



**DERBYSHIRE SQUASH & RACKETBALL  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
7.30PM 19th June 2013  
The 'Pavillion', Rolls-Royce Squash, Derby**

**Present:**

**Committee:** Graham Hall (Chairman), Gill Ford (League Secretary), Ray Patrick (Treasurer), Phil Scully (Men's County Captain), Helen Wilson (Junior Representative), Jonathan Brooks (County Secretary).

**Club Reps and Other attendees:** John Beastall (President), Tony Humphries (Queens Park), Kevin Britchford (RR), Doug Whitfield (Burton), Colin Morris (Burton), Stuart Atkins (David Lloyd), Peter Fox (Ashbourne), Paul Doran (Ashbourne), Jason Fearn (Brampton Manor), Jo Wallis (Brampton Manor), Trevor Davis (Brampton Manor), Robert Cope (Lumb Farm), Lesley Sturgess (Duffield), Russell Moore (Duffield), Ray Patrick (Hood Park), Rob Sillett (LA Fitness), Richard Lewis (LA Fitness), Carl Tomlinson (LA Fitness), Eric Archibald (Sandiacre Friesland), Steve Coppard (King Edward VI), Adam Armiger ( Repton), John Davis (ESR)

**Apologies:** Roxanna Keshavarz (Draycott).

**Clubs not Represented:** Bradley House, Draycott & The Manor.

**1. Previous Meeting matters arising - Jonathan brooks**

**22<sup>nd</sup> May 2012 held at The Manor, Ilkeston**

*Acceptance of these minutes as a true record.*

Proposed by: Russell Moore

Seconded by: Jason Fearn

**2. Election of Officers / Committee and Vacant Positions - Jonathan Brooks**

Nominations:

John Beastall (President).

Graham Hall (Chairman).

Jonathan Brooks (County Secretary)

Ray Patrick (Treasurer)

Gill Ford (League Secretary)

Phil Scully (County Captain)  
Nigel Millington (Racketball Coordinator)  
Helen Wilson (Junior Representative)  
Welfare Officer - Mark Fidler  
Competitions Coordinator Officer- Vacant  
Development Officer - Vacant  
Marketing Officer - Vacant

*Propose: **Elect en bloc***

Proposed by: Lesley Sturgess  
Seconded by: Eric Archibald

### **3. Treasurer's Report and Accounts - Ray Patrick**

First of all may I remind you that these accounts are a summary of both junior and seniors for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

In these times of continued austerity I am pleased to report that our cash position has improved over the last year.

Income reduced but this was mainly as a result of no sponsorship last year. Our main contribution coming from league subscriptions and it is gratifying that most continue to be received on a timely basis. The increase is down to winter league subscription changes. DSR funding has offset a reduction in ESR rebate and a large part of the levy agreed last year has been collected.

On the expenditure side county team expenses are the main item but we did see a large reduction on the previous year. One match was postponed until recently due to bad weather so that cost carries forward to next year. There was no expenditure on shirts this year. There was also a considerable reduction in development spend which is ironic considering the time we spent on the subject last year. More on this subject later.

So in summary cash reserves have increased by £1600 so our working capital continues to be maintained at one year's level of expenditure which has been our golden rule since the DSRA went bust several years ago.

**See Appendix 1**

#### **Acceptance of Accounts**

Proposed by: John Beastall  
Seconded by: Stuart Atkins

#### **4. England Squash – John Davies**

John presented information on the changes that are being put in place to the 'junior' calendar, the main thrust of which is to have adjacent age groups playing on the same day i.e. U19 & U17 on same day and then U15 & U13 on the same day. This is to try and increase the number of participants taking part by reducing the opportunity to 'play up' in an older age group.

He also discussed the new 'Big Hit' campaign that has been launched, which is aimed at increasing participation in squash.

John then fielded a number of questions relating to ESR membership.

#### **5. Development – Graham Hall**

Some of you will have noticed that one of our committee members is no longer with us. I'm referring to our Development Officer, Carol Wood. Carol retired shortly after last year's AGM, and behind her she left a big job which as yet has been unfulfilled.

What her absence has brought home to me is just how much work has to be done on an ongoing basis, in order to maintain and increase player participation, and the number of actively participating players, particularly juniors.

We still have a development plan, as you've already heard, but the paucity of numbers of junior players is quite alarming, particularly when you take into account the geographical spread of these players. And junior players are the future of squash in Derbyshire and any other county for that matter.

Some of you may be surprised to hear this, but of the 17 clubs within Derbyshire, listed as paying court fees to ESR, only 3 of them, Ashbourne, Duffield and Brampton Manor declare junior players. This may not represent the full picture, but it is the only information we have to work with.

Coaches and committee members can only do so much. The rest is down to individual clubs. I'd like to take this opportunity to urge you all to look at your own clubs and tell us where you need our help to address this problem.

In order for the sport to maintain sustained growth, as players we must play our part in engaging more youngsters. If we don't then we are failing in our responsibility in my view.

