

Wiltshire Squash
Annual General Meeting Minutes 8th October 2020
Venue: Via Microsoft Teams



Present:	Role
John Jeffrey (JJ)	Chairman
Nick Hartley (NH)	Vice Chairman
Nev Buckle (NB)	League Secretary
Ben Taylor (BT)	Treasurer
Neil Marshman (NM)	Junior Chairman
Dean Watkins (DW)	Events and England Squash Liaison
Brian Brock (BB)	Secretary
Apologies:	
Dan Binns (DB)	Development Officer
Peter Goldson (PG)	Co-opted Member

Item	Action
1. Introduction. JJ opened the AGM by stating how challenging the last few months had been under COVID-19 restrictions. JJ thanks the committee for the work so far this season and for the reports for the AGM.	
2. Review of Minutes. The following points were raised: 2.1. Mike Stannard (previous Wiltshire Squash Chairman) made mention of the Inter County Championships (ICC) activities and the frustration of some of our captains that England Squash (ES) failed to communicate effectively. 2.2. Wiltshire Squash is in the process of restructuring the Leagues and website, creating better selection procedures for ICC. Representation has been made to ES.	
3. Chairman's Report. JJ gave his report which is linked here .	
4. Treasure's Report. BT gave his report which is linked here .	
5. League Secretary's Report. NB gave his report which is linked here .	
6. County Representative Report. There was no formal report for this item on the agenda. There were discussions on the uncertainty of what is happening with Inter-County squash.	
7. Junior Chairman's Report. NM gave his report which is linked here .	

8. County Development Officer. DB could not attend the AGM but his report is linked here .	
9. Appointment of Wiltshire Squash Officers. All current appointed role members were voted in continue in their current roles. Brian Brock was voted in a League Secretary replacing Mike Hyland who resigned from the Committee.	
10. Any Other Business. There were no points raised.	
11. Chairman's Closing Remarks: JJ again gave his thanks to the Committee for their excellent support during these challenging times.	

Brian Brock
League Secretary
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In an obviously tricky year with COVID and an evolving administration/committee structure the committee have still made steps forward.

The main areas of interest have been:

1. The appointment of Dann Binns as CDO and activating 'Dan's plan' developing the North and South Regions. Reinforcing the organisation and focusing on Master's & Junior play, where we would like to see teams in most age groups playing in intercounty competition.
2. England Squash reviewing the ICC competition structure, post COVID.
3. The recognition of 'Wiltshire Squash' (WS) as a CIO, this will benefit county squash in the future.
4. The formation of Regional Box Leagues, North and South working within the England Squash COVID guidelines as part of 'Bounce Back' preparations.
5. The search for a 'Welfare Officer' crucial to junior squash and enhanced ES membership rebate.
6. The acquisition of development funds from the SRF.
7. The search for reliable county coaching staff and female head coach.

The area's requiring urgent action are:

1. **The WS League Restructure:** In order for the County League to bounce back with more teams, a wide range of clubs at less cost, consider:
 - a. 3-man teams
 - b. Reduced social requirements.
 - c. Development Leagues
 - d. Extra points for U19 & female players.
2. **A Financial Review, for 2021 season considering:**
 - a. Income: From SRF, League fees (3-man teams?), Championship fees, Affiliation fees.
 - b. Expenditure: Coaching, CDO, Website, Social Media, Prizes, Awards, etc.
3. **Website Development:** Brian Brock and Blue Frontier are undertaking a restructure of the WS website. It will be an outward facing, responsive website incorporating

membership, ranking lists, events calendar, PayPal payment system, league results and news. Blue Frontier provide, digital marketing, mobile apps and IT services.

Other Actions:

1. WS to refine eligibility rules for all competitive WS activities. This needs to work for teams from LA sports centres and Military Establishments as well as traditional clubs and encourage diversity, junior & female players. It might include bonus points for U19 and female players and automatic entry to Senior and Masters 'County Closed' competitions for all qualifying league players.
2. The regionalisation of our large county with Salisbury plain separating the main conurbations North/South will help competitive/development. The split is thought to be best from between Chippenham & Devizes (North) with Melksham, Trowbridge, Tidworth (South).

The aim is to 'bounce back' strongly with Increased competitive play, more league teams, better PR & social media – cumulating in successful league teams and stronger representation at inter county level.

