

Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting of the EUROPEAN SQUASH FEDERATION

WARSAW, POLAND
SATURDAY 7th MAY 2016

1. ATTENDANCE:

a) Present by Right:

ESF President	Zena Wooldridge
ESF Vice-President	Marcel Borst
ESF Vice-President	Jacques Fontaine
ESF Vice-President	Jackie Robinson
ESF Vice-President	Pavel Sladeczek
ESF Treasurer	Peter Derrick

b) 20 Full Member Nations (eligible to vote) were represented:

Austria	Michael Khan
Belgium	Serge Maggi
Croatia	Vedran Rezic
Czech Republic	Tomas Cvikl
England	Keir Worth
Finland	Poku Salo
France	Florent Bourillot
Germany	Steve Mann
Gibraltar	Barry Brindle
Ireland	Rosie Barry
Israel	Solly Laniado
Italy	Davide Babini
Netherlands	Paul Gardner
Norway	Bente Stavenes
Poland	Tomasz Banasiaks
Portugal	Luis Ferreira
Romania	George Constantinescu
Scotland	James Hay
Switzerland	Benjamin Fisher
Turkey	Hasan Ozturk

c) Observers:

Germany	Udo Dackweiler
Liechtenstein	Peter Reiko

Poland	Marcin Stypa
Poland	Jakub Zalotynski
Romania	Cristian Stroe
Russia	Krill Perov
Turkey	Guvenc Karakus

d) By invitation:

ESF Office Manager	Claire Leech
ESF Office Assistant	Jody Jones

e) Apologies:

WSF President	Mr N Ramachandran
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f) Proxy vote forms:

The Russian Squash Federation sent a proxy vote form via the AGM Chair

2. PRESIDENT'S WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

The President, Zena Wooldridge, opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees, who introduced themselves. She commented that 20 full members is a new record for an ESF AGM.

Following the decision of the 2016 AGM to change the format of the AGM, the President explained the new format for AGM and inaugural mini-conference. She also explained the proposal to add a Members' Forum alongside future AGMs, which would enable ESF (Board and Members) to address changes and developments for the sport, which would previously have been covered in the AGM. She emphasised the importance of the Members' Forum as a semi-formal part of our future decision-making for the sport.

The President confirmed there were no Motions submitted to this meeting, hence a relatively short agenda this year.

The President then explained the voting procedure, including that for VP elections with 3 candidates for 2 vacant positions.

The President advised that the 2017 levies documents had been amended. The 2016 budgets had also been updated. Amended versions of both were distributed.

3. MEMBERSHIP STATUS

The list of Members was supplied as an appendix for information and there were no questions. It was reported that Macedonia and Iceland have not paid their Membership fees for 2015 or 2016, resulting in a proposal of suspension.

The suspension of these nations was approved unanimously

4. APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Guernsey has applied for ESF Membership and has submitted all required documents within the timescales required.

Guernsey's Membership was approved unanimously

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 43rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2015 minutes were approved as a correct record with no comments or questions.

The minutes were approved unanimously

6. THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

The annual report for the period 1st January to 31st January 2015 received no comment or questions from Members.

The annual report was approved unanimously

7. FORWARD PLAN 2016/17

a) The forward plan received no comment or questions from Members

The forward plan for 2016/17 was adopted unanimously

b) Championships Calendar

Year	Junior U15/17 Team Champs	Junior U19 Individual & Team Champs	Team Champs Div 1&2	Team Champs Div 3	Club Champs	Individual Closed Champs	Masters Individual Champs
2017	Czech	Portugal	Finland		Germany	Spain	Poland

VP Marcel Borst advised we have recently received a number of expressions of interest for hosting 2017 events and that inspection visits will be arranged as soon as possible. Marcel advised of Luxembourg's interest in ETC3 2017. He requested MNAs to consider tendering for 2018 championships.

8. FINANCE

a) To adopt the accounts for the year to 31st December 2015

The Treasurer commented that the overall result was about €11,000 better than the budget. This was due to a significant underspent on Committee and Officers' travel, down by €20,000 on budget of previous year. This has helped to offset to negative impact on the budget of an unusually strong pound exchange rate against the euro.

The Treasurer also made reference to ESF's reserves, noting that the outcome boosted the reserves to a more healthy €95,000 (£67,000).

The Treasurer stated that the accounts show a true and fair view of the overall financial position of ESF and have been independently scrutinised.

The Treasurer expressed thanks to Paul Gardner and Steve Mann for acting as internal examiners. He also expressed his thanks to Steve Mann for suggestions regarding coding.

