

## Sussex Squash Forum

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2010

10.00am – 1.00pm

### Brief Minutes

#### Attendance

Mike Harris – West Worthing  
Paul Fennell – ESR  
Dave Meagher – Bognor  
Mike Tonge – Crowborough

Giles Cowdell – Dunninges  
Oliver Pett – Christ Hospital  
Paul Butcher – Bognor  
Colin Flack – Copthorne

John Millard – Copthorne (ESR)  
Ben Hutton – Coral  
Graham Stevenson  
Alex Over – East Grinstead

#### Apologies

Malcolm Johnson (General Manager) & Kevin Higginson – Cooden  
Tony Cleary – Withdean/Brighton SC  
Sarah Naish – Weald  
Mick Sheeran  
Ian Wilson – Southdown Sports Club/Lewes  
Simon Tunley – Sussex Uni

#### No Replies

Chichester	Horsham	Storrington	Bexhill	Crawley (K2)
Arun	Dolphin	Burgess Hill	Middleton	Midhurst
Brighton Racquets (Falmer)		David Lloyd (Eastbourne)		

#### Introduction

MH – The purpose of the forum

- Apathy in the county
- How we can make changes together
- Create sustainable structured squash programme for Sussex

Attendees introduced themselves and informed the group as to their reasons on being at the meeting – All were keen to see their clubs develop and are looking for ideas on how to do this.

Graham Stevenson and many round the table were very angry about Chichester leaving the Sussex Junior and Adult Leagues adding they should only be allowed to play Hampshire League if they competed in the Sussex League. Colin Flack explained how players at Copthorne play in the Sussex league and play out of Horley Squash Club in the Surrey League.

MH – To create a programme we need examples of good practice. Though Coral's is a successful club, things that are happening at Coral's might not work at a smaller 3 court club and vice versa.

So it is important that we put together a Structured Pathway for all clubs that shows the link from school to representing your county.

MH – Challenged the group by saying why can we get 1000 juniors trying squash at clubs within in a year!!!!

MH – I have a goal to get 200 players to try squash at West Worthing in the next year.

### Mike Harris 200 player Programme at West Worthing

Created links with Jon Mills (West SSSP) & Mike Fisher (Worthing Sports Development)  
Sports Unlimited – 32 children (10 week programme £1 a week funded by Worthing Council)  
Durrington Youth Project – 40 Children (7- 12 years) (Free session) (Parent Participation on one court)  
Sports Unlimited – Course 2 & 3 (2 x 10 week programmes - 32 children - £1 a week funded by Worthing Council)  
More to do!!!!

### **IDEAS FROM FORUM**

Squash Festivals / Roadshows – Bognor  
Carnivals – Lions Club Days / Parks – Mini Squash Walls – Coral's (**Any funding to purchase Mini Walls**)?  
Getting into School's – All  
Creating Links School Sports Partnerships / Council SDO's – MH  
Inter - Schools Competition Programme  
Developing Girls and Women's Squash – Fiona Western  
Girls only Classes aimed at 7 – 9 year olds - MH

### **Schools Programme Idea**

School Assembly (15-20mins – Interactive Demo) ESR DVD, Children Hitting Targets, etc.....  
School PE Class (Half or Full Day in School)  
Free Open Day  
4-6 - Squash Course (Numbers depending on courts, time etc.....)  
Squash Festival (Last Week of Course)

MH- There is a need for us all to learn how to deliver this type of schools programme, I certainly need to learn!!!! MH – asked John Millard to help teach us.

Mike Tonge – Explained how difficult it was getting squash into schools.

Paul Fennell – Explained that the reason we have had difficulty getting into schools was that we have to go through the County Sports Partnership (Active Sussex)  
CSP's have 4 regional Sussex School Sport Partnerships within Sussex  
West            East            Crawley            Bexhill  
John Millard has contacts for these and will pas these to MH

PF - No Sport can access primary schools without going through CSP's but is very happy to speak with contact (Sally Harper) at Sussex CSP and set up meeting with MH and J.Millard to create link.

The Forum was very excited at the prospect of an Inter School Competition and felt this was really important area to explore.

### **Funding**

MH – Explained there is possible funding through Sussex Squash / ESR / CSP / Councils.  
PF – Explained the possible funding and help accessing funding through ESR and other external sources

MH – Explained to group that clubs maybe able to access funding but each club must show that they have a structure in place but that we would help them to develop their club.

MH – Also explained this is not a quick process and that going through the right processes may take 6 months before we can even get into the schools.

### **After The Break**

Dave Meagher – Bognor, felt that it was important that we should treat this forum and our goals like a business. Not to rush but to take our time, 3 years to see the first signs of growth. The forum fully agreed. PF & MH – Added that each club should initially only work with 1 or 2 schools and not over commit themselves and the club.

### **MH - County Development Idea Document - Main points**

- a) Coach Education – Either GS, BH, MH or guest coach to come in and run a coach workshop to coincide with the forums. Coach to be paid for time. Cost to be discussed???
- b) Coaches were offered an open invitation to learn and assist at all Sussex Junior Squads
- c) Sussex Junior Closed - A need to increase participation with a goal to have 100 players competing
- d) Sussex Grand Prix Events – Series of graded events held all over Sussex Clubs for juniors including A Grade (County Players) B Grade (County Squad Players) C Grade (Non County Squad Players)
- e) Sussex Junior Squads – BH discussed the Sussex Open Days and increasing the number of players attending Squads.
- f) Sussex Representative Honours – BH explained that he would like to see separate Sussex Kit being given to players representing Sussex instead of the same shirt being given to all squad players. Representative players would then stand out with a hope in encouraging the players below to strive for this accolade.
- g) Sussex Junior Leagues – Everyone was delighted with the format of the Sussex Junior League, though all would like to see an increase in the number of players and teams competing
- h) Sussex Junior Team Cup – Team Club Event to be developed
- i) MH - Example Club Programme

### **Other Comments**

- Graham Stevenson asked that MH get paid for his time and be given a title within Sussex Squash
- Sussex L1 Coaching Course – Discussed
- Colin Flack – Worried about being able to develop Copthorne (LA Fitness) due to membership and access issues.....long term talk about may having to move across to K2 Crawley.
- Clubs that did not attend should be encouraged to attend meetings, minutes to be sent to all clubs and it was felt that a personal approach should be made to these clubs to discuss what the forum is trying to achieve.
- Brighton Squash Club / Withdean looking for a coach to run sessions (MH spoke with Nicky Salmon Brighton SDO)
- MH – We have only discussed Junior Development but we have to address our adult development, Racketball, Doubles etc.....

### **Actions**

MH – To create a pathway to be agreed at next meeting  
PF to arrange a meeting with CSP (MH & JM to attend)

### **Goals**

Create Structured Pathway  
Set up Inter School Competition Programme

**Date of Next Meeting – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September 4.00pm Sussex Junior Closed Championships**  
**Venue – Coral Health & Fitness**