



# English Pool Referees Association

[www.epra8ball.org.uk](http://www.epra8ball.org.uk)

## 2023 AGM

**LOCATION:** Longton Pool & Snooker Club, 37 Normacot Rd, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, ST3 1PL.

**DATE:** Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2023.

**TIME:** 1.15pm.

**MINUTES:** Mark Welton, Sharon Wood.

**PRESENT:**

Chair	George Bradbury (GB)
General Secretary	John Hope (JHH)
Treasurer	Lyn Carnall (LC)
	Steve Peregrine (SP)
	Terry Billingham (TB)
	Tony Coe (TC)
	Simon Grove (SG)
	Rob Ward (RW)
	Robert Shore (RS)
	Mark Welton (MW)
	Paul Ward (PW)
	Marc Gough (MG)
	Ian Bodman (IB)
	Kev Armitage (KA)
	Christine Armitage (CA)
	Richard Rhodes (RR)
	Mike Perkin (MP)
	Danni Gatto (DG)
	Lloyd Kidd (LK)
	Tom Black (TB_2) non-voting member
	Sharon Wood (SW) non-voting member
	James Cheadle (JC) non-voting member

**APOLOGIES** - (via EPRA Facebook page)

Clair Watts

Trevor Kirk

**EXPLANATION** - the number of voters present varied throughout the meeting due to departures and the meeting overrunning significantly which explains the differences in votes cast. Members could additionally choose not to vote at all.

### **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

**JHH** explained that the last AGM was held in 2020 but minutes from that meeting were not available for presentation to the meeting due to mislaying of both the meeting notes and the flash drive containing the typed-up document. Consequently, the last minuted AGM was 2019.

**MP POINT OF ORDER** - that due to the lack of any AGM minutes for 2020, 2021 and 2022, the whole executive committees' period of office had expired, you are now out of office and the EPRA was effectively dissolved, a vote must be taken, as Chair you have let this Association run down over the last few years, officers need to be elected in to place.

**SP** suggested that the meeting start with an election of new officers as per the proposals with then the election of 'acting officers' to follow.

Various attendees had pointed out the lapsed positions should be 'acting' to allow a formal vote by all members at an EGM.

Following a discussion, **GB** apparently, we shouldn't be sat here, **GB** moved the below proposals forward along with the election of officers proposals.

**Proposal 1 by Steve Peregrine (Region 4), seconded by Marc Gough (Region6)**

A new Executive Officer position is created within Rule 2 of the Constitution and Rules as 'Membership Secretary'.

For Info – The outline role of this position is to collate and manage securely within relevant GDPR requirements the personal records and status of all the Association's members and make this available to the Executive Committee to facilitate the smooth running of the Association, and to assist the other Officers in the day-to-day running of the Association.

Note – consideration was also given here to update Rule 5 also in line with this proposal to increase the quorum to 4, but this is not included as part of this proposal at this time.

Vote:

For - 15

Against - 0

Abstain – 2

This vote created executive officer position, Membership Secretary.

**Proposal 2 by Steve Peregrine (Region 4),  
seconded by Marc Gough (Region 6)**

If Proposal 1 is successful, then volunteers for the position of Membership Secretary may be taken from the floor under the Election of Officers agenda item without prior nomination and a vote cast as required.

Vote:

For - 14

Against - 0

Abstain – 3

Vote Carried.

**SP** withdrew from Exam Secretary and proposed to stand as Membership Secretary (please see proposal above).

**GB** brought forward Membership Secretary vote forward.

### **VOTING OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

#### **Membership Officer**

Standing – Steve Peregrine.

Vote:

For - 12

Against - 2

Abstain - 2

**Outcome - Steve Peregrine appointed as Membership Officer.**

#### **Vote from the floor.**

**PROPOSED - CA**

**SECONDED – LK.**

For the purposes of today's meeting acting posts for the Chair and Treasurer until an EGM. Short time scale to ratify at EGM, no less than 21 days or more than 28 days.

Vote to accept the proposal from the floor:

For - 15

Against – 1

Abstain – 1

#### **Outcome of Vote for Acting Chair (GB) and Acting Treasurer (LC):**

For - 13

Against - 1

Abstain – 2

#### **Acting Chairman**

Standing – George Bradbury.

Vote: Please see above.

For -

Against -

Abstain –

**Outcome - George Bradbury appointed as acting Chairman (Acting).**

#### **Acting Treasurer**

Standing – Lyn Carnall.

