

DERBYSHIRE SQUASH RACQUETS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE AGM 14 MAY 2008

7.30PM

LA FITNESS, CARRINGTON STREET, DERBY

Present:

Committee:, Kevin White (Chairman), Gill Ford (League Secretary), Lesley Sturgess (Development Officer), Brendan Hickerman (Men's County Captain), John Beastall (Men's Age Group County Captain), Lee Watson (Competitions Coordinator), Nigel Millington (Racketball Coordinator)

Club Reps and Other attendees: Ralph McBride (Duffield SC), Marcus Thomas (Lumb Farm), Steve Smith (The Manor), S Reeves (Draycott), Peter Slowikowski (Draycott), R Lewis (LA Fitness), Mike Craven (Queens Park), Adrian Oldbury (Repton), Vic Malysz (RR), Jason Fearn (Brampton Manor), Carl Tomlinson (LA Fitness), Tom Comb (Burton), Eric Archibald (Sandiacre Friesland), Jim Lockhart (Hood Park), Carol Wood (Duffield SC), Andy Bennett (LA Fitness), Sheila Alcock (Duffield SC).

Apologies: David Short (President), Ray Patrick (Treasurer), Jonathan Brooks (County Secretary), Laura Hill (Ladies County Captain), Dave Yallop (Junior Liaison), Brian Hargrave (Duffield SC).

Minutes

The minutes of the previous AGM held on the 5 June 2007 were circulated at the meeting.

It was brought to the attention of the meeting that the minutes of the AGM 2007 were inaccurate wrt Player League Appearances (Rule 6.e)ii). Although what was minuted was discussed, the AGM voted in favour of a player being tied to a higher team after 3 appearances in any one half.

Other than the above the minutes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.

Proposed by: Jason Fearn
Seconded by: Adrian Oldbury

Election of Officers / Committee

Laura Hill resigned after the AGM as Ladies County Captain and Carol Wood having been nominated was appointed in her place.

Proposed by: Nigel Millington
Seconded by: Marcus Thomas

Dave Yallop resigned after the AGM. No nominations have been received, but the post of Junior Liaison has been filled by the current DJSRA Chairman.

No other formal nominations had been received for any DSRA post and the current members were re-elected on block; those members being:-

David Short (President), Kevin White (Chairman), Ray Patrick (Treasurer), Gill Ford (League Secretary), Jonathan Brooks (County Secretary), Lesley Sturgess (Development Officer), John Beastall (Men's Age Group County Captain), Brendan Hickerman (Men's County Captain), Nigel Millington (Racketball Coordinator); Lee Watson (Competitions Coordinator).

Proposed by: Ralph McBride
Seconded by: Peter Slowikowski

AGM

It was agreed to restrict acceptance of votes at the DSRA AGM to those individuals over 18 years of age on the day of the AGM and who satisfy any one or more of the following:

- a) committee members
- b) players who represent Derbyshire County Teams
- c) players who represent teams in the Derbyshire League
- d) members of clubs that have an address within the geographical region of Derbyshire or a postcode beginning with DE.

Proposed by: Kevin White
Seconded by: Andrew Bennett

Treasurers Report and Accounts

The Report and Accounts for 2007/08 and the Budgets for 2008/09 were distributed to the attendees at the meeting. In the absence of the Treasurer, The Chairman presented the Report.

Overall: At the end of the year there is an increase in "cash in Hand" although there are a couple of items still outstanding that we have to pay that offset the apparent increase.

Income Detail: Subscriptions were significantly higher than expected which also increased the England Squash rebate above the budgeted amount. A small increase in bank interest and an amount of profit from the County championship both helped to improve the financial situation.

Expenditure Detail: The increase in the number of County teams competing this year has caused the expense on this item to almost double last year's amount. Note that all County Teams receive £150 per weekend, except for Men's and Ladies 1st Teams who receive £200.

There were no costs for printing as the information is now available on the website. This in itself has resulted in a high cost to set-up. The on-going maintenance costs will be less in future years.

We also received a fine for cancelling a County match (O60s) at short notice, there were extenuating circumstances in this case the fine stood.

The two entries that appear to be less than budgeted are the "Junior Rebate" and "Trophies", but these are still outstanding as they arrived too late to be included in the accounts.

The Report and Accounts together with 2008/9 Budget were

Proposed by: Nigel Millington

Seconded by: Andrew Bennett

Derbyshire County Leagues

Penalty Points: We intend to be severe with awarding penalty points for late cards and late results. A card must always be sent as evidence of the correct score as agreed between team Captains. However, notification of the result (minimum of each team's points and match score) must be received by Monday 5.00pm so that we can issue a media report including up to date tables.

Discipline: Good to hear that there have been no disciplinary issues.

Proposed Format: A proposal to change to point-per-rally to 11, 2 clear points if 10-10 was put to the meeting, but rejected as a format for professional players and a concern was raised over whether it would create too short a match for lesser standard players. The meeting discussed the proposed change at length and the majority of the attendees agreed that the existing scoring system (Traditional scoring to 9/10) should remain in operation.

