

Minutes: WSRA AGM 11th May 2017

29 May 2017 11:34

Crown Centre, Devizes: 7.00pm

Agenda:

1. Welcome
 - i. Dave Burns (Secretary & Oasis), Simon Williams (DA), Clive Morgan (Treasurer & Marlborough), Martin Cooper (Cricklade), Steve Beckford (Olympiad), Dean Watkins (Wessex), Nev Buckle (DA)
2. Apologies for absence
 - i. Mike Hyland (DA), Dax Mellor, Brian Brock (Lyneham/Oasis), Mike Stannard (Cricklade), Neil Marshman (Wessex), Jeremy Harrow (Trowbridge), Peter Goldson.
3. Review of 2016/2017 season
 - i. Highlights
 - 1) Successfully run tournaments thanks to Dean Watkins, Brian Brock and Mike Hyland.
 - 1) Seniors - 36 (Won by Rory Birtwistle)
 - 2) O35s - 16 (Won by Nigel Rowe)
 - 3) O45s - 13 (Won by Nigel Rowe)
 - 2) Participation is up in the county. Thanks to Dax Mellor for leading this effort.
 - 1) 120 juniors in 3 regions.
 - 2) Swindon schools program.
 - 3) Adult participation is up - approx 70 players in Chippenham/Corsham who don't get involved in County activity.
 - 3) Successful county leagues - 17 teams.
 - 4) Clive Morgan claimed Welsh O65s title.
 - ii. Lowlights
 - 1) Seniors Inter-counties championship was withdrawn due to nobody stepping forward to run the team.
 - 2) Closure of South Marston - loss of 4 squash courts in the county.
 - iii. Financial Statements
 - 1) Balance is £5500 approx. See Appendix A for full statement.
 - iv. Participation/development
 - 1) Ongoing with current activities.
 - 2) Simon Williams and Mike Hyland visiting Chippenham, Pack Horse Chippenham, Chippenham ladies, Springfield Corsham to raise awareness of the County Association and the support it can provide. Thanks to both for their efforts.
 - 3) Efforts are being made to increase involvement with neighbouring counties.
 - v. Juniors
 - 1) Dax Mellor was not present but his written report is in Append D.
 - vi. Tournaments
 - 1) Plan to run seniors, O35s, O45s, doubles. Dates TBA.
 - 2) Junior closed.
 - vii. Leagues (Nev Buckle)
 - 1) Division1 winners: 1st half - DA1, 2nd half - Cricklade1, Cricklade1 bt DA1 in the playoff.
 - 2) Division2 winners: 1st half - DA2, 2nd half - Andover, playoff not contested.
 - 3) Division3 winners: 1st half - MarlboroughC, 2nd half - Devizes2, Devizes2 bt MarlboroughC in the playoff.
 - 4) Very few contentious issues - ran well on the whole.
 - 5) Summer league - Neil Marshman is running but nothing in place just yet.
 - 6) **[Action: Nev]** chase Neil regarding organising summer league.
 - viii. Intercounties

