

## **England Team Proposal**

### **Current Situation**

The England squad currently consists of up to 52 players who are selected by the England Management. All players who are not current National Champions have the opportunity to trial in order to be considered for the England Squad.

England players currently have to attend 6 days over 5 weekends before the British Isles Championships in which only half of the players will be selected. After the British Isles the players have 2 further weekends which are used to select the A-Team British Isles Team or World Championships Team. In total this costs in excess of £1000 a year for a player to be part of the England squad. In a World Championships year half of the squad will not get the chance to play an International match.

The cost to the ESMBA and its members to run the England Team current is in excess of £13,000 a season. This includes venue hire for and full expenses for the England Manager and his/her Assistant. Each player is given £200 at the end of the season which as stated above is only a fraction of the total it costs to play

### **Issues with current structure**

- The England team is out of reach of players due to Financial reasons
- Too many days are required in order to select a team for the British Isles/World Championships this involves playing meaningless matches
- Players currently play a whole season without playing a single International match (up to 26 Players)
- England have only been successful in winning the British Isles once in the last 20 years
- ESMBA committee members and England Management get full expenses at International Events whilst the players get £200 for the whole season
- No development plans or link to the England Under 21s
- Numbers dwindling in England Trials which impacts on strength of possible team

### **Our Proposal**

We propose that the amount of days required for players to attend be reduced. We plan to use the Trial as selection for the British Isles. Seeing players compete over 2 days at the beginning of the season is plenty of time to assess their form, along with observing performances in ICC and having previous knowledge of the players' abilities. Any player can submit an application to trial but ultimately the England Manager and Assistant will pick the players for the trial.

Our proposal would see the selected British Isles team, which would be named at the end of the trials weekend, play a one day match against the Presidents select in preparation for the Championships.

A separate trial would be held at the end of January for the British Isles A-Team or World Championships. Again, at the end of these trials (1 day for British Isles A-Team & 2 days for World Championships) the team will be announced.

Each player selected for an International would be given £100 (£175 for an event outside England/Wales/Scotland) to help towards the hotel and travel.

Regarding development, we would like to work with Ireland and Wales to get a Tri-Nations Under 21 or 25 event set up each year. This would give the youngsters serious competition and would certainly aid their development. I know that when I was 15 and was selected for the British Isles I was very fortunate and without that experience at such a young age I am sure that I would not have had the playing career I have had to date. Development is very important and we need to make sure the next group of talented youngsters get the opportunities to shine.

Outside of the England Team Philip and I will be attending ICC matches, National Championships and Open Competitions to see players. We will not be active players whilst in charge of the England Team. Instead, we will concentrate on getting the best team possible for each International event and we believe this proposal will do that.

Bringing continuity to the team whilst being open and fair with our selection policy is key. Ireland make around 3-4 changes (out of 16 players) to a winning side, sometimes even less. England made 8 changes from the winning team in 2011 (half the team). This doesn't allow for any continuity and we should be looking to build a strong spine of players.

### **Setting Goals for the Management and Players**

Currently the England Manager is not set any tangible goals and subsequently neither are the players.

The England Manager should be accountable to the ESMBA members and be judged on results and set goals for each season depending on previous results.

These goals should be set at the beginning of each season with the ESMBA committee and reports on progress should be provided throughout the season, with a report at the AGM delivered to the ESMBA members.

### **Setting a goal for 2013-14**

When we look back over the last 3 seasons in the British Isles we can see that we have had mixed results. In 2011 we won the Team Event for the first time since 1992, a great achievement but if we look at the statistics the headlines only tell part of the story.

I have compiled the win ratio against Ireland, Wales and Scotland over the past 3 years and there is certainly room for improvement. These results are taken from the Rinks in the Team Event.

<b>British Isles</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>% Won</b>
Ireland	12	6	6	0	50
Wales	12	4	8	0	33
Scotland	12	9	3	0	75

The fact that we have only won 1 in 3 against Wales shows that we need to improve against them if we are to push for the British Isles Title. Of the 6 wins against Ireland, 3 of those came on the quick mats in Scotland when we won in 2011. 3 wins out of 8 matches in the other years is something we need to improve on.

<b>World Championships</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>% Won</b>
Ireland	9	4	4	1	44
Wales	9	3	5	1	33
Belgium	8	6	2	0	75
Sweden	8	3	4	1	38

In the World Championships the results are very similar to those in the British Isles and again there is plenty of room for improvement. The results against Wales and Sweden stand out as figures we need to improve on if we are to be successful in the 4 events at the World Championships.

### **Proposed Target for 2013 British Isles (Ireland)**

- Wales 50% win ratio and an overall team win
- At least 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Team Event

### **Proposed Target for 2014 World Championships (Sweden)**

- Wales 50% win ratio
- Sweden 60% win ratio
- Qualify for 2 out of the 4 Semi finals

- Win 1 World Title

### **What does this proposal cost the ESMBA**

#### Management Expenses

£400 - £550 a season (depending on International events locations)

#### Players Expenses

£2600 – British Isles in England, Wales, Scotland

£4550 – British Isles in Ireland

£2000 – World Championships in England, Wales, Scotland

£3500 – World Championships in any other Country

#### Venue Hire

Maximum of 5 days needed at £200-300 a day

#### Other Costs

Stationary, stamps, etc – up to £500

#### Total Cost

£10,600 (worst case scenario). This is with 2 events outside of mainland England, Wales or Scotland.

If we take the current season then this proposal will cost the ESMBA £7,600. Around half of the current cost to run the team.

### **Benefits of this proposal**

- Players don't have to play numerous days/weekends which is expensive and time consuming
- Money should no longer be an issue for players
- Management get to see players in pressure situation in trials not in pointless matches
- Players not selected have only played 2 days rather than 10 without an International match
- The England Team would have a better chance at the International events with majority of players being able to play
- Targets are set and measured each season looking to improve results and develop the team
- Players will see what they need to do to be selected for the team

### **Closing statement**

I believe that the England Team should be open to all players and not just those who can afford to play. It currently costs the individual players and the ESMBA too much money to run this current structure. Our application and proposal for the England Team will allow the Team to compete whilst giving any player the opportunity who currently can't afford the time or money.

Philip and I are very experienced players and will be professional in our approach. I am a very organised and motivated individual and would bring this to the England Team. We want to be open about our selection policy so that any individual can see what they need to do to be selected.

The time to start rebuilding on the disappointing 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in this season's British Isles starts now. I along with Philip have been looking at players and have started to draft our lists for September's trial. The Irish selectors have already got the majority of their side compiled and I doubt they will make more than 4 changes from the team that comprehensively won this season.

We hope that you find our application and proposal for the England Team to be one that you can take to your County members/committee and if you agree, please sign at the bottom and return. We feel that having the backing from the Counties will aid our application. Should you wish to speak to me about any part of this application please give me a call or send me an email.

Signed.....

County .....

Date.....