



Oxfordshire Squash and
Racketball Association

Minutes of first Oxford Squash and Racketball Association (OSRA) Trustees Meeting At 7:00 pm 11 December via Zoom

Present: Andrew Wilson
Martin Packman
Brian Bell
John Riddick.

Note: Andrew, in his capacity as Charman and Brian, as Treasurer, also sit on the OSRA Management Committee.

This was the first meeting of the trustees of the newly formed charitable organisation.

The role of the Trustees is to provide oversight and governance of the OSRA Management Committee to make sure it is run properly and in accordance with its constitution.

1. Declaration of Interest

None of the Trustees had any interest and there is a form to be circulated and completed at the next meeting to confirm the same (Action Andrew Wilson).

2. There are no approvals or actions required from a previous meeting.

3. Financial update - the spreadsheet from the OSRA Management Committee advises that the bank balance is £15,733.

4. One of the key roles of the Committee is to encourage participation in squash. The following topics were discussed as possible avenues for expenditure.

5. Coaching and accreditation – OSRA money has been spent on coaching courses in the past but there also needs to be a provision for the ongoing (roughly every 3 years) refresher courses such as First Aid and Safeguarding and Protecting Children which are mandatory and cost to attend. OSRA does not receive any regular income other than fees received to operate the Oxfordshire squash leagues. Ideas to spend revenue to develop squash, especially youth development initiatives, are to be encouraged. The Management Committee should also encourage women in squash. Challenges with resourcing squash development initiatives mean that OSRA cannot at present undertake the work it would like to improve access to squash and levels of participation; whilst there are potentially over 100 qualified coaches in the county only circa 20 of those are currently valid. The other issue limiting numbers of coaches is the DBS certification which is required for those working with children. One initiative would be to support the refresh of coaches qualifications by financially



supporting participation in the First Aid and Safeguarding and Protecting Children courses and by encouraging individual DBS certification once these courses have been completed. The England Squash Coaches membership fee may also need to be factored into any proposals to provide financial support to existing coaches to renew their coaching certification. Andrew Wilson to investigate how this might work in practice (Action: Andrew Wilson).

6. If the committee is to increase its activity there is quite a lot of administration involved and one solution might be to appoint a part time secretary to run the coaching programs. Alex Perry is to be asked to write a part time job description. Brian Bell to investigate.
7. Oxford University have 3 courts which are available and could run both coaching courses and competitions and OSRA can support that financially. In the recent past OSRA have supported a Ladies coaching programme at Abingdon and junior coaching courses at Henley Squash Club. Thame Squash Club have requested some funding to promote their junior players programme .
8. The Management Committee would like to support increased participation in squash at public venues such as Banbury, Kidlington, Wheatley, Witney and Bicester. Access to squash for many is challenging; a fully-funded initiative would enable adult and junior players who would not normally have access to start playing squash in a supportive environment. The Management Committee need to bear in mind the objectives of English Squash where the key cultural aims are diversity, sustainability and taking sport to the economically disadvantaged.
9. In supporting squash at public venues the management Committee can engage further in introducing squash to those who would not otherwise play.
10. At the other end of the spectrum money should also be made available for top level squash events which are well supported and profitable and inviting top ranking players to play in front of an audience - charging entrance fees is a way to not only create revenue but to promote the sport.
11. Finally using the excess funds to develop software to run leagues better, promote squash and to have a more informative website engaging younger players would also be a good use of funding.

The Trustees noted that outgoings are currently £2-3k per annum. The Trustees agreed that it was prudent to retain a balance of £5k and accordingly the Trustees would encourage the Management Committee to consider the above initiatives and report back on what the priorities might be best to pursue over the next few months and how to fund them. There is clearly a reasonable balance of circa £8-10k which can be devoted towards developing squash at all levels and with various audiences.



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The meeting ended with the proposal that a second Trustee meeting would be convened in mid-March .