- 1) Dean Watkins has volunteered to coordinate the ICC teams for the forthcoming season.
- 2) [Action: Clive] pass on Richard Antcliff (ICC organiser) contact to Dean.
- 3) Mike Hyland was not present but provided this report
 - Inter-County Over 50s team
 - two matches - one before Christmas and one after
 - Wiltshire hosted before Christmas at the Wessex Club
 - Wiltshire Finished bottom - beaten by Cornwall and Avon
 - Somerset Hosted after Christmas
 - Wiltshire finished bottom - beaten by Cornwall and Somerset
 - 4) O55s Stage1 hosted Avon/Glos. Lost 4-1 to Avon. Bt Glos 3-2 finished 2nd
 - 5) Stage 2 hosted by Somerset, lost 1-4 to Glos, lost 1-4 Somerset.
 - 6) O35s stage1 lost 0-5 to Glos, lost 1-4 to SE Wales.
 - 7) Stage2 lost to Cornwall 1-4, won 3/2 vs Avon, equal 2nd.
2. Election of Officers (Note: one position must remain available for a female officer) - one vote per represented club (DA, Marlborough, Cricklade, Oasis, Olympiad, Wessex)
 - i. Chair - nominees: Mike Stannard (elected 6 votes)
 - ii. Secretary - nominees - no nominations.
 - iii. Treasurer - nominees: Clive Morgan (elected 6 votes)
 - iv. League Secretary - nominees: Nev Buckle (elected 6 votes)
 - v. Junior Chair - nominees: No nominations. - Dax to be co-opted as representative.
 - vi. 3 additional members - nominees: Simon Williams (elected 6 votes), Mike Hyland (elected 6 votes), Dean Watkins (elected 6 votes).
 - vii. Woman's position available by vacant roles. (Secretary, Junior Chair).
3. The Way Forward - discussion forum
 - i. The AGM has been poorly attended for at least 2 years now. In future, consider finals/participation day followed by AGM to boost AGM attendance.
 - ii. Membership and data protection.
 - 1) Mike Hyland's report is attached Appendix E. Many thanks to Mike for his work so far.
 - iii. Development - Dax's report Appendix C.
 - iv. Juniors - Dax's report Appendix D
 - v. Facilities - Wessex and Oasis courts have been refurbished.
 - vi. County awards - possibly role out some sort of awards scheme where anybody in the county can be nominated for an award for activities related to squash.
 - vii. Handicap cup competition.
 - viii. Intercounties.
 - 1) Need O50s captain [Action: Dean].
 - ix. Use of social media - Simon Williams. Communication amongst the squash community is extremely important and social media is a very powerful tool.
 - 1) Facebook/facebook live/twitter.
 - 2) What's your call?
 - 3) Need reps for each club to liaise with Simon in order to post club related content on the county social media sites.
4. County League AGM
 - i. Feedback from 2016/2017 season.
 - 1) Looks like losing Lyneham, one Wessex team and maybe Oasis.
 - ii. Proposed rule changes (suggestions needed). Current ideas:
 - 1) Teams of 4. There was an insufficient number of teams represented at the AGM to get a realistic consensus. [Action: Nev] send out proposal to reduce to 4 to all team captains.
 - 2) Referee bonus points - rejected.
 - 3) Results submission timing and accuracy. Bonuses or penalties. 1 bonus point if full results submitted within 48hours from midnight after fixture. - Passed subject to technology.
 - 4) Eligibility of players

- 1) End of season playoffs - propose minimum of 2 matches played for team in half they won. Exceptions to be approved by 3 impartial committee members including league secretary if possible. - Passed
 - 2) For last two games. (in the case of known medium term injury/absence) - propose prenomination within first 2 matches of half season. - rejected. Can clear it with league secretary. - Passed
5. Any other Business
- i. Simon: New website up and running by September.
6. Close 9.25pm.

Appendix A - [WSRA Accounts Summary – May 2017](#)

Due to the timing of events, income and expenditure within the WSRA season, the cut-off date for the accounts has been moved forward from 5 April to 4 May. This enables the accounts to be more representative of activities within the actual reported period. It also aligns well with the timing of the AGM.

The county recorded a loss of £1,071 on turnover of £1,882 for the 2016-17 season. This was due to some one-off, unplanned, but necessary costs which are detailed below. Without these, there would have been a profit.

Our main income continues to be the League Team Fees (£1,190). The number of teams remained at seventeen, though the trend has been downward in recent years.

The County Championship events more or less paid for themselves, the individual entry fees (£540) funding the courts, balls and trophy costs.

The remaining, small income elements were a Markers' course entry fees (£65) and the England Squash (ES) rebate (£87, a proportion of the member affiliation fees paid to ES).

Expenditure on our four Inter-County teams was £453, down from the already low figure of £586 last year. A main reason for this reduction is the changed Inter-County format to one-day, 3-team events. This reduces accommodation support costs, as well as cutting court and food costs when Wiltshire hosts events. It should also be noted that many participants do not claim the nominal travel support costs to which they may be entitled. This is appreciated and is helpful for the county's stretched finances.

The three unplanned costs were as follows:

- £1,250 was contributed as matching funds to enable a similar sum to be released as a grant towards our county development programme. The programme is being very successful, so a good use of our money.
- ES overpaid our rebate last year to the tune of £474. This was paid back this year, thus distorting the actual profits recorded for the two periods.
- MoD Lyneham refused to host visiting teams unless liability insurance was paid. This is a very unusual situation, with most bodies carrying their own insurance for such purposes. In order to facilitate a team at Lyneham, the county decided to provide a one-off, one year insurance policy at a premium cost of £175.

