

**EPA Management Committee Meeting
at Hatfields on 18th February 2017
commencing at 9.30 a.m**

Attendees

David Baxter (DB)	Ken Buchan (KB)	
Cary Bush (CB)	Martin Eggleton (ME),	Alan Forse (AF)
Martin Hughes (MH)	Ray Keemer-Richards (RK)	Bob Parker (BP)
Alan Roden (AR)	Colin Roper (CR)	
Annette Eggleton (Notes)	Jim Marstin (Club renewals)	

Action

- 2.1 Apologies for absence David Mason (DM)
- 2.2 The minutes of the previous meeting held 14th January were accepted as a true record.
- 2.3 **Action Points**
- 1.3 Complaints Procedure replaced with a holding statement. New procedure to be drafted. DB
- 1.3 Insurance Renewal Documents need to go on the website, CB to send to DB. Clubs with Leases need additional Public Liability, this is being followed up. CB
- Questions about hosting Twinning events – committee is covered but best to declare the event as an Open being sure this is recorded, via the Risk Assessment would be one way. Clubs to be reminded. DB
- 1.6 Rule books are received and are being distributed via regional membership secretaries.
- 1.7 Safeguarding. Final step is the President's letter to Regions and cross document references to be updated. ME
DB
- 2.4 **Charitable Status**
- CB presented the latest information he had researched and possible ways forward.
- After a full discussion of the issues raised by the presentation the following were agreed:
1. That CB be empowered to seek legal advice as to how much if any of our subscription can be treated as a donation for Gift Aid purposes, at a cost of £500. CB
2. The relation with Regions could change if the precept is included in the GA arrangements.
3. The formality will be via the dissolution of the EPA and the formation of a new body. Our constitution has provision for this and the voting arrangements.
4. Not ready to propose anything at the 2017 AGM but will raise awareness through the Q and A between the Martins.
- 2.5 **2017 AGM**
- Resolutions – nil from regions, nil from MC.
- Nominations. - so far only from incumbents.
- Location. Botany Bay club is double booked and there is a home rugby fixture that would impact on our meeting. Agreed not to use and look at other clubs or hotels. DB

Closing date for nominations and resolutions is the 25th so if anything comes in there may have to be a TC on Feb 25th.

2.6 **Playing**

Eligibility in the Eurocup. Questions arise as the competition straddles two membership years. The key points agreed are that "club tied" applies and to play in Europe there is a minimum 6 months membership of the club required. Membership checks for the finals in March DB and AR to liaise.

AR/
DB

Home Nations and HNQ. We don't have traction on our idea to stage an alternate international competition that weekend. After a discussion on alternative events it was agreed to take a group of players to the international W/E event run by the Maaseik club in Belgium – singles and shooting Friday, doubles Saturday, triples Sunday. It was agreed to seek availability from among those players that performed well in the 2016 Qualifiers. Funding – use the £250 per top team already budgeted – travel by car (2.5hrs from Dunkerque EPA to pre-purchase block of 10 on DFDS) use the organiser's accommodation, look at adding to the EPA contribution to keep player contribution to as little as possible and maybe only their meals. Getting this underway now will reduce the top players in the HNQ which will help that competition reach more players and the event be more competitive.

MH

Ladies Programme. The training W/E in Dunkerque with French coaches is now arranged for 22/23 April and may have 15 of the 16 able to attend. Also French Technical Director has offered the 7th April as a coaching day for coaches.

Men's Programme. Was published and some good points in the feedback need a response particularly around, Titles weekend, only one triples event, inclusion of mixed doubles, questions on basis of selection. MH proposed adding an extra triples at the FoP and making the final ranking on the basis of one's best 5 results was agreed. Going forward want to stress commitment so the 5/8 will be reviewed as will the role and location of the NT weekend.

Men's Europeans Team Manager. Still waiting on feedback from team.

MH

Venues All confirmed except Arlesey.

MH

2016 Veterans finances are not concluded.

Arrangements for Ghent are all in hand thanks to R Powell.

MH/
ME/
CB

Hayling. Reservations have gone very quickly which has caused a lot of angst and negative feedback. MH and ME to respond. ME to discuss with IoWT.

ME

Titles Weekend Feedback on the surface being unsatisfactory in parts. Agreed ME to discuss with John Thatcher.

National Youth Squad With arrangements well advanced for the season there will not be any organisational changes but ME will provide operational support and maintain a close involvement with a particular eye to the appointment of team manager/coach for the worlds in China in December 2017.

The issue of ad hoc teams being taken to competitions by parents and friends was discussed. There is a reluctance for the EPA to be seen as giving any official advice.

Lead Coach Ladies Needs to be progressed. Ideally a woman with good playing experience. Need to get a role specification out and discussed as China may be an issue for some. MH

2.7 **Umpiring**

RP reported on the Commission meeting held in November. Although there are 22 Umpires on the list many prefer to play so moving to a system of appointing rather than asking. 3 refusals without a valid reason will lead to loss of their umpire's licence. We have 4 newly qualified umpires and a course is planned for 22nd April in Northampton. Going forward all Umpires will be required to do a refresher course. The Commission requested a daily allowance or fee for umpiring which was not supported but it was agreed that CB and ME review the expense policy. RP
ME/
CB

RP confirmed that there is no feedback on exams, just the result. ME stated that we need the training to match the exam.

RP was thanked for making positive moves.

2.8 **Disciplinary Matters**

Redacted

KB reported he had held a review of the process with the Panel Chairman and N Goodheart. The key area was around witness availability and timeliness. DB

KB reported a mismatch between the procedures and proforma disciplinary charge in Appendix 1. It was agreed that the Appendix should reflect the wording of clause 4.2. DB

Redacted

KB

2.9 **Coaching**

5 new coaches from Kent have passed the club coach course. CR has been through the advanced course and now have 3 candidates in progress while 5 applicants are in waiting. Annual Coaching Commission meeting will be 6th May. Future activity planned is for multi region events and refresher courses for established club coaches.

2.10 **Membership**

Over 1800 members renewed so far and 110 clubs

2.11 **Any other Business.**

Meeting Cycle April would be last meeting we can use Hatfields so agreed 8th and May 20th a TC. Rest of dates pending a search for location. AE/
DB

CB proposed to bring an analysis of the Club SGF to the AGM to query its utility. AE suggested making more use of the Drop box account.

2.12 **Date of next MC meeting**, April 8th 9.30 am at Hatfields. DB