

KEY POINTS FROM ESMBA EGM & AGM July 16th 2016

Crossroads Hotel – Weedon - Northants 10.00 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) 19 July 2016

Meeting started at 10.00 with 37 delegates and the following 7 committee members present. -

President (GC); Chairman (BH); Treasurer (BM); Competition Sec. (BW); Umpires Director (MD); Coaching Director (DM-J); General committee member (RD).

The Committee Secretary (CH) had resigned during the year and Ann McGuire (Cheshire) had volunteered to take the minutes.

The Development Officer (HB) and Administration Officer (KH) had also resigned during the course of the year. Two other general committee members (KH and BC) did not attend.

THE EGM

This had been called to consider raising the registration fee for 2016/17 by £1 to cover a new PA (Personal Accident) insurance policy. Neil Hobbs (Sutton Winson) presented a short slide presentation of the primary benefits. These were as already distributed to all counties except that the age limits of 80 and 90 for the Weekly and Capital Sum benefits had been removed. A Hospital benefit of £50 per night had also been added.

Neil answered several questions (e.g. double insurance and annual increases). Norfolk did not think that the ESMBA constitution allowed the change to take place immediately as their fees are normally set a year in advance. They (Norfolk) had already taken out their own PA insurance for the year ahead (at over £1000) and felt they could not in addition ask their members for a further £1 to cover the ESMBA scheme.

The committee did not vote and the vote by the delegates on the proposal failed by a single vote (18-19). The ESMBA fees for 2016/17 will therefore remain at £3. The committee were asked to re-present the proposal next year.

THE AGM - This followed on at 1100am after a short break with the same attendees.

MINUTES OF AGM for 2015 & MATTERS ARISING – West Sussex/Norfolk pointed out that not all the Constitution changes agreed at last year's AGM had been updated and BH promised to rectify this asap.

REPORTS

The Chairman reported on another difficult year with the resignation of Keith Hawkins (Administration) and Carole Hawkins (Committee Secretary). This had led to the reallocations of work most of which had been handled by the Competition Sec. (BW) and himself. This included Safeguarding issues (his thanks to Lynne Dean for her help), county registrations/membership (thanks to Herbie Bowden) and Insurance. All 3 were big jobs and had made him realise that in retrospect the introduction of a single Admin position with many eggs in one basket had left the ESMBA vulnerable.

The backlog of laminated membership cards would be distributed shortly but next year we will revert to the old style “do it yourself” cards.

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.) However I made the point that in 2 years the balance had reduced by nearly 30% (from £122,000 to £87,000). Last year we were told that there were a lot of “one-off costs” including Rule books, Membership Cards, JJ Trophy comp. mediation costs, European Championships and loss of interest etc. In spite of this year’s costs including the World Champs and loss of registration income it was a worrying trend. I once again suggested the National entry was increased to £3 so at least that would not run as a loss. I also again requested that the Income/Expenditure relating to the ESMBA Insurance scheme should be published each year as an addition to the normal accounts.

Competitions – The new ICC Rinks competition would be repeated as this had been well received. Two more open competitions would be introduced to add to the Pairs and Fours that were started this year. There is a proposal to hold the Worlds annually. This year the U18 and Mixed Fours would be at Tamworth but the main four Nationals would be moved to a new venue at Melton Mowbray IBC which apparently has excellent facilities. Church Gresley would no longer be used.

Umpires Director – It was stated that several umpires had been “re-tested” and others would follow should their standard be considered under-par. The umpires test has been enhanced through the use of video scenarios. Although Martin was vested with the responsibility of allocating umpires for all competitions it was still required that he submit his choices to the committee for ratification.

Coaching Director – David M-J and BH had undertaken a coaching course for the Under 21s but David was still working on verifying the names, addresses and status of DBS checks and First Aid qualifications for current coaches. Surprisingly, such records do not currently exist. BH is working with the BDA (Coach Bowls) with regards to Short Mat coaching standards. There is a “coachs code of conduct” on the ESMBA website (Information Pack).

ELECTIONS

Chairman – Barry Hedges (Essex) re-elected

President – George Clarke (Norfolk) re-elected

Committee Secretary – Suzanne Gunter (Northants) was newly elected

Treasurer – Barbara Mills (Cheshire) re-elected

Development Officer – **left vacant**

Competition Organiser – Brandon Whittaker (Cheshire) re-elected

Umpires Director - Martin Davies (Oxon) re-elected.

Coaching Director – David Millington-Jones (Hereford) re-elected

Committee member – Roy Duke (Herts) re-elected

Committee member – Rachel Pedley (Hereford) was newly elected

Committee member – Rachel Cordy (Essex) was newly elected

Administration Officer – **left vacant**

HONORARIUMS

The honorariums (management fees) for 2016/17 were agreed as Chairman £500; Treasurer £700; Umpires Director £300; Committee Secretary £350 Competitions Sec. £650 (Total £2500).

Brandon Whittaker as Competitions Sec. said he would donate his fee back to the ESMBA.

AUDITORS - Barbara Mills requested that “Murray Smith” be re-appointed and this was accepted.

2017 AGM – will be on July 15th (tbc)

THE OPEN FORUM - This followed on at 2.15pm after a free buffet break. Most attendees stayed – some had left. .

ADMINISTRATION – The resignation of the Administration Officer had meant the re-allocation of various tasks across the committee and had called into question the value of having too many eggs in one basket. After discussion the consensus of the meeting was to revert back to a situation where the various tasks are handled in more manageable chunks by committee members or other co-opted to help out. Peter Fautley and Lynn Dean had already been working on website improvements and safeguarding in an ex-officio capacity. Herbie Bowden had also been helping out but could not fulfil the full Development Officer role (hence his resignation from this). Two further volunteers offered assistance with registrations if required.

SAFEGUARDING – The development of standards is on-going and guidelines will be published. Training courses for county safeguarding officers are being rolled out. This 4 hour course is run by the BDA but funded by the ESMBA.

BDA and COACHING – Our association with the ABC has been discontinued and BH will continue to meet with the BDA to discuss Short Mat coaching standards but without committing any ESMBA funds.

ICC – A suggestion that home teams should be allowed “practice time” was rejected as was a (light hearted) suggestion that counties MUST provide free drinks to visitors or face a fine. Cheshire asked that players who swop counties should not suffer the 2 year ban. Any player should be allowed to register in the county of their choice in order to play for that county on a season by season basis. A straw poll showed a majority in favour of this. There was some debate over whether noisy and exuberant support for players should be controlled by umpires as this could be construed as interference with players on adjacent mats.

AOB - Derbyshire felt it was unfair that their playoffs for the National Fours did not result in a place being offered because they only had 3 entries. They had received no refund of their fees. It was suggested that they try to make up another Four to give their playoffs legitimacy.

The day finally finished at 4.35 pm.

(Watch out for the official EMBA minutes on their website)

See also a report by Norfolk at <http://www.shortmatnorfolk.co.uk/Pages/News.aspx>