

YORKSHIRE SQUASH

THE YORKSHIRE SQUASH & RACKETBALL ASSOCIATION

www.yorkshiresquash.com

President – Dr. Assem Allam



YORKSHIRE SQUASH AND RACKETBALL COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6 April 2016 at Pontefract Squash Club

PRESENT: Mike Clemson (Chairman), Marc Thomas, Peter Keen, Gill Choyce, Steve Ridge, Mark Shipley, Matt Stephenson, Dave Clarke and Adrian Etherington

APOLOGIES received from Robert Field, Nicky Horn, Steve Widdison and Angela Cwaczko

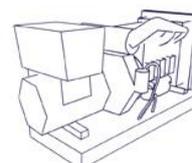
MINUTES of the meeting held on 19 January 2016 were approved as a correct record

ACTIVITY UPDATE

- (a) Adrian reported on progress in progressing a further Tournament referee and County Referee. He was discussing with Martin Roberts setting up shorter introductory sessions for players interested in knowing more about rule interpretation, which would help to raise standards in local competitions.
- (b) Dave reported he now has about 250 juniors on his database, of which about 100 are active and prepared to travel all over the County. His programme of tournaments, competitions and matches is continuing, and he is entering four teams in the Under 11s Festival and the Northern Cup. Squad sessions are being planned during the summer.
- (c) Gill reported that the Women's Over 50 team had finished as Runners Up in the ICC and the Over 40 team had come third.
- (d) Steve reported that four Yorkshire Juniors had been selected to play for England in the European Team Championships in Belgium. These were Nick Wall, Elliot Ridge, Ben Sockett and Sam Todd.
- (e) Marc reported that Barnsley had won the Premier Division of the Yorkshire League, Abbeydale were Division 1 winners and Pontefract 3 had won Division 2. The ICC Mens 2nd team had won promotion to Div 1.
- (f) Nicky had provided an update on the Grassroots Development Project, for which thanks were recorded. The Project seemed to be progressing well, with numbers on target.
- (g) Peter had circulated an up to date financial report, and anticipated a likely surplus at the year end. He highlighted several detailed matters where clarification was required.



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BUSINESS PLAN 2016-17

- (a) The Vision as stated was confirmed
- (b) Our Aims, given equal weighting, were confirmed as
 - (i) To encourage and enable more people to take up the game
 - (ii) To provide competitive opportunities for players of all ages and all levels of ability

Both Aims to have an emphasis on junior development

- (c) The following Objectives were agreed

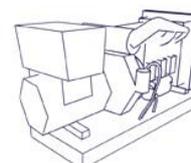
1. To work intensively with those of the 57 independent/voluntary/members clubs in Yorkshire who wish to participate, to develop a structured and ongoing programme aimed at increasing the number of players using their courts, including nominating a Facilitator/Animateur to be the liaison with YS and to promote the programme within the club. Also, to respond to ad hoc requests for information and advice from other venues with squash courts
2. To ensure that every player who has reached 'improver' level has access to and is encouraged to participate in regular competitive activity, commencing with juniors
3. To promote Coaching and liaise with existing Coaches
4. To communicate our activities by means of a website, email circulars, a Calendar of Events, and by developing systematic contact with media outlets, particularly regional and local ones
5. To develop relationships particularly with England Squash, and with County Sports Partnerships and Local Authorities (Sports Development sections), and to play an active role with the North-East Regional Forum
6. To manage Yorkshire Squash efficiently and in accordance with any legal requirements

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS AND STRATEGY

1. It was agreed that we need to engage fully with our main sponsor and the donors of our Junior Development Programme to secure their ongoing and, if possible, increased support.
2. It was agreed to take no action at this time in relation to the promotion of the ES Affiliation and Membership scheme, including establishing a County surcharge.
3. It was agreed we need to attract more sponsors and donors, while acknowledging in our publicity the overall support of our main sponsor, while reflecting the contributions of other donors towards specific activities.
4. We should take advantage of all funding available for specific activities from County Sports Partnerships, Local Authorities, the Squash Rackets Foundation, the North East Regional Forum and ES.



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5. It was agreed that relevant Trusts and Foundations should be identified and approached to support the major areas of work. This might require YS to acquire appropriate legal status, such as becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.
6. It was agreed that we should review our current areas of expenditure to ensure they accord with our agreed priorities, and review the amount (currently £5,000) held as a general reserve.
7. It was agreed that, when we needed to pay people for working on our behalf, it should be on the basis of fees rather than salaries, as long as this did not infringe employment law.

OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) It was noted that there was a Level 1 Coaches Course on 14/15 May, and a Level 2 Course on 4/5 June and 16/17 July, both at Pontefract. Steve had not heard from the SR Foundation about matched funding, so it was agreed that he could use the reserve fund to support Juniors wishing to go on these or other courses
- (b) Details of a Womens and Girls Evolution event at Edgbaston Priory Club had been circulated to Committee members, who were asked to draw it to the attention of women and girls who might be interested
- (c) Mark referred to Sport England's Club Matters web site, which had useful information on funding, club management, promotion, etc.

FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that the AGM should be held at Pontefract Squash Club at 7.00 pm on Thursday 9 June, followed by a Committee meeting at its conclusion. The Yorkshire League Trophies would be presented at the AGM.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm with thanks to Pontefract Squash Club for the free use of the meeting room.



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