

Annual General Meeting



The English Association of
Snooker and Billiards

Office 116, Hub One, The Innovation Centre,
Queens Meadow Business Park, Hartlepool,
TS25 5TG

e-mail: admin@easb.co.uk

website: www.easb.co.uk

Registered in England
No. 4411822

Dear Member,

Enclosed are details of the Annual General Meeting of the Association which will be held on Saturday 18th June, 2016, (12.00 noon) at The CueBall, Mansfield Road, Derbyshire, DE21 4AW.

A ballot paper and form of proxy is enclosed for all members eligible to vote at the meeting. If you are unable to attend in person you are urged to complete and return this form to the address on this letter. You may also scan/photograph and return this form by email if it is more convenient to do so.

Proxy votes delivered by post must be received by Monday 13th June 2016 if they are to be included in the ballot. You may additionally have your voting forms delivered to the meeting by a third-party. Please note that such forms should be completed in advance of the meeting and you may not instruct anyone to use your vote at their discretion.

Should you need any additional information at this time, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

Jeff Robinson
Chairman

NOTICE

is hereby given that the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the English Association of Snooker & Billiards Ltd
Company No.4411822

Will be held on

Saturday 18th June, 2016, (12.00 noon)

at The CueBall, Mansfield Road, Derbyshire, DE21 4AW
for the purpose of transacting the following business

AGENDA

- Apologies for absence
- Confirm the minutes of previous meeting
- Matters arising
- Chairman's Report
- Presentation of Financial Statement for 2014-15 (See Appendix B)
- Election of Directors
- Election of Life Members
- Appointment of Examining Accountant
- Transfer of NGB status
- Directors Reports

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

See Appendix A

.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear Member,

A historic season for the EASB with the 100th Anniversary of the English Amateur Championship and as a result of joining the English Partnership (EPSB) we were able to celebrate in style with the WPBSA funding the professional streaming and commentary of the final and organising the feature aired on BBC during the World Championship. In addition to this, through the partnership, World Snooker has confirmed the allocation of 2 places on the English Open Series to be nominated by the EASB. I expect many of you will have seen the announcement of the partnership and the exciting projects to develop the sport in England that are in the process of being put in place.

However, it has been another challenging season and the difficulties of operating an almost entirely voluntary organisation prevail. It is clear to me that for the EASB to survive for the future it must fully embrace the opportunities and support offered through this partnership.

The EASB is not just about running competitions that in some cases lead to International selection and may be attractive to players, we are here to develop the amateur sports of Billiards and Snooker. This means developing and implementing programmes that actively engage people to be involved as players, referees, officials and coaches. To do this requires resource and expertise beyond what can be achieved purely by volunteers. The partnership through the EPSB will provide this and stability for the Association to continue for the future.



Jeff Robinson

Chairman

BALLOT PAPER - EASB 2016 AGM

Members may cast their vote by proxy using this form. Those intending to cast their vote in person will be given another ballot paper at the meeting. ***Please reference the notes on the next page for details of all the items on this ballot paper.***

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The following directors have been acting as designate director and are now presented to the membership for election to the board.

	Yes	No
None		

Directors retiring by rotation, and offering themselves for re-election by the membership, are listed below

	Yes	No
ROBINSON, Jeff		
BROWN, Clive		

ELECTION OF LIFE MEMBERS

No nominations for Life Membership have been received this year

APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINING ACCOUNTANT

	Yes	No
THAT Jane Boagey FCCA be appointed as Examining Accountant, and the Board of Directors authorised to fix her remuneration.		

TRANSFER OF NGB RECOGNITION

	Yes	No
THAT the Sport England National Governing Body recognition be transferred to the EPSB.		

FORM OF PROXY

Members wishing to deliver their vote through proxy must complete the section below and ensure it arrives at the Company's Registered Office no later than Monday 13th June 2016. Completed forms must be signed but can be returned by either post to the registered address or, by email to admin@easb.co.uk

I, [name] _____

(of address) _____

being a member of the Company, appoint the Chairman of the meeting referred to above as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Company to be held on 18th June, 2016, and at any adjournment, and to join in any demand for a poll in accordance with the Articles.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

This form is to be used in favour of, or against, the resolutions to be proposed as specified above. Where no such express instruction is given the proxy is instructed to abstain from exercising my vote either for or against the relevant resolution.

