

## SPA Meeting Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2011

**The meeting was opened by Paul Preston**

### Apologies

Mick McGoldrick, Stevie Johnston (Coatbridge)

### Present

Paul Preston, Helen Sole, David Duncan, Alan Maxwell, John Reid, Danny Turner, Alan Reynolds, Pete Smith, Kenny Donald, Robin Johnstone, J McGurk, Frank Jaffray, Harry Allan, Richard Johnstone, Scott Rae, David Buchan, Alan Houston, Malky Cowan, Lee Marshall, Alan McWilliams, Ross McInnes, Jim Fisher and Chris Wiggins

### Minutes

Can't ratify meeting minutes from November meeting as there were no copies on hand to vote on.

John Reid stated that items he brought up at AGM were not included in the minutes -

1. Leagues give names of people they permit to represent them and therefore can vote on their behalf
2. Voting cards so everyone able to vote has a card so it's easy to distinguish who has a vote and who hasn't. Will be brought up later under any other business.

### Treasurers Report

Helen explained the balance sheet for Super 11 Challenge Event. SPA have given the loan for the International teams polo shirts.

### Matters Arising

5 Man team entry has been brought forward to the May meeting due to too many events having to be paid at the July meeting.

July meeting, Scottish Singles entries, Super 15 team entry, Scottish Doubles entries

TC to meet to agree criteria for 5 man team event, TC to arrange meeting at the Super 11's at Craig Tara to go over grassroots entries and 5 man team criteria. Pro Rata for Grassroots will be announced after this meeting.

Mixed doubles entry is first come first served.

### Past Events

Scottish Singles won by Scott Ross and runner up was Pat Holtz. Event was sponsored by Nuts Poker League and prize fund was £5k

South of Scotland Championships was funded by the SPA for £1k and has been announced a huge success with new leagues sending teams from Newton Stewart, Annan and Gretna.

Ross McInnes explained that the relevant success of the SEPF has been due to them offering regional tours so the players from these areas who then don't need to travel. This role is not required by the SPA as this requirement is filled by private events which are run by various areas.

Nuts poker league have agreed to give the SPA £25 per year per pub that they get to join up.

Super 11 Challenge:- Format will be changed as it didn't work time wise. Glasgow B2 team were the champions and Central Ayrshire B2 were the runners up. Ross thanked all the players in attendance for their outstanding behaviour over the weekend.

Paul Preston thanked all the people who worked at the event to make it all possible, Laura, Yvonne, Helen, Ross and Referees.

### **Forthcoming Events**

Super 11's, full schedule has been complete and is available, speedpool has been included for this event. It takes place in a different hall which is bigger than the usual venue.

International teams:- Ross wanted it noted that while the Seniors A team had 6 players the two B teams only had 5 and this was not correct, they should take a minimum of 6 so there is cover for anyone falling ill.

IM4, Ross is looking at potential venues in week commencing 6/3/2011. Discussion took place about doing away with timed draws as a way of giving the venues more value for money but this was dismissed as not possible. Ross stated if they run out of venues willing to take SPA events then things could be looked at again.

Grassroots entries were 574, pro rata could not be done until after the TC go thru the entries list to take out any players they deem too good.

### **SPA Business**

Drug testing. There were drugs found in the toilets at Pettycur Bay just like there were in November. The SPA is looking into getting an external body to perform random drug tests. The fact a post was made on the SPA website that drug testing took place was brought up by Alan Reynolds. It was explained that the exec were trying to get this external body in place in time to carry out this testing but it was not possible. The body of the hall decided that before any external body can be put in the place that we must have a drugs policy in place and this MUST be ratified by a lawyer. First steps were to ask Wales if they could give us a copy of their drugs policy and use that as a base for our policy. John Reid proposed a lawyer confirm the resulting policy is lawful and this was seconded by Malky Cowan.

Alan Reynolds asked where the constitution was and when the membership could expect the updated constitution to be available. Helen Sole confirmed that she is the last person to update it with financial information.

Alan Reynolds brought up the Davy Nicolson disciplinary case with the EBA, Paul Preston asked the body of the hall what they wanted the SPA to do in this instance. Malky Cowan proposed that the SPA request that Linda Kirwan should not any positions within the EBA.

The body of the hall requested the SPA want action from the EBA regarding this complaint being false and the SPA may consider it's membership to the EBA if it is not satisfied with the action taken by the EBA in this case.

If any letter of complaint is received regarding any person working with the Y&J they will automatically be suspended from all Y&J duties pending an investigation in future.

Scottish Singles will be held in hotel in East Kilbride and will start on the Friday night with the Ladies Scottish being played. The Y&J Scottish singles will be played on the Saturday. There will be 16 tables with a £5k prizefund. Presentation night will take place on the Sunday night after a dinner and there will be karaoke competition as well as other entertainment.