The meeting discussed the number of teams from anyone club that should be allowed to play in Division 1 and the number of teams relegated and promoted at the end of each season. It was agreed that for Division 1 only that each season only one team is relegated and that position is taken by the highest points scoring team from Division 2. If the latter team is a Club first team then they are automatically promoted. In the event that the latter team is a Club's second team then they will have the choice of taking the promotion or staying in Division 2. If they elect to stay then the 2nd place team in Division 2 will qualify for promotion on the same basis as above. As far as all the other Divisions are concerned it is two teams relegated and two teams promoted.

At this point in the meeting the attendees re-visited the player appearance rule. After discussion it was agreed that the regulations contained in section 6 of the Derbyshire Squash Men's League and KO Cup Rules 2008/09 shall apply (note change to Rule 6.e)ii)). These were distributed to the attendees at the meeting.

Nomination lists: must be supplied to GF before the first match of the start of each half of the season. -5 points to all Club's teams if not received.

The Chairman reiterated the importance of ensuring that all matches are played and on the correct night except where there is an exceptional circumstance. Player unavailability is not exceptional!

Ladies Leagues: These went well with all fixtures played on the scheduled date and all cards in on time!! Clubs are encouraged to enter as many teams as possible. The format of the ladies leagues for next season will be similar to 2007/8.

England Squash levies: All Clubs must ensure they pay their England Squash levies for 2007/8 season otherwise their teams will be excluded from the 2008/9 Winter Leagues and KO Cup.

County Knock-Out Cup

It was agreed that future KO Cup draws should be ranked as in the previous season's league positions (1 vs 3 and 2 vs 4). The first round matches may be scheduled on a Thursday before Christmas.

These were held at LA Fitness and proved a great success with good support (if a little partisan!). The format, with semi-finals and finals on consecutive (Sat/Sun) days was successful and will be repeated again.

Section A: LA Fitness 1 beat Hood Park 3-2

Section B: LA Fitness 4 beat Rolls-Royce

Thanks to Lee Watson and Gill Ford for their efforts.

In the future only Clubs wishing to participate in this competition shall be included in the Draw. A request for future participants will be included in the entry forms sent out to Clubs.

A set of KO Cup Rules has been incorporated into the Men's League Rules (now 'Men's League and Cup Rules'). Essentially, players may only play for a team in accordance with the League Rules at the date of any Cup match; i.e.

for the purposes of the a Cup match the League Rules will apply. A Cup match does not count as one of the 3 matches permitted before a player is tied to a higher team. The Rules were adopted by the meeting.

Proposed by: Kevin White

Seconded by: Adrian Oldbury

Racketball League

Participation in a 2008/9 Racketball League will be sent out to Clubs with the usual Squash League entries.

There is no Racketball Summer League in 2008, however, the winter league 07/08 extended to end of July 2008. It was agreed that any matches not played would be awarded to the away side. Any team not playing at least 10 out of 14 matches will have their results voided.

It was also agreed that: - subject to entries for the 2008/9 Winter Leagues, divisions will have fewer teams, preferably 6.

-4-a-side; point-per rally; best of 5 games each to 15 points; std Blue Karakal ball - all seems to be working. Fixed weekday evening - **Tuesday**.

The proposed County Racketball Championship in August 2007 did not happen as we only received 2 entries. It was decided to put on hold for 2008.

Junior Section

Nothing to Report.

Development (LS)

We are at present organising to go into 12 schools in Amber Valley area with a mini squash programme. The funding has come from Derbyshire Sport and England squash. Please note that the funding has to be connected to an England Squash Chartered Club. A similar scheme is being run at Burton SC, which is funded by Staffordshire County Council and England squash. The programme includes a 6 week course to teaching the teachers' use of the equipment and basic skills. Links to squash clubs in the Amber Valley area are given.

We have also managed to put several people on a level 1 coaching course. The next one is being held at Burton SC in Sept.

We would like more clubs to attain Chartered status and for more coaches to be licensed as this releases more funding. More details will appear on the Website, but in the meantime please contact Lesley Sturgess through Derbyshire Squash.

Website www.derbyshiresquash.co.uk

The website was greatly enhanced at the beginning of the season and includes all fixtures, results and table plus player rankings.

The Website has now replaced the Handbook.

It is intended to import further information, previously held in the handbook, onto our website such as past League and KO Cup Champions and the County Championships results.

The Racketball League has been included.

It is proposed to put the minutes of all DSRA Committee meetings on the website, although disciplinary matters will not be published.

All Clubs and players are encouraged to look at the website at regular intervals for League and Cup information.

Media Reporting

Regular reports on the County Leagues and KO Cup matches plus Inter-County matches and any other significant Derbyshire individual's achievements have been well received by the Derby Telegraph and feature on most Thursdays. All the reports will be reproduced on the Website in due course.

The Chairman is keen to receive emails of short reports and a team or individual photos. Reports should be with him on Sunday night after the previous Thursday match.

County Championships

In the light of Nottinghamshire, Surrey and Essex (at least) cancelling their County Championships, Derbyshire had a successful event with 33 entries. The County Champs is a great opportunity for all players to get a crack at the best players in the County with the promise of other matches against similar standard opponents. Again we may introduce a gap week in the league fixtures to encourage more entries. Entrants email addresses needed + note to look at draws on website.

