

SPA AGM 3rd March 2013

Attendees:- M McGoldrick, Y Ewing, A Maxwell, D Duncan, M Baston, M Boyd, S McMillan, K Cairns, N Gilchrist, A Humphreys, G Smith, W McCartney, S Weeks, J McKay, P Smith, S Smith, H Allan, R Johnstone, D Kennedy, G McCormack, G Thomson, M Cowan, D Turner, A Coffey, T McWhirter, R Johnstone, J Reid.

Apologies: Motherwell, J Brownlie.

Chairman Mick McGoldrick opened the meeting

Minutes of 2012 AGM.

There were no queries. Minutes proposed by Harry Allan, seconded by Michael Bastow.

Chairmans Report

Treasurers Report

Yvonne read out a statement from Laura, copy will be attached to the minutes.

The Chairman stressed the importance of doing bank transfers into the proper accounts for each event and make sure that you put easy identifiable references on these transfers so the Treasurers can assign the money to the correct area or team.

Pete Smith queries why the SPA Golf Day money raised was not on the International Funds breakdown, Yvonne will query with Ross.

2012 Events

Y&J – U16 level is dwindling as really need help of all the areas to find any new young players to participate, Bridlington and Blackpool were extremely successful.

Ladies – Struggling to get numbers so if any leagues know of any Lady players could they encourage them to play in Ladies events. The latest tour event the day before the meeting had 4 new players and 2 returning players. Team was beaten in Blackpool.

LD & PD – They held 6 events last year, won everything possible to win at Blackpool and Bridlington

IM – Mark Boyle won IM1 beating Alan Reynolds in the final

Election of Office Bearers

Treasurer – Paul McKendry was proposed by Mick McGoldrick, seconded by Yvonne Ewing. Laura was thanked for all the work she has done in the role of treasurer in the past few years.

IM Secretary – Yvonne stood unopposed

Tournament Director – Yvonne stood unopposed

Y&J:-

Chairman – Alan Maxwell

Vice-Chairman – John McGinn

Treasurer – Gary Hamilton

Secretary – Terri Lapsley

DDC:- Danny Turner, Peter Nolan, Suzy Smith and Thomas McWhirter. Yvonne stated that the exec would like to have meeting with head of this committee to discuss it's future.

Referees:-

John Reid and Alan Reynolds were head of referees, Alan Reynolds has resigned from his position but remains as a referee. There are now 11 qualified referees.

Team Managers:-

A Team – Alan Reynolds

B1 – Billy Henderson

B2 – Kenny Donald

Ladies A – Yvonne Ewing

LDs A – Jackie Williamson

U23A – Kal Wilson

U23B1 – David Riggins

U23B2 – John McGinn

U18A – Terri Lapsley

U18B – Stuart Weeks

Proposals:-

Website proposal for Bill Hunter to take over the website, he will create a brand new website and host it himself. There will no longer be a split between the SPA and the webteam on any income the site generates, Bill will receive a set payment every year for all his work. Proposed Stuart Weeks, seconded Thomas McWhirter

Superleague prizestructure, there was a discussion in regards to how the prize money breakdown would be handled, there was quite a few wanting the superleague to be treated as one event and then the total prizefund allocated down the divisions but it was clarified that each division receiving the same prizefund had already been voted in. The following prizestructure was proposed by Michael Bastow and seconded by Alan Maxwell

Premier Division

Winners £2k

Runners Up £1k

Semi Finalists £500

1st & 2nd Division

Winners £1,500

Runners up £750

Semi Finalists £375

Quarter Finalists £250

This is the prize structure for the first event and this can be changed for future Super 11 divisions.

After discussion in regards to the money outstanding for the damage done at Bridlington it was decided that the debt of £491 belongs to the Y&J player so he will be debt suspended until this is paid back to the SPA. This debt should never have been sitting with the Y&J.

Y&J Debt, Yvonne proposed that the Y&J debt of around £307 is written off to help the division, this is passed unanimously

Stuart Weeks asked the body of the hall for funding to help send the managers to Bridlington, Mick proposes the SPA give the Y&J £200. Passed.

Davy Duncan asked if the LD's could receive money to help fund their managers attend Bridlington, Davy proposes they receive £200, seconded by John Reid. Passed.

Mick made it clear that this does not set a precedent for the future.

Correspondence

Letter was read out from Pat Holtz in regards to a complaint in the handling of the disciplinary held in the past for two cases, one was a complaint against Ross McInnes and another against Mark Boyle.

It was confirmed that he has received a letter giving him the outcome of the disciplinary investigation.

Michael Bastow read out a letter from a member of his IM area in regards to the downside of local seeding in qualifiers. A copy of this letter will be attached to the minutes for discussion at next SPA meeting.

Malky Cowan brought up an idea for the IM whereby the finals would be for 256 players. With 64 players playing on a Saturday at each of the 4 venues being used. So there would be 4 top 16 players at each venue and the draws would be seeded. These would be played down on the Saturday to

leave a total of 32 players. These 32 players would then attend a set venue on the Sunday and play to an open draw. Malky will put this proposal in writing for the next meeting.

Pete Smith asked when drug testing will begin again, after a lengthy discussion about the pros and cons, Yvonne is to look into how it can be done by an outside body so everything is legal and done properly.

Yvonne asked if she could introduce the spotted white to all SPA events, Mick was against this proposal and stated that the reps should discuss this with their local leagues to be voted on at the next SPA meeting.

Mick announced that Malky Cowan has agreed to come onto the Exec committee for a year to help out with all their duties, his role will be confirmed in due course. The body of the hall welcomed this latest addition to the SPA Executive Committee.

Meeting is closed.

Next meeting is on Sunday 5th May 2013.

Attached is the letter from an IM member in Arbroath for discussion at next SPA meeting.

IM Proposal.

The seeding policy for IM is flawed at a local level. Players who gain local seeding receive a huge local advantage which helps to ensure they continue to qualify consistently for future events. As well as avoiding each they also receive any byes automatically. This year in Arbroath, one seed has received a bye in all 7 IM's so he effectively only plays 14 matches instead of the 21 for non seeds. The advantage is so great that, via favourable drawn sections and byes, some seeds are effectively guaranteed to retain their seeding before they've even struck a ball, which is fundamentally unfair to the remainder.

The effect of the current system is that, despite only playing a couple of years, some players are effectively uncatchable to the remainder of the entrants. In fact they could easily not play for the next two years and still not be caught. To quote one of our local seeds who agrees with me, local seeding is "massive". I believe this is a contributory factor in why so many players leave the IM every year. Although IM numbers remain consistently above the 800 mark, each year just under 200 players leave the IM. This year in Arbroath, entries were a quarter down on previous years (12 players).

The proposal simply involves removing the local seeding, making all area draws open and any byes should be randomly drawn.

Many hundreds of ranked players (two thirds of total membership) sit at either 5 or 10 points depending whether they have played 1 or 2 years. There is no means of differentiating them further. Players who consistently reach the latter stages of local qualifying receive the same award as players who are consistently eliminated in the first matches.

A previous proposal to introduce points further down the rankings was raised before but to date nothing has been progressed even though all it requires is for areas to send in their completed drawsheets into SPA after qualifying has been done.

As an add-on, the local draws could also be passed back to local areas to perform provided they meet established criteria i.e., pre announcements to allow draws to be witnessed by all if they wish; all draws performed using uniform "rules". Completed draws could be submitted back to SPA for scrutiny of irregular patterns etc., which is another common complaint of the current system.