#### **6. Junior Section – Helen Wilson**

This season has seen a total of 56 players from Derbyshire and the surrounding counties play in the popular Grand Prix - Junior Squash events, one tournament attracting 37 players one Sunday, but with the majority of players coming from only 3 clubs: Brampton Manor, Duffield & Glossop.

The Grand Prix events are open to players of all abilities, under the age of 15. Entrants are put in groups of no more than 6 players, of similar ability. Matches are the best of three games, PAR Scoring to 11, with trophies for the Winner and Runner-Up in each group. After

each event Grand Prix points are awarded and a tally of these is kept; the one with the most points accumulated after the 6 events being the outright winner of the Grand Prix Title winning the Grand Prix Cup to hold for a year - the current holder being Joe Harrison. The cup boasting many talented players' names including Joel Hinds & Phil Scully to name just a couple. This year events were held twice each at Brampton Manor, Duffield & Ilkeston Manor. If you'd like us to consider holding an event at your club, can let us have at least 4 courts from about 10am - 3pm one Sunday, then please let me know.

We have many talented young squash players in our county and should be proud of them all. The Grand Prix events are merely a stepping stone towards bigger and better achievements for some and for others the events provide the opportunity for them to play squash at a slightly more competitive level than perhaps they are used to and they are a starting point for players to play, and enjoy, the game of squash.

This season has been a particularly friendly one, and has seen many of those nervous about scoring at first at least having a go. Despite the inevitable competitive edge to some of the matches the atmosphere has been light-hearted, winners applauded, markers thanked and all participants seemingly keen for the next event.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the sponsor of this year's Grand Prix, Kevin Raine from Fusion Provida, for the generous sponsorship, the majority having been spent providing each player with their free shirt and some money going towards a couple of rackets presented at the end of season Awards Ceremony. However, we are now looking for a sponsor for next season, so if anyone would consider sponsoring us or donating funds please contact me as soon as possible to discuss this. Monetary donations towards providing T shirts, balls or awards are very much appreciated.

I'd also like to thank all the parents, family and friends and players and especially their coaches for supporting these events, and generally for keeping things going in the fun, light-hearted way that is the intention of these junior squash events, the envy of many counties.

I am hoping to recruit players from other clubs too, so if you have any junior squash players that haven't been involved in the Grand Prix events yet, and who you think might be interested, please advertise the events and send them my way.

I am aware that after 15 years of age for some players, squash sort of stops; perhaps they aren't good enough to play in their club's league teams and aren't interested in playing for ranking points. Whatever players' reasons might be I don't want to see past GP players not still getting involved. I am, therefore, looking into how we can best accommodate them and I'd be grateful for any ideas. Basically, watch this space, as I really do intend to at least hold one event during the summer months for such out of age Grand Prix players. Details will, of course, be on the website.

## **7. Derbyshire County Leagues - Jonathan brooks**

In the winter leagues there were 60 teams representing 20 clubs taking part with a total of 330 matches being organized. At the close of the season there were only 12 matches not played, the majority of these being racketball ones.

See below - 12. Presentation of League Trophies 2012/13

## **8. County Knock-Out Cup 28<sup>th</sup> April, Burton Squash Club - Jonathan Brooks**

Another successful finals weekend bought the Derbyshire Squash and Racketball season to a close. Thank you to Burton Squash Club for hosting and Phil Scully for organizing the event.

Congratulations to:

Section A    Brampton Manor 1    bt Duffield 1            3-2

Section B    Duffield 3                    bt Burton 3            3-2

Section C    Hood Park 4                bt Ashbourne 2        3-2

Trophies will be presented at the end.

## **9. County Championships 13/15<sup>th</sup> January, Duffield Squash Club - Jonathan Brooks**

Cancelled due to the adverse weather conditions

## **10. Summary of County Teams - Phil Scully**

**See Appendix 2**

## 11. Achievements by Derbyshire Qualified Players and Teams - Phil Scully

See also 'section 6 'junior results'.

Joel hinds - world 92

Lesley sturgess -

- 10th cap for England 035 and 050 caps for England in Wales and Scotland - 050s winning all matches
- East midlands racketball champ
- Defend title over 045s and 050s womens nationals
- Semifinal in British open

Sue smith -

- England cap for 035s
- Second in east midlands racketball

Greg loach - 050s England cap

Curtis Tomlinson - east midlands racketball champ

Neil Nightingale - 060s England cap

Murray Scott - 2nd in British closed (won last year)

Teams

Benz-Bavarian Duffield reached the PSL finals but were narrowly beaten by the reigning champions Surrery Health & Rackets Club.

## 12. Website [www.derbyshiresquash.co.uk](http://www.derbyshiresquash.co.uk) - Jonathan Brooks

Within your clubs please mention the website to all players.

Be sure to subscribe to the mailing list. This will allow us to target members directly.

Any suggestions for the content/display would be most welcome.

