



COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

6.30pm Wed 27 April 2022 – venue Zoom

1. Present and Apologies

- a. Present: Aubrey Bell, Lucy Bell, Oliver Cartwright, Alexandra Perry, David Quinn, Andrew Wilson
- b. Apologies: Ross Gore
- c. Absent: Adrian Cassidy, Ken Reid

2. Minutes and Actions from 22 February 2022 meeting



2022.02.22 OSRA
Cttee mtg Minutes &

- a. The minutes from 22 February 2022 were agreed.

3. Standing items:

- a. Plan to return to “normal” squash
 - i. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda going forward.
- b. Chair’s update
 - i. ES news
 1. ES have been relatively quiet recently, communicating mostly about the new Squash Stars programme and the upcoming Commonwealth Games.
 2. They seem to have lost momentum in communicating with county associations, although their development programme is generating interest.
 - ii. Clubs and facilities update
 1. AB has collated feedback for the meeting from his teammates, who had the following points. Each point is followed by the Committee response:
 - a. The cost of courts at leisure centres is going up → based on a conversation with a leisure centre manager, court utilisation is now almost back up to pre-covid levels, so the increased cost does not appear to be putting people off. Most leisure centres are struggling to cover



- costs, eg heating pools, so use the income to offset this.
- b. Maintenance and cleanliness of courts, both at home and away, can be an issue → if necessary, clean the court oneself, providing court brooms have been made available.
 - c. Most players are older and there is a challenge in attracting younger players into squash and into the teams → juniors and new players need to be encouraged, so doing things such as publicising club nights would help. The leisure centre in Kidlington is earmarked for a squash programme supported by OSRA so this should help as well.
2. AW is mentoring a couple of local coaches as well as doing some coaching himself at Spiceball. He has also put time into helping Chipping Norton.
 3. Spiceball is keen to join the league but there is a challenge regarding marking in that the balcony is not open to the court so players cannot hear the marker (and vice versa). The Committee discussed various solutions, so Spiceball should not be deterred.
 4. Once the new kit bags are arranged, AW will go back to Cherwell DC about plans for Spiceball and other leisure centres in the district. The challenge is finding coaches to support the programmes.
- iii. County Development Plan update – no update.
- c. Secretary's update:
- i. Masters ICC update
The first stage of the Masters ICC was held on 05/06 March. Having entered MO45, MO55, WO40 and WO50 teams, it was disappointing that due to injuries, holidays and covid, we had to withdraw both the MO55 and the WO50 sides. The MO45 hosted at Abingdon and won 1, lost 2. The WO40 travelled to Warwickshire and won 1, lost 1. Both sides were then due to play in Stage 2 on 30 Apr/01 May. Again



due to lack of availability, the MO45 team has been forced to withdraw. The WO40 are still in!

DQ offered his assistance with organising the ICC teams next year if needed.

ii. Preparation for AGM on Wed 20 July 2022

As agreed, the AGM will be held on Wed 20 July 2022.

Documents for the AGM must be sent by 29 June latest, so the component reports should be with the Secretary by 22 June. As a reminder, here is last year's Annual Report:



OSRA 2021 AGM
Annual Report.pdf

d. Coaching update (RG)

- i. We have two county sessions left to deliver in the current programme.
- ii. Ben Rosec and Jenny Edwards have qualified through England Squash to deliver the Squash Stars programme.
- iii. Nigel Northcott has started a ladies squash and racketball morning over in Abingdon which is proving very popular. He needs some equipment though to help with its delivery and maybe some coaching funding if possible. I have got a quote from Ashaway/Blacknight so that is to be discussed on the equipment side of things. A question was asked about supporting women's squash and racketball at other locations to make the most of any kit OSRA purchases. It may be that Cherwell DC can assist with the purchase and sessions can be run at the 3 leisure centres in the region.
- iv. I spoke to Rick Wetherall and he is setting up a mini junior programme although it's based in Berkshire we may see players in the future that link back in with Oxfordshire.
- v. Henley have been in touch regarding getting some support to cover the cost of a level 1 course and any assistance we can provide on the Squash Stars programme.



