

Wiltshire Squash Rackets Association
Committee Meeting Minutes Thursday 10th January 2013
Venue: The Wellington Arms, Marlborough 7:30pm

Present Howard Wilson (Secretary)

Dean Watkins

Neil Marshman (Summer League Secretary)

Clive Morgan (Treasurer)

Mike Stannard (Chairman)

Peter Goldson (Referee Rep)

Derek Bray (Winter League Secretary)

1. AGM Actions

- i. DB to pre-schedule this year's play-offs.
- ii. MS expressed concern about the number of 1st Round cup matches that had been walk-overs. It was agreed that the situation needs to be looked at before next year.
- iii. MS suggested that when the AGM agenda is sent out it should highlight the decisions that are likely to be taken at the AGM e.g. Par scoring, fees etc.

2. ESR Subscriptions.

- i. MS attended the Council Meeting in November and reported that many counties have now made ESR affiliation compulsory whilst other counties still have issues with 'value for money' or, like Wiltshire, are worried about losing teams.
- ii. PG highlighted the advantages to the clubs and believes it is right for the clubs to support the national association.
- iii. With regard to the stalemate at Devizes, MS will speak to DC Leisure about the court fees and if they will agree to pay them he will speak to the players about the individual fees.

3. Refereeing / Marking Course

- i. NM reported that there could well be money available to increase the number of referees in Wiltshire (currently 2) and suggested that, from a set date, teams could only get their win bonus if they had a club grade referee. MS/HW would rather that all team player attend a markers course every 'X' years.
- ii. NM will organise courses at various venues over the next few months. The course is free but involves taking the on-line refereeing exam afterwards. It was suggested that we charge £5 per head and this would be refunded to the player once they had completed the examination.

4. Right Coach

- i. MS attended a regional workshop in Taunton where Matt Baker was talking about local squash partnerships - in our case this is WASP (Wilts & Swindon Partnership) – and more particularly about one of their initiatives, Right Coach.
- ii. As a follow-up, MS then met with Dominique Aughton. Coaches are registered on their database but the current database only contains two names. MS asked the meeting to agree for him to start contacting known coaches and letting them know about this initiative. MS proposes a meeting between Dominique and the coaches in Marlborough to push this forward.

5. Winter League Numbers

DW suggested that we might target venues that currently have courts but no teams. DB will put together a list of clubs whilst other members of the meeting offered to check at clubs where they have some contact.

6. Any Other Business

- i. The meeting congratulated PG on his appointment as Chairman of ESR.
- ii. NM pointed out that Warwickshire do not pay expenses for Inter County matches, except for their Seniors, and have managed to put £4K into their junior section over the past year. This provoked much discussion as expenses for the four Inter County teams make up the vast majority of our annual costs. However, it was felt that we need to support our teams, especially at a time when money is tight and what is being paid is not excessive.
- iii. NM expressed concern about the junior workshops at Tidworth and the north/south split in the county. PG reported that he has attended some of the workshops and is happy with the set up. PG is more concerned that nothing is happening with the juniors in the 6 months whilst Dax Mellor is in Afghanistan. MS replied that this had been communicated to all the parents before Dax left and they were OK with the situation.
- iv. PG asked HW to include Matt Baker and Lee O'Donnell on the invitation list for all future committee meetings.
- v. PG reminded the meeting the county needs to focus on the need to get more people into squash over the next six months to tie in with the national push in support of squash in the 2020 Olympics. After discussions about what we could do it was decided to target the quieter venues (see Item 5 above) and also consider how we get more people playing racketball.
- vi. MS asked if there was going to be an issue with the Inter County Seniors now that Simon White is taking up a coaching position at the RAC Club. HW to check with Adam Giles.
- vii. HW/DB to liaise about the possibility of combining this year's AGM with a play-off presentation evening.