A summary of income/expenditure is shown overleaf.

Have a good summer.

Clive Morgan – WSRA Treasurer.

Summary of Income and Expenditure

Opening Balance - 5 April 2016: £6,665.63

Income		Expenditure	
League Fees	£1,190	Inter-County	£453
County Championships	£540	County Championships	£582
Marking Course	£65	Junior GOF Match Funding	£1,250
		Lynham Liability Insurance	£175
ES Rebates	£87	ES Rebates	£474
		AGM Meeting Room 2016	£20
Total Income	£1,882	Total Expenditure	£2,954

Closing Balance - 4 May 2017: £5,594.46

Loss for Year: £1,071.17

Appendix B - Regional Forum

Wiltshire have now handed over the Rolling Chair position to Berkshire. We have presided over a hugely influential time which has included the award of a Pilot Primary Schools project from the National Forum worth £5,000, have co-ordinated the arrangement of the Aspire talent pathway programme (led by Tim Vail) and have delivered the Junior Regional Closed Championships which were hugely successful, not only in encouraging 100 of our best juniors to attend but also in generating £2,000 which is to be reinvested back in to the Regional programme. Wiltshire is now widely recognised as a significant contributor to Regional and National Squash.

The RF is currently promoting two projects, details of which I will send out in a separate communication to our Squash community.

The first is a coaching bursary which will contribute up to 50% of the cost of attending and successfully passing a Level 1, 2 or 3 England Squash Coaching qualification. The current cost of the courses are as follows Level 1 - £150, Level 2 - £260 & Level 3 - £1100. We hope to be able to host a Level 1 or 2 course locally in the Spring, the next Level 3 course is scheduled for September.

The second project is a mentoring programme which offers existing coaches an opportunity to be given a mentor who will provide support and help develop them through a holistic programme of face to face and virtual meetings. The programme will commence at the beginning of February, it will run for a minimum of 7 months (until September 2017) and is ideally suited to someone who has just started their coaching journey or is interested in taking a qualification in the near future. If you know anyone who you think would be interested in either project, please let me know no later than 27 Jan.

There is currently a survey out which asks for our views as a County Association on England Squash affiliation and membership. Could we all take 10 minutes out to complete it;

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/membership_counties?clubs&utm_source=Master&utm_campaign=518ad8f08f-Memerbship_Survey_CAs&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e deaf6a3d3-518ad8f08f-51834213

The next RF meeting is scheduled for 28 March.

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Appendix C - WSRA Development Plan

The last time I updated on the development programme was at the AGM on 9 May 2016. I then briefed that out of the 37 action points we agreed 17 had been fully completed and 11 partially completed. To the best of my knowledge there are now only 6 Action points left outstanding, details of which are shown below;

ACTION 5 Seek a female to join committee.

ACTION 11 Appoint a coordinator/point of contact for racketball.

ACTION 13 Produce online calendar of this coming year's events.

ACTION 18 Review County team structures and support with the objective of widening representation.

ACTION 20 Agree a facilities strategy to assist with maintaining and improving court conditions.

ACTION 29 Establish a volunteer's database.

Whilst there is still 6 months of the 2year plan to run I suggest that now a newly formed committee is in place a decision is taken at the next committee meeting as to whether the outstanding actions remain a priority.

I understand that there is a wish to simplify the plan and therefore I have not briefed on individual actions which have since been completed, however, if anyone requires a further explanation on any specific action please let me know.

Appendix D - Juniors

It's been a busy time for the Juniors. There are a number of issues which are worthy of reporting on and I have listed them as follows;

Inter County Championships

We entered 6 teams in this year's competition which is our highest number to date. All teams competed over weekends in October & November the results of which are shown in the tables below. The match reports are on the junior website and the full results can be viewed by visiting the official site <http://junioricc.countyleagues.co.uk/> Of note;

- Our lack of facilities was exposed when trying to provide venues for all our home fixtures, particularly for Stage 2. It also proved expensive.
- We had depth in all categories and could have perhaps entered two teams in the BU13 category, both of which would have been competitive. We had strong number ones in GU13 and BU19 but generally were fairly weak in the top order but relatively strong in the lower

order

- There was a serious injury to Joe Prodger (Boys U17 No.3) in our Stage 2 home fixture. Joe was hit by a swinging racket in the face and as a result lost both his front teeth and sustained severe lacerations, swelling and bruising to his face. It reinforced the 'glasses are mandatory' line and also has encouraged us to review our procedures for hosting events including insurance cover and emergency contact information for all competing players.

