

ENGLAND SQUASH MASTERS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 9.00 AM ON SATURDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2014 AT BURY ST EDMUNDS

PRESENT: Martin Pearse (Chairman), Peter Alexander, Robert Smith, Steve Mcloughlin and Mike Clemson

APOLOGIES: Stuart Hardy, Helen Gould, Dave Hardern and Chris Nutley

RESIGNATIONS from the Committee from Bev Mackay and Sam Moeller were accepted. It was agreed that the Chairman should invite Sarah Parr to join the Committee and, if she declined, to ask Alison Goy

MINUTES of the meeting held on 14 February 2014 were approved. It was noted that the proposed conference call had not taken place

RELATIONSHIP WITH ENGLAND SQUASH AND RACKETBALL

The new Chief Executive of ESR, Keir Worth, was understood to be preoccupied with funding negotiations and had not yet had opportunity to engage in joint discussions with ESM about its future relationship with ESR. In view of this, it was agreed to defer consideration of a number of suggestions from Stuart Hardy relating to the promotion of Masters squash, although it was initially considered that making more use of social media, and sponsorship/prize money for the younger age groups at regionals would not be appropriate, and that it might be difficult fitting in 'Test Matches' into an already crowded calendar of activities for Masters players

REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS 2014-15

- (a) All venues and dates were finalised
- (b) Mike would inform Sam Moeller and Sarah Parr that any guidance on seeding for the Womens Over 35/40 draws must be received immediately after the closing date/time for entries for it to be taken into account
- (c) As the Home Internationals now feature combined Womens Over 35/40 teams, it was agreed that the Regionals should do the same
- (d) It was agreed that entries of five should be treated as an eight draw rather than a round robin, to reduce the number of matches participants would be required to play
- (e) It was agreed that, if the size of the Mens Over 50s draw required some entrants to play twice on the Friday, the next Regional would experiment by using PAR scoring to 11 for these matches
- (f) Robert Smith to liaise with Brian Brock to put a suitably worded light-box on the website to advise potential entrants of the points covered in (d) and (e) above

HOME INTERNATIONALS 2015

Dave Hardern had reported that dates and venues were provisionally agreed as follows –

Wales at Swansea 24/25 April (M 40 and 60, W 35/40)
Ireland at Dublin ½ May (M35 and 55, W 55 to be continued as 5 a side)
Scotland at Edinburgh 22/23 May (M45 and 65, W45)
England at Nottingham 8/9 May (M50 and 70, W50). Dave has booked the hotel and venue for this event

It was understood that the British Open would be in Hull on 11-17 May 2015

It was agreed that Helen Gould and Dave Hardern should consult the other home countries about replacing the Mens over 75 teams with mixed teams of 3 over 60 women and three over 75 men. Concern was expressed about the practicality of adopting Helen's proposal about augmenting the Womens Over 55 team with (older) men, because of Wales' possible difficulty in turning out five women for away matches. It was agreed that Helen should be asked to provide more detail of how it could be constructed given subjective views on potential male players ability and what numbers they would be allowed to play in the team

OTHER INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

The Chairman reported that there was no progress as regards matches in the USA, which made it difficult to justify matches in Canada alone. European possibilities were still being explored

WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016

- (a) It was noted that the Organisers were committed to Johannesburg as a venue because it is the preferred location of the main sponsor
- (b) There was some discussion about the encouragement and support to be given to leading English players in all age groups to enter and prepare for these Championships, in order to re-assert England's domination of this event. It was agreed that kit could be supplied to give a 'Team England' identity, but this and other forms of support would be discussed further at the next meeting

FINANCIAL REPORT

Steve Mcloughlin reported that we have about £3k in hand at the start of the season, after the purchase of computer equipment for use by Brian Brock. A further £200 was coming from Iprosports in recognition of last season's sales of Masters T shirts etc.

OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Andy Murray from Iprosports had reported he has surplus HI kit available, and is also happy to supply T shirts for regionals if required and other goods on request (eg printed drinks bottles, court valuables bags etc.) This was noted for future reference
- (b) It was agreed that future meetings should be timed to enable committee members to assist with marking the first session of matches on the Saturday morning, and that Brian Brock should be invited to attend meetings. Arrangements for the next meeting were left open

The meeting closed at 10.30 am