

OSRA

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Monday, January 5th, 2026

Present:

David Quinn, Jim Reay, Steve Dance, Martin Packman, Jason Varrie, Geoff Walton, Brian Bell, Michael Beck

Apologies:

Michelle Knight, Steve Kuester

Matters Arising:

Racketball – Steve Dance will ask Duncan Nightingale if he is interested in getting involved in administrating an OSRA Racketball League. Given the lack of enthusiasm for such a development at previous AGM's, it would require an enthusiastic person to step up in order to progress the matter further

Accounts:

Brian presented the last quarterly accounts. All was as expected but he did point out that the income from the December Doubles Tournament was net of expenditure on prizes and so yielding a small profit!

England Squash Initiatives:

Following the financial settlement of various OSRA Club initiatives using ES grants for 2025, there is an unallocated credit of about £500. As long as this is used for youth development of the game, it was suggested that ES won't bat an eyelid. The Committee was only aware of one request from Jenny Edwards at Bloxham School for further monies so Brian Bell and Jim Reay will consult the clubs to see if there are any other needs for which these excess funds could be used.

Jim pointed out that the 2026 round of funding will be advertised soon (by ES) and at that point he will remind clubs to get their application forms in.

League Secretary's Report:

DQ reported that with the demise of Thame Racquets, what was left of the team appears to have successfully decamped to Wheatley Park. Ben Terry has taken over

the captaincy and although they were relegated last season to Division Three, they do seem to be building a solid set of members.

DQ also noted another positive in regard to the establishment of a 4th Team by the University Club. This has meant that for Winter 2, there is a full compliment of 32 teams across 4 divisions.

In response to a query as to why Abingdon 2 remained in Div 2 and Harwell 1 in Div 1, DQ remarked that he was not enamoured at leaving a side in the top league who had finished so far adrift of 6th place. However, with availability doubts clouding Abingdon S/C, it was felt that Abingdon 2 would be better off in Div 2. As things turned out subsequently, Ben Hedger has signed up for Harwell so DQ feels a certain level of vindication!

County Coach Report:

JV reported that the County had entered 3 teams in the Inter County Juniors, namely: Boys Under 15's and 19's and the Girls Under 13's. As it happens, the U19's have already progressed to Finals Day and JV is quietly confident that the other 2 sides should also progress to that stage following their qualification tournament at Beaconsfield on January 11th. He did commit to provide photos and results for the website.

JV also alerted the Committee to the fact that Abingdon S/C has entered the National Club Championships. Good luck to them!

2026 County Closed/Open:

JV is looking to stage this some time in middle to late May. He will look at the overall tournament calendar and speak to Abingdon as the potential host venue. It was agreed that if there were more entries than could be reasonably dealt with from 9 to 7 at Abingdon that an additional venue would be secured on the day to help cater for earlier rounds.

Fund Raising/Sponsorship:

In response to his question, Steve Dance was informed that around 5k would be a 'good' return for any fund raising/sponsorship initiatives he could effect. He did ask what OSRA had to offer to potential investors and it was thought this would be chiefly in the realms of shirts logos, tournament advertising and website visibility.

It was suggested that the best potential partners would be those who were already involved in the game eg Court repairers as well as companies with connections to current players.

Tournament Schedule 2026:

It was agreed that GW would approach Alan Horton to see if Abingdon S/C would host an Open graded tournament this year, the 1st quarter probably being the best time. DQ will seek clarification from James Hicks about the timing of the Hithercroft Open and it was also decided to consider running 2 Doubles tournaments, one in December and one in June/July. MB was still keen for Nuffield to run their own Open but they do need to crack on with making a decision.

AGM Date:

Abingdon will be approached by BB to see if they can host it for Wednesday, August 19th.

Next Meeting Date:

Monday, April 13th – same time and place.

Any Other Business:

The following agreed to be the Officer in Charge of various Play Off Finals:

Div One – Geoff Walton (at Abingdon S/C)

Div Two – Michael Beck (at The Oxfordshire)

Div Three – Brian Bell (at Carterton S/C)

Div Four – DQ and Martin Packman (at Iffley Road)

JR wondered if other clubs could combine to run Family Squash Days in the manner which Henley and Hithercroft have collaborated on.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.