

Wiltshire Squash
Annual General Meeting Minutes 19th September 2021
Venue: Wessex Squash Club



Present:	Role
Nick Hartley (NH)	Chairman
Nev Buckle (NB)	League Secretary
Ben Taylor (BT)	Treasurer
Neil Marshman (NM)	Junior Chairman
Dean Watkins (DW)	Wessex Squash Club Member / Co-opted Member
Julian Style (JS)	Croft Squash Club Representative
John Watkins (JohnW)	Wessex Squash Club Member
Josh Watkins (JoshW)	Wessex Squash Club Member
Chloe Marshman (CM)	Wessex Squash Club Member
Brian Brock (BB)	Secretary
Apologies:	None received

Item	Action
<p>1. Introduction. NH opened the meeting by thanking the attendees of the AGM for attending. NH was keen to move forward with developing a Wiltshire Squash (WS) recovery plan now that the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic impact had seemed to pass.</p> <p>2. The format for the Annual General Meeting has been amended due to the lack of participation over the last year due to COVID-19 restrictions. No reports will be presented from the following: League Secretary, County Representative Teams, Junior Chairman, or County Development Officer.</p>	
<p>3. Review of Minutes. The previous minutes were reviewed and there were no actions to address.</p> <p>4. DW proposed they be accepted, JoshW seconded. The committee approved the minutes unanimously.</p>	
<p>5. Chairman's Report. NH gave his report which is linked here. NH asked those attending for an update on the Counties Clubs. The following is a brief assessment as at Sep 21:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wessex – Good state, leagues and coaching active again. • Defence Academy – Okay hopefully allowing civilian members back soon. • Devizes – Have 2 teams in the league currently playing out of Springfield Leisure Club Corsham. • Army Andover – Cannot host from own club at present. Playing out of 5 Rivers in Salisbury. 	

Item	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marlborough – Back playing but with some limitations such as 9pm closing. • Croft – New Club established for the dislodged members of the Oasis Squash Club. Offering leagues and junior coaching, but under restricted opening times. 	
<p>6. Treasurer’s Report. BT gave his report which is linked here. NH reported that South Regional Forum was being dissolved and as a result WS would receive £3,649.18 from the share of the funds which is being shared equally with respective counties. There were no restrictions being placed on how these funds can be used.</p>	
<p>7. Appointment of Wiltshire Squash Officers. The Committee appointments were agreed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman – Nick Hartley – Proposed NM/Seconded BT • Treasurer – Ben Taylor– Proposed NH/Seconded JohnW • Secretary – Brian Brock – Proposed BT/Seconded NH • League Secretary – Nev Buckle Proposed JoshW /Seconded JohnW • Junior Chair – NM– Proposed NH/Seconded BB • Media – Josh Watkins – Proposed NB/Seconded BT <p>The following posts are vacant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice Chairman • Membership Secretary (post covered by Secretary) • Website (post covered by Secretary) • Tournaments • Welfare Officer 	
<p>8. Any Other Business. The following was raised:</p> <p>8.1. Liaison Between WS and Adjacent Counties / England Squash. NH wanted the Committee to consider how best to tackle the current communication issues between WS with the adjacent county’s committees and WS with England Squash due to a lack of a liaison role. The Committee were to make recommendations at the next Committee Meeting.</p> <p>8.2. Additional Funding Routes and Opportunities. NH requested BT and NM to detail all possible funding routes open to WS for discussion at the next Committee meeting.</p> <p>8.3. Junior Squash Programmes. NH tasked BB to find out what Dax Mellor’s plans are in relation to Junior Squash by the next Committee meeting.</p> <p>8.4. Interactive Squash. NH raised the idea of trying to introduce an Interactive Squash system at one of the Wiltshire Primary Clubs.</p>	<p>Committee</p> <p>BT/NM</p> <p>BB</p>

Item	Action
<p>This was discussed but was not considered further due to the high cost and lack of a suitable venue.</p>	
<p>8.5. Junior Squash Update. NM gave an update on the current state of junior squash in the county. At the time of the meeting NM thought there were only 4 clubs in the county with junior programmes 2 in the south of the county together with the Wessex and Croft in Swindon. NM stated that he needs to start a recruitment campaign to get more coaching support for the junior programme. NM would welcome any suggestions from the Committee to assist junior squash development.</p>	
<p>8.6. Ladies Squash. NM proposed that ladies squash participation could be improved. Ideas such as a ladies inter-county team and a ladies county closed event were discussed. It was agreed to discuss these ideas further at the next Committee meeting.</p>	Committee
<p>8.7. Winter League Fees. NB proposed that Winter League fees should be set at a “bounce-back” rate of £30 for the whole season to stimulate participation and assist clubs to start WS league activity again. After much discussion a counter proposal of £50 for the whole season was agreed.</p>	NB/BT
<p>8.8. Inter-County Competitions and Wiltshire Closed Event Support. NB raised the issue that the Committee needs support to administer and runs the Inter-County competitions and the WS Closed Events. DW very kindly agreed to support the Committee with these events and JoshW kindly agreed to assist.</p>	DW/JoshW
<p>8.9. Adoption of A Managed Hosting Platform For WS. BB detailed that he had been evaluating hosting platforms that could provide an integrated Squash management system and website in order to provide WS with a fully supported, professional platform to run WS activity. There are two leading platforms that provide the features required by WS. The platforms are Club Locker and SportyHQ. BB had evaluated and discounted Club Locker due to its lack of features and other concerns. Several clubs in the county are already using SportyHQ. SportyHQ has offered WS two competitively priced options. The first is the “Governing Body” solution which gives all the features required by the county the second is “Governing Body + All Associated Clubs”. The latter will allow any WS associated club to use all the club features for a significant cost reduction. The meeting agreed to continue with the evaluation of SportyHQ which will run out end February 2022. BB was tasked to see which county clubs would be interested in the associated club offer before the next Committee meeting.</p>	BB

