

Minutes Sussex Squash and Racketball AGM held at the Triangle Leisure Centre, Burgess Hill on Thursday 10th July 2014 at 7.30pm

Attendees

Paul Millman (Chair), Simon Tunley (Sec. University of Sussex), Chris Markham (Mens Fixture Secretary/Treasurer Dolphin SC), Mick Sheeran (Junior Fixture Secretary), Karl Manning (Web Manager LA Gatwick SC), Andy Norris and Heather Roberts (EG), James Norman (Horsham), Neil Monnery (Burgess Hill), D Usher (Midhurst), Fiona Western (Dunnings SC), Tony Fiveash (Bluecoats Horsham), Peter Dawson (Bluecoats Horsham), Fraser Williams (Brighton SC), Aaron Parkins and Mike Farell (David Lloyd), Bill Jefferies (Lewes), David Snelson (West Area Rep), Mike Phillips (Chichester SC), Sarah Naish (Weald), Keith Waters (Corals), Mike Van Der Weyden and Paul Kearsley (Storrington), Andrew Watts and Gerry Gatford (Crawley), Neil Monnery (Burgess Hill), Patrick Hodson (Bognor), Richard Laine and Kim Long (Arun), James Harvey (West Worthing)

Apologise

Camron Malik (Development Officer), Jade Weston (Ladies League Secretary)

	Action
<p>1. <u>Matters Arising from previous minutes of last meeting 11th July 2013</u></p>	
<p>Minutes accepted.</p>	
<p>2. <u>County Closed</u></p>	
<p>ST Confirmed the junior county closed will run again at Corals SC by Ben Hutton dates yet to be confirmed but likely to be in September. KM confirmed that the senior county closed had to be cancelled this year as only had fourteen entries compared to twenty eight the previous year. There is a need to rethink options and ideas. Dave Snelson (DS) believed the only effective way of the event happening was to source a sponsor and attract the best players in the county to play and host it over a weekend. Discussions were then had on whether it should be graded or include age groups and most agreed there needed to be opportunities for the club player. PM thanked all for their feedback and agreed this needed to be discussed in more detail by the committee at their next meeting.</p>	Committee
<p>3. <u>Men's, Ladies and Junior Leagues</u></p>	
<p>CM confirmed the men's leagues had two additional teams for 14/15 although Lancing have withdrawn from the league. In total there are 80 men's teams entered for 2014/15. CM confirmed there were a number of teams that had yet to pay their league fees and he would chase as they must be paid by the start of the season. Winners of the men's leagues in 2013/14 were: Premier Division Corals 1; Division 1 East Grinstead; Division 2E Corals 5; Division 2W Middleton 2; Division 3E Crowborough 1; Division 3W West Worthing 4; Division 4E Dolphin 4; Division 4W Chichester 2 and Division 5E Corals 8.</p>	CM
<p>Winners of the ladies leagues in 2013/14 were: Division 1 Corals 1; Division 2 Corals 2 and the knock out cup West Worthing 1.</p>	
<p>Jade Weston is to take over the running of the ladies leagues from Fiona Western. Our thanks and gratitude must go to Fiona Western for all her hard</p>	

<p>work over the last few years.</p> <p>Junior leagues see appendix 2 for AGM minutes. Key aspect was trying to engage more parents to be involved in running teams. Twenty five teams have entered this year which is a drop on previous seasons.</p> <p>PM thanked Fiona, Chris and Mick for their hard work over the season</p> <p>4. <u>Rule Changes</u></p> <p>See appendix 1</p>	
<p>5. <u>Election of Committee for 2014/15</u></p> <p>Those nominated were re-elected. We are keen to try and recruit volunteers from the East of the region as it this area where there is limited activity squash wise. Hannah Wright Davies will take over the running of the senior ladies county team.</p> <p>6. <u>Squash Development</u></p> <p>PM gave an update on the national trends for squash and highlighted that around 480,000 people played the game last year although this was a drop of 75,000 on previous years. According to Sport England squash was one of the worst performing sports and as a result ESR has had its funding cut by £200k a year for the next three years.</p> <p>PM confirmed at a county level clubs in Sussex were not developing themselves and there was a very patchy picture in regards clubs trying to generate more activity in their clubs. Sussex via Chris Vine a consultant has carried out an audit of seven Sussex clubs to gauge activity. Clubs need to set target's and demonstrate change and upward movement if we are to get Sport England onside again in the future. The key is formulating a participation programme.</p> <p>Brighton SC spoke of positive change through setting up its junior club this year and was hoping to develop the club further next season.</p> <p>A discussion was had on whether we should look to develop a social or development league to sit under the present league structure which could include players of a lower standard or junior players, as many of those playing squash are not confident enough to play at league level yet. Dave Snelson said he would be keen to enter an 8th team and wondered if other teams might drop down to this league. CM agreed to canvas clubs on their thoughts on this.</p> <p>PM reiterated that if we are to source any funding from ESR we need to have a structured approach to increasing participation going forward.</p> <p>PM went on to say that coaching was an area of contention in the county as not enough coaches were available to do outreach type work and seemed to work within their comfort zones. PM asked of those clubs present who was lacking coach support. Littlehampton, East Grinstead, Weald and Dolphin all confirmed they would like access to a coach. PM agreed to contact those clubs not in attendance to find out coaching need as it is believed that having a coach in place does tend to be the key to generating activity.</p>	<p>PM</p>