Vote: Please see above.

For -

Against -

Abstain -

**Outcome - Lyn Carnall appointed as acting Treasurer (Acting).**

#### **Acting Secretary**



Standing – John Hope.

Vote:

For - 7

Against - 9

Abstain - 0

**Outcome - The position of Secretary is unfilled, and an EGM will be called within 28 days to allow the membership to elect an officer to this position.**

**JHH** - left the meeting, minutes thereafter were taken by **MW** and **SW**.

**GB** initially wanted to close the meeting but after reflection and a short recess at 2.45pm for 15 minutes and the meeting resumed at 3.00pm.

### **Examination Secretary**

(Steve Peregrine withdrew his application for this position)

Standing – Tony Coe.

Vote:

For - 15

Against - 0

Abstentions - 0

**Outcome - Tony Coe appointed as Examination Secretary.**

### **Vice-Chairman**

Standing – Simon Grove.

Vote:

For - 15

Against - 0

Abstentions - 0

**Outcome - Simon Grove appointed as Vice-Chairman.**

**KA** suggested that future candidates should provide a short CV when seeking election. This was agreed by the meeting.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Read aloud by George Bradbury**

“Since taking over as chairman of the EPRA, I have seen some changes, no more so than the covid pandemic which not only paused the activities of the game of pool around the world, and the duties or referees likewise, but put the whole human race on hold for what seemed like an eternity, but we somehow got through it.

The EPRA as a body suffered, and struggled to get back on track, but we did so, and are now welcoming new members to our organisation.

While we were recovering from the fallout of the pandemic, we all saw the introduce lion of Ultimate Pool on TV, and whilst this was very exciting for the pool world, it brought with it new challenges for us to deal with. Prior to the pandemic, the EPA, who supply us with the majority of our work, were in crisis, there was

mass unrest in the exec, and they also suffered huge financial hardship which naturally had a knock on effect to ourselves.

Although the new EPA committee are still finding it difficult to build the association back up to strength, they are working relentlessly to achieve this and I think it is our responsibility to support them as much as possible.

Following all this, we were then faced with a major rule change, which unlike the last. major rule change, was to be brought in immediately giving us very little time to prepare. Again, I think we managed to get through it, and although there has been constant criticism and back biting from certain individuals are now some way towards getting back to normality.

My main aim now as EPRA chairman is to try to build the EPRA back up to the standard it should be, and hopefully get everyone working together in harmony.

Looking through the proposals, there are some encouraging signs that this might be the case, and with the input from you all, we can build from strength to strength.

Finally, as the highest ranking officer of the EPRA, I feel I need to share with you my concerns ,moving to the future, as we all know the EPA always use the EPRA to officiate at their National Events, and I am assured this will remain the case but worryingly I am beginning to feel this might not be the case with the Worlds and Euros unless the host country have their own refs but now it seems we may be surplus to requirements, and try as I may, I'm finding it very difficult to get straight answers from the powers that be. So, moving forward, I can only say that the executive committee will do their very best. To encourage all new members to become the best standard of referee that is possible."

Discussion: **KA, DG** and **SW** all thanked **GB** but it was made clear that the 2020 AGM minutes must be made available at the EGM

### **GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT - Read aloud by Lyn Carnall, text prepared by John Hope**

"Welcome to the 2023 AGM (eventually) our first since 2020. The lack of a meeting was something that has been imposed upon rather than by design. Attempts to organise a meeting have been thwarted at every turn for one reason or another.

Everyone was hit hard by Covid with no way of knowing how long it was going to last, every time we thought there was light at the end of the tunnel it promptly went out. Being one of the Clinically Vulnerable mean I was housebound for 18 months and I wasn't the only one, the committee was decimated by people in the same position for one reason or another.

When we could hold meetings, hotels weren't interested in hiring their meeting rooms, they were full of immigrants, more profitable. Some have said we should use the internet, but we have people who are not equipped to do that or are not comfortable or just don't have the know how and it is not our place to force this method upon these people.

Several events were lost due to Lock-down, unfortunately, and no sooner did they start again but we lost VHP, EPA's long-standing venue. Pontins came to the rescue, the venues have their problems with some questionable areas, but although basic they are adequate. The Arenas, however, are, in the main, very good.

