

Minutes Sussex Squash and Racketball Committee Meeting
Tuesday 20th February 2024 at 7.30PM Zoom Meeting

Attendees

Simon Tunley (ST), Karl Manning (KM), Joe Isherwood (JI), Stephen Holliday (SH), Chris Markam (CM), Benetta Adamson (BA) Chris Vine (CV) and Helen Perris (HP)

	Action
<p>1. <u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Paul Millman</p> <p><u>2 & 3 Matters Arising from minutes of last meeting 24th October 2023</u></p> <p>Minutes accepted and agreed. ST to chase LW on the outstanding fees owed as not received. CM to speak again with Julian to see if still keen to run the mens leagues and also to finalise with HP the treasurers role and the handover. CM mentioned there is a need to change bank account and he has now made contact on this and thinks makes sense he organises before handing over.</p> <p>4 <u>Update on Senior and Junior leagues for 2023/24</u></p> <p>CM stated all ok so far with leagues and Hove Fitness managed to sort out their home fixtures with closure of their club. There have been more rearrangements than expected and CM ageing on a case by case basis. JI stated Hove Fitness not as strong as previously and there have been issues with abuse of ranking system especially in the lower leagues. CM confirmed very hard to find a solution for this. SH stated women's league has seven teams up from four last year. Midhurst may enter a team next season. HP confirms enjoyable although there is a variation in standard depending on the club and would be good to get a broader range of players in the future. SH discussed the junior leagues and he has resurrected LW leagues format from last year and booked in dates for fixtures to take place. There is an east and west fixture this weekend. The focus is on kids that do not play tournaments and therefore it has been trickier to get players however need to focus on these players are they are the feeders to the county squads. JI has mentioned about copper and bronze events and HP stated we have more scope now to look to run in Sussex and confirmed that Surrey host a lot. JI questioned how many juniors there are out there and HP/SH stated this is a focus and presently looking to target clubs to set up junior sessions where is limited or no activity.</p> <p>5 <u>Update on Sussex Development Roles and actions</u></p> <p>HP and SH Produced paper see appendix 1. Summary of where the development team are at, trying to create a database of coaches, clubs and members. JI mentioned link with Freedom Leisure needs improving. SH states he has experience of working with them. JI mentioned perhaps we need to go in as Sussex squash to deliver sessions as FL more likely to buy into this. The issue we need to get around is getting more coaches</p>	<p>ST CM</p>

<p>established so we can go into clubs. ST stated we will look to speak with FL and try and set up an agreement on potential ways to deliver junior squash at reasonable rates in their Brighton centres. SH confirmed coaches were still an issue although there are some green shoots in various clubs. Benetta mentioned about speaking with Active Sussex about funding and support and HP mentioned there is a Gatwick trust fund we could draw down on. HP has looked at the application for funding and deadline is the end of April so there is scope to look at. ST agreed to contact Active Sussex to discuss opportunities and HP/SH to look at application for the Gatwick Trust. CM mentioned the transferability of the DBS and whether ES would be happy to look into. ST suggested we could reach out to clubs to find out if we can supports coaches to get their DBS. JI offered to match fund those that needed DBS updated SH/HP to look at candidates. JI stated about us match funding some players to get their level 1 online however there has to be a guarantee that they work back agreed hours if we did fund.</p>	<p>ST SH/HP SH/HP ST SH/HP</p>
<p>6 <u>Sussex Junior County Squads Updates/Role of Welfare Officer</u></p> <p>HP confirm numbers were much better and we now had consistent squads although lead coaches were hard to source. County teams have done ok although having issues with Boys U19 commitment so pulling the team.</p>	
<p>7 <u>Thinking and confirmation of replacement for Chris's roles</u></p> <p>CM to speak with Julian and Helen on the roles and look to handover</p>	<p>CM</p>
<p>8 <u>Treasurers Report and budget Update</u></p> <p>CM stated Levy has supported the development side. Still waiting on ES squash rebate and still have no costs for the county teams. Junior accounts are almost breakeven and development pot looking healthy and can help cover costs of the development role as junior accounts have been supporting it up to now.</p>	
<p>9 <u>Website Updates</u></p> <p>ST asked KM if he could help reset the social media email and will send the email address to him. CM confirmed he would cancel our Zoom account</p>	<p>ST/KM CM</p>
<p>10 <u>County Team Matters</u></p> <p>JI asked if he can stream the senior county mens matches and ST agreed to work on Noah to lead the team and provide the information for JI.</p>	<p>ST</p>
<p>11 <u>England Squash Matters</u></p> <p>CV says there are a lot of discussions around coaching and development and a system for coaching in the country. At present there is a lot of consulatation with the country on trying to find out how to improve the coaching offer. CV stated happy to invite people to the group if anyone interested.</p>	