John Reid queried how International teams were selected and stated Jourdon Templeton winning IM5 and Derek Easton ranked at 24 and not picked ahead of guys ranked a lot further behind. Each of the mens international managers explained how they select their teams. John Reid stated that the IM's and Scottish should be the primary methods of selecting the teams and he feels that other events are taking more precedence. This was dismissed by the international managers as they consider IMs 1 to 4 and Scottish as the most important events. Ranking positions 1-4 are selected for the A team and ranking positions 5-12 are selected for the B teams as long as the managers approve of the players.

Selection processes and more importantly the reintroduction of the International Committee will be discussed at the next meeting.

Erlend to be presented with a plaque for his role as President.

DDC confirmed investigation into incident with David Rooney & David Farrell had been concluded and the people involved had received notification of their findings.

Ross McInnes asked the DDC about the complaint against Davy Nicolson from Darren Adamson and they confirmed that both parties had been informed of the outcome.

Alan Reynolds asked the SPA for approval to have Davy Nicolson carry out the flag at the opening ceremony at Bridlington as a show of solidarity for the way he has been treated. Proposed by Alan Reynolds and seconded by Malky Cowan, Ross McInnes objected. Motion carried.

Ross McInnes confirmed he has received emails that girl who works at reception at Rhyl had been reduced to tears due to emails she received from Davy Nicolson.

Richard Johnston confirmed he is still owed £150 for trophies which he supplied to the Y&J Europeans at Rhyl.

### **A.O.B.**

Alan Houston brought up a point about Pettycur Bay in that if your on the late session on the Friday you should not be on the late session on the Saturday as well. It was stated that this won't happen again anyway as the format will change in the future.

Davy Duncan proposed that the Superleague 15's run as 4 divisions and relegation and promotion happens between the divisions. A long discussion took place and many problems were highlighted as individual players in specific teams change from event to event and it's only the teams themselves you could promote and relegate. Ross McInnes came up with the TC would rate each team on it's own merits and on a player by player basis and give them a score overall, this was considered a lot of work for one body to carry out. TC to sit with Ross McInnes, Davy Duncan and any volunteers to come up with all the problems and what solutions they could come up with.

### **AGM Addendum**

Since the AGM had to be cut short it was agreed that it would be extended to this meeting to allow the proposals which Michael Caven had been working on could be discussed.

1. Quicker decision making – agreed
2. Survey Monkey – agreed
  - 2.1 Referees exam, this was discussed and agreed at the AGM and cannot be done online
  - 2.2 Customer Satisfaction – agreed
  - 2.3 Ballots – Alan Reynolds against, dismissed
- 3.1 Agenda and topic setting – agreed but timescale extended to 4 weeks to allow reps to bring up at their league meetings
- 3.2 Voting and Organisation – Paul Preston has this as action point. This takes in the same principles that John Reid proposed at start of meeting
- 3.3 Subcommittees and Goals – Paul Preston to bring in each committee at each meeting for a brief report, proposal to disband if committee has not met to be scrapped
4. Revenue Generation
  - 4.1 Calendar of events has already been done
  - 4.3 Pay per view – Alan Maxwell confirmed that this is now possible thru Ustream and any price can be set to watch a live stream, cost is split 50/50 between Ustream and SPA. This lead to a long discussion about if Alan Maxwell was doing the stream should the SPA pay him a percentage of the revenue or a set fee, Helen confirmed that the SPA cannot deal in percentages with becoming VAT registered. Ross stated that caravan fees should be paid directly to him as he holds the contracts not the SPA. Helen is to get confirmation from HMRC that his is ok to go ahead with. If it is ok with them then it means the SPA are not within the threshold to register for VAT.
  - 4.4 Calcutta – Questions were asked about who would devote the time to run it properly etc
  - 4.5 SPA Shop – Good idea but who will run it and who is in charge of it?
  - 4.6 SPA Trades list – Good idea
  - 4.7 Lucky Number thru website – require a licence to do this
  - 4.8 Fantasy Stables – No

#### 4.2 SPA Lottery – No

5. Change to IM events – This was discussed at length and the conclusion was it would not be practical to hold this other event when you don't know how many people would turn up. So idea was parked to get more information about how it could work.

6. New event and Presentation – New event was cited as a good idea by Ross McInnes and could work, this was parked as it requires more discussion. Presentation is already taking place at Scottish Singles

7. Superleague events – This was already discussed with proposal from Davy Duncan earlier in meeting and it was agreed that a meeting with the TC and various volunteers would have discussions on the best practise moving forward.

**Next meeting is Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 11am**