7. AOB

ST mentioned the ESR initiative called the Big Hit which was trying to encourage clubs to advertise opportunities to play in their clubs especially with the fact squash will have great exposure during the commonwealth games, there is hope for the Wimbledon effect.

CM mentioned there is a plan to look at doubles leagues Copethorne and West Worthing were keen to be involved. He also confirmed that the racketball league was going well and ten teams had entered for the summer league.

ST mentioned there is the option to enter an 040 men's racketball team if we so wished but needed to source a captain

Meeting closed at 8.00pm

Summary of Action points from meeting

Committee

1. To finalise the county closed format

Paul Millman

1. To canvas clubs about coaching need

Chris Markham

1. To chase up clubs that need to pay league fees

Entry Forms & Payment

Please ensure that payments are received prior to the AGM / Fixture Meeting on 11th July – it is a condition of the league that you are paid up by then. If your club needs an invoice and you have yet to receive one from me, please let me know as soon as possible. We are also still waiting for entry forms from **Arun LC**, **Brighton Rackets** & **David Lloyd**.

League Format 2014/15

It was good to see that we had 6 new teams entering the leagues this coming season. Unfortunately we lost 4 teams too, and most disappointingly we lost a club, with Lancing no longer able to pull a team together.

There was a complex discussion over the format of the leagues. The initial format had a Division 1 containing 12 teams, which all at the meeting decided was too many. Other formats were considered; splitting Division 1 into East/West and also adding in a 'Central' division, but it was voted upon to stick to the current format and reduce the number of teams in Division 1. This resulted in Lewes 1 remaining in Division 2 East and East Grinstead 1, who won Division 1 last season, being promoted to the Premier Division.

The final structure arrived at is attached.

Dates for Fixture Generation

A full discussion was held about the process that clubs needed to undertake prior to the generation of fixtures. Karl will then complete the fixture generation process and all clubs would be contacted once the final version was available – target date of Tuesday 1st July. This would then give clubs plenty of time to view them prior to the **AGM / Fixture Meeting on 10th July**.

Rule Amendments

There were a number of discussions about various elements of the rules as follows:

Ranking Lists / String Swaps – it was agreed that the line relating to the last day of March in **Rule 11.4** could be removed. It was agreed that **Rule 11.7** should add a 3rd element covering matches where a club had more than one team playing on the same day. This would mean that all of the players playing in the higher numbered team must be ranked above the players playing in the lower numbered team. This is particularly relevant when 2 teams from the same club play against each other.

Result entry onto the website – after a brief discussion it was agreed that results must now be entered online within 7 days of the match rather than the previous 14 – **Rule 8.3** to be amended.

Unranked players – it was clarified that anyone playing as an unranked player for a club, must still have an ESR number on the system and that clubs must add this player in a timely fashion after the match if they have not been added previously – see **Rule 11.6**.

Match Cards – all clubs were reminded of the importance of completing match cards after matches and not just relying on the home team to guess the names from the scoring sheets from

the matches! A completed and signed match card is the only way that an Away side can formally challenge the result entered on the website by the home side!!

All clubs were again reminded of the importance of being on time to start matches – increasingly this particularly applies to the home side! Food is provided by all clubs after matches (other than Brighton Rackets) and it is therefore expected that the team will stay afterwards to make proper use of this – if you are not staying, please ensure that you inform the home side as early as possible to avoid food being wasted.

All clubs were congratulated on the fact that there were very few requests for match rearrangement outside of the permitted reasons last season – long may it continue!

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

RACKETBALL LEAGUE – THE LEAGUE IS RUNNING AGAIN THIS SUMMER WITH 10 TEAMS FROM 6 CLUBS INVOLVED. IF YOUR CLUB IS INTERESTED IN PLAYING NEXT SUMMER PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS MARKHAM.

