

ESMBA AGM 2013 - July 13th Northampton– attended by RH, PJ, BJ and RG

ATTENDANCE - 9 committee members, 36 delegates (21 counties), 10 guests. Meeting started 10 minutes late.

2012 MINUTES – Nothing arising.

REPORTS - 5 reports had been received in advance and these had already been circulated to ManCom for discussion. The Treasurers Report (and Membership Report which he also covers) and the Accounts had not been sent out. This was due to the hospitalisation of John Jackson.

Chairman – No comments.

Secretary – A request was made that the attendance of all officers at all committee meeting was shown in this report in future (as had been the custom in the past)

ICC – The statement “***all group games must be played before the end of 2013***” is wrong as some games are scheduled in the ESMBA diary for the first week in January 2014. KH made the suggestion that a “plate” competition be introduced into the National U18 Championships. This would be as an encouragement to the young players and their families who get knocked out in the round robin stage. The idea was met with general approval.

Umpires Director – RG asked what had happened to the Umpires Newsletter. TM said this would be up to the new Director as he was standing down.

National Organiser – There was much discussion about the playing surface. It seems as if many people favour a return to playing on a hard surface rather than “mat on mat”. A return to Kettering seems unlikely due to the cost (£5000-7000) so next year’s Nationals venue still to be decided. Management were asked to ensure that noisy disturbances during the playing of matches (e.g. from those at the bar) be controlled by the organisers.

Membership Secretary – No report (but a figure of 19,966 had been reported by JJ in the minutes of the Feb. committee meeting – this is a drop of 1119 over last year).

Accounts – CH had visited JJ and produced 2 bank statements which seemed to show a balance of around £135,000. In answer to a question from Bob Weafer regarding this large amount, CH stated it was still an ESMBA objective to obtain a “headquarters” in the future.

PROPOSALS

To change Constitution Re Management Fees submitted by N Yorkshire:

CH and SP argued that the management fees should continue to be set as before by a management sub-committee (of those not receiving fees) as they know the work performed by each Officer. The proposal was defeated by 9-31 with 5 abstentions.

To change Constitution to include Greater Manchester as a valid county submitted by GMSMBA:

The sticking point was still the fact that Lancashire SMBA include “Manchester” in their constitution. Other counties (e.g. Kent) were worried that parts of their own counties might seek recognition as independent Associations should this go through. The proposal was defeated by 10-21 with 14 abstentions.

ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS (There are 15 positions on the committee)

The 8 who were willing to re-stand were re-elected en-bloc. These were President George Clarke (12th year), Vice President Steve Proctor (2nd year), Chairman Chris Hopkins (16th year), Treasurer John Jackson (13th year), ICC Secretary Keith Hawkins (6th year), Minutes Secretary Carole Hawkins (3rd year) and general committee members, Rachel Pedley (3rd year) and Brandon Whittaker (2nd year). The Treasurer had been persuaded by the Chairman to stay on in spite of illness so that this year’s Accounts could be completed and on the understanding that someone would work alongside him with a view to taking over next year. Barbara Mills (Cheshire Secretary) volunteered to do this.

The 4 positions of Vice Chairman (Simon Willies – 15 years), General Secretary (Vic Jones – 2 years), Umpires Director (Terry Matthews – 3 years) and general committee member Steve Allen (4 years) who acted as Webmaster, all stood down.

Barbara Mills (see above) was asked and agreed to stand as Vice Chairman.

Carole Hawkins agreed to stand as General Secretary on the understanding that the job content was to be redefined (see Open Forum – Administration)

As there were 2 candidates for Umpires Director, a secret ballot was held and Graham Foote of Humberside was elected.

Roy Dukes (Hertfordshire) was elected as a general committee member (but there was no mention as to who would now look after the website).

The 3 positions of Nationals Organiser, Membership Secretary or Coaching Director remained unfilled.

Auditors – The same as last year

AGM (followed by RRM) 2014 will be on July 12th. After discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of a later start time it was agreed to start at 10.30.

Note: It will be necessary to hold an EGM to present the finalised accounts and vote on the ESMBA management fees. CH suggested this may be conveniently held on the Presidents weekend.

OPEN FORUM

Countdown – A presentation was made by a rep. from this company about the benefits of this discount scheme. There are various levels of membership and the ESMBA has already signed up to the “entry level”. Access will be available to all registered members via their membership number, either on-line or by phone. KH will be writing to all counties with details. The ESMBA see this as a “perk” that should encourage more members to join.

Administration – CH/KH will jointly take on all the tasks of administering the ESMBA as already announced. This will include most tasks currently undertaken by the Secretary whose role will be stripped right down. It will also include the Insurance scheme, Coaching, Safeguarding, the Nationals, the Website, Membership and the ICC. The year ahead will be somewhat experimental and should result in a clear view of the way ahead and the constitutional changes needed to cut down the size of the required committee. **All communications from counties should be directed to these 2 officers and NOT the Secretary.** The new insurers will be paying the ESMBA £10,000 per annum to administer the insurance scheme and both CH and KH would receive half each. In answer to a question from RG, they confirmed they would not be claiming any honorariums for their elected positions on the committee.

BDA/ABC – The withdrawal from the BDA was confirmed as not being financially worthwhile. CH stated that this would not jeopardise any funding from Sport England and he will be loading a downloadable PDF to the website that can be used to obtain funding. RG asked who the management of the ABC was and how much it was costing but did not get a definitive answer.

Safeguarding – When applying for a DBS check, (originally CRB check), applicants can now also opt to go on the Barring List. If they do this, they will not be required to update their DBS check every 3 years. ESMBA contacts are KH and Pat Ostler.

ICC venues/eating – Forgotten what came up here!

Worcestershire proposal – Was not discussed as no one was present from Worcestershire.

Kent proposal – Much discussion about merits of Request 1. However it was pointed out that to adopt this format would probably extend the playing day by about one hour. Request 2 was generally supported.

Woodbridge Trophy – This will not go ahead if more support is not forthcoming. It was suggested that this Trophy could be presented instead to the Junior Plate winners (see ICC report above).

Discipline procedure – Peter Winter asked for clarification from West Sussex.

Cornwall Proposal – Cornwalls request to be able to opt out of participation in the consolation knockout arose out the cost of hiring a coach to transport their players. They felt this may lead them shortly to drop out of the ICC altogether.

Dorset Proposal – Dorset felt the rule as it stood did not give them the flexibility to drop Premier team players who were underperforming.