

# YORKSHIRE SQUASH

THE YORKSHIRE SQUASH & RACKETBALL ASSOCIATION

[www.yorkshiresquash.com](http://www.yorkshiresquash.com)

President – Dr. Assem Allam



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF YORKSHIRE SQUASH AND RACKETBALL ASSOCIATION, HELD AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 19 JULY 2017 AT PONTEFRACT SQUASH CLUB

PRESENT: Marc Thomas (Chairman), Peter Keen (Treasurer), Mike Clemson (Secretary), Steve Ridge (Pontefract), Nicky Horn (Ampleforth College), Stephen Widdison (Collingham and Racketball), Malc Harrison (Barnsley), Martin Roberts (England Squash Referees Co-ordinator), Mark Shipley, Gill Choyce and Mike Robinson

APOLOGIES were received from Dr. Assem Allam (President), Robert Field, Steve Smith, Derek Norris, Jason Chidwick, Matthew Stephenson.

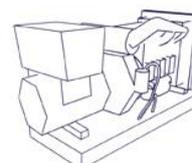
MINUTES of the AGM held on 9 June 2016 were approved as a correct record.

## ANNUAL REPORT

- (a) GRASSROOTS SUPPORT Marc and Nicky reported that a number of initiatives aimed at promoting participation had been assisted financially and with advice by Yorkshire Squash.
- (b) JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT Derek Norris had taken over from Dave Clarke, and was involved in organising teams for the Northern Cup, and planning the Ridings tournament, both involving juniors below the level of the County's ICC squads.
- (c) JUNIOR INTER-COUNTY Steve Ridge reported that teams had been entered in seven out of eight categories, had won three categories and been runners up in a fourth, making Yorkshire the most successful county in the country.
- (d) SENIOR INTER-COUNTY Marc reported the Mens 2<sup>nd</sup> team had been narrowly defeated in the first round by the eventual finalists, and that a weakened Mens 1<sup>st</sup> team had been relegated after finishing seventh in the finals. Gill reported that the Womens Over 50 team had been runners-up, the Over 40 team came third, and the 1<sup>st</sup> team had been unfortunate to be defeated in the final. The Racketball team were runners-up.
- (e) MENS MASTERS INTER-COUNTY Mike Clemson reported that we had withdrawn the Over 35 team, and the Over 45s, Over 55s, Over 60s and Over 65s all failed to qualify for the finals. The Over 50s team came fourth.
- (f) JUNIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS Steve Ridge reported that the County Championships had been a successful event, with a good entry.
- (g) SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS Marc Thomas reported that this event, also held at Pontefract, had attracted 75 entries in the various categories, and had also gone well.



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- (h) **YORKSHIRE LEAGUE** Marc Thomas reported that the main League had concluded successfully, with Chapel Allerton winning the Premier Division, Chapel Allerton II winning Division 1 and Hallamshire II winning Division 2. Proposed promotions and relegations were confirmed, and new entrants were Doncaster, Hallamshire II and Beverley. There were no proposed amendments to the Rules, and the Committee would discuss how and whether to enforce the rule requiring participant clubs and players to be members of England Squash.  
The summer Yorkshire League was progressing well in its inaugural season, divided into north and south divisions with six teams in each, with play-offs at the end of the season for the top two teams from each division.
- (i) **RACKETBALL** Steve Widdison reported that Racketball is increasing in popularity. The County Championships attracted an entry of 50, and there are two Racketball leagues – Calderdale and Kirklees and Harrogate and Leeds, playing winter and summer with a total of 29 teams. An Academy of Rackets has been established, with series based on different coloured balls, and events at seven different clubs. The various branches of the University of the Third Age also have county and team championships. There is general agreement that the name Racketball should be retained.
- (j) **REFEREEING** A report received shortly after the meeting from Adrian Etherington recorded that it has been a quiet year for Refereeing Workshops, with none in 2017 so far. Andrea Santa-Maria has progressed to be a Tournament grade Referee. Martin Roberts added a view from a national perspective, and congratulated Yorkshire on its commitment to the promotion of refereeing.
- (k) **ANNUAL ACCOUNTS** Peter Keen presented the Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet for July 2016-June 2017. Income from Junior Development sponsors and the rebate from England Squash was down, but more than balanced by reduced expenditure on various items, notably the expenses for the Inter-County teams. The Balance sheet showed a healthy balance in hand of just under £30k. Thanks were recorded to the Treasurer for his immaculate maintenance of the County's finances.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2017-18

The following had been nominated –

Chair	Marc Thomas
Treasurer	Peter Keen
Secretary	Mike Clemson
Members	Gill Choyce Robert Field Nicky Horn Steve Ridge Mark Shipley Matthew Stephenson

The above were duly elected.



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It was noted that Yorkshire Squash has four volunteers who are not members of the Committee, but attend as and when appropriate. They are:

Adrian Etherington (Refereeing)  
Derek Norris (Junior Development)  
Jayne Robinson (Safeguarding Officer)  
Steve Widdison (Racketball)

#### OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) It was commented that the website was not up to date. Marc Thomas explained that the volunteer who assisted with the website had limited terms of reference.
- (b) Martin Roberts reported that the Sheffield and District League was going well, that its Racketball section was thriving, and that money was available from its funds for junior development.

There being no further business, a vote of thanks was recorded to Pontefract Squash Club for the use of the room, and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45 pm

#### PROMOTING SQUASH AND RACKETBALL IN YORKSHIRE

Following the meeting, there was an open discussion on possible future activity for the County Association. It was noted that Racketball was increasing in popularity, and Steve Widdison shared his ideas and activities for promoting it. It was noted that Yorkshire Squash would continue to call it by its traditional name

The This Girl Can promotion had resulted in 13 female Coaches attending a special training course. Nicky Horn offered to contact them and make them aware of the support available from Yorkshire Squash

The Yorkshire Committee had funds available to support promotional activity, and would welcome proposals for its use

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