STAGE 1 – Ties completed 15 & 16					
Age Group	Location	1 st Place	2 nd	3 rd	4 th Place
BU13	Away	Hants	Bucks	Wilts	Berks
BU15	Home Swindon	Surrey	Hants	Kent	Wilts
BU17	Away	Hants	Berks	Surrey	Wilts
BU19	Away Street	Somerset	Wilts	Dorset	Devon
GU13	Away	SE Wales	Dorset	Wilts	Glos
GU17	Home Tidworth	SE Wales	Devon	Wilts	Dorset

STAGE 2 – Ties completed 19 & 20					
Age Group	Location	1 st Place	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
BU13	Away Bristol	Wilts	Worcs	Avon	
BU15	Home	Dorset	Avon	Wilts	Kent
BU17	Home Swindon	Devon	Glos	Surrey	Wilts
BU19	Home	Dorset	Avon	Wilts	
GU13	Home Swindon	Sussex	Glos	Wilts	
GU17	Away Horsham	Norfolk	Wilts	Sussex	

Regional Championships

For the 2nd consecutive year Wiltshire hosted the South Regional Championships. Again due to our lack of an appropriate venue we hosted the event outside Wiltshire; this time Winchester (previously Aldershot). We had 100 entries of which 13 juniors were from Wiltshire (a similar number to last year). Our highest placed finish was 3rd place from Sophie Bolland in the GU13 category. On the back of this Sophie was selected for the Aspire talent pathway programme.

Grand Prix Events

In line with our Development Plan (Action 19) we have created a series of regional junior tournaments, known as the Grand Prix Series, which are scheduled to take place around the County throughout the season. The first event was held in November at Salisbury which saw 30 entries. This was followed by GP2 in Swindon in January which had 57 juniors take part. The events are graded based on age and ability and encourage children who wouldn't normally participate in competitive squash to take part, often giving juniors their first taste of competition. There are future events planned in Marlborough, Chippenham & Tidworth over the coming months.

Coaching

We received a good response from our Calling all Coaches communication and have over the last 6 months developed a significant workforce of dedicated coaches who are keen to contribute to the junior programme. We have included coaches within all areas of the County which in turn helps support the regional framework which has been created (Action 7 WSRA DP). Note; Ken Nicholls has now been appointed as Regional Co-ordinator for the East Region.

We still have no Elite Level Coach within the County to lead the coaching programme and have once again instructed Jesse Engelbrecht to lead the High Performance delivery.

Participation & Development

The number of juniors participating within the County programme continues to grow. We currently have 122 who are active and have now developed a sub level of activity which supports this made up from the various Junior Clubs and School groups which now take place. Essentially there is now two levels of junior activity within the County; Club and School Squash which has a softer focus and County level. This filter has allowed County standards to rise (evident by recent results) with no effect on numbers. It should be noted however that we still struggle to find significant numbers of girls to play at a County level (No U15 or U19 Teams in ICC). Whilst we have a number of strategies planned to address this it isn't a quick fix and something which is not just unique to Wiltshire.

Schools

We have significantly developed our Squash 4 Schools programme which delivers Mini-Squash to Primary Schools. This year Mini-Squash has been included within School Games for Years 4 & 5 (Ages 8-10). Again this was a goal within our WSRA DP (Action 15) and is an achievement which shouldn't be underestimated. The bottom line for Squash is that as a Sport it now sits on the PE curriculum at over 30 Primary Schools across the entire County which is important as it allows us to establish a footprint in areas where there is little or no activity currently taking place.

We have also seen Squash in Secondary Schools increase. We have just signed a partnership agreement with the County Sports Partnership (WASP) creating a new Satellite Club in Chippenham which serves three Secondary Schools; Hardenhuish, Abbeyfield and Sheldon. In addition, Devizes School has developed their programme further which now includes them participating in School fixtures plus there will shortly be a Satellite Club formed at Clarendon School, Trowbridge which is hoped will provide a School to Club pathway for Trowbridge Squash Club. Marlborough College had significant success in the National School Championships. In the Boys U15 they beat Millfield and only narrowly lost 3-2 to Wycliffe (4 out of the 5 players are Wiltshire Juniors). Squash at Dauntsey's also continues to flourish and is now supported further by the development of a talent pathway from School to County Squash which has resulted in 2 brand new squash courts being added to their estate.

