

Oxfordshire Squash and Racketball Association

Annual General Meeting

July 27th, 2019 at Kidlington Green Social Club

Apologies: Adrian Cassidy, Steve Rogers, Jim Henshaw, Chloe Marshall

Present: All clubs sent a representative with the exception of Harwell and Henley

2018 Minutes: These were accepted as a True and Accurate record

Matters Arising: Chloe is currently organising a Markers Course which will hopefully take place in September/October.

Chairman's Report: Julie read her report (see below). She also confirmed that she was stepping down from the committee. A Vote of Thanks was duly awarded to her. It was requested that, in future, could the Annual Report be distributed prior to the AGM. This was agreed.

Coach's Report: Unfortunately, due to a last minute hitch, Chloe was unable to attend the meeting so Julie read from some notes she had received (see below). There was some discussion as to the role of the Coach and the level of expenditure incurred. It was generally felt that having somebody coordinating County Junior Squash was essential but perhaps the committee could consider laying down a more transparent structure as to the job requirements/expectations.

League Report: DQ reported that whilst Summer League numbers had kept up over the last three years, Winter numbers continued to fall. There were 39 teams in Winter 2 2019 as opposed to 48 in 2016. It was suggested that the reason for this was the entrance fee at £75 per season but this did not appear to be universally accepted. There appear to be many more factors at play but that the main driver was the clubs themselves and doing what they can to attract and hold on to new talent.

There were 10 match concessions and numerous String 5 concessions over the year but if Wallingford and Henley's contributions were removed, this would be substantially less.

Conceded Play Off finals was worrying but there is legislation proposed later to address this.

Robin Sparkes stood down as Divisional Manager but was replaced by Steve Rogers.

Therefore, for the coming year:

Winter Div 1 and 2 – Steve Rogers, Div 3 and 4 – Ken Reid, Div 5 – Julian Moss

Summer Div 1 – Steve Rogers, Div 2 and 3 – Ken Reid, Div 4 – Julian Moss

Point a Rally seems to have gone down well. There was mild mutterings from one quarter as to point a rally in Div 2 Summer but that is all it appears to be.

There will always be difficult issues to resolve re Fixtures and Scheduling but there is not always a perfect solution. One voice complained about the intrusion of fixtures into the end of July but it was pointed out that this could only be achieved with a reduction in the number of teams per division. Generally, members seemed content with the annual structure.

Finally, slightly aside from League Matters, DQ pointed out that the committee had decided to cease the practice of paying ICC expenses. One person voiced their disquiet about this but otherwise it was affirmed by the meeting. This appeared to be an affirmation of an agreement at an AGM meeting a few years previous but not recorded! It was agreed that OSRA would continue to pay team entrance fees to ICC.

Finance Presentation: (See attachments)

Balance Sheet: Once some apportioned monies have been paid out, the cash in the bank will be £7267.37 as opposed to £6317.12 at the end of May 2018.

The AGM asked if the committee could give some consideration to what may be done with this surplus. It was pointed out that current levels of surplus were a new phenomenon and that future budgets would not reflect large profit scenarios.

Nevertheless some thought will go into it.

Year End Accounts: The level of ES rebate was queried but Alex said that there was a late payment that would now fall into the next year's accounts.

The accounts were formally adopted.

2019/20 Budgets: Presented by Alex – nothing raised.

Constitution – Proposed Changes:

3.2 Following discussion, this was accepted unanimously. Essentially, whilst clubs must be affiliated to England Squash via Court Affiliation to play in the OSRA Leagues, their players need not be although it is desirable and they should be encouraged to join.

4.1 Housekeeping – passed.

5.1 The post of Social Media was abolished. League Secretary and Welfare Officer were added to the composition of the committee – passed

5.2 The word ‘Ideally’ was prefixed to the rule – passed.

7.2 and 7.3 It was agreed that it was best practice to have the accounts audited. The two proposals were withdrawn.

The amended Constitution will be available on the website asap.

League Rules – Proposed Changes:

1.6 Hopefully, to facilitate more Play Off Finals, it was agreed the date should be mutually agreed by both finalists and that an extra week would be given to complete – passed.

4.3 Different wording to give greater clarity – passed.

9.1 Amending the date to propose changes to the rules by – passed.

The amended League Rules will be available on the website asap.

Formal Business:

Penalty Fees – It was proposed to keep them at the same level ie £40 – passed

Entrance Fees – It was proposed to keep them at the same level ie £75 – passed 14-2

Elections:

The following were re-elected to serve for another year:

County Secretary – David Quinn

Treasurer – Alex Perry

League Secretary – David Quinn

Committee Member – Adrian Cassidy

The following were elected to the committee:

Committee Member – Aubrey Bell

Committee Member – Ken Reid

The following positions remain vacant:

Chair

Welfare Officer – appointed post.

Any Other Business

Comments were made about the general appearance and up to dateness of the website.

DQ felt that the leagues side of things was excellent but agreed the information side left a lot to be desired. We had hoped somebody would help out as Social Media Manager but in 2 years no interest, hence removing the position.