No questions were raised.

The accounts for the year 2015 were adopted unanimously

b) To appoint two Internal Examiners for the 2016 accounts

Stephen Mann (Germany) and Luis Ferreira (Portugal) were appointed as internal examiners for the 2016 accounts.

c) To receive the Budget for 2016 (1st January to 31st December)

The Treasurer commented on the impact of the weak euro against the pound on the budget as subs had increased by 15% due to the Euro/Sterling difference. It was confirmed that there was unlikely to be any increase in 2017 subs.

The budget was in surplus by about €11000.

No questions / comments were received. The Treasurer asked for the budget to be approved.

The Budget 2016 was approved unanimously

The President expressed her thanks to Peter Derrick for his support throughout the year.

9. MOTIONS CONCERNING GENERAL MATTERS

No motions were submitted

10. MOTIONS CONCERNING THE RULES GOVERNING EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

No motions were submitted

11. ELECTION OF THE ESF MANAGEMENT BOARD

The President explained the Board election process for the 2 vacant Vice-President positions, including the requirement for at least one person of each gender.

She clarified the candidates:

Marcel Borst (for a 3 rd term)	Netherlands
Udo Dackweiler (for a 1 st term)	Germany
Pavel Sladacek (for a 2 nd tem)	Czech Republic

Udo Dackweiler from Germany withdrew his nomination prior to voting process. The President therefore declared Marcel Borst and Pavel Sladeczek as re-elected by proclamation, and congratulated them both on their re-election.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Jacques Fontaine requested the opportunity to discuss the WSF working group with ESF members present.

As there wasn't an AOB item on the agenda distributed to Member Federations, and conscious that not all ESF Member Nations are necessarily WSF Members, the President asked delegates' approval to add this to the agenda.

This was approved

The history and purpose of the establishment of the Working Group was explained to the meeting for those not present in Nice at the WSF AGM.

Jacques Fontaine explained that the most recent failure of the Olympic bid had led to a very difficult 2015 WSF AGM. A Motion from the French federation at the AGM led to a working group being established to review aspects of WSF's leadership structure and governance which some Members felt needed to be changed, such that WSF might also be more aligned with the IOC.

Romania asked about the current situation with regard to squash's inclusion in the Olympics. The President gave a summary of the recent history of squash's campaign including the Buenos Aires IOC Session in Oct 2013, and the more recent attempt via the one-off additional 5 sports proposed by TOCOG for 2020.

She then explained the next formal review of the core Olympic programme which we might expect out of the Rio Games; and at some stage over the next year or so WSF will need to decide the feasibility of launching another campaign for 2024. She explained that the choice of host city for 2024 may have a bearing on squash's chances of inclusion, and that Los Angeles or Paris may be favourable options.

Andrew Shelley (WSF) reiterated that Tokyo used sustainability and youth as the criteria for their choice of the 5 sports. Andrew also stated that the ESF President is currently in dialogue with Patrick Hickey (President of the European Olympic Association) regarding squash's inclusion in the European Games.

Jacques explained the WG comprised himself, Steve Mann (Germany) and Marcel Borst (Netherlands). 20 nations were actively engaged in the working group, across all 5 WSF Regions. There is a formal motion from sufficient nations calling for an EGM on 3rd June in order to vote on the motions, such that changes will then be incorporated into the articles in advance of the WSF AGM in Nov 2016.

Jacques also explained the position of PSA in the overall picture, and that the difficult relationship between WSF and PSA (at leadership level) would need to be addressed as a future part of the review.

Steve Mann explained the rationale for needing to change certain WSF Articles of Association, with the aim to developing a more effective structure in WSF. Steve encouraged all present to attend the EGM in London on the 3rd June.

Marcel invited delegates to contact himself, Steve or Jacques with any queries.

Andrew Shelley summarised that the vote on the 3rd June was significant due to the range of its coverage of the articles and impact on structure. Andrew also encouraged Member Federations to support the EGM.

There were no questions on the information provided. The President thanked Jacques Fontaine, Steve Mann and Marcel Borst and reiterated previous requests for Member Nations to support the WSF EGM.

13. NEXT MEETING

The next ESF Annual General Meeting will be held in conjunction with the 2016 European Team Championships Divisions 1&2 in Helsinki, Finland, subject to inspection and confirmation. The AGM is scheduled to be held on Saturday 29th April 2017.

The President thanked everyone for attending, and thanked the Polish Federation for hosting. The meeting was declared closed at 11:36am.