



Oxfordshire Squash and
Racketball Association

Committee Meeting

7pm Monday 30th September 2024

@ The Slow & Steady Pub OX1 4PD

Minutes

1) Present

David Quinn, Jason Varrie, Martin Packman, Brian Bell, Michael Beck & Jim Reay

2) Apologies

Steve Kuester

3) Website

DQ: Kelly Scott commissioned to build, sent up to date version of the test site. Not as far as wanted. Financials run through as per email. Charge out rate £95/hour. Cost is for two sites (.org and .com), .org is the principal.

MP: Can we examine cheaper hosting?

JR: Gut feel is hosting cost is double what we should pay.

BB: We can bring some of the £1400 in house.

MP: Wordpress.com offers £7/month for premium hosting.

DQ: We should probably take this in house given that.

JR: Approach should be minimum cost, content created by volunteers. Most Microsoft office proficient people could use WordPress if template provided.

DQ: I have experience running the website for Oxford cricket. Stepping back from that so have more time free. Kelly says she can run through website next week.

MB: I am also available to assist.

DQ: Clarity from Kelly on what the deliverable is required.

MP: I can provide detail on what is required for us to self-host.

DQ: We have already spent on hosting till July 2025. By go-live we need to retire old websites, Kelly will know how to do this.

ACTION

MP: I will identify owner of old site.

JR: How do we get new content online?

DQ: I will handle content getting onto the website. Berkshire squash has a good website to model on.

JV: Yorkshire squash has a good website too.

DQ: How do we integrate social media?

BB: Marketing strategy could be costed for this. We have had £200 marketing and website workshop.

JV: My wife is happy to own the social media account(s).

JR: We need to choose the platform(s).

MB: I recommend Facebook and Instagram.

JR: Person at Henley (social media) might be able to advise.

MB: Any content on new website should be posted to social media.

MP: We should create a content calendar including tournaments, leagues etc.

DQ: Crucial this is all about actual, real and engaging content.

ACTION

Organise meeting in new year for an update from Jason on coaching and a website update.

4) Coaches Update

a. Coaching Development

MP: Marking course and Squash Levels coaching are good ideas.

JV: We want juniors at every club. Coaching qualifications enable that. Could run trial for adults?

MP: University club run an open session that works well.

JV: Spoken to other counties (Warwickshire) and they have a healthy volunteer pool.

DQ: Probably need to target clubs like Bicester, Wheatley Thame.

JV: Lots of schools near to clubs. But nobody to run their follow-on sessions into a club. At Chipping Norton junior session on Saturday morning. Andrew running it and it has self-funded. I like the idea of one coach per club. OSRA could fund half the qualification cost.

JR: We need a pathway school -> club -> county. Cap the charge for coaching. At a club level volunteers needed. Potentially, inter club competition between Thame and Carterton at junior level.

JV: How do we ask who wants to be a coach? Level 1 can be done online. Level 2 is a 2-day course. All done through England squash. Say x people at club y, England squash refund.

ACTION

JV: I will speak to Paul Carter (pro coach). Advertise coaching to clubs.

DQ: Need to target clubs with courts but no system in place.

JR: Could OSRA pay for DBS checks etc?

DQ: Is it charged?

JV: I have to. I paid roughly £50 for a DBS check. It requires post office attendance with documentation.

b. County Representation

DQ: Alex Perry to run ladies age group and captain. No Helen, probably Caroline. Michelle Knight transferred to Oxfordshire.

Men's entry opens in November. Last year no seniors.

Masters captains: James Hicks O35, Shayler O45, need to advertise O55, Ken Macmillan O65.

JV: Seniors, Ali De Visme may captain. Ben Hedger is very keen and Joe Brooke might if Ben does. Harry Carr represents Berkshire. James McCouat would. Ross Gore might if local. Jason can't. Venue Dependent for all.

DQ: It would be good to host (March time).

JV: Minimum 3 courts to host. Adam Giles could if Wiltshire don't enter.

MP: James McCouat might run it.

DQ: OSRA would fund hosting.

c. Tournaments

BB: Can we advertise earlier?

JV: Last week is the peak for entrants.

DQ: Something should be hosted at Thame (juniors). Abingdon are the right hosts of the main county closed tournament.

JV: Consider adjusting the county closed grade bandings, hard deadline for entrants 1 week from tournament start.

5) Vacant Roles

a. Chairman

BB: Is it a necessary position to fill?

MP: Great at getting funding, engaging with England squash.

JR: Collegiate rota? Brian to share role. Happy to be liaison with England squash.

b. County Secretary

DQ: I am not it in title, do most of responsibilities except minutes.

c. Welfare Officer

MP: Sam Greenrod went to a session on safeguarding, all we need is someone to be a contact point for county.

BB: If any actual issue arises, they escalate to England squash.

d. Junior Representative

JV: This role needs to be defined.

6) Financial Update

BB: Done in update.

7) League Update

DQ: Court issue at Banbury, Stuart Madle to sort/asses.

8) Trustee Forms

MP: In hand.

9) AOB

MB: In person meetings leads to good engagement.

JR: Everyone needs to come up with ideas for sponsorship.

10) Date of next meeting

In the new year.