The questionable change to International Rules has been a bug bear. However, the EPRA was well prepared to cater for the change, we spent best part of a year writing 5 different exams in total, to ensure we had the right one. We also wrote supporting paperwork, Referee's Guidance, Calling Procedure and Rules Booklets etc. Only to be told that we had to use the IRO Multiple Choice exam, and supporting paperwork, of which I will refrain from commenting about. Sending a year's work to the waste bin.

We have bent over backwards to supply required Referees for the EPA events and have extremely well in doing so. We also supplied Referees for the European Championships in Ireland and also the World Championships in Ireland. The latter being Sponsored by Ultimate Pool, from a Senior Referees and a floor Referees point of view, it left a lot to be desired, enough said.

Unfortunately, the EPA voted to adopt International Rules at an EGM in December 2022 to be brought in in January 2023 and requiring people to be qualified by the middle of January, giving us very little time to carry out exams, especially as we were then told to use an exam we had not had sight of. Our Examiners have done an excellent job, to date we have completed 150 exams with 116 passes a pass rate of 77.3%, an excellent result. Let's hope we can carry on with this, especially in areas that are down in numbers in comparison.

Some members are unhappy with the Rules surrounding an AGM, but these are what they are and cannot be bent or broken to suit individuals."

Discussion: **SP**, **GB** and **CA** all thanked **JHH** in his absence, for his hard work over the years. **SP** suggested that although International Rules aren't an ideal rule set, they aren't going to be reversed and we must get on with refereeing them.

## EPRA FINANCE REPORT - INTERIM REPORT

### CHECKING ACCOUNT

	<u>IN</u>	<u>OUT</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
<b><u>Opening Balances 01/01/23</u></b>			
CHECKING account			£ 812.18
<b>Income</b>			
<b>(See Appendix 1-Income by Region)</b>			
Region 1-8	£0.00		
Merchandise	£ 542.46		
Exams	£2293.00		
EPA	£7495.00		
<b>TOTAL IN</b>	<b>£10330.46</b>		
			<b><u>£11142.64</u></b>
<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>			
Committee expenses		£159.44	
Honoraria		£450.00	
Meetings		£0.00	
Travel expenses		£0.00	
Referee expenses		£7870.00	
Website hosting charge		£30.00	
Merchandise		£444.42	
<b><u>TOTAL OUT</u></b>		<b>£8953.86</b>	
			<b><u>£2188.78</u></b>
<b><u>ASSETS AT HAND</u></b>			
Printer		£0.00	
Laptop		£0.00	
32 EPRA badges		£0.00	
			<b><u>£2188.78</u></b>
<b><u>RESERVE ACCOUNT</u></b>			
<b><u>OPENING BALANCE 01/01/23</u></b>			
Reserve			<b><u>£5382.09</u></b>
Interest	£25.08		
			<b><u>£5407.17</u></b>
<b><u>CLOSING BALANCE</u></b>			<b><u>£5407.17</u></b>



Discussion: Centered around frustrations and delays in successful candidates receiving their certificates and membership cards. LK encouraged the new Examination Secretary to try to action this as soon as possible. CA asked LC about any outstanding invoices, LC confirmed there are monies dues yet to come into the accounts.

LK requested that Referees Grades should be easily accessible from the EPRA website and the database should be updated regularly and promptly. SP indicated this would be part of his remit.

KA suggested new referees receive a 'welcome pack' containing all relevant information.

DG suggested the poor system of receiving results/certificates/ID cards would dissuade retention of newly qualified referees.

**EXAMINATIONS SECRETARY'S REPORT - Delivered by Lyn Carnall.**

**EXAMINATION REPORT International Rules 2022/2023.**

**John H. Hope (acting).**

Since assisting in this role in March of this year, I have marked, remarked and checked all Exam Papers, for International Rules taken in 2022 and 2023. As far as I am aware, all candidates have been informed of their exam results, by email. However, a few of the emails have been returned to me undelivered, several of these has been because the address on the exam sheet has not been clear and I have not written the right address. Some were because the address I have is no longer in use. However I have been able to readdress the emails correctly.

Because of the volume of exams taken, I have only been able to inform candidates of the result, I have not had the required time to inform them all of an insight into where problems may exist, nor have I been able to send out any relevant paperwork etc. This again is due to me having to deal with my own responsibilities as General Secretary, meaning both area may have suffered slightly.

A new Exam Secretary will be elected and they will be required to deal with any outstanding matters, with assistance.