Item	Action
9. Chairman's Closing Remarks: NH thanked those attending for supporting the Committee and its intent. NH wanted now to maintain momentum and push forward as quickly as possible with the ideas and plans to increase participation across the spectrum of activity from junior squash to county leagues.	

Brian Brock
Secretary
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Chairman's Report



This has been a difficult and frustrating year for all involved in Wilts Squash. COVID restrictions, lack of matches and competitions, committee changes and fitness challenges are just a few of the issues we have faced. Hopefully the remainder of the year will see some improvements.

It's great news that we can finally get back on court again (albeit in a limited fashion). Hopefully we are now well on the way to resuming a normal squash life again with our clubs and venues returning to being a key part of our sporting and social activity.

I would like to pass on the heartfelt thanks of all Wiltshire squash players to John Jeffrey who has stood down this year as Chairman of Wiltshire County Squash due to ill health, and we wish him all the best for the future and hope to see him back on court before too long. I would also like to thank Dan Binns and Dax Mellor for all their efforts over recent years and their contribution to the Wiltshire Squash community, as they also step down. Looking ahead, we are keen to appoint a new permanent Chairman to replace John Jeffrey and we will also be looking to replace Brian Brock and Dean Watkins who have given notice that they will also be standing down from the Wiltshire Squash Committee in the near future.

I would like to emphasise that it's really important to only open up your club for play when you are ready and you believe you are able to meet the requirements as set down by England Squash (<https://www.englandsquash.com/back-to-squash/guidance>). I am aware that some clubs are now open again from 17th May, as this is the date from which bubble-based competitive play could resume. Hopefully the 21st Jun will see restrictions ease further. Whatever date you are aiming at, it would be helpful if you could let me and the Wiltshire Squash Committee know what your plans are so we can start to plan ahead with leagues and events around the county.

Last year saw Wiltshire Squash achieve charitable status in Mar 20 which will ensure we can remain on a stable footing going forward. We are in a strong financial position and now need to focus on the best use of our resources to kick start squash across the county. We are all volunteers and as such we depend on the time, efforts and goodwill of all involved to make things happen and we will rely on this even more after such a long layoff and with so many activities and events to get restarted.

It's important to recognise that at the moment we are all just getting started again and there is still some uncertainty about the future. The emphasis at the moment is on the return of safe squash at all levels at all squash venues in the county. When conditions allow, we will start thinking about the resumption of inter club leagues as soon as possible which are at the centre of an active and thriving Wilts squash community. We will do our best to keep you informed on this and will work with you to agree a way forward.

We have also launched a new county association website to improve communication and information sharing and to engage new participants into the sport more easily along with a social media strategy that will complement the websites value.

Nick Hartley
Chairman



Wiltshire Squash Accounts Summary – 2020/21

The following commentary relates to the Wiltshire Squash accounts for the 2020/21 financial year. The accounts have been prepared using the receipts and payments template prescribed by the Charity Commission and are shown at appendix 1. The accounts cover all of Wiltshire Squash and include the previous junior and senior accounts in addition to the PayPal account set up during the year.

Wiltshire Squash recorded a gain of £344 on income of £2,263 for the 2020-21 financial year. The gain is an improvement on the previous year's loss of £463. However, this was not a normal year with many of the 'normal' income and expenditure items much reduced.

Income increased slightly from £1,953 to £2,263 with the majority (£1,750) arising from grants from the South Regional Forum to help 'relaunch' squash following Covid. There was no such income stream in the previous year. We did manage to play some squash, when permitted, and the newly opened PayPal account was used to collect fees for box leagues (£150) and coaching (£330). This worked well although did incur fees totalling £26.

Other than England Squash (ES) affiliation rebates (£32), there was no other income during the year.

Expenses of £1,919 were incurred. This related to development activity in relation to the bounce back plan (£1000), admin including work on the website (£259), court fees for the box leagues (£420) and coaching expenses (£240).

Wiltshire squash had a balance of £10,922 at the year-end and will need to think carefully about how we invest those reserves to get people back to playing squash along with developing the next generation of squash players.

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	33	-	33	226
League Fees	150	-	150	455
Events	-	-	-	1,272
Coaching	330	-	330	-
Grants	1,750	-	1,750	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	2,263	-	2,263	1,953
A3 Payments				
Inter county	-	-	-	356
Events	420	-	-	918
Admin	259	-	259	8
Coaching	240	-	660	1,134
Grants	-	-	-	-
Development Officer	1,000	-	1,000	-
Total payments	1,919	-	1,919	2,415
Net of receipts/(payments)	344	-	344	(463)
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	10,577	-	10,577	-
Cash funds this year end	10,922	-	10,922	-

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	8,129	-
	PayPal Account	480	-
	Wiltshire Juniors account	2,312	-
	Total cash funds	10,922	-