

MINUTES

East of Scotland Squash and Racketball Association (ESSRA) Minutes of the 41th Annual General Meeting Thursday 25 June 2015 at Colinton Castle Sports Club

Present: **Christy Looby** (Chairman & Grange); **Adrian Craxton** (Secretary & Colinton Castle); **Dougie Brown** (League Secretary & Grange); **Mark Adderley** (Treasurer & Edinburgh Sports Club); **Ross Anderson** (Committee member & Dean); **Richard McIntosh and Iain Clark** (Committee members & Watsonians); **David Coutts** (Committee member & ESC); **Simon Boughton** (ESC); **Peter Cockburn** (Grange); **Dave Ferguson** and **Neil Porter** (Waverley); **David Legge** (Dunbar); **Jim Hay, Ian Wright, Bill Brown, Jonathan MacBride** and **Gordon Robertson** (Colinton Castle); **Martin Lamb** (Linlithgow).

Also attending at the end of the meeting **Bert Mitchell** (Bridge of Allan).

1. Apologies

Claire Gray (Junior Convenor & Heriot-Watt), Charlie Patrick and Richard Kent (Linlithgow), Robin Nisbet (Bank of Scotland), Emma Hansen (David Lloyd), Daniel Ward (Edinburgh University Students), Jim Dougal (Watsonians), Martin Campbell (Dunbar) and Archie McCue (Colinton).

2. Minutes of the 40th AGM (26/6/14) and matters arising

The minutes of last year's AGM were approved. There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's report

Christy Looby presented his written report to the meeting, and went through it in some detail for the benefit of those present.

4. League Secretary's report

Dougie Brown presented his written report to the meeting, and went through it in some detail for the benefit of those present.

5. Junior Convenor's report

In the absence of Claire Kidd, Iain Clark presented her written report to the meeting and went through it in some detail.

6. Treasurer's report and accounts to 30 April 2015

Mark Adderley presented the ESSRA Accounts for the year ending 30 April 2015, and when through them in some detail. The meeting approved the Accounts.

7. Discussion on Rules changes etc

There was a good deal of discussion on changing to PAR 11 for Division 1, as the Committee was proposing. The general consensus was that there should be this change. One view expressed that such change was inevitable, and it was not a matter of 'if' but 'when'. On the other hand at least one person spoke in favour of keeping the existing system. However, on a show of hands there was overwhelming consensus for the proposed change.

The view was expressed that there should now be PAR 11 in open leagues 2-5. However, starting off with PAR 15 was considered a good compromise, and on a show of hands there was overwhelming consensus for moving to PAR 15 in leagues 2-5.

(NB There was no representative from the ladies leagues, and no discussion about those leagues, and they will remain for the time being as they are)

There was a good deal of discussion about the system of bonus points for qualified referees, and what had been achieved since its introduction about 8 or 9 years ago. It was generally accepted that it had contributed to raising the standard of marking. However, going forward, doubt was expressed that the continuation of the scheme would make a further significant contribution in this respect.

Views were expressed that where a team already had one or two qualified markers there was little incentive for others to get qualified. The view was expressed that there were anomalies in that the qualified marker did not even have to mark a match to get bonus points. The view was also expressed that there were distortions in the results at the end of the season, and that in some cases these made differences as to promotion and/or relegation.

Views were expressed that the current system had run its time, and the Committee should look at other ways of trying to improve knowledge of the Rules and standards of marking. On a show of hands the general consensus was that the current system involving bonus points should end.

There was an outline of the other proposed amendments to the Rules, which were on the website anyway, (most of which were minor), and no disagreement was expressed to them.

8. Election of Office-bearers and Committee Members

All office-bearers and other Committee Members had agreed to continue, and were all unanimously re-elected.

9. Any other business

There was a request from Bridge of Allan for their two teams to join our leagues, as there were no longer Central Leagues. The meeting was attended by Bert Mitchell of Bridge of Allan who outlined their position, and what it would mean to their club if they could play in the East League. There was then brief discussion in Bert's absence, and there was unanimous agreement that they should be included, the meeting being very satisfied with their commitment. Concerns were recognised about practical difficulties of travel, e.g. where clubs such as Dunbar and Tyne were involved. However, it was felt that these difficulties (if they arose) could be overcome one way or another. For example, Waverly suggested that their club could be used if a halfway venue in Edinburgh were required.

Jim Hay (President of Scottish Squash) outlined funding opportunities for development that existed, particularly for juniors. He pointed out that every club should have a Child Protection Officer. He also explained how everyone involved with juniors would shortly have to be PVG checked.