



COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

7pm Monday 20 November 2023 – via Zoom

1. Present and Apologies

- a. Present: Brian Bell, David Quinn, Henry Tebbs, Andrew Wilson.
- b. Apologies: Steve Kuester, Aubrey Bell, Lucy Bell, Jason Varrie.

2. Minutes and Actions from 09 May 2023 meeting



2023.05.9 OSRA
Ctee mtg Minutes

- a. The minutes from 09 May 2023 were agreed.

3. Chair's update (AW)

a. Committee news

- i. Brian Bell is now in post as the new Finance Officer.
- ii. The Secretary role is still vacant. Committee members are encouraged to promote this vacancy in their clubs.
- iii. As the new OSRA web site and allied social media gets going there will be the need to appoint someone to a Marketing and PR role.
- iv. There is still the need to identify a replacement for Luci Bell as the Welfare Officer.

b. CIO update

- i. CIO transition complete.
- ii. First Trustees meeting to be held on 11 December 2023.

c. Clubs and facilities update

- i. The Wheatley Park club night initiative has successfully started under Jason's guidance. This now needs to be transitioned to someone local who can take it forward.
- ii. The club night concept started at Wheatley Park has been extended to Henley and Witney (both also Better Leisure facilities). The possibility of extending this to other Better Leisure centers such as Didcot, Faringdon and Wantage is under discussion.

d. ES news and affiliation update

- i. ES continue to promote the need for good governance.



- ii. OSRA currently meet most ES governance requirements with a few small outstanding items such as a risk register and a declaration of interests record to be introduced by the end of 2023.
 - iii. ES are still consulting on the proposed membership scheme to be introduced in 2024. The benefits package associated with membership is not finalised.
 - e. County Development Programme update
 - i. The main aim of the county development programme to develop squash in Oxfordshire continues.
 - ii. The biggest challenge to the programme is not funding per se but the availability of coaches and volunteers to support initiatives.
- 4. **Secretary's update (AW)**
 - a. No update.
- 5. **Coaching update and juniors (JV)**
 - a. County training sessions continue to take place at regular intervals.
 - b. There is a good core of players in the Advanced squad with recent increases in the U11 / U13 age groups.
 - c. Participation in the Development squad is now being encouraged for younger players.
 - d. Work continues on improving the coaching network in Oxfordshire.
 - e. The Junior County Closed held in September this year was a great success. The tournament was sponsored by Property Procurement and Development.
 - f. Oxfordshire took part in the recent inter-counties matches, fielding teams in the Boys U13, Boys U17, Boys U19, Girls U11, and Girls U17 categories. We are very proud of our juniors who accounted well for themselves and showed a great deal of determination against very strong opposition.
- 6. **Finance update (AP)**
 - a. The accounts were sent to Committee members under separate cover.



- b. OSRA continues to remain in a healthy financial position. As development programme gets going spending is likely to increase in particular for the web and social media update initiatives.

7. **Leagues update (DQ)**
 - a. Winter 1 is well under way and going well.
 - b. The numbers of teams competing are down on pre-COVID but still good.
 - c. Notable new entrants include Chipping Norton and an additional team from Abingdon.

8. **County teams update (DQ)**
 - a. Details of the Inter County Competition for 2024 have now been circulated by England Squash.
 - b. It was suggested that volunteers be sought from league players to run the different age group teams. (Action DQ)

9. **Website update (AW)**
 - a. Development work on the new web site continues and the overall look and feel has been agreed with **ads**.
 - b. Progress has been delayed due to difficulties in moving content from the previous OSRA web site and the need to revise and update existing OSRA documentation such as policies.
 - c. It is planned to launch the new OSRA web site in January 2024.

10. **Welfare update (LB)**
 - a. OSRA's Safeguarding Policy is currently being reviewed and update prior to its publication on the new web site.
 - b. Additional documents to be included are codes of conduct for parents, players and coaches.
 - c. OSRA aligns to the England Squash guidance on safeguarding.

11. **AOB**
 - a. OSRA has recently been awarded £2000 funding from England Squash to undertake squash development initiatives at a number of



sports centres in Oxfordshire. OSRA will match this funding in running these projects.

- b. Additional squash development activities such as those focused on returning players, female players and juniors at all clubs in Oxfordshire is also encouraged. It was suggested that a communique is sent out to clubs to solicit interest. (Action AW and DQ)
- c. It was suggested that a diary of squash related events is included on the new OSRA web site. (Action AW)
- d. It was suggested that before each OSRA Committee meeting that the clubs are contacted to see if they have any proposals or issues that they would like to see addressed. (Action AW)

12. Next meeting date

- a. Date to be confirmed but likely to be in week commencing 26 February 2024 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting closed at approximately 8.00 pm.



ACTIONS

| No | Date | Action | Owner | Status |
|----|-----------------|---|----------|--------|
| 1 | 29 Oct 20 | LB to write an updated welfare section for our website; to send to DQ to put on website. | LB DQ | |
| 5 | 29 Oct 20 | AP to seek new County Secretary. | AP | |
| 7 | 29 Oct 20 | RG to set up 1-2-1 meetings with Oxon coaches to kick off communications and form a network. | RG | |
| 18 | 18 Feb 20 | AW to raise connecting Welfare Officers from the counties in the South with Heidi Leseur of SRF. | AW | |
| 21 | 22 Apr 21 | Draft Queens Club Foundation grant application. | RG | |
| 23 | 22 Apr 21 | Look into setting up a series of women's exhibition matches. | AW AP | |
| 30 | 15 Nov 22 | AW to investigate the possibility of OSRA providing funding to support club Squash Stars initiatives. | AW | |
| 31 | 15 Nov 22 | JV to contact active and lapsed coaches in the county to encourage greater participation at the club level. | JV | |
| 32 | 20 Nov 23 | Volunteers to be sought from league players to run the different age group teams. | DQ | |
| 33 | 20 Nov 23 | Communique to be sent to all clubs in Oxfordshire offering to sponsor squash development initiatives. | AW DQ | |
| 34 | 20 Nov 23 | A diary of squash related events to be included on the new OSRA web site. | AW | |
| 35 | 20 Nov 23 | AW to contact clubs before each OSRA Committee meeting to see if they have any requests or issues to raise. | AW | |



Oxfordshire Squash and
Racketball Association