Any exams taken in 2022 were taken using the EPRA Exam, which is a different format to the IRO exam. As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, all exams were set at the IRO Multiple Choice Exam. Problems were experienced with candidates not understanding some of the questions because they were not clear in their context, however, the past rate was good, this would be expected because of the nature of the exam. The accompanying paperwork and information has also had several problems and numerous updates and versions, which has been anything but helpful, this is still ongoing.

Below is exams taken and results:

<b><u>REGION</u></b>	<b><u>EXAM YEAR</u></b>	<b><u>EXAMS TAKEN</u></b>	<b><u>EXAMS PASSED</u></b>	<b><u>EXAMS FAILED</u></b>	<b><u>EXAM TYPE</u></b>



1	0	0	0	0	N/A
2	2022	17	12	5	IRO
3	2022/2023	22	18	4	EPRA/IRO
4	2022/2023	13	12	1	EPRA/IRO
5	2023	4	4	0	IRO
6	2022/2023	34	25	9	EPRA/IRO
7	2023	29	22	7	IRO
8	2022/2023	31	23	8	EPRA/IRO
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>150</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>34</b>	

Discussion: **LC**. Highlighted the difficulties in dealing with the IRO.

**KA** raised concerns about data protection as there are unmarked papers and documents which are difficult to attach to a candidate. **MG** suggested an electronic system of marking via Micro Soft Forms which **TC** will liaise with him about implementing. **SP** will also look at the issue of old paper copies which have not been properly processed. **TC** pointed out an error in one of the IRO questions on the examination and how it was corrected.

### **MATTERS RELEVANT TO AGM's**

None.

### **MOTIONS FOR DEBATE**

#### **M1-JHH/LC**

##### **Rules & Constitution:**

Rules & Constitution to be fully updated with previous AGM Amendments (all previous years to be added if missing).

Fully updated Rules & Constitution to be re-visited and overhauled to ensure it's 'fit for purpose'

Overhauled Rules & Constitution document to be presented to National Committee for ratification.

Ratified document to be presented to Regional Delegates for comment. Final document to be Proposed and Seconded and produced at 2024 AGM. The person tasked must be a fully experienced member of the EPRA in all aspects.

**Proposed:** John H. Hope 'S' R4

**Seconded:** Lyn Carnall 'A' R3

Discussion:

**CA** and **SP** - this requires a working party approach as the overhaul of the constitution is a significant piece of work.

**LK** and **MG** - the constitution needs to be easily accessible to members on the EPRA website, this website requires more up to date content.

**SW** - keep the constitution for the core rules but it's better to use 'by-laws' for everyday rules which do not have to be ratified at an AGM or EGM. E.g., Annual membership fees. She indicated she would look at the

existing constitution and in collaboration would be happy to do some work on modernising it. **SP** offered to assist.

**OUTCOME - Motion Withdrawn by LC as it was felt the motion was too prescriptive.**

**M2-JHH/LC**

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**EPRA Website:**

Website to be re-visited with a view to improving and updating to ensure that it is, and remains, fit for purpose.

To include a list of all current members, including which Playing Rules they are currently qualified in, their EPRA Role Number and their current Grade. (No personal information to entered)

To include all relevant information contained in the existing website.

Updating information contained on the website to be the responsibility of the Vice Chairperson and all material to be confirmed and ratified with the National Committee or relevant Officer.

Any personal details, including any contact details, included, to be with written (possible email) permission of the person in question.

Webmaster to remain as Jason Davies 'S' R7, upon his agreement.

**Proposed:** John H. Hope 'S' R4

**Seconded:** Lyn Carnall 'A' R3

Discussion: **CA, SG, SP** all suggest the present website is not 'fit for purpose' due to outdated or lack of content. **SP** informed the meeting that this is not the fault of the webmaster, it's that no content has been submitted to the webmaster for uploading since 2020! The webmaster's brief is not to create content but to upload that submitted to him.

**OUTCOME - Motion Withdrawn as it was felt that submitting content and relevant databases etc for the website constitutes a core responsibility of the new expanded committee.**

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**M3-LC/JHH**

**Risk Strategy**

**Proposed:** Lyn Carnall

**Seconded:** John H. Hope

Discussion: There was a general discussion about who is responsible for general risks to referees, the venue, the EPA or the EPRA. LC pointed out this document/proposal covers business risk to the EPRA only.

