

Oxfordshire Squash and Racketball Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday, October 19th 2026

Present:

David Quinn, Jim Reay, Brian Bell, Geoff Walton, Martin Packman

Apologies:

Steve Dance, Jason Varrie

Matters Arising:

1. The second Hithercroft Open took place on September 12th. There were perhaps not quite as many entrants as 2025 but it was nevertheless it was well supported.
2. 18 people attended the Marker's Workshop on October 4th. It was well received but it was noted just how subjective some refereeing decisions are!
3. The AGM did indeed agree to a hike in the League Entry Fee from £50 to £55 for the next Winter 2 and Summer Seasons.
4. The Junior County Closed took place on September 27th at Abingdon Squash Club. A full report will soon appear on the website

Accounts:

Brian Bell sent out the latest set of accounts pre-meeting.

Of note;

There is £7733 in the bank account

The Junior County Closed lost approximately £400 but without sponsorship, the committee was fine with that.

£217 has come in so far from Crowdfunding.

League Secretary Report:

Winter 1 seems to be progressing nicely with five divisions instead of the four as in Winter 2. This means there are Bye weeks but for those clubs fielding multiple sides this has been quite helpful!

Having reached the mid point of the campaign, there have been no match concessions so far and very few penalties handed out for missing Strings.

The Winter 2 entry forms will be going out shortly. The LS did labour the fact that some clubs still need to make increasing efforts to turn out more teams and this matter will be exhorted at the next AGM if not before.

County Coach Report:

In his absence, this is a précis of his emailed report:

The junior county training sessions have resumed with similar numbers to last year. Attendance has been a bit low which makes them difficult to run due to the costs involved. JV will approach all clubs and schools running junior sessions and encourage them to put forward kids to the county set up. More girls attending would be great.

We ran the Junior County Closed with lower numbers than last year resulting in just three groups; BU11/BU13, BU15/GU15 & BU17/BU19. A brief report with photos has been submitted.

The Junior Inter Counties is scheduled for January 2027. There may not be much interest but JV will do his best.

The Christmas Doubles tournament will be held on 19th December at Abingdon Squash Club. JV is seeking advice on should we use Sporty HQ or run it on paper as in 2025? Prizes? Poster?

JV and family are planning to relocate at the end of April 2027 – likely but not definite. Ross Gore and Ben Rosec have taken on the role previously but are unwilling to do it full-time. Mike Beck has not responded to emails.

It was decided to consider if JV's duties (should he return to Zimbabwe) could be split:

- a. GW will speak to JV and Ben Rosec about the junior coaching set up (including Junior ICC) and perhaps any future County Coach could restrict their job description to this.
- b. BB will consult with Jon Pratt (also Carterton) to see if he would take on running the County Closed and the 2 Doubles Tournaments.
- c. It was felt that the players themselves should take responsibility for entry to the Senior ICC rather than it being a County Coach function

Proposed League Rule Change;

It was agreed to propose to the next AGM that Rule 9 should be changed to:

9 – Amendment of the Rules

9.1 The OSRA Committee has full powers to introduce or amend any League Rule at its regular meetings.

Any proposal will be circulated to Committee Members at least seven days in advance of the meeting and any changes agreed will come into effect as the Committee sees fit.

9.2 On any matter not covered above, the OSRA LS, in conjunction with the DMS, will be the final arbiter.

AGM Feedback:

- With regards to the use of squash levels to determine team line ups, the committee noted that the motion to enforce this was comprehensively rejected at the recent AGM. It was further commented that an indicative vote to take the matter further was lukewarm at best.

The committee is grateful to Andrew Bissell for his work in this area and JR will be writing to him. We are aware that many clubs do select on Squash Levels but it is not felt that there has been a sufficient number of complaints on String Line Ups reported over a protracted period to warrant any change in the League Rules.

- Geoff Walton will speak to Helen Knowles to gauge her view on holding a Ladies (Graded) Open

Crowdfunding and Sponsorship Initiatives:

Steve Dance has asked how we can promote the Crowdfunding initiative. JR said he would do a poster for display in all clubs. It was felt it should contain tangible reasons for seeking such support.

GW suggested a lottery type fundraiser, successful in the North West. JR said he would look at the mechanics.

Oxford Brookes – Harcourt Hill courts:

MP reported there is one functioning court at Harcourt Hill with the other in dire need of remedial work. Although it may not be in OSRA's remit to finance such works, it was agreed he should obtain quotes for what is needed

Any Other Business:

The Abingdon Open (graded) will be held on January 30th 2027