Registered Office: EASB. Office 116, Hub One, The Innovation Centre, Queens Meadow Business Park, Hartlepool, TS25 5TG, UNITED KINGDOM

Tel: 0808 129 40 40 Email: admin@easb.co.uk

BALLOT PAPER NOTES
ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

None to consider.

LIFE MEMBERS.

There are no nominations for Life membership this year.

EXAMINING ACCOUNTANT

Jane Boagey has examined Association accounts for the last seven years and has provided a very efficient and cost-effective service. The Board have no hesitation in recommending that we continue to use the services of her company.

TRANSFER OF NGB RECOGNITION

In order to show its commitment to the English Partnership of Snooker & Billiards (EPSB) the Board of Directors are recommending that we transfer the National Governing Body (NGB) recognition status to the EPSB.

Giving the status to the EPSB will give full credibility to applications for any funding and lend a much needed stability to the EASB. The EPSB of which the EASB is a key member, recently announced its Whole Sport Plan which is a far reaching and exciting plan of projects that will revolutionise the amateur game in England and will be a model for NGB's around the world. (see <http://www.easb.co.uk/uploads/epsb-whole-sport-brochure.pdf>)

As a legally recognised member of the EPSB, the EASB retains all the benefits of NGB status and none of those are affected. The EASB remain responsible for running the Amateur game in England, continue to be recognised as such by EBSA and IBSF and will continue to be the body that nominates players and officials to European and World Events.

Before agreeing this transfer, the EASB Board will ensure that in the event of dissolution of the Partnership, any requirements of Sport England to transfer the recognition back to the EASB are achievable.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Associations' finances continue to be in good shape, although a slightly higher pay-out on some competition prize funds has reduced the end of year bank balances. There were no significant one-off expenses incurred during the year, and the Association is on a sound financial footing moving forward.

Clive A Brown
Director of Finance

COMPETITION'S DIRECTOR REPORT

Overall a reasonable season with increased entry levels in all Events except the QSS. In particular a record entry for the Masters Tour which was more than double the previous season. This justified the change of regionalisation to NMS and was in spite of particularly poor entries in the Midlands. Entries for the ERS were significantly up, justifying the decision to pay for the quality venues at Sheffield and Gloucester.

Whilst the overall increase is encouraging it must not hide the uncomfortable truth that relative to the number of players in the country, membership and event entry levels are exceedingly poor and the Planning committee must work hard to understand and address the reasons for this.

The focus on better quality venues undoubtedly contributed to the increase and generally all the venues have been well received, but we must look further to engage the very best we can.

A focus for this season was to address problems with officials at our Events and it is pleasing that with regard to TD's this was mostly successful with only a couple of late unforeseen incidents tripping us up. However, it is disappointing to report that the situation regarding Referees for the South and to some degree Midlands persists with many events still with no Referees. Activities in process in the Referees function should start to address this and must start to improve next season.

Clive A Brown

Competitions Director

DIRECTOR OF REFEREES REPORT

The aim for this season was to implement the recommendations from the 2015 referees' review document.

Progress during 2015/6 season:

Referees:

1. Referee assessors appointed and awaiting training.
2. Chief Examiner appointed. Brendan Moore.
3. Standardisation of exams completed by Chief Examiner, Class 3 document completed. Class 2 & 1 processes agreed.
4. Seminars for inactive referees. To identify reasons for inactivity and rule knowledge. In progress now database has been finalised.
5. Regional co-ordinators role changed to encompass national co-ordination role. All events for all referees. This addresses the Sheffield issue and the problems resulting from the lack of a Southern coordinator.
6. Referee database merged into EASBZone, this will transform the referees' renewal process after last year's debacle. The renewal of memberships took nearly six months.
7. Online database enables efficient management of referees' membership and their appointments.
8. Successful testing of mysnookerstats was completed during English Amateur. Live scoring provided for a number of matches.