- e. Finance update
 - i. The accounts up to 31 March 2022 had been sent previously.
 - ii. A question was raised about how we can spend more money and get it to clubs, coaches and facilities. A suggestion was made to buy balls for clubs, showing clearly these has been purchased by OSRA.
- f. Leagues update
 - i. Winter 2 concluded on 26 April with the completion of playoffs. DQ has the trophies ready for engraving for the AGM. The winners were:
 - D1 – Brackley 1
 - D2 – Harwell 1
 - D3 – Dithercroft 1
 - D4 – Abingdon 3
 - D5 – Brackley 3
 - ii. We had 28 teams in Winter 1 and 30 in Winter 2, which compared with 40 in Winter 2 pre covid. For this Summer, we have 20 teams compared with 30 in Summer 2019. It is largely the same clubs fielding fewer sides. Also, there are generally more distractions, it requires a significant commitment and it can be expensive (some teams charging £15, £17, £20 per match).
 - iii. There was a discussion about how to increase participation. Dropping the league entry fees to a negligible amount may lead to a lack of commitment but it was recommended not to increase them above £50 going forward. Removing the hospitality element might actually put people off. Agreed to raise at the AGM to get member feedback, as well as asking if there are any rules which cause players issues.
 - iv. Very little negative feedback has been received on SportyHQ. There is a constant challenge in getting the fixtures into the system, correctly and on time. Again, fixtures have been entered manually. It was agreed that more committee members should learn how to do this.



- g. Website update
 - i. RG has had some early discussion with a friend who is a part owner of a company that builds and manages websites over in Witney called beyond your brand.
<https://www.beyondyourbrand.co.uk/> They could offer us a new website with no upfront costs. 20 pages and 6 updates per month that they would manage. The fee would be a rolling £100 per month.
- h. Welfare update
 - i. Contacts at clubs had been received since the previous meeting so the Welfare Officer can begin to create a database of club welfare officers.
 - ii. An online webinar, “Safeguarding in Sport”, was attended and was very useful.
- 4. Update on moving to Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status
 - a. AP has prepared a short plan to move OSRA from an unincorporated association to a Charitable incorporated Organisation.
 - b. AW is to approach people regarding being trustees (a minimum of 3 is needed) whilst DQ is drafting a new constitution. AP will submit the application with supporting documents to the Charity Commission and, providing we are successful, will then register the new CIO with HMRC for Gift Aid purposes.
- 5. Update on regional oversight and support in the county
 - a. AW is covering Cherwell and is beginning to get successes. He has done some coaching at Chipping Norton, supported initiatives at Bloxham School and there are various other activities going on. AW to ask RG to cover West region and LB to ask AB to cover central.
 - b. Agreed to raise at the AGM as more volunteers are needed to cover East and South.
- 6. AOB
 - a. OC was asked about involvement in some of the work at leisure centres. He intends on qualifying as a Level 2 coach after his A levels and could consider support at leisure centres if transport is available/arranged.



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b. Agreed that all committee members would review and update the
Actions List before the next meeting.

7. Next meeting date: Monday 20 June at 6.30pm

The meeting closed at 7.51pm.



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	
16	17 Dec 20	AW and AP to create email signature template for Committee members.	AW AP	
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	
22	22 Apr 21	Review Bloxham School progress and decide whether to apply for a QCF Grant.	AW	
23	22 Apr 21	Look into setting up a series of women's exhibition matches.	AW AP	
27	22 Feb 22	AP to contact ClubNet to follow up on current website status. RG to contact local website designer/provider.	AP RG	
29	22 Feb 22	AW and AP to oversee CIO conversion process.	AP AW	
31	27 Apr 22	Remove "plan to return to normal squash" from standing agenda	AP	DONE
32	27 Apr 22	Cttee members to learn how to input fixtures into SportyHQ	DQ	



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33	27 Apr 22	Ask for volunteers to support regional oversight at AGM	AW	
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