

KEY POINTS FROM ESMBA AGM July 11th 2015 – Daventry IBC 10.30 am

The following does not attempt to replace the official ESMBA minutes which will appear in the ESMBA website in due course. They are points I noted or remembered and of course are subject to error. They are intended primarily for the information of NYSMBA members. (Roger Green NYSMBA delegate) 14 July 2014

Meeting started at 10.35 with 39 delegates and 6 committee members present.

MINUTES OF AGM (including the RRM) & and EGM for 2014 – I pointed out a small error in the re-issued rule book. D9(c) should have been deleted. It was confirmed that any new members will be entitled to a free rule book.

REPORTS

The Chairman confirmed that the matters involving Chris Hopkins had, after mediation, now all been resolved. Legal costs were £2258.

The Treasurer answered several questions. (I had emailed her in advance of the meeting with my own queries and she had replied and answered most of them.) Church Gresley have agreed to reduced rates this year to compensate for letting the ESMBA down last year on several dates. They have given guarantees that the same will not happen again. A repeat of the European Championships is in question so the £5872 cost could be considered as a “one-off”. KH is to look in to why the ICC income only relates to 31 teams when 45 took part.

Several queries were answered by saying that the reformatting of the headings had meant there could be no direct comparison with last year’s figures. Next year the new system (using Sage accounting) would show direct comparisons summarised under various “departments”.

The high cost of the website hosting is to be looked at as several delegates (including us) pay far less than the figure in the accounts of £1537.

I suggested (once again) that the £2 entry fee for the Nationals was “cheap” and should be raised to help offset the annual loss made on this flagship competition.

The Administrators report also raised several queries. I pointed out that we had never received the promised “temporary” membership cards for our additional members and for Yedingham (whose cards had gone missing in the post). London had never received ANY cards. It was pointed out that the cards are intended to last a “lifetime” not 3-5 years as said originally said. Norfolk asked for confirmation that the ESMBA Insurance does NOT cover “personal accident” claims as they pay over £1000 for additional insurance to cover this. KH confirmed this but is going to look in to whether an ESMBA add-in option could be provided under the current policy at additional cost.

On the issue of “safeguarding” it is intended to provide free training for all County Safeguarding officers and this may be offered to others for a modest fee.

There were several non-complimentary comments regarding the ESMBA website which was not kept fully up to date.

PROPOSALS TO CHANGE CONSTITUTION (66% majority required)

Committee changes: All 8 changes were accepted. These mostly related to the restructuring of the Management Committee posts resulting in a reduction in size from 15 to 12.

West Sussex proposals: All were accepted but only once the 5 amendments proposed by Norfolk were passed. These mostly related to the introduction of a specific timetable for the submission and consideration of future changes to either the constitution or the rules.

Greater Manchester: After a lot of discussion, this proposal just secured the 66% majority required. They will now be added to the constitution as the 37th recognised county of the ESMBA.

FEES & HONORARIUMS

The affiliation fee will remain unchanged for 2016/17 (£3)

The honorariums (management fees) for 2014/15 (payable in 2015/16) were agreed as Chairman £500; Treasurer £550; Umpires Director £300 and Committee Secretary £300 (Total £1650). Nothing was payable to the ICC Secretary (who had resigned) or the Nationals Organiser (none elected last year).

AUDITORS - Barbara Mills requested that "Murray Smith" be re-appointed. They had agreed to keep their charge at £1200. This was accepted.

ELECTIONS

These went ahead on the basis of the revised constitution (committee of 12).

Chairman – Barry Hedges re-elected

President – George Clarke re-elected

Committee Secretary – Carol Hawkins re-elected

Treasurer – Barbara Mills re-elected

Development Officer – Herbie Bowden (new post)

Competition Organiser – Brandon Whittaker (new post)

Umpires Director - After 1 year John Hurst stood down. Martin Davies was elected.

Coaching Director – David Billington-Jones (Hereford)

Committee member – Roy Duke re-elected

Committee member – Becky Cox (Hereford)

Committee member – Carl Hudson (Somerset)

Administration Officer – Keith Hawkins re-elected to this non-voting (paid) post.

2016 AGM – will be on July 16th (tbc)

OPEN FORUM

The "Countdown" discount facility will be discontinued in September.

The Development Officer (Herbie Bowden) was not present but BH outlined some of the areas he is looking at in respect of future development. These included

- A new "flyer" to advertise the game
- The use of "drop boxes" to aid communications
- A review of umpires dress
- A stand at Olympia
- A review of venues
- Further use of SMI for publicity
- The use of the U21s and Ladies as "feeders" for the England team
- An ESMBA FaceBook page

There has been contact with Sport England regarding Coaching and Safeguarding standards. There was prolonged discussion regarding the ICC. The outcome seemed to be a wish to return to groups of 4 or 5 and the introduction of a higher level competition for the top county teams. The latter could be based on regions rather than counties and would be aimed at England level players removing them from the basic ICC. It was suggested that a sub-committee be appointed to consider all the options. The proposal to increase the Fours and Triples to 11 and 13 ends met with approval and will be introduced for the forthcoming season. Start times will be brought forward to 1030 and there will be no "roll-up" time (just "2 up and 2 down"). It was decided that a change to the Dress Code to allow black below the waist could only take place at the next RRM. The re-issue of hard copies of the Information Pack to all clubs would be by request only as it is now on the website where it can easily be updated. I requested that each section should be an individual PDF allowing the easy printing of any changes and this was agreed. It was agreed that the purpose and issue of licenses would be look at. The SMPT felt they being applied unfairly.

The day included 1 "comfort" break and a free lunchtime finger buffet and finally finished at 4.20 pm.