

**Minutes Sussex Squash and Racketball Committee Meeting held at the Weald SC on
Tuesday 13th March 2012 at 7.30PM**

Attendees

Chris Markham(CM), Mike Tonge (MT) Chair, Karl Manning (KM) Fiona Western(FW) and Simon Tunley (ST)

Apologise

Mick Sheeran (MS), Paul Millman (PM) Paul Fennell ESR (PF), Graham Stevenson (GS) and Ian Robinson (IR)

	Action
<p>1. <u>Matters Arising from minutes of last meeting 6th December 2011</u></p> <p>Key matters arising from last minutes are discussed below</p> <p>2. <u>Website</u> KM produced a comprehensive paper (See appendix A) which covered some of the key issues raised in the December minutes and also recent updates/issues. Key points are that Southampton University are buying the system to run their internal leagues, however Berkshire have decided to have further consultation with their members before looking to purchase.</p> <p>County closed see feedback in Appendix A. Looking to run a pilot event in the summer and it was agreed we would when running the main event need to agree a finals venue and a TD for the day. KM to confirm when ready to go</p> <p>ESR numbers and interfacing with our system to verify membership numbers is still being looked at and ESR are stating there will be a cost attached, which they presume we would cover. KM is waiting for further feedback on this as feeling is the interface will be of huge benefit to ESR and therefore they should cover the cost.</p> <p>KM mentioned he was still getting a lot of emails in regards matches not being played especially in the junior and racketball leagues. He also stated that he felt clubs were not updating the contact details for the fixture secretaries as a lot of information is incorrect with some clubs i.e. the nights they normally play their home games. He suggested wiping clubs information to try and encourage them to re-input the correct data. KM to confirm.</p>	<p>KM</p> <p>KM</p> <p>KM</p>
<p>3. <u>Senior and Junior County Closed Events</u></p> <p>Junior event would run as normal and it is hoped Corals would host again and Ben Hutton run if happy. The senior event would be run as discussed in December minutes and Appendix A below.</p>	
<p>4. <u>Development Plans -Focus clubs.</u></p> <p>MT stated developments have slowed due to pressure of other commitments and John Millard having to take time out from work, with his wife being very ill. MT states general feedback from clubs is that they are keen to get more ladies and juniors playing. CM mentioned one of the biggest issues is that there seems to be limited coaches available to run initiatives in clubs or leisure centres. A discussion was had on trying to draw up a database of coaches and there locations to see if we can try and provide clubs with more options in the future. MT/ST agreed to look at.</p>	<p>MT/ST</p>

	Action
<p>5. <u>Insurance</u></p> <p>CM raised the question on whether we should continue to pay an insurance premium for the trophies the county owned. He has not paid it this year as was not really clear if required. A discussions was had on what trophies the county owned and their potential value. ST agreed to speak to Ben Hutton to try and find out who had the county closed individual trophies and also there is a need to get the history off them just in case they do get lost. CM agreed to help collate the history when trophies located.</p> <p>CM also raised the issues of who covers the players if injured while playing local league matches; it was felt clubs should have their own public liability insurance although not clear if this covered someone getting hit by a racket etc. It was agreed that we should get the thoughts of ESR on this.</p>	<p>ST</p> <p>CM</p> <p>PM</p>
<p>6. <u>British Open Qualifiers</u></p> <p>PM could not make the meeting tonight but provided feedback via an email (see Appendix B below). MT confirmed the content of the email but stated we needed to encourage more entries and agree who on the committee could help. We need to agree who does what and to finalise who will TD the event as it is an important job. There was a question on qualified markers and who was around in Sussex to help, plus also a discussion was had on who confirms eligibility to play i.e. relevant standard.</p>	<p>PM</p>
<p>7. <u>Treasurer's Report</u></p> <p>CM confirmed the accounts are looking very healthy, although there is still some expenditure for county teams to come and there is still money to pay out on the development side of around £1000. CM unsure where we are at in regards the junior accounts. MT agreed to speak to Vanessa Prosser to get an update. A discussion was had on junior fees as there had been some feedback from parents and it was agreed they should not be raised. There was also a question asked about why the accounts could not be merged in the future and CM agreed this might make sense and maybe something to review at the end of the season.</p> <p>CM raised the issue of corporation tax and whether we should pay it as he was unsure why and he had not paid it as yet even though cutoff date to pay was the 1st March. Last year we paid around £21. He stated the process to calculate was very time consuming and difficult, now it was done online; he had sort advice from an accountant friend, who may charge for his services. CM feels there might be a penalty as not paid on time but this still needs to be confirmed. CM to feedback at the next meeting.</p>	<p>MT</p> <p>CM</p>
<p>8. <u>Leagues inc Juniors</u></p> <p>FW confirmed women's league is going ok although need to re-look at the east and west options as fewer teams in the west. Knock out cups went well.</p> <p>CM stated men's league on track although needs to make a decision in regards a dispute regarding a team not turning up on time to play their home fixture.</p> <p>MT was happy with the way the racketball league has gone although was taking a relaxed attitude to delayed fixtures but confirmed all fixtures should be completed by the end of the season.</p>	

9. England Squash and Racketball (ESR)

Discussion was had on the recent letter sent by ESR on membership proposals and the fact they will shelve the plans to change affiliation by clubs

10. AOB

County Teams

FW confirmed the ladies team had done well and have stayed in division 1 for next season and she had got a good squad of players to now select from. FW keen to get the 0'40 budget confirmed as felt maybe not enough to cover the teams expensive. Boys U15 reached the final of the national championships and congratulations must go to the players and coach for their success with what was a young team.