2007/8 Results

| | | | | |
|--------|---------------|----|-------------------|-----|
| Ladies | Laura Hill | bt | Millie Tomlinson | 3/0 |
| Mens | Kevin White | bt | Brendan Hickerman | 3/0 |
| O35 | Kevin White | bt | Brendan Hickerman | 3/0 |
| O45 | Greg Loach | bt | Mike Lambert | 3/0 |
| O55 | John Beastall | bt | Alan Hagar | 3/0 |

Summary of County Teams

Men:

Senior (BH) Derbyshire Men were outgunned in the 1st weekend, but with Joel Hinds present comfortably avoided relegation to retain their Division 1 position. Derbyshire beat Ulster and Merseyside, but lost in a dead rubber to Leicestershire.

O35 (KW) Second place in the 1st inter-county weekend saw Derbyshire into the Finals played at Duffield SC, Feb 23/24. Derbyshire beat Middlesex 3-2 in the semi-final and Kent 4-1 to win Derbyshire 1st Inter-County Championship.

O45 (Mike Lambert) Derbyshire O45s were bolstered by Greg Loach and Lee Watson and cruised through the 1st weekend. In the promotion group, Derbyshire beat Staffordshire and Cumbria and narrowly lost to Merseyside gaining enough points to gain promotion into Division 1 North.

O55 (JB) Having come 3rd in the 1st stage in Division 1 North, Derbyshire put out a strong team on the Saturday winning both matches, but were missing their top three on Sunday, still needing a few points. A couple of battling performances gave them the few points they needed to come 2nd and avoid relegation.

O60 (Stuart Maclean) Unfortunately, injury to three key players meant this team was withdrawn. A £140 fee was paid to England Squash due to the late withdrawal.

Ladies (LH/LS) Having reached the Finals last year, beating Sussex in the Semi Final and narrowly losing to Essex 4-1 in the Final; Derbyshire Ladies were relegated. Four of the players from last season were unavailable due to injury and other commitments.

Racketball (NM/LW): After a great result in finishing 2nd in the 1st stage, Derbyshire travelled to Oxfordshire for the UK finals of the inaugural Inter-County Finals tournament. Despite some great individual performances Derbyshire came in 6th and last place. It was noted that the slower black Price ball was used, but was likely not to be used again.

General: The meeting discussed selection policy for players. The website rankings would help. Re-introduce County Rankings and allow challenges for those wishing to play for the County. We need a definitive selection policy so that up-and-coming players know what to aim for. The County Championship results should be the most significant results, followed by League.

Achievements by Derbyshire Qualified Players and Teams

A special mention is deserved to **John White being awarded an MBE** for his services to squash in Derbyshire. John collects his MBE from the Queen on 25 June. John said he was indebted to Clive Wildsmith and particularly to his wife Pauline. John is amongst a very small group (6) of honoured squash enthusiasts.

Benz-Bavarian Duffield won the North Group of the PSL to reach the semi-finals, but lost to Chichester 5-0 and 4-1. The loss of their 2 top men and 2 top ladies through injury obviously had a marked effect on the outcome.

Derbyshire U13 Boys recently won the Northern Cup.

Joel Hinds has risen to England No. 28 and has reached his first BSPA Event final. Joel enjoyed a successful season for Birmingham University in the PSL.

Laura Hill has slipped 1 place to England No. 8, but has risen to World no. 44. Laura is National Racketball Champion and defends her title later this month.

Lesley Sturgess recently Captained England O45s in the Home Internationals held at Nottingham. England won the tournament with Lesley winning her matches comfortably.

Neil Nightingale was again selected for England O55s also playing at Nottingham and won all his matches.

Greg Loach played for England O45s for his first time at No. 2 and won all three of his matches, securing England's top spot.

Jason Foster moved to Derbyshire last June and provides a welcome boost to our County teams. Jason has qualified for England O35 next weekend. Jason became the Police Force Champion 2008 in March.

Kevin White won two Masters Series tournaments and reached the semi-finals of the British Open and Nationals and was re-elected England O35 Captain.

Millie Tomlinson continues to make great progress, recently playing for England U17s in the European Junior Championships in which they were crowned Champions. Millie is No.2 U17 and No.5 U19 in the English rankings.

Brampton Manor's **Russell Clark** is No. 2 U13 in the English rankings.

Any other business

There was no other business.

Presentation of League Trophies

The following presentations were made:-

| | Winners | Runners-up |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Men's | Div 1 LA Fitness 1 | Hood Park 1 |
| | Div 2 Duffield 2 | LA Fitness 2 |
| | Div 3 Draycott | LA Fitness 3 |
| | Div 4 LA Fitness 4 | Duffield 4 |
| | Div 5 LA Fitness 5 | Queens Park 2 |
| Ladies | Div 1 Duffield 1 | Burton SC 1 |

Racketball

Trophies to be presented at the end of July.

Kevin White

Chairman DSRA

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