COUNTY CLOSED TOURNAMENT – CLUBS WERE ADVISED THAT THIS TOURNAMENT HAD NOT TAKEN PLACE LAST SEASON DUE TO A LACK OF ENTRIES. CLUBS WERE ASKED TO CANVAS THEIR CLUBS ON WHETHER THIS TOURNAMENT IS OF INTEREST TO THEIR PLAYERS. THE COMMITTEE WILL NOT CONTINUE TO TRY AND RUN THIS COMPETITION IF NO-ONE IS ACTUALLY INTERESTED IN PLAYING IN IT!!

Doubles League – clubs were requested to enquire amongst their members as to whether there would be any interest in setting up a doubles league.

AGM / Fixtures Meeting – Thursday 10th July, 7.30pm @ The Triangle

ATTENDANCE SHEET

Clubs with a representative at the meeting:

- Arun LC – Richard Laine
- Bluecoat Sports Horsham – Piers Chadwick / Peter Dawson / Tony Fiveash
- Brighton – Fraser Williams
- Burgess Hill – Neil Monnery
- Copthorne SC – Karl Manning
- Corals – Keith Waters
- Crawley SC – Andrew Watts
- Dolphin – Chris Markham
- Dunnings S&RC – Stuart North
- East Grinstead – Roger Bean
- Horsham – James Norman
- Lewes – Bill Jeffries
- Littlehampton – Ali Lewis
- Midhurst Grange – Paul Fairminer
- Storrington – Paul Kearsley
- Weald – Trevor Morgan
- West Worthing – Jade Weston / Pete Williams

Non-attendees

- Bognor
- Brighton Rackets
- Chichester
- Cooden
- Crowborough
- David Lloyd
- Middleton
- University Squash

Junior League AGM July 2014

Attendees

Mick Sheeran (MS) - Junior League Organise
Lynn Edwards (LE)- Dunnings Junior Rep
Paul Sanders (PS)- Crawley Junior Rep
Andrew Watts (AW)- Crawley Squash Club Chairman
Dave Snelson (DS)- West Worthing Junior Rep

1. Review of Season

MS thanked the Junior Reps for all the efforts running their Junior teams last season, without their commitment the leagues would just not happen.

In recent seasons it seems to be a struggle to get additional parents to commit and help run teams, so your enthusiasm is greatly appreciated.

PS said they struggled with the LMS system during the season. When a Crawley member had to step in and cover for PS during the season he found that when one team within a club falls behind with entering its results then LMS locks the whole club out from entering results.

It was asked could LMS not be adapted to just lock the one team out from that club instead of the whole club.

MS to investigate if this is possible with the LMS owner.

MS also stressed rather than struggle with issues with LMS during the season please email him the current problem, as he does have admin rights to go in and overwrite certain issues.

2. Fixed or re-Arranging.

Each of the attendees felt the league should strive to keep fixed match dates as the preferred option. But to add a degree of flexibility LE suggested to have a NO GO DATES period for each half of the season, all thought this was an excellent idea.

NO GO DATES

First half of season - All teams to supply no go dates by 7th September 2014

Second half of season - All teams to supply no go dates by 31st December 2014

3. Games per season - are there enough ?

Last season we had a number of divisions with only 4 teams meaning only 6 matches played, all felt this was not enough.

The general feeling of the meeting was that 8 to 10 matches was the ideal number per season.

Depending on the final number of teams entering and the number of divisions this generates for next season, any division that only has 4 teams (6 matches) then

these divisions would play each other 3 times giving a total of 9 matches.

4. Tri Matches Div 5 (U13) and (U11)

All agreed that to keep an U11 divisions for the younger players was the still the best option.

But felt the U13 rule was hampering more teams than helping them. At times they struggled to get a team out due to U13 restriction.

So it was agreed to remove the U13 division and make it ranked ability as in the higher divisions.

5 Confirmation of teams.

All clubs to provide their final number of teams by the 15th August.

6. Team Registration Fees

Fees to remain at £20 per team.

7. Promotion/Relegation issues.

MS to evaluate teams strengths with input from the various clubs and after final numbers on 15th August to complete the promotion/relegations places.

8. AOB

MS reminded all to try and play as many squad players as possible, e.g please don't use the same 2 players across three teams as an easy option of getting a team out.
Let's encourage the lower ranked players to step up and play.

- Refreshments - MS reminded all that minimum requirement is Bag of Crisps, drink and a choc bar or biscuit,
- MS to re-issue updated rules for 2013-14
- MS to send out new contact list of Junior Reps.
- DS discussed the opportunity of 2 local schools in the WW area entering the Junior League. DS will talk further with these schools and confirm back to MS.

Appendix 3.

Development Feedback