Vote:

For - 13

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

**OUTCOME - Motion carried. LC will lead on Risk Strategy.**

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**M4-LC/JHH**

**Risk Register**

**Proposed:** Lyn Carnall

**Seconded:** John H. Hope

**Outcome - Motion withdrawn by LC.**

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## **PROPOSALS**

### **P1-JHH/LC**

#### **Grading System:**

Current Grading System to be removed in it's entirety and replaced as:  
(‘E’ Grade to be removed as no longer fit for purpose)

#### **‘D’ Grade:**

Any candidate taking a Cue Sports exam produced by the Association (EPRA) and being successful in that exam will be awarded a grade ‘D’ Pass, which qualifies them as a competent referee at local level and able to work under supervision at Interleague and County level and some hotel & National type events. After one full year can apply for upgrading to C grade, this is via their Regional Delegate and the upgrade granted with the agreement of their Region.

#### **‘C’ Grade:**

Minimum of one year's experience at County level.

Must be able to work without supervision at Interleague and County level and under supervision at some hotel type events.

After one full year at ‘C’ Grade, they can apply for ‘B’ grade, this is via their Regional Delegate and the upgrade granted with the agreement of their Region.

#### **‘B’ Grade:**

To consist of experienced referees able to work unsupervised.

‘B’ Grade is divided into two ‘Levels’ Regional Grade ‘B2’ and National Grade ‘B1’

**Level ‘B2’:** All Referees upgrading from ‘C’ Grade to ‘B’ Grade will start initially at ‘B2’, this is via their Regional Delegate and the upgrade granted with the agreement of their Region. Should they not wish to rise to a higher level and only participate at Regional or lower level they will remain as ‘B2’ Grade Referees.

#### **Referees wishing to rise through the Grades will do so as follows:**

##### **Level ‘B1’**

To consist of experienced referees able to work unsupervised.

Must have a good working knowledge of official 8 ball rules, and must be immaculate in dress and general appearance.

They are considered for all types of hotel events.

Referees wishing to rise from ‘B2’ Grade to ‘B1’ Grade will apply to the National Committee via their Regional Delegate. They will produce a basic CV outlining their Refereeing work to date and any other information they might consider relevant. If their application is granted, they will be assessed at two

National, 2 day, events. (must be within 12 months) Providing at one of the assessments is satisfactory, the applicant will be granted 'B1' Grade status.

After one full year 'B1' Grade, they can apply for 'A' Grade.

### **'A' Grade:**

To consist of top class referees.

Must be Immaculate in dress

Immaculate in general appearance

Perfect on official 8 ball pool rules and any other rules decided by the grading committee.

Referee must write to their Regional Delegate requesting the upgrade and must include a full career CV. The Regional Delegate will then forward this to the General Secretary, including any other relevant information and comment, and the General Secretary will then add the request to the agenda for the next Delegates Meeting for discussion. If accepted, the candidate will be assessed at three separate National or International events, and pass a written examination and verbal assessment. A decision for upgrading to 'A' shall then be made at a National Committee meeting based upon the assessments and other information available. A National tournament weekend with two events, will count as two assessments. If the committee agree to the request, the General Secretary will arrange for the candidate to officiate at three events where they can be assessed as to their suitability for upgrading, and take a written examination. The assessment forms will be collated by the Examination Secretary, and when completed a recommendation for acceptance, or failure, will be made at the next Delegates Meeting. The result of the committee's decision will be sent by letter from the Examination Secretary, and any advice for future improvement will be included. Where applicable, reasons for rejection will be stated. Should a 'B' Grade referee fail the assessment for 'A' Grade but passes the written examination, if he/she reapplies for upgrade within two years the exam will not have to be retaken, unless there has been a change in the playing rules.

Providing the candidate is successful in two of the three Assessments and the written examination and verbal assessment, they will be awarded 'A' Grade status.

After two full years the Referee can apply for 'S' Grade (Senior)

### **'S' Grade:**

To consist of top class referees capable of taking control of, and running any type of competition, and must be able to organise any event should the organiser be absent. The ability to run a competition equals the ability to referee. 'S' Grade must be:

Immaculate in dress

Immaculate in general appearance

Perfect on official 8 ball pool rules and any other rules decided by the grading committee.

The candidate will be assessed, by an experienced Senior Referee, at a two day National event, where they will effectively act as Senior Referee. Should any problems arise, the assessing Senior Referee will take control from the assessed candidate, to ensure that the event runs smoothly. Prior to being Assessed, the candidate will be mentored, at prior two day National event, by an experienced Senior Referee (not necessarily the Assessing Senior) and will effectively act as Assistant Senior Referee. The Assessment folder will be presented to the Exam Secretary and then to the National Committee for a decision. If successful, the candidate will be awarded 'S' Grade status.

