

## YORKSHIRE SQUASH AND RACKETBALL COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 21 September 2016 at Pontefract Squash Club

PRESENT: Marc Thomas (Chair), Mike Clemson (Secretary), Peter Keen (Treasurer), Nicky Horn, Robert Field, Steve Ridge and Mark Shipley

APOLOGIES: Gill Choyce, Matt Stephenson and Angela Cwaczko

MINUTES: of the meeting held on 14 July 2016 were approved

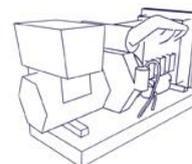
FINANCE: Peter had previously circulated the Accounts for 2015-16, which were approved. A budget for 2016-17, drawn up by Marc after the last Committee meeting, showed proposed income of £20k and expenditure of £26.5k, the shortfall being covered by funds carried forward from 2015-16. £1260 had been allocated by the NE Forum for work with juniors. Peter proposed to produce future financial reports based on the budget categories in the business plan.

T SHIRTS: It was agreed that the T shirt subsidy would remain unchanged, and would apply to players wishing to replace their shirt as well as those acquiring their first one. It was noted that the design has been amended to give more prominence to our main sponsor.

### BUSINESS PLAN 2016-17 UPDATE

#### OBJECTIVE 1: TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION LEVELS

- (a) Marc had designed a Clubs and Coaches questionnaire and had made appointments with a small number of clubs to trial it, as preparation for a project working with venues with squash courts to increase levels of usage and participation
- (b) Ad Hoc requests for assistance – Marc reported that Dominic Pegg is going to work with York University, and Giles Cook has made contact with Huddersfield, but Matt Godson will deliver some coaching when he has got his Level 1 qualification.
- (c) Nicky reported that the remaining funds from the Grassroots Development Project have been allocated, with the aim of concluding the Project within six months. This includes some new contacts.
- (d) A report had been received from Angela detailing her activity with Hull University to increase participation levels, and with Hallamshire and Leeds Beckett University to host Squash 101 Workshops. The ES Facilities Audit had included Hull, Harrogate, Halifax, Huddersfield and York, as well as Leeds Beckett University. It was agreed to



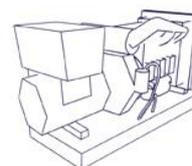
arrange a date for the next meeting convenient for Angela, so that we could have a fuller discussion on ES activity in Yorkshire. Nicky expressed interest in attending a Squash 101 training Course, and it was agreed that the Committee should meet her expenses.

## OBJECTIVE 2: PROVIDING REGULAR COMPETITIVE ACTIVITY

- (a) Junior Development Programme. Marc and Mike had met Derek Norris, who is looking after the programme in Dave Clarke's absence for health reasons, and Derek had provided a report on his plans which was circulated to the Committee. Thanks were recorded to Derek for his work and commitment, and his proposals for activity in 2016-17 were approved. There was some discussion on the difficulty of coverage throughout the county
- (b) It was reported that entries were being invited for the second season of the North-West Yorkshire Junior League, and that Kenny Martin was organising a similar activity in the East Riding. Marc will contact Alex Hodgetts to investigate progress.
- (c) Steve reported that teams had been entered in all age groups of the Junior ICC, with second teams in the Boys and Girls U13s, although he might have a problem finding players of the appropriate standard for the second teams.
- (d) Steve reported that the Junior County Closed looked like being very successful, with an entry of over 80.
- (e) Marc reported that Heaton have withdrawn from the Premier Division of the Yorkshire League, and Huddersfield from Division 1. Otherwise, the League is set up for the coming season.
- (f) ICC Seniors and Masters – Marc reported that the Men's 2<sup>nd</sup> team plays at home on 5 November, and that the 1<sup>st</sup> team weekend is not until May. Mike reported that teams have been entered in all age group categories except the Mens Over 35, and that Team Managers were sorting out their squads. Gill had reported that the Womens over 40 were at home (Pontefract) on 16 October, and that the Womens Over 50 were in Cheshire on 13 November.
- (g) Marc reported that the County Championships would be held on 21/22 January at Pontefract, and that he was considering a Friday evening start to accommodate more age categories or grades.
- (h) A verbal report from Adrian Etherington before the meeting included information about a Referees Course to be held shortly at Malton. Five Club Grade Referees are interested in progressing to County level. In view of the felt need for basic level Refereeing courses for players wishing to better understand the rules but not wishing to qualify as Referees, Adrian had consulted Martin Roberts, who had said that Adrian should not run non-sanctioned events of this kind. It was agreed that ways should be found of providing these events, since a better understanding of the rules by more players could only benefit the game.
- (i) A report from Steve Widdison on Racketball activity in the County had been circulated to members. The Yorkshire Championships are being held on 26/27 November at Chapel Allerton, and the Yorkshire Academy of Racketball series of events will be expanded in the 2016/17 season. The game continues to grow at all levels. It was agreed that, in Yorkshire, it should continue to be called Racketball.