A Vote of Thanks was awarded to the committee.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

CHAIR REPORT – JULIE PEACHEY – MONDAY 22ND JULY 2019

Welcome and thank you all for coming.

Start by thanking OSRA committee, without them my job would have been a lot harder. Their support and the work they do behind the scenes is incredible.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS:

we have been working hard on speaking with our neighbouring counties and learning about what they do that works and what doesn't and by sharing this information we are hoping that we can improve squash, not only in our own county but across the board. We have also been working with ES on getting more coaches trained up and running sessions, the current initiatives I think will be touched on by Chloe.

JUNIORS

Chloe has been working hard on the junior calendar, we implemented a new structure last year and have had a lot of constructive feedback from parents and kids about what they liked and what we could improve on.

Although it's not a requirement for Counties to have a Welfare Officer, it is becoming much more of the norm. There are a lot of pressure kids are under when growing up and sometimes they need an outlet – we are hoping to recruit a Welfare Officer who

can be this outlet and offer guidance where maybe a parent or coach couldn't. This is something that would not be limited to children and would be available to vulnerable adults or anyone who felt it would help.

Following on from this we have updated our safeguarding policies and code of conduct, making reporting channels clearer and to avoid any issues bubbling under the surface and being missed due to a lack of communication. We want to be able to tackle any issues early on so that we can ensure everyone is enjoying playing squash in Oxfordshire.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Numbers have improved! We are getting the word out there that we are now in the modern era!

2018 - 92 followers on Facebook and 40 followers on Instagram.

2019 – 133 Followers on Facebook and 53 followers on Insta.

Squash levels continues to be a big hit, especially in my team! It is being used by more counties across the UK as a way on choosing team orders and provides healthy competition between team mates!

NEW KIT

This has been a success; many county players have some item of kit now as do most of the kids! They are really nice quality and available to all players within Oxfordshire.

INFORMATION SHARING

As always our biggest challenge is getting information out to the wider Oxfordshire members, posts on the website and social media only go so far so we really need for all team captains to be spreading the news, even if they don't think its relevant for them – it may be for someone else! For example – the County Closed, this is open to ALL players from within Oxfordshire, not just those who play for the county teams. It's a great experience playing some

top players and watching some good matches but also you might surprise yourself! This years event is graded as well so if you enter the right grade you shouldn't be shown up.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

So I have been Chairman for 3 ½ years now and I remember my first AGM where I said 'I know a lot of people have the fear that getting involved will lead to a lifetime of service and hours of commitment and in answer to that I would like to limit the length of time you can be in a role to 3 years so that we keep bringing in fresh ideas and enthusiasm. But in order to do that we need people willing to put themselves forward for things..' I stand by this and as such am standing down as Chairman. I feel

I have done my bit for now, supported a county that supported me and been part of a wonderful team as we strive to improve Oxfordshire squash.

That being said, we obviously now have a vacancy for Chairman and some other roles on the committee. Please have a serious think about these and if you feel you could offer help or support in any way please c

Coach's Report – Chloe Marshall

Celebrating Junior Success

Individual

Eve Coxon –

Current England ranking NO. 1

Selected to represent England at the U19 European Championships and will also be travelling out with me and the England team to Kuala Lumpur for the World Junior Champs next week.

Will be attending Harvard this September

Dom Crowley –

Current ranking NO. 7 (u11), 47 (u13)

Jasmine Tranter - Current ranking NO. 9 (u15), 30 (u17),

National Racketball Champion U15?

Alex Smith - Current ranking NO. 46

ICC results

U11 boy's runners up

Won stage 1 of the competition in Brighton without dropping a game. Went to Nottingham for finals weekend and made it through to finals day on the all glass court. Finished in 2nd place to Surrey

U13 boys making finals weekend

Came 2nd in Stage 1 in Brighton which also saw them head to Nottingham for the finals weekend.

Well done to team and managers

Last year's county closed 2018

- Just over 40 entries last year
- U9 event introduced for the first time to encourage young players to get involved
- This year's event is being held on the last weekend of September at Racquets Fitness Centre. We are hoping to maintain / improve numbers
- I have bought some entry forms with me – please take these back to your club and hand out to any juniors who would be interested in playing. Suitable for ALL!

Junior development

- 5 counties event

50 children from 5 different counties

Great event for introductory players

We took a small team across to compete

They mix teams so players from different counties mix in – social day with lots of match play + FUN

- U11 festival

We took a very young team with us this year, none of which had played a tournament before. Fantastic opportunity which they enjoyed – we were 2-3 years younger than most other competitors but hoping to compete again next year

- Aspire

The following Oxfordshire players are currently involved with Aspire...

Changes to 2019/2020 season

- Continue to focus on junior development

Focus is on getting young people on court

Targeting primary schools + clubs

Increase junior participation in the county

- We are looking for more coaches to be involved with the county programme
- Continue developing ICC teams, encourage more players to attend county training and be involved with teams. We will be splitting training into age groups