### **Grade Retention:**

In order to retain their current Grade, Referees must comply with the following conditions. (per 12 month)

Failure to comply with the requirements will result in a drop in grade. I.e. 'S' to 'A' / 'B1' to 'B2' / 'B2' to 'C' / 'C' to 'D'. 'D' Grade referees will lose their recognition as an EPRA qualified Referee.

**'D' Grade:** To remain a Qualified Member of the EPRA and retain Grade, they must ensure relevant membership Fee is paid when required.

**'C' Grade:** To remain a Qualified Member of the EPRA and retain Grade, they must ensure relevant membership Fee is paid when required. Officiate at League Level up to County Level on a regular basis

**'B2' Grade:** To remain a Qualified Member of the EPRA and retain Grade, they must ensure relevant membership Fee is paid when required. Officiate at interleague Level up to County Level on a regular basis.

**'B1' Grade:** To remain a Qualified Member of the EPRA and retain Grade, they must ensure relevant membership Fee is paid when required. Make themselves available and officiate at a minimum of one National two day event, per 12 month.

**'A' Grade:** To remain a Qualified Member of the EPRA and retain Grade, they must ensure relevant membership Fee is paid when required. Make themselves available and officiate at a minimum of two National two day events, per 12 month

**'S' Grade:** To remain a Qualified Member of the EPRA and retain Grade, they must ensure relevant membership Fee is paid when required. Make themselves available and officiate at a minimum of two National two day events, per 12 month.

**Proposed:** John H. Hope 'S' R4

**Seconded:** Lyn Carnall 'A' R3

Discussion: **RS** suggested this lengthy proposal made few changes from the existing system except introducing B1 and B2 for little benefit. **SG** felt the ability to downgrade referees through inactivity would be useful. **GB** was concerned that this may affect retention which would impact on the EPRA's ability to supply refs to the EPA.

**SW** suggested grading would be best as a by-law rather than in the constitution for reasons previously covered. **KA** felt it unwise to put pressure on refs who do not want to officiate at national events to attend.

**OUTCOME - Motion Withdrawn by LC**

**P2-JHH/LC**

**Refereeing Availability:**

**To be added to Rules & Constitution**

Newly qualified Members ('D' Grade), be given complimentary membership for remainder of the year after their qualification, and to be sent Availability Request Sheets and given the opportunity to officiate at EPA National events should they wish.

**Note:**

**(i)** Availability Requests are to ascertain that a member is available on specific dates. They are not Invitations to attend an event, Invitations are sent out separately.

**(ii)** The Association is obliged to supply the highest Graded Referees available, however, lower graded Referees ('D' - 'C' Grade) Referees who wish to advance in status will be Invited should spaces permit.

**Proposed:** John H. Hope 'S' R4

**Seconded:** Lyn Carnall 'A' R3

**Outcome - Motion withdrawn by LC**

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**P3-JHH/LC**

**Conflict of Interests:**

**To be added to Rules & Constitution:**

With regard to Organisations that cover the same interests as the English Pool Referees Association (EPRA) and to EPRA Members who hold Membership of another similar Organisation.

Any EPRA Member who holds a position above basic Referee (ie Executive Officer/Sub-committee Member/ Delegate/Examiner) within the EPRA, shall not hold a position, other than basic Referee, within that other Organisation. Similarly, any EPRA member wishing to hold a position above basic Referee within the EPRA, but holds a position above basic Referee on that other Organisation, shall not be permitted to hold that position.

**Proposed:** John H. Hope 'S' R4

**Seconded:** Lyn Carnall 'A' R3

Discussion: **SW** - why not hold positions in both IRO & EPRA. **RS** recalled occasions where this had occurred in the past and a conflict of interest was obvious. **DG** suggested the wording of the proposal was confusing. **GB** and **LC** clarified that 'basic referee' meant any grade of referee from S to E.

Vote:

For - 6

Against - 5

Abstain - 3

**Outcome - Proposal passed.**

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**P1-MG/IB**

Any questions, queries, issues or rule clarifications should be directed to the appropriate regional delegate in the first instance. Should the delegate not be in a position to answer with full confidence they will approach other delegates as a collective or then the executive committee for clarification and advice. The executive committee should discuss as a group and collectively vote on the outcome and if required the Chair will have the casting vote before the decision is relayed to the delegate.