There has also been significant work undertaken to develop programmes within Prep Schools across the County. This has resulted in a network of Regional Schools playing competitive squash; St Francis (Pewsey), Chafyn Grove (Salisbury) and Pinewood (Shrivenham) all are participating Schools from Wiltshire. Again all Schools feed in to the County programme.

Social Media & Marketing

Over the autumn we have developed the junior website which is now fully functional and

proving a big hit. We ensure it is updated regularly with the latest junior squash information and results. All our entries for competitions are now on-line, the information from this goes to serve and update our database of players and parents. Since going live we have generated over 5,000 sessions which is impressive. 40% of these views are from mobile devices meaning that our responsive design allowing for mobile views is proving worthwhile.

We are actively engaged with Twitter and have a growing number of followers (156 at last count). We continue to post the very latest information via this means and look to Tweet/Retweet daily.

We have purchased various marketing items to help promote the County programme including; two roller banners and a number of tin stickers which advertise the junior programme. Wristbands for younger children. All our County Teams and Squads are kitted out with the latest design of Tecnifibre clothing which is all branded with Wiltshire Squash.

We have forged strong relationships with the local media and press to help promote County squash (WSRA Action 31). Articles now regularly appear in the Swindon Advertiser and Wiltshire Gazette and Herald, including match reports photos and the reporting of significant events. We have also recently had an article printed in the Swindon Link magazine which has received good feedback.

Five Counties

In December Wiltshire won the 5 Counties event hosted annually by Gloucestershire Squash. The tournament is held over two days and invites an U11 & U13 Team from 5 Regional Counties to compete. We have attended now for a number of years but generally go to make up the numbers. This year Oxfordshire didn't consider they had a strong enough team to enter so Wiltshire offered to enter 2 teams in each category such is our strength and depth. Giving each of our teams an equal chance of success we also decided to split the teams evenly. Wiltshire 1 came 1st overall which is phenomenal achievement. Warwickshire came 2nd and Wiltshire 2 tied 3rd with Worcestershire. Gloucestershire came 5th overall. The success marks a goal that we have had for a number of years and is further evidence of our growing strength as a County.

Finances

Our current balance is £1877.65. I've asked Rosalind who controls the Junior account to prepare a summary of income and expenditure for the year end which I should be able to present at the next meeting. It should be noted that whilst this balance is slightly lower than what would usually be expected this is mainly due to the number of teams that were entered in to ICC and particularly the number of home fixtures we were required to host in Stage 2. Each home fixture costs in the region of £200 - £250 including hospitality.

The £1000 sponsorship money raised for County training shirts has now been spent. New sponsorship has been secured for the 2017/18 season.

Our current balance includes the £1250 match funding which was transferred across from the Senior account in June. As previously agreed this amount has been ring fenced and will not be spent without prior approval of the WSRA committee.

The £2500 awarded for our Grass Root Development from the Regional Forum has now been spent (see below summary). This funding has been instrumental in establishing junior Squash activity in West Wiltshire (where most of the delivery took place), creating a Schools to Club programme in Salisbury and the purchasing of Mini-Squash equipment to enable delivery of the School Games programme to Primary Schools.

Expense	Amount	Remarks
Coaching	£1540	Alistair Graham £880, Gus Bell £480, Martin Cooper£140, Dax Mellor £40.
Equipment	£2346.23	12 Walls, 40 rackets, 4 bags & 105 Balls

Appendix E - Membership database

- Going really well with most clubs sending me details
- currently around 420 details stored
- We are holding coaches
- We are holding team captains
- We hold data validation dates
- We allow subscription into and out of certain types of communication
- Data used to support Inter-county team inclusion, Closed tournament mailshots and regular newsletters.
- This is driving up social media inclusion
- For anyone planning events (doubles, tournaments, training,referee/marketing, coaching, league meetings...) please mail me with your requirements and I can return details. (requestor must be a member of the committee or co-opted)
- Please make use of this facility.
- Marking hand-in-hand with the Marketing function (Simon Williams).
- Any questions ? (Drop me an email with the details and I'll get back).