Players:

The introduction of behaviours that are in place within the professional arena. Roaming referees will be required to enforce these as part of their duties.

To begin with these will be:

1. The dress code to be amended for all tournaments to include shirts are to be tucked in which will be enforced by referees. Completed
2. Cue cases will be placed under the table. Completed
3. Players phones to be turned off and not used during matches. Completed
4. New TD guidelines have been created for the forthcoming season.

Identified Risks and Issues

1. Delay in training of assessors.
2. Payment delays. Referees and tournament directors.
3. Referees budget required to purchase tablets for TD's and introduce live results and scoring also enable expenses for examiner training.

Rob Spencer

Director of Referees

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

The season started with the launch of the new on-line EASB Member Zone for players as the way to purchase EASB Memberships and enter Competitions. The launch went quite smoothly with few issues. Using this method has significantly eased the burden on Administration as only appropriate membership types and entries are presented to the user thus reducing errors. This ease of use was very welcome as memberships increased from c:380 to c:560, further confirming the ease of this method. For the new season the Member Zone is extended to include Referees and we will start to make greater use of the database capabilities to provide up to date, accurate information. The Member Zone is being developed by ourselves and hosted in the cloud for greater reliability and security, which means we are in full control and is provided at a very competitive cost.

During the season, due to major concerns over the level of support that we received from the developer of the easb.co.uk web site and e-mail led us to instigate a project to replace both, with the plan being to implement this during the close season. However, the complete failure of the easb.co.uk web site and e-mail just before Christmas forced us to implement sooner than we were ready and put in some contingency services to cover.

As well as a significant visual improvement the new site also links directly into our Member Zone database so that we can now easily integrate information between the two. However, there remains an amount of work to do to complete the new sites functionality and populate with all the historic information. To assist in this Michael Waring has been appointed as Web Site Manager to oversee the process and ongoing manage the web content.

As indicated at the start of the season the existing setup of our Office Administrator doing 2 days a week is not sufficient and at the end of June the physical office will be closed. As a result of that, Liam Crossling-Kelly who did an excellent job within this constraint, but is unable to commit to 7 days a week will step down as Office Administrator. As a replacement we will recruit a paid 7 day a week 1-2 hours a day home-based administrator. Information from the Office computer will be transferred into a cloud-based file system with suitably secure access to all who need it. Other physical entities in the office will be distributed or sold off accordingly.



Jeff Robinson

Director of Administration

APPENDIX A

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the English Association of Snooker Billiards Ltd Company No.4411822 held on Thursday 3rd September, 2015, (12:00 noon) at The Star Snooker Academy, Sheffield United Football Club Academy, Firshill Crescent, Sheffield S4 7DJ

Apologies:

Danny Cooper, John Rhodes, Peter Bennett.

Present:

Rob Spencer, Clive Brown, Brendan Moore, Tony Morgan, Bob Williams, Liam Crossling-Kelly, John Hartley, Colin Humphries, Steve Starkie, Keith Warren, Jeff Robinson.

Confirm the minutes of previous meeting

Although these had gone missing the statement made in the Agenda was put to the meeting as a true record of the meeting. This was proposed - Steve Starkie and Seconded - C. Brown – All Agreed.

Matters arising

None

Chairman's Report

Jeff Robinson read out the Chairman's report to the Meeting.

Presentation of Financial Statement for 2013-14

Clive Brown read out the Financial Statement to the Meeting and asked for acceptance. This was proposed by John Hartley and seconded by Bob Williams – All agreed

Election of Directors:

The voting for Election of Directors took place with the following results (5 postal votes had been received):

	Yes	No
SPENCER, Rob	13	0
STARKIE, Steve	13	0

	Yes	No
Keith Warren	15	0

Election of Life Members

None proposed

Appointment of Examining Accountant:

	Yes	No
THAT Jane Boagey FCCA be appointed as Examining Accountant, and the Board of Directors authorised to fix her remuneration.	16	0

Directors Reports

The Directors Reports for each function were read out to the Meeting

The Meeting closed at 12:45 with the request that the best wishes of the AGM attendees be sent to John Rhodes.

APPENDIX B - Financial Statement for 2014-15

To be presented at the meeting..