**Proposed:** Marc Gough

**Seconded:** Ian Bodman

**Outcome - Proposal withdrawn by MG.**

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**P2-MG/IB**

EPRA should recognise everyone that has taken and achieved the minimum required pass mark on the current WEPF recognise International Eightball Pool Rules exam regardless of where they took it providing they have paid an annual EPRA membership fee.

**Proposed:** Marc Gough

**Seconded:** Ian Bodman



Discussion: SP suggested that new IRO refs would enter at grade D EPRA, irrespective of grade within IRO.

Vote:

For - 12

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

**Outcome - proposal passed.**

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**P3-MG/IB**

All EPRA membership fees should be the same cost, not on grade level. This money should be invested back in the association to support training and development of new referees as well as supporting current working referees at national and international tournaments.

**Proposed:** Marc Gough

**Seconded:** Ian Bodman

Vote:

For - 8

Against - 3

Abstain - 0

**Outcome - Proposal passed.**

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**P4-MG**

EPRA Membership fees should be increased to £18 annually from 2024.

**Proposed:** Marc Gough

**Seconded:** Ian Bodman

Discussion: It was agreed that this should be a by-law rather than a constitutional rule to allow easy changes to this in the future by the committee, not requiring an AGM.

**Outcome - Proposal withdrawn.**

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**Proposal 1 by Lloyd Kidd (Region 4), seconded by Steve Peregrine (Region 4)**

I propose that all current Officers of the Association at any time should be granted full admin control of the EPRA Facebook group.

Some of the reasons behind this proposal is all Admins of any Facebook group can post on other groups as 'The EPRA' and not as individuals, which protects anonymity, while also offering official response to questions in other places on the platform where they are needed and a more holistic approach can be taken when dealing members.

Discussion: MG pointed out that FB admins have failed to co-operate with creating more admin roles in the past. SP informed the meeting that the EPA FB page is 'bombarded' by rules questions, and he has no confidence they will be answered in a timely manner when redirected to the EPRA FB admins. GB stated



the FB page needs updating but he lacks the technical skill to effectively function as an admin. GB agreed to create more admin profiles so workload can be shared out by the expanded committee.

Vote:

For - 10

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

**Outcome - proposal passed.**

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**Proposal 2 by Lloyd Kidd (Region 4), seconded by Steve Peregrine (Region 4)**

I propose that the EPRA Facebook be to remain reserved to have current members of the association, however be made a public forum where questions can be asked regarding the rules, and expect to get the best answer possible, by all Facebook users.

Discussion: KA and MG - this works well with IRO as long as 'comments' are turned off. CA felt this would help with referee recruitment and retention.

Vote:

For - 10

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

**Outcome - proposal passed.**

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**Proposal 3 by Lloyd Kidd (Region 4), seconded by Steve Peregrine (Region 4)**

Add a new paragraph 6e to the Constitution and Rules that states, 'Exam results will be confirmed to the candidate in writing within 3 weeks of the exam being taken, unless extraordinary circumstances prevent this, at the minuted discretion of the Executive Committee, but no longer than 5 weeks.'

As on the date of this proposal there are members that sat an exam on the 5th November 2022 who still have not received confirmation of results, and this as an organisation should not be acceptable.

Outcome: this proposal was withdrawn by LK as it was felt that it falls within deadlines the expanded committee now consider to be normal operating procedure and practice.

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**Proposal 4 by Lloyd Kidd (Region 4), seconder not recorded by the secretary**

I propose that the managing the contents of the EPRA Web page be included into one for the 'Duties of the Executive committee'

This needs to belong to someone and be maintained.

**Outcome: this proposal was withdrawn by LK as it was felt that it falls within deadlines the expanded committee now consider to be normal operating procedure and practice.**

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**Proposal 5 by Lloyd Kidd (Region 4), seconded by Steve Peregrine (Region 4)**

I propose there is now a requirement for the members list to state all rule sets of which a member is qualified.

If this is not possible, can I propose that all EPRA Member cards be reissued with the holders' qualifications on it and the website statement removed.

**Outcome: this proposal was withdrawn by LK as it was felt that it falls within deadlines the expanded committee now consider to be normal operating procedure and practice.**

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**Proposal 6 by Lloyd Kidd (Region 4), seconded by Steve Peregrine (Region 4)**

In these modern times and the need for people and organisations to reduce their effects on the environment that all future meetings be made available on an online platform.