**John Jeffrey
Chairman**



Wiltshire Squash Accounts Summary – 2019/20

The following commentary relates to the Wiltshire Squash accounts for the 2019-20 financial year. This is the first time the junior and senior accounts have been combined to give a full picture of the financial resources for the new Charitable organisation. The accounts have been prepared using the receipts and payments template prescribed by the Charity Commission and are shown in the table below.

Wiltshire Squash recorded a loss of £463 on income of £1,953 for the 2019-20 financial year. The loss is slightly reduced from the previous year's loss of £857. Income dropped by £6,155 from £8,108 to £1,953 with a corresponding decreased in expenditure of £6,550 from £8,965 to £2,415.

The large drop in income and expenditure is largely driven by a drop in junior coaching events funded by regional grants and coaching fees. Total income from junior coaching fell by £5,749 to £1,126 with a corresponding reduction in expenditure of £6,264 to £1,968. These programs are currently being revitalised as part of bounce back plan and aim to be self-financing in the medium term.

Other county events (junior county closed and senior events) made a small profit during the year.

League fees decreased again during the year from £770 to £455 as the second half of the season ended abruptly. Work is underway to restart competitive squash in a limited box league format and this will see some income return albeit Wiltshire Squash is required to underwrite a level of income to the venues.

Other than England Squash (ES) affiliation rebates (£226), there was no other income during the year.

Expenses of £356 was incurred on our Inter-County entrants at a senior level.

Wiltshire squash had a balance of £10,577 at the year-end but with no league income from the first half of the new season and uncertainties around back to squash activity, it is clear to me that we will need to invest in activities to stimulate a return to squash. This will include bidding for regional funding to enable this to happen particularly in the junior section.

A summary of income/expenditure is shown overleaf. The committee is asked to authorise the accounts for submission to the Charity Commission.

Ben Taylor
Treasurer

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts				
England Squash rebate	226	-	226	204
League Fees	455	-	455	770
Events	1,272	-	1,272	3,141
Grants	-	-	-	3,830
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	163
Total receipts	1,953	-	1,953	8,108
A3 Payments				
Inter county	356	-	356	36
Events	918	-	918	3,608
Admin	8	-	8	542
Coaching	1,134	-	1,134	4,720
Grants	-	-	-	60
Total payments	2,415	-	2,415	8,965
Net of receipts/(payments)	-	-	-	-
	463	-	463	857
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	11,040	-	11,040	-
Cash funds this year end	10,577	-	10,577	857

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Senior Treasurer account	7,765	-
	Wiltshire Juniors account	2,812	-
	Total cash funds	10,577	-

Wiltshire Squash League Secretary's Report 2019-2020

Winter League – 1st half

Diminishing numbers saw the first half start with just 13 teams and therefore 2 divisions. Five Rivers from Salisbury was a good addition to the leagues and although they could only play home matches on a Friday or Sunday, their games got played. Matches were played without any major issues and the first half finished with Defence Academy 1 winning division 1 and Devizes 1 winning division 2.

Winter League – 2nd half

Defence Academy 3 had to pull out due to lack of numbers so the leagues started with 2 divisions of 6 teams. Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic took hold, and the match schedule was unable to finish due to national lockdown. The leagues remained unfinished as team squash has not been permissible whilst restrictions remain in place.

Summer League

Unable to organise due to coronavirus.

Plan for recommencing competitive county squash

At the time of writing, Wiltshire Squash has attempted a bounce back plan for competitive squash and is organising a North/South County box league to be played at Wessex Squash club and Five Rivers Squash club which will comply with current guidelines on coronavirus restrictions.

**Nev Buckle
League Secretary**

Junior Chairman's Report 2020

This has proved to a challenging year with little activity owing to the disruption caused by the Corona Virus. That said, last year's County Closed was a well-attended event and proved to be a great success. Thank you to Wessex for hosting the event whilst Marlborough courts were waiting for refurbishment. The enlarged 5 Counties event at East Gloucestershire club showed a fantastic team effort from both Under 11s and Under 13s. There were strong performances throughout and at least one individual substantially outperforming the expectations of his club coach.

