with the Professional Squash Association with whom ESM are partnered for organising the British Open Masters this year.

Finally, in another exciting development, on top of the annual England Masters teams competing in the Internationals against Ireland, Scotland and Wales, ESM supported teams in the first Trans-Atlantic Masters series in New York where England teams took on the USA, Canada and Ireland.

The Trustees look forward to another rewarding season of Masters Squash next year.

Appendix 2

| England Squash Masters Statement of Accounts | | Year: 2023 |
|--|----------|------------------|
| Balance Brought Forward | £ | 18,761.23 |
| Income: | | |
| Income: Event Fees | £ | 32,821.28 |
| Income: Grants | £ | - |
| Income: Sponsorship | £ | 1,050.00 |
| Income: Donations | £ | - |
| Income: Sale of Merchandise | £ | 6.98 |
| Income: Other | £ | 72.50 |
| Other Income: Not Categorised | £ | - |
| Other Income: Misbookings | £ | 1,415.90 |
| Income: Home International Event Fees | £ | 12,265.00 |
| Income: Home International Accommodation | £ | 28,204.00 |
| Total Income | £ | 75,835.66 |
| Expenditure: | | |
| Event Expense: Venue Fees | £ | 5,958.83 |
| Event Expense: Organiser Expenses | £ | - |
| Event Expense: Trophies | £ | 3,735.73 |
| Event Expense: T-Shirts | £ | 10,472.85 |
| Event Expense: Referee Expenses | £ | 13,575.05 |
| Event Expense: Support Expenses | £ | 5,398.70 |
| Event Expense: Prize Expenses | £ | 1,080.80 |
| Event Expense: Prize Money | £ | 1,050.00 |
| Event Expense: Consumables | £ | - |
| Event Expense: Squash Balls | £ | - |
| Equipment Expense: Camera and Video Equipment | £ | - |
| Home International: Accommodation | £ | 24,213.00 |
| Home International: Catering | £ | - |
| Home International: Venue Fees | £ | 6,732.00 |
| Home International: Referee Expenses | £ | 588.50 |
| Home International: Support Expenses | £ | 7,161.77 |
| Home International: Souvenir Expenses | £ | 2,384.00 |
| Equipment Expense: Event Support Equipment | £ | - |
| Equipment Expense: IT Hardware / Display Systems | £ | 2,056.01 |
| Expense Media Support: Branding | £ | - |
| Expense Media Support: Photography | £ | - |
| Expense Media Support: Poster Creation | £ | 120.00 |
| Expense Media Support: Promotional Material | £ | - |
| Administration Expense: Postal Charges | £ | - |
| Administration Expense: Software, Licences & Subscriptions | £ | - |
| Administration Expense: Supporter Gifts | £ | - |
| Administration Expense: Website Maintenance | £ | - |
| Administration Expense: Bank Charges | £ | 60.00 |
| Non Event Expense: Trophies | £ | - |
| Non Event Expense: Support Expenses | £ | - |
| Other Expense: Not Categorised | £ | 563.94 |
| Other Expense: Misbookings | £ | - |
| Total Expenditure | £ | 85,151.18 |
| Account Balance | £ | 9,445.71 |
| Total Debtors | £ | - |
| Total Creditors | £ | - |
| Payment Gateway Balance as at: 05/12/2023 | £ | 215.31 |
| Total Net Balance | £ | 9,661.02 |