Discussion: KA - there should be an option to attend in person or online. The new committee members have significant technological expertise which should allow this to be made available.

**Outcome: this proposal was withdrawn by LK as it was felt that it falls within deadlines the expanded committee now consider to be normal operating procedure and practice.**

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**Proposal 7 by Lloyd Kidd (Region 4), seconded by Steve Peregrine (Region 4)**

With there now being a variety of rulesets that our members can officiate, I propose that rule 16a and 16b be removed from the constitution.

16a. Any member who officiates at any event using any Rule Set not sanctioned by the English Pool Association shall be deemed to have resigned their membership of the Association, with immediate effect. (See Rule 10(b):)

16b. Any member disciplined under Rule 16a who wishes to renew their membership, after any required period stipulated, can only do so with the full agreement of both the EPRA and the EPA.

**Outcome - withdrawn by LK in view of the agreement earlier that the constitution will be reviewed in its entirety.**

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**Proposal 8 by Lloyd Kidd (Region 4), seconded by Steve Peregrine (Region 4)**

I Propose that the EPRA constitution be reviewed and brought up to date to include the recent changes in the pool environment and not just reference one rule set.

**Outcome - withdrawn by LK in view of the agreement earlier that the constitution will be reviewed in its entirety.**

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**Proposal 1 by Steve Peregrine (Region 4), seconded by Marc Gough (Region 6)**

A new Executive Officer position is created within Rule 2 of the Constitution and Rules as 'Membership Secretary'.

For Info – The outline role of this position is to collate and manage securely within relevant GDPR requirements the personal records and status of all the Association's members and make this available to the Executive Committee to facilitate the smooth running of the Association, and to assist the other Officers in the day-to-day running of the Association.

Note – consideration was also given here to update Rule 5 also in line with this proposal to increase the quorum to 4, but this is not included as part of this proposal at this time.

**Outcome - see 'voting of executive officers' at the beginning of the meeting.**

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**Proposal 2 by Steve Peregrine (Region 4),  
seconded by Marc Gough (Region 6)**

If Proposal 1 is successful, then volunteers for the position of Membership Secretary may be taken from the floor under the Election of Officers agenda item without prior nomination and a vote cast as required.

**Outcome - see 'voting of executive officers' at the beginning of the meeting.**

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**Proposal 1:**

**Proposed:** Tony Coe R6

**Seconded:** R6 Ian Bodman

Black gloves to be allowed as a personal preference when wearing the new EPRA shirts.

Discussion: **SW** pointed out this makes sense given the staining seen on white gloves over the course of a day's refereeing. **TC** pointed out how much more elegant it looks than white gloves.

Vote:

For - 9

Against - 2

Abstain - 0

**Outcome - proposal passed.**

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**Proposal 2:**

**Proposed:** Tony Coe R6

**Seconded:** Ian Bodman

To split the B grade into Regional B and National B grade.

At present the system works by the C grade candidate asking their EPRA delegate to ask their regional committee if they can be considered for becoming a B grade and therefore could turn up at their first National event as a B grade.

Once a B grade application has come in to the EPRA via the affiliation form then the executive committee and regional delegates decide if that person should be a Regional B or a National one.

Criteria towards awarding a National B grade straightaway is if the applicant has worked at least 4 National events already as a D and C grade

Regional B referees can then re-apply to become a National B grade once they have attended at least 4 National events (this may include any attended as a C grade).

Reason: At the moment there is a massive loop hole in the constitution where a referee can be a B grade before they have ever attended a National event and we don't think this is right and this would close the loop hole.

**Outcome: Proposal withdrawn by TC as already covered previously**

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**Proposal 3 (only if proposal 2 fails).**

**Proposed:** Tony Coe

**Seconded:** Ian Bodman

That the eight Regional committees are issued with guidance by the EPRA on what grounds a referee can be upgraded from C to B and one of the criteria should be that they have attended at least 4 National events.

Reason: Same reason as proposal 2 but it may also help persuade referees to make themselves available for National events.

**Outcome: Proposal withdrawn by TC as already dealt with previously**

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**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

An EGM is to be called within 28 days of today's meeting where any member, if seconded, may stand for the positions of Secretary (vacant), Chairman (George Bradbury Acting) or Treasurer (Lyn Carnall Acting). Information on the duties of these roles will be shared with members in advance of this meeting.

**MEETING CLOSED by George Bradbury at 17:41pm.**