The committee agree it would be a nice gesture to send a condolence card to John Millard following the recent death of his wife. FW agreed to do.

Date of next meeting

At the Weald Lawn Tennis and Squash Club at 7.30 on Tuesday 12th June 2012

TBC

Fixture Meeting proposed date 31st May 2012 7.30pm Triangle. AGM proposed date 12th July 2012 7.00pm at the Triangle. CM to confirm and book. **TBC**

FW

ST/PM

CM/PM

Summary of Action points

Simon

1. To speak to Ben Hutton about who has the county closed trophies
2. To agree date and book Weald Sc for the next committee Meeting
3. To try and draw up a list of Sussex coaches with the help of MT

Karl

1. To finalise when system is ready to roll out the pilot for the senior county closed

2. To try and resolve interface issues with ESR
3. To look at updating the LMIS to get all clubs to input their up to date contact information and their correct match nights

Mike Tonge

1. To help ST draw up a coaches database
2. To speak to Vanessa about producing final accounts for the juniors

Paul Millman

1. PM to facilitate the British open event at the K2 and confirm the support needed by the committee/ESR/K2/Crawley SC.
2. To check where we stand in regards player insurance with ESR
3. To agree dates for the next committee meeting and also the fixture meeting/AGM

Chris Markham

1. To collate history off trophies in case they ever get lost
2. To confirm whether we need to pay corporation tax
3. To agree dates and venue for the fixture meeting/AGM

Fiona Western

1. To send condolence card to John Millard

Appendix A

LMS Update – Mar 2012

Closed Tournament Proposal

Although the basis of a system has been developed it was not available in time to run a tournament during this season. The system at present allows entries to be made, which are paid for through Google Checkout. A player matching module is in place which matches players based on their ES Grading Points and the distance between the players clubs, although this still requires some work.

I would like to propose a summer knockout tournament to trial the system. This would be split East and West with a finals date at a central club. Open to discussion?

Southampton University

Discussions have continued and I met with Ben Rickaby and Helen Stone at Southampton University on 29th February. The meeting was positive and they have since confirmed that they will take the system. A live date of 1st May has been proposed. This will be for 16 sports, possible more, each one being a separate section on the system. For the initial implementation results will be entered at the team level only, there will be no player information on the system.

Berkshire Squash

Berkshire have decided not to take the LMS at this time. This will be discussed further with the clubs at their AGM in June. My hope is that proposed extensions to the system for club internal leagues and closed knockouts will make the system more attractive to them at that time.

England Squash Registration Numbers

I have been liaising with Steve Jones at England Squash via Paul Fennel for an interface between the LMS and their online registration system to verify membership numbers. Progress has been made and the current situation is that their website designers have quoted 4 man hours to provide the interface we need. I see no reason why Sussex should be expected to fund this project but Steve is going to raise the subject at a meeting later this week.

Data Protection

As discussed at the last meeting I have registered both my own company and the SSRA for data protection because of the increasing level of personal data help within the LMS.

KJM – 13/03/12

Appendix B

British Open Qualifier K2

In advance of the meeting tomorrow I thought I should report that Mike Tonge and I had a very productive meeting at K2 with Andrew Watts and his team this morning. Mike will provide you with a verbal de-brief and action requirements tomorrow night but I thought it might be helpful to outline these ahead of the meeting.

Event format/Entries.

Mens and womens - if possible 32 draw for men/16 for women. If these numbers are achieved then the event would run on Friday/Saturday and Sunday. Closing date for entries is 30th March and it becomes a priority for us to chase entries between now and then to make sure we have a good event. Some SSR top league players will be "concerned" about entering and will need encouragement. Entries can be made by ESR website. A plate event will be run if there is sufficient demand. I will get in touch with Surrey and Hampshire in order to try and get entries from these two counties. Freedom Leisure (courtesy of Chris Markham) have cordoned off all the courts for the duration of the event and will take the entry fee revenue as a contribution to the court charges.

Officiating

K2 (andrew Watts) has agreed to provide a Tournament Director and ESR will be providing a certain amount of refereeing/marking support. Losing players will be expected to mark matches but there will be a shortfall at the start of the sessions on Friday and Saturday. We will need to consider how to fill this gap. There will also need to constant attendance from SSRA to lend a hand throughout the weekend. May I suggest we agree a shift system between us. ESR will have personnel present throughout.

Spectators/support events/publicity

K2 are considering how best to attract a good spectator attendance at the event. A modest charge is being considered to watch the event and once this has been established we will need to get the word out to clubs in the county. A series of support programmes for the event are to be evolved between SSRA/K2 which might include a refereeing and marking seminar - junior coaching for Sussex Junior League teams etc etc. Mike Tonge and Andrew Watts will liaise over the final format for these but an input from SSRA will be needed to make sure these programmes work well.

Publicity posters are now widely available and we need to make sure all the clubs in Sussex have these displayed. Andrew Watts will do all he can to generate local publicity in the Crawley area.

Please feel free to raise any queries you may have with Mike tomorrow night. I anticipate having further meetings with the K2 team as the event gets nearer and needless to say I hope that between us we can make a real success of the concept.