

ENGLAND SQUASH MASTERS

RECORD OF PLAYERS MEETING AT COLETS AT 6.15 PM ON 9 JUNE 2017

PRESENT: Approximately 70 Masters registered players

APOLOGIES: were received from Tom Hendry (Chairman of the Vets Club)

WELCOME: The Chairman of the Masters Committee, Martin Pearse, welcomed all present. He reviewed the 14 year history of the Masters since its inception, and the development of the Regional tournaments and the establishment of the Home Internationals, which have by and large been dominated by England teams. He thanked all the members of the Committee, particularly Dave Hardern, who was standing down as Home Internationals Organiser, and paid tribute to the amazing job done by Brian and Roz Brock in managing the Regional tournaments and, for the first time this year, the Masters Open. Appreciation of all their efforts was indicated by an enthusiastic round of applause

APPROVAL OF THE RECORD OF THE LAST PLAYERS MEETING, held on 15 May 2015 and available on the Masters website, was proposed by Jon Gliddon and seconded by Robert Smith, and confirmed unanimously

THE AIMS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF ENGLAND SQUASH MASTERS had been amended and placed on the website prior to the meeting. Their adoption was proposed by Nick Sheppard, seconded by Robert Smith and approved unanimously

REPORT ON THE 2016-17 SEASON The Chairman reported that the Regional tournaments had been very successful, with increasing numbers of entrants. There had been around 50 England players in the World Masters Championships in Johannesburg, of whom 20 had won medals, making England the most successful country in the event. The Home Internationals had gone well, with England teams winning the majority of the titles. Finally, the Masters Committee had taken responsibility for the organisation of the current British Open Masters Championships, which had attracted an entry of over 300 players from 15 different countries, and which was being immaculately run by Brian and Roz, with the much appreciated support of Colets Health and Fitness Club. The Masters website, also run by Brian, was admired and the envy of many other countries

FINANCE The Hon Treasurer reported that we had made a profit of around £1500 over the year, and had a current balance in hand of £7.5k - £8k. The Committee would welcome suggestions as to the use of these funds for activities which benefitted the whole of the membership. In response to questions, it was noted that the same fee is paid to all the regional hosts, with an addition if the use of a further venue is required; that the availability of a physiotherapist has been welcomed (and well used!); and that Brian and Roz make their services available for expenses only. Acceptance of the Treasurer's report was proposed by Robert Smith, seconded by Mike Clemson and agreed unanimously

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2017-19. The Chairman reported that he and Dave Hardern were standing down. The following nominations were received

Chairman	Jonathan Gliddon
Treasurer	Steve Mcloughlin

Secretary	Mike Clemson
Events Co-ordinator	Brian Brock
Home Internationals Organiser	Alison Goy
Individual Members	Stuart Hardy, Zoe Shardlow, Nick Sheppard and Robert Smith

It was proposed by Rodney Boswell and seconded by Karen Hume that the Committee be elected en bloc. This was approved unanimously

PLANS FOR THE COMING SEASON The Chairman reported on a number of changes of venue for regional tournaments, mainly to accommodate the increasing numbers of entries. The number of regional tournaments would remain at six.

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

Stuart Hardy then presented trophies to the Players of the Year for 2016-17 – Keeley Johnson, John Rae and Karen Hume. He also made a special presentation to Martin Pearse of a picture of his beloved cats, now sadly deceased, and thanked Martin on behalf of all present for his work and commitment in promoting Masters Squash, in particular his drive to make things happen. Martin is moving on to a new enterprise – developing a consortium of 40 Masters sports

OPEN FORUM

The Chairman invited questions and comments from the floor.

A number of speakers responded to Mike Clemson's summary of the relationship with England Squash described in a document called 'Hitting the Nick' which had been made available on the ESM website, by sharing their experiences of poor communication with and from the National Governing Body.

There was unanimous condemnation of the ES website, which was described as unfit for purpose.

The change of name of Racketball to Squash57 was seen as a joke, with those present again being unanimously opposed.

Criticism was also expressed of the use of the National Squash Centre at Manchester for the Nationals, examples cited being inadequate changing facilities and warm up space plus the standard of the courts. It was understood that England Squash was proposing that the Masters Open in 2018 should be held at Manchester in conjunction with the main Event, but it was agreed that, if ESM was running the Open Masters, it would decide on the location. Two people felt that Hull or Manchester would be acceptable, but the vast majority supported Edgbaston or Colets. It was suggested that all Masters players should be circulated for their views.

Concerns were expressed about variable standards of refereeing at the regional and national events.

Finally, questions were asked about the procedure and criteria for selection of venues for Regional tournaments.

The Chairman then brought the Forum to an end at 7.45 pm, as a buffet meal was available