## 13. Presentation of League Trophies 2011/12 - Phil Scully

	Champions	Runners-Up
Premier	Brampton Manor 1	Duffield 1
Div 1	Duffield 2	Burton 2
Div 2	Burton 4	Duffield 3
Div 3	Repton 2	Hood Park 2

Div 4	Draycott 2	King Edward VI
Div 5	Ashbourne 2	Hood Park 4
Ladies	Duffield	Burton
R'ball-div 1	David Lloyd	Brampton Manor
R'ball-div 2	Burton	LA Fitness

#### **14. Chairman's Address - Graham Hall**

Firstly, I'd like to thank you all for attending this year's AGM and for your vital support and input over the last 12 months. Equally, I'd like to thank my committee colleagues for their continued voluntary work, without which none of what we have spoken about this evening would happen. Many thanks too to John Davis, regional manager for ESR, for attending our AGM this evening and congratulations to all trophy winners.

It would be very tempting at this point to open my address by telling you all that squash in Derbyshire is in dire straits and that we are struggling to survive financially. Unfortunately that is the opinion that a good number of people have formed recently, but that, as you have seen this evening, is not the case.

We are a financially stable organization and are viewed by ESR as being one of the most pro-active county associations in the country. But it's not just about finances, promoting and developing the sport is really what we are in place to achieve.

At the moment we have a situation in Chesterfield where one of the most productive clubs in the county, Brampton Manor, is up for sale, and the future of squash at the club is by no means assured. The town leisure centre is about to be rebuilt, potentially without squash courts.

But this is not as black a picture as it seems. Queens Park Squash Club have already engaged the borough council in discussions to ensure the continued facility to play squash, but any support from other clubs would be well received. Brampton Manor is in possession of a grant which will cover the cost of totally refurbishing all four existing courts to a very high standard. Initial talks with the management about potentially running the club as a member's co-operative are already underway.

Irrespective of these facts, the current situation does demonstrate that it is not an option for us to sit on our hands, it merely serves as a warning to us all that the sport in some respects is standing on a knife edge.

We must not fall into the trap of thinking that becoming an Olympic sport in 7 year's time will solve all our problems. Of course, if it does happen, the additional media coverage and opportunities to access increased funding will go a long way to helping us establish the sport in the mainstream. But the decision regarding our inclusion will be made very soon and we may well find ourselves launching the 2024 campaign sooner than we would like.

We can all play a part in promoting the sport, and it needs to be done by all of us, whether it is as players, coaches or committee members.

So, in closing this address, I'd like to invite all of you to reach out to your county association committee and tell us what help you need in securing the future of your club and in increasing player participation. We can't guarantee you a bottomless pit of money, but we do have funds available for development, and most importantly we are willing and eager to help.

### **15. Any other business**

The issue of the small numbers of ladies participating in the leagues was raised (Lesley Sturgess - Duffield). Some discussion took place over the merits of including a racketball player or even two players (Ashbourne) in the team. Playing the event during the day was another idea tabled. Jo Wallis (Brampton Manor) suggested a mixed league or if a reduced number of players in a team then the event could be run as a 'round robin event'. We will try and determine a revised format over the coming weeks, a questionnaire will be circulated.

A number of clubs/ Leisure centers were mention as potential participants in the leagues, these were Moorways, Springwood and Queen street.

Paul Doran (Ashbourne) Suggested that more of the discussion should be concentrated on the 'senior ' players. This was countered by Doug Whitfield (Burton) who suggested a middle ground approach giving both 'juniors' and 'seniors' an equal share of the resource available.

**Jonathan Brooks**  
**Secretary DSR**

## Appendix 1

DERBYSHIRE SQUASH RACKETS ASSOCIATION 2012 / 13 COMBINED ACCOUNTS							
INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
	2011 / 12	2012 / 13	Change		2011 / 12	2012 / 13	Change
	£		£		£		£
Cash in Hand	6655	6373	-282				
Subscriptions	3389	3690	301	County expenses	2065	1424	-641
England Squash rebate	725	418	-307	Lge Sec. Expenses	750	750	0
Doubles competition	150	0	-150	Printing	0	70	0
Sponsorship	1000	0	-1000	County closed	93	18	-75
Grants / ESR funding	600	815	215	Website / Maint.	295	285	-10
Levy	0	252	252	Shirts	1439	0	-1439
Shirts	0	10		Development	836	219	-617
Sub Total	5864	5185	-679	Cup Fees	135	69	-66
TOTAL	12519	11558	-961	Trophies	522	544	22
				Misc.	0	177	177
				Sub Total	6135	3556	-2579
				Cash in Hand	6384	8002	1618
				TOTAL	12519	11558	-961

## Appendix 2

DERBYSHIRE TEAMS 2012-13										
LEAGUE	M SENIORS	W SENIORS	M 035	W 040	M 045	W 050	M 055	M 060	RB SENIORS	RB 040
PREM				RELEGATED		STAY		RELEGATED		3RD
DIV 1		STAY	STAY	↓	STAY		STAY	↓	↑	PROMOTED
DIV 2	↑	PROMOTED								
CAPTAIN	PS	LS	CW	LS	MH	LS	JB	AH	NM	NM
PS	PHILLIP SCULLY									
LS	LESLEY STURGESS									
CW	CHARLIE WALL									
MH	MIKE HERRIDGE									
JB	JOHN BEASTALL									
AH	ALAN HAGGER									
NM	NIGEL MILLINGTON									