



ANNUAL REPORT

Year ending 31 May 2022

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Last year I wrote about the challenge of emerging from lockdown and at that stage the return to squash and the resumption of league squash seemed a long way off. Thankfully the pandemic restrictions eased and levels of participation slowly increased to the extent where we were able to hold Winter 1, Winter 2 and now, as I write, the Summer leagues. That this could have happened is largely due to the wonderful work of David Quinn and his supporters in setting up and running the leagues and the enthusiastic support of the squash playing community in Oxfordshire. Both fun and competitive squash are on the increase again although there is no question that we still have some way to go to get back to the levels of participation that we had before the pandemic.

Similar to last year we have had little outgoings during the year and OSRA has continued to maintain its good financial position under the stewardship of Alex Perry. There have been a number of important development initiatives as OSRA, consistent with previous years, has continued wherever possible to support grass roots squash in the county. Funding has been received from England Squash to undertake initiatives to help grow squash in the county and the return of league squash has helped to ensure we are well positioned financially to start promoting squash to a wider group of people in Oxfordshire.

Funding and planning of the county development strategy was successfully put in place during the year but the implementation was consciously put on hold during the return to normal squash. This will recommence in the next squash year where the main emphasis will be on supporting sports centres and local clubs to increase participation in their catchment areas.

Once again the committee have continued to meet on a regular basis via Zoom and in person to deal with happily standard agenda items related to finances, the squash leagues and coaching. After many years of service, Ken Reid has stood down from his role on the committee. His thoughtful counsel will be missed but thankfully he will continue to stay involved as a



Divisional Manager for the leagues. In addition to this vacancy, OSRA also needs a willing volunteer to act as Secretary and take over from Alex Perry who has been ably fulfilling this role alongside her normal role as Treasurer.

During the year the OSRA committee started the process of moving OSRA from being an Unincorporated Association to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This will help make OSRA more resilient as an organisation and is in line with the guidance from Sport England and England Squash.

On the coaching side, Ross Gore has reluctantly decided to resign from his position as Head Coach. We thank him for all his efforts and we look forward to his enthusiastic ongoing participation in our team of coaches. Due to the changing nature of this role in the county we are considering how we would like to proceed going forward. The coordination and administration of junior squash is the most challenging aspect of this role and the committee would be interested in hearing from anyone, in particular any parent, who would be interested in developing a vibrant junior section.

During the year OSRA has continued to play an active role in England Squash council meetings, the South Regional Forum (SRF) and other squash fora and to lobby on behalf of the squash playing community in Oxfordshire. During the year England Squash launched the Squash Stars initiative aimed at juniors and have strongly promoted squash at the Commonwealth Games. At the regional level, the SRF was formally wound up and regional funding now comes direct from England Squash. The SRF has continued as an informal networking group for the exchange of ideas and good practice in the development of squash.

Grass roots development has continued in a number of locations around the county with Henley in particular initiating a highly successful rolling programme of courses that is attracting a new intake of juniors. Funding is available to support coaches and club members to get junior and other initiatives off the ground - all it takes is a good proposal and the approval of the OSRA committee. OSRA continues to provide financial support for those taking the ES Level 1 coaching course and several have taken this up and qualified in the past year. We would like to see more Level 1 coaches



coming through the system and as it is now all online there has never been a better time to get qualified and start your squash coaching journey.

On the representative side, while Oxfordshire enthusiastically registered teams for a number of the Inter County Competition age groups many of the teams had to drop out before the matches due to the lack of available players. Lockdown has not been kind to those over a certain age and injuries seem to take even longer to clear up. On the upside, after losing their initial round of matches, the Ladies O40 team ended as one of the "best of the rest" in the final round.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Monies in our bank account increased from £10,016 as at 01 June 2020 to £15,512 as at 31 May 2022, although please note that £1,652 of this is funding received from England Squash which is largely earmarked for specific projects. This leaves £13,560 as available funds.

Income for this year was £7,048, being £3,290 from league entry fees plus an unexpected £3,753 received upon the winding up of the South Regional Forum.

Expenditure began to get back up to normal levels at £3,065, containing website costs, head coach fees and support for coaches and activities across the county.

Our reserves have been restored to slightly above average level due to the monies from the SRF, all of which are available for investment in the county.

OSRA Committee

18 July 2022