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### OBJECTIVE 3: AUDIT OF COACHES AND COACH TRAINING

See Objective 1(a) above. This was being pursued by Marc Thomas, with the support of a grant of £1950 from ES channelled through the Regional Forum. Mark Shipley reported that a new Level 1 course for Coaches runs for one day and costs £150. He reported on the Coach programme and Coach Mentoring Scheme.

### OBJECTIVE 4: COMMUNICATING OUR ACTIVITIES

- (a) Marc reported that he was maintaining the website and sending out e-newsletters to the YS mailing list, but would appreciate the help of a volunteer to assist. There was plenty to do, but he's limited to about 20 minutes a day at present. Steve said he would ask some of the junior parents.
- (b) Gill had drawn up an extensive Calendar of Events, which Marc would put on the website.
- (c) A volunteer was still required to develop contacts with the media.

### OBJECTIVE FIVE: RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

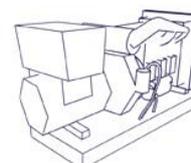
- (a) Mike is organising a Conference for representatives of County Associations on 1 October, which will seek to confirm the role of CAs in respect of a number of areas of activity (e.g. junior promotion, links with Coaches) and what support is required from England Squash. There continues to be concern about ES current policy of directly promoting activity such as Squash 101 in public facilities, rather than working with and through the County Associations
- (b) Our representatives on the NE Regional Forum, Marc and Mark, are liaising with ES on behalf of the Forum, and accessing available funding for the benefit of Yorkshire Squash. Concern was expressed about the choice of venue for the Regional Junior Championships, as Norton has only four courts. Mark will speak to Dave Geldart.
- (c) It was agreed that the development of relationships with the County Sports Partnerships and the appropriate Departments of Local Authorities was most likely to take place in the context of accessing funding and other support for our activities, including subsidising candidates for Coaching courses.

### OBJECTIVE 6: MANAGING THE ORGANISATION

- (a) It was agreed that Yorkshire SRA should register as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, and guidance on how to do so was awaited.
- (b) Mike would review and update our legal and best practice guidelines.
- (c) Mike was exploring possible sources of funding for our agreed areas of development, including Sport England and Yorkshire based Trusts and Foundations. It was noted that most of our current activity is managed by volunteers, but that, given the size of the County and the number of venues with courts and players, extended promotional work may well require the payment of fees, and this would probably be the major proportion of any bids for Project funding.



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- (d) It was agreed that Steve and Derek should circulate the request for more volunteers to the parents of juniors involved with Yorkshire Squash activity, as and when they felt it appropriate.

NEXT MEETING: It was agreed that a major item for discussion at the next meeting should be ES activity in Yorkshire, and that Angela should be asked for a date she could attend on a Monday evening (21 and 28 November have been suggested to her)



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