



ESMBA 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Holiday Inn, Hinckley Road, Coventry, CV2 2HP
Saturday 20 July 2024

President	Vacant
Chairman	Barry Hedges
Vice Chairman	Vacant
General Secretary	Linda White
Treasurer	Simon Willies
Registration Secretary	Brian Baker
Competition Organiser	Nicky Tresadern
ICC Secretary	Steve Bailey
Coaching Director	Martin McGregor
Umpires Director	Brab Hallowes
Development Officer	James Scoins
IT and Social Media Officer	Rachel Hedges
Total Votes	10
Delegates from Counties	22
Grand total of votes	32

1. The Chairman welcomed all those present and opened the AGM.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Somerset, Brandon Whittaker and Lynn Dean.

3. Minutes of 2023 Special General Meeting and AGM

There were no comments on the 2023 Special General Meeting minutes which had previously been circulated and they were accepted.

Proposed – Les Ricketts

Seconded – Tracey Bailey

For - 29 Against - 0 Abstentions – 3

There were no comments on the 2023 AGM minutes which had previously been circulated and they were accepted.

Proposed – Les Ricketts

Seconded – Barry Whitburn

For – 27 Against – 0 Abstentions - 5

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Adoption of Reports

a) Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report had previously been circulated and once again stressed the importance of filling the position of Vice Chairman. He asked those present to encourage likely candidates to make themselves known or contact him direct and he would give them an idea of the role.

He gave an overview of several different areas of the association and that at the August Seminar the Management Committee would be looking at ways of reducing expenditure, especially in respect of costs for Open competitions and the England teams.

He stressed that we still need more Umpires and Coaches and confirmed that there are various types of grants and funding available for training and equipment.

In his final paragraph the Chairman thanked Brandon Whittaker on behalf of the Association and personally for all the work he had done over many years and wished him well for the future.

The report was unanimously adopted.

Proposed – Richard Rose
Seconded – Phil Jennings

For - 32 Against - 0 Abstentions - 0

b) Treasurer's Report and Approval of 2023 Accounts

The relevant paperwork had already been circulated and Simon Willies asked if there were any questions.

Clarification was asked for on the deficit figure and it was explained that there were several areas which contributed.

The Treasurer said that we provide activities for the membership such as the Open Competitions and the price of venues had risen. At last year's AGM we proposed a £1 increase to the membership fee but the vote was for a 50p increase applied for four years which meant income was down. Another difference was the reclassification of equipment from stock. We do not now sell any equipment and that stock is therefore classified as Assets.

He said budgets were being put together at the moment and we will than be able to see what future expenditure might be. The Management Committee will look at the figures at the August Seminar and reduce the figures as much as possible.

The Chairman said that there are some areas which would be looked at, such as prize money for Open Competitions, entry fees for those events and the ESMBA's commitment to the England players.

The ESMBA are already looking at insurance and have had discussions with Sutton Winson. Another company has also been asked to quote.

One suggestion was made that maybe money could be saved if meetings were held via Zoom but it was explained that trying to conduct meetings which lasted seven hours would be very difficult.

The Treasurer's Report was adopted.

Proposed – Brab Hallows

Seconded – Les Ricketts

For - 32 Against - 0 Abstentions - 0

The 2023/2024 Accounts were also adopted.

Proposed – David Room

Seconded – Darren Stanford

For - 32 Against - 0 Abstentions - 0

c) Registration Secretary's Report

The Registration Secretary's report had been previously circulated. Brian Baker said that our membership overall remains fairly static but we lost 2000 members last year and gained the same amount. We therefore need to understand the reasons for this and so on this year's membership request there will be another column to ask "why are you leaving?". This will give us a chance to understand and try and address the reasons.

He referred to the club listings on the website and emphasized the importance of all clubs being on that list. Equally important is the need to fill in the column for age breakdown on the membership request form.

The Registration Secretary's Report was adopted.

Proposed – Tracey Bailey

Seconded – Richard Rose

For - 32 Against - 0 Abstentions - 0

d) Competition Organiser's Report

The Competition Organiser's report had been previously circulated and there were no questions.

The Competition Organiser's report was adopted.

Proposed – Derek Adams

Seconded – Les Ricketts

For - 32 Against - 0 Abstentions - 0

e) Umpires Director's Report

The Umpire Director's report had been previously circulated and he again highlighted the lack of umpires particularly in the Midlands. There is now a booklet on how to become an umpire and initial copies have been circulated to counties. He also

referred to the grant system which is available to help with the cost of equipment and uniform.

There was discussion on the possibility of changing the umpires dress code and it was agreed that another survey would be carried out and the result discussed.

The report was adopted unanimously.

Proposed – Darren Stanford
Seconded – Dave Almond

For - 32 Against - 0 Abstentions - 0

f) Coaching Director's Report

The Coaching Director's report had been previously circulated.

He reiterated that more coaches were needed and said that there is separate allocated money outside the grant system which is used to reimburse a coach once they have qualified.

Report adopted unanimously.

