



COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

7pm Wednesday 13 March 2024 – via Zoom

1. Present and Apologies

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

2. Minutes and Actions from 20 November 2023 meeting

- a. The minutes from 20 November 2023 were agreed.



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- b. A number of actions have been completed or are no longer applicable (see Actions).

3. Chair's update (AW)

- a. Committee news
 - i. The Secretary role continues to be vacant. Committee members were once more encouraged to promote this vacancy in their clubs.
 - ii. OSRA will be seeking someone with Marketing and/or Social Media experience to take responsibility for the new web site and allied social media when it is launched.
 - iii. There is still the need to identify a replacement for Lucy Bell as the Welfare Officer.
- b. CIO update
 - i. The first OSRA Trustees meeting was held on 11 December 2023.
- c. Clubs and facilities update
 - i. The Wheatley Park club night initiative has continued and has been extended to Henley and Witney (all Better Leisure facilities). The possibility of including other Better Leisure centers in Oxfordshire such as Didcot, Faringdon and Wantage is still under discussion.
- b. ES news and affiliation update



- i. In accordance with Sport England requirements, ES continues to promote the need for good governance in county associations.
 - ii. OSRA has recently developed a risk register and declaration of interests and currently meets all ES governance requirements.
 - iii. Consultation on the new ES membership scheme continues. The benefits package associated with membership is being finalised and the new scheme will be introduced later in 2024.
 - c. County Development Programme update
 - i. Aspects of the county development programme such as the introduction of grass roots development initiatives at leisure centres has started to make headway but there is still much that has to be done to introduce the game to more people in the county.
 - ii. The biggest challenge to the programme continues to be the availability of coaches and volunteers to support on the ground 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 at different locations around the county.
 - b. It was requested that a calendar for these sessions is sent out well in advance to help parents and players in planning attendance. (Action JV)
 - c. Work continues on development of the coaching network in Oxfordshire and it is hoped to take this further using the new OSRA web site when it goes live.
 - d. It was suggested that a coaching workshop was set up for coaches in Oxfordshire to network and share good practice. (Action JV)
 - e. Two sets of squash coaching equipment consisting of adult and junior racquets, training balls, and junior goggles have been purchased from Karakal and are being used to support grass-roots development initiatives in different locations in the county.



6. **Finance update (BB)**
 - a. The accounts were sent to Committee members under separate cover.
 - b. As in the last period, OSRA remains in a healthy financial position although increased spending is likely to occur with further web site development and that start of various grass-roots initiatives in leisure centres and smaller clubs.

7. **Leagues update (DQ)**
 - a. Winter 1 was completed and Winter 2 is in progress.
 - b. The numbers of teams competing is picking up but levels are still below what they were pre-COVID.

8. **County teams update (DQ)**
 - a. Four teams have been registered for the Masters Inter County Competition: Men's O35 (5 players per team), Women's O40 (3 players per team), Men's O45 (5 players per team), Men's O65 (3 players per team).

9. **Website update (AW)**
 - a. The web site design is now confirmed and agreed with **ads**.
 - b. Progress on updating policies and identifying fresh content for the new site has been slow due to lack of resource.
 - c. It is now planned to launch the new OSRA web site in the summer of 2024.

10. **Welfare update (LB)**
 - a. OSRAs Safeguarding Policy has been reviewed and updated prior to its publication on the new web site.
 - b. OSRAs Code of Conduct for parents, players and coaches have all been reviewed and updated ready for use on the new web site.
 - c. OSRA aligns to the England Squash guidance on safeguarding. Further information can be found on the England Squash web site.



11. AOB

- i. David Quinn proposed that trophies for each OSRA division winner be presented on the play-off night. This was agreed in the meeting.
- ii. It was noted and commended by the committee that the following Oxfordshire players has been selected to play for England in the home internationals:
 - Women over 35 – Michelle Knight
 - Women over 45 – Caroline Hazlewood and Helen Knowles
 - Men over 40 - Ross Gore and Jason Varrie
 - Men over 65 - David Kirk.
- iii. It was also noted and commended that Ken Reid has been selected to play for Scotland Men over 75 in the home internationals.

12. Next meeting date

- i. Date to be confirmed but likely to be in late June / early July.

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	
36	13 Mar 24	Calendar of coaching sessions to be sent out in advance to help parents and players in planning attendance.	JV	



Oxfordshire Squash and
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37	13 Mar 24	Coaching workshop for coaches in Oxfordshire to network and share good practice to be investigated.	JV	
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