<p>12 AOB</p> <p>Benetta confirmed she will catch up with HP/SH and also keen to receive updates on what communication mediums we use presently ST to send around. Benetta said we should do some publicity on the social side. JI stated entries going out on series events in the coming weeks being held at the university, Southdown Club and the Weald. CV mentioned worth looking at ES website to see what they can offer and look at a Sussex Strategy.</p> <p>ST book the next meeting for the 14th May 2024</p>	<p>ST</p>
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Summary of Action points

Simon Tunley

1. To chase LW on outstanding fees from last season
2. Book next meeting in May via Zoom
3. To speak to Brighton Council in regards trying to work with Freedom Leisure on delivering squash opportunities in their Brighton sites under the banner of Sussex Squash
4. Speak with active Sussex with HP/SH on opportunities for support
5. Contact KM with email details for social media email so it can be accessed again
6. To keep in touch with Noah on leading the senior mens county team in April
7. To send BA details of social media accounts

Chris Markham

1. Catch up HP on the treasurers role and complete handover post setting up bank account
2. Confirm with Julian if still keen on the league management role
3. To cancel the Zoom account as no longer needed

Karl Manning

1. To sort social media email with ST

Stephen Holliday/Helen Perris

1. To look with ST about contacting Brighton Council about running sessions in their centres
2. To look at grant application for Gatwick trust and look to apply

3. To see if we can pin point any coaches who we could help fund their DBS or Level 1 qualifications so they are able to be used to deliver sessions based on an agreed pay back and include JI in conversation as maybe prepared to match fund.
4. HP to liaise with CM on the handover of the treasurers role
5. To see if any of the volunteers that have come forward would be prepare to be the Welfare Officer for the Sussex juniors

All

Governance related work.

1. To try and pin point new committee members to ensure there is succession planning for the committee and there are new faces to support
2. To look at finding a safeguarding officer as still outstanding

Appendix 1

SUSSEX SQUASH 2023/24 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

Having been asked to take on a role as Junior Admins for Sussex Squash, the obvious overlaps meant that this has become combined with a more general role seeking to develop squash through the county with a particular focus on grassroots (clubs and coaches). This is a brief summary of progress to date:

1 More reliable and up to date databases are being developed based on information gleaned from ES, the county and other sources. This is enabling us to target our messages and identify where we are!

2 County squads have approximately tripled in size from the previous season with a new “generation” of younger, less experienced players in our two Emerging Talent Squads

3 A half-season programme of junior fixtures/events is planned split east/west involving eight clubs. Consideration is being given as to how to run a more formal junior league next season.

4 A “Girls only” training session is planned led by Kelly Eastment. Aimed at any girl squash players in the county, this is free of charge funded by ES grant money we applied for.

5 Much effort has gone into “coach engagement”. The number of fully-qualified coaches the county can use to run squads is desperately low! This has and continues to make staffing a real issue. Meetings have been set up to which coaches have been invited to facilitate discussions.

ES funding that we applied for has allowed us to offer payment to attending coaches to partially offset lost earnings.

Some modest success in engaging coaches has been achieved with Nick Cochrane and Mike Yung-Hok at Littlehampton/Arun (site visited on 12/2) and Michael Chester from David Lloyd (work shadowing Stephen recently) 6 Much of this activity is expensive and to try to generate spare funds, a sponsorship package plus GoFundMe page has been set up. We are also looking at other grants and funding that might be available.7 Teams have been entered into the inter-county events with the finals in April.

Steve/Helen February 2024

