

Minutes of the ESMBA Open Forum Held on 6.07.2019 at Solihull Indoor Bowling Club

Meeting Started 11.55.

The minutes for the Open Forum 2017-2018 had been circulated previously. It was proposed by James Scions Somerset and seconded by Les Rickets Hampshire that they be passed as a true record. A vote took place 38 For 0 Against 3 Abstentions motion passed.

There were on matters arising.

Over 55's Triples

Roger Green North Yorkshire had suggested that as the over 55 Pairs had been such a success and that 93% of our membership was over 55 that the ESMBA should consider running a National over 55's Triple event.

David Bubb raised the point that due to the calendar being quite full already and there being a limited amount of dates and venues why not change the Pairs to Triples.

Lynn Dean Dorset suggested why not make it an open 55's Triples competition.

Keith Willington remarked on how much would it cost taking into account the committees fees venue hire etc- Barry Hedges stated that there would be an entrance fee and this would help towards the cost.

Keith Hawkins Somerset asked about allocations, if it were a National competition would every county be offered one place however if they required more would there have to be regional play offs. The answer was yes it would run the same as the over 55's pairs allocations if it were to be a National status. Richard Williams suggested that the over 55's and under 18's be combined and run on the same day this may not be possible due to the high entries of the over 55's.

Becky Cox suggested that the timing of the event could be looked at as the dates in the calendar seemed to be limited maybe early in the season.

Peter Winter stated that as no one seemed be against the suggestion that maybe the committee could discuss it at the Seminar in August.

Barry Hedges stated that this could be added to the Agenda for discussion however it may not be possible for the forthcoming season but would look at it for the following season.

ICC Format

This was put on the Agenda for discussion by the committee.

Simon Willies had sent out a format suggestion for the Premier League only of having a team of 16 and playing an individual round then a team event (as in the British Isles format) then another round of individuals this would ensure that players got 3 games if not substituted.

Ends could be kept the same 15 for Singles and Pairs 13 for Triples and 11 for Fours and Rinks

No roll ups with games scheduled to start at 10.00.

Brandon Whittaker suggested the players that play in the individuals should not play in the same positions in the in the second round of individuals.

Keith Hawkins stated that could we think about where the knockout rounds are played i.e. regional for the knockout stages and central venues for the Semi-Finals and Finals due to the amount of travelling involved. He also pointed out that most of the premier teams are based in the south of the country

something which Elise Daniels Cornwall, had agreed as Cornwall having carried out a survey of the premier teams involved.

It would appear therefore that some counties had no problem with the format just the locations of the knockout stages.

Barry stated it was possible to look at, but that travelling time must be taken into account considering the types of roads and the locations of the venues.

James Smith suggested you reduce the number of qualifiers.

Chris Willies West Midlands welcomed the format change, the rinks element would add an extra challenge to the event helping with the transition to the international competitions. Some counties thought it was time to refresh the format.

After further discussions it was decided by the meeting that the ESMBA committee should discuss the options and come back to the counties with a proposed format.

Club Championships

The committee were concerned that the entrances had decreased however since being put on the agenda the entries have increased. Lynn Dean raised the question if it gets to popular would it be restricted to one per club. The committee advised it was not required at this stage.

Expense Allowances

This was put on the agenda as the expenses policy had not been reviewed in sometime and to get the views of the members.

Roger Green asked what the current expenses were. People travelling on behalf of the ESMBA committee umpires etc in any one journey the first 200 miles is at 45p (as per HMRC recommendations) thereafter 20p a mile. Up to £15.00 for an evening meal which can include a soft drink but no alcohol £5.00 for lunch £70.00 for a room a night if travelling over 125 miles in one night and £5.00 for breakfast. With regards to rooms then it is expected that committee members and umpires should share where possible.

A discussion then took place where it was raised what happens if committee or umpires wished to take partners or guests? It was stated that they have always paid their own way.

It was raised that people who are playing at the same time as organising had their expenses reduced the meeting felt that as they are still acting as volunteers for the association this should be considered.

Overall the members thought that the expenses were reasonable, but it was recognised that people travelling on behalf of the association should not be out of pocket. People who travelled in excess of 200 miles for special events should maybe treated as special cases.

Safeguarding

Our safeguarding officer Lynn Dean was asked to say a few words Lynn recommends that each county should have a code of conduct for all their players which would install mutual respect. A copy of which can be found on the Safeguarding website (or see attachments) for those who need assistance for setting one up.

By September Lynn would like to see all county safeguarding officers in place. If you need courses, please contact Lynn who will try and find your nearest venue. Or why not set up your own find venue for 16 people and if you can find 8 people who are interested other codes could then be notified and maybe fill the other places. A course lasts approximately 3 hours.

The ESMBA pay for the DBS for the county officers and for 1 person to attend a safeguarding course.

We have come a long way in the last 4 years it is not just children venerable adults who are now just referred to as adults also need safeguarding. There is help and somewhere for you to go if you need help or advise just check the website.

A.O.B.

Keith Hawkins stated he had attended an Adult Safeguarding course which was taken by Amanda and was advised that there is no level 2 syllabus for short mat bowls he asked if this could be explained. Brian Baker explained that coach bowls teach how to coach not what to coach. They run level 2 courses on coaching bowls in general not in each code. They teach technical elements, demeanour, tactics, fundamental head building, stance, all contributing to getting your wood where you need it. It is more about where to stand, how to observe, how to improve delivery, interpret, how to listen and how to get the right response.

Peter Winter remarked that we needed our stage 1 and 2 coaches to be able to teach things like how to play Short Mat Bowls in particular. Brian stated maybe we could get the coaches together for this purpose. Barry Hedges requested it be put on the agenda to be discussed at the seminar.

Chris Willies had question for Joseph Newsome as umpire's director. Are the Umpires happy with the collar and tie or would they prefer polo shirts? Joseph explained that a survey had been carried out and that the majority were happy with the collar and tie.

There being no more any other business the meeting broke for lunch.