Looking ahead I am pleased to say our structure is looking much better. We have appointed Dan Binns as County Development Officer and starting to put in place Dan's vision for development of the county as a whole. We just need more centres to open to relieve the growing pressure on 5 Rivers and Wessex to get more juniors on court. We have a good pool of players across the county and now need to recruit additional willing coaches to the North and West. Nominations will be gratefully received.

It is unlikely we will see any competitive Inter County Action for the remainder of this year. As soon as restrictions allow, I will look to invite players to participate in a mini inter county festival. We will also look to participate in all England Squash County competitions and promote local competitions as and when they start to be introduced.

We have split the coaching set up to three levels to add much needed value to the county squads. Coach / Club level is what is on offer at the different clubs across the county. Academy squads are aimed to expose all juniors to regionalised training and then County Squads are the small group of players who will be invited to participate in training sessions with a view to being selected for the county teams.

At academy level, we have had one small group training session to date which was well received, and I am hopeful that our Northern Academy boxes will start next week.

One issue which has been detrimental to us has been communication. I am pleased to report that Brian Brock is now working with Blue Frontier to remedy issues with a hugely improved website and the ability to communicate much speedier with parents and players alike. Brian is also adding a much-needed electronic payment system to the website which will enable online registration for training and competitions.

Neil Marshman
Junior Chairman

County Development Officer 2019/20 AGM Report

Despite the COVID problems much has been put in place to try and effect not just an effective 'Bounce Back' but improved Wiltshire Squash (WS) development structure.

At junior level the coaching pathway is clear:

- 1. Club Coaching** – the most important step to success, fun activities, introducing the competitive element slowly.
- 2. Wiltshire Squash Academy** – a Wiltshire Squash county system to help club coaches improve players and introduce them to tactical competitive play with accent on sportsmanship.
- 3. County Squads** – for players who will represent the county in competition mostly with other counties.
- 4. Aspire** – regional squad training for players looking to play Junior Tournaments throughout the country.

A,B & C junior squads have been selected in both the North and South of the county and there is very good potential amongst our 60 county squad players. The first junior squads will be held on 31st Oct and 1st Nov.

I have published a 'Wiltshire County Development Plan' on the WS website, which outlines our Mission, the outcomes we can expect, and the strategy being put in place to achieve the desired results.

There is the nucleus of a junior squash committee in the North and South of the county which I hope will deliver the organisation behind competitions and events. This is crucial – we need a team to make this work and the more team members we have the more we can deliver.

To compliment the structure a coaching team has been established - DB, Calli Smith, Paul Clark, Andy May have made commitments and others are being approached to widen the net in terms of clubs and schools.

Much of the development work has been funded by the South Regional Forum (SRF) including a £1,100 .00 Seed fund already claimed and received by WS. Further funds are available to claim including £2,000 Year 3 funding that can be claimed retrospectively after activity and records added to ES App. If these details are recorded the funds will be used to support return of junior squash and County training. There is a potential total of £3,350 (as of 10/10/20) in funds to be claimed from the SRF.

It is imperative that WS finds a 'Welfare Officer' as soon as possible in order to claim further financial support in the form of the enhanced rebate from England Squash on

membership.

England Squash requirement for a league management system need to be addressed. (Speak to Hants re LMS, Bucks re CLubNet also need to involve Steve Jones at ES for compatibility).

I have been acting as the WS rep at the SRF with the aim of securing funding but also to build closer ties to other counties and clarify ES activity and development requirements. I have also been seconded to the 'South Squash Network' yet another new initiative which brings together CDO's across the country to discuss delivery of the ES National development strategy, Tim Vail (regional coach) and an ES representative attend these meetings.

The Chairman and I are canvassing Wilts County Council Cabinet officials in support of 5Rivers, Oasis Swindon, Croft and other public facilities regarding opening Squash courts currently still closed. In order to create opportunity for competitive layers to 'keep their eye in' I am working with the Chairman to establish Wilts Associate membership scheme in the South of the county and encourage the return of competitive squash at 5Rivers and other Sports Centres.

I will be working with Blue Frontier to help support the new website development and as part of my own PDP I am Part way through L3 coaching qualification.

As you can see from the list of actions as much groundwork as possible has been undertaken to put plans in place that will facilitate a strong 'Bounce back'. The aim is to create a road map for competitive squash at all levels for both male and female players of all ages.

Dan Binns
County Development Officer