Proposed – Dave Hall
Seconded – Brab Hallows

For - 32 Against - 0 Abstentions – 0

g) Development Officer's Report

The Development Officer's report had been previously circulated. It covered work on the Schools Project, his involvement with the Bowls Development Alliance (BDA,) the Newsletter and Grant Scheme.

Report adopted unanimously.

Proposed – Brian Baker
Seconded – Les Ricketts

For – 32 Against – 0 Abstentions – 0

h) ICC Secretary's Report

The ICC Secretary's report had been previously circulated. Steve Bailey said that this year had been challenging but that there would be a discussion in the Open Forum on how to take the competition forward. He thanked Surrey and Avon for the use of their venues.

Report adopted unanimously.

Proposed – Martin McGregor
Seconded – Brian Baker

For – 32 Against – 0 Abstentions – 0

i) Lead Safeguarding Officer's Report

Lynn Dean could not be at the meeting but her Assistant Safeguarding Officer Ros Nicholson was present.

The Lead Safeguarding Officer's report had been previously circulated. At club level Safeguarding Officers are there to feed information up the chain; there are always levels above to support and make final decisions. It was stressed that all matters of concern need to be dealt with quickly so they don't escalate.

The Chairman thanked all the Safeguarding Officers because without their work we would struggle.

Report adopted unanimously.

Proposed – Les Ricketts
Seconded – Nicky Tresadern

For – 32 Against – 0 Abstentions – 0

6. Proposals

6a. Change of Development Officer's title in 5 (k) Administration and Structure and 6 (b) i Annual and Other General Meetings.

For – 22 Against - 0 Abstentions - 10 Passed.

6b. Change of the word "auditors" to "accountants" in 6 (b) v Annual and Other General Meetings.

For - 32 Against - 0 Abstentions - 0 Passed.

7. Management Fees

The Management Fees for 2023/2024 were to be agreed at the AGM.

Following discussion there were two proposals from the floor.

Proposal 1 – 5% increase on 2022/2023 fees across the board.

Proposed – Dave Hall
Seconded – Derek Adams

For - 12 Against - 3 Abstentions - 17 Failed.

Proposal 2 – IT & Social Media Officer £150, General Secretary £500, other management fees as 2022/2023.

Proposed – Tracey Bailey
Seconded – Adam Smith

For - 20 Against - 0 Abstentions - 12 Passed.

8. Membership Fees

Following the decision last year to increase membership fees by 50p for the next four years a vote was taken to ratify the change for 2024/2025.

For – 29 Against – 1 Abstentions - 2

9. Election of Officers

The Chairman asked that the following Management Committee positions be re-elected en bloc:-

Chairman – Barry Hedges
General Secretary – Linda White
Treasurer – Simon Willies
Registration Secretary – Brian Baker
Competition Organiser – Nicky Tresadern
ICC Secretary – Steve Bailey
Coaching Director – Martin McGregor
Development Director – James Scoins
Umpires Director – Brab Hallowes
IT & Social Media Officer – Rachel Hedges

For – 32 Against - 0 Abstentions – 0

The Chairman said the President and Vice Chairman positions still need to be filled.

10. Appointment of Auditors

Simon Willies proposed that we continue to use Murray Smith as the Accountants for our financial inspection.

Proposed – Simon Willies
Seconded – Barry Hedges

For - 32 Against - 0 Abstentions – 0

11. Date of 2025 AGM

Saturday 19 July 2025 at 10.30 am.

Open Forum

1. The Chairman opened the Open Forum.

2. Development – Bowls Development Alliance (BDA) Presentation

Helen Price from the Bowls Development Alliance gave a very informative presentation on the various aspects of work which is being carried out with the ESMBA and highlighted the growing problem of financial abuse scams.

The PowerPoint presentation can be viewed on the ESMBA website by following the link <http://www.esmba.co.uk/safeguarding/safeguarding-latest-news-and-presentations/>.

3. Allocation of National Places - proposals from Cornwall CSMBA

There was discussion on both proposals. It doesn't matter where you are in the country, if proposal one was adopted it would mean that only the top seven counties would gain four places on membership. It would actually penalise the smaller counties.

Regarding proposal two, the existing system works and rewards the counties who are putting the effort in.

Those present did not agree with Cornwall's suggestions.

4. ICC for 2025/2026

Steve Bailey said that since November we have run Premier 1, Premier 2 and A Team in the competition. The first year it went well but then distances did not work so we had to look at it again. This year we ended up with 24 teams in the Premier 1 and 2 with 10 A Teams.

Going forward all the teams would be put into one competition and if counties have two or possibly three teams we should end up with 35 teams. If a county has two teams they will play in two different groups. The winners of each group would go into Premier 1, runners up into Premier 2 and teams finishing third and fourth into the A Team.

It was agreed that the competition needs to change.

5. Schools Project

James Scoins spoke about the work and progress with the Schools Project and the Youth Sports Trust. Part of the project is sourcing equipment and he will be looking for second hand equipment around the country to loan to schools. Ten schools have been approached about the scheme and this is growing month by month.

This work is proving beneficial to children who have never played sport before. Rolling it out nationally is going to present challenges and there will be a need to have support on a local level. Part of the programme will involve getting coaches into schools.