

**DERBYSHIRE SQUASH & RACKETBALL  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
7.30PM 25th June 2014  
Alfreton Leisure Centre, Church Street,  
Alfreton, Derbyshire. DE55 7BD**

**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 Representatives and Other attendees:** John Pearson (Queens Park), Kevin Britchford (Rolls-Royce), Doug Whitfield (Burton), Laura Hill (David Lloyd), Sandra Albinson (David Lloyd), Tiffany Upton (David Lloyd), Peter Fox (Ashbourne), Paul Doran (Ashbourne), Jane McIntyre (Ashbourne), Jason Fearn (Princes Sports Club), Lesley Sturgess (Duffield), Richard Grindrod (Duffield), Debbie Rogers (Duffield), Ray Patrick (Hood Park), Ian Mackinnon (LA Fitness), Eric Archibald (Sandiacre Friesland), Steve Coppard (King Edward VI), Roxanna Keshavarz (Draycott), John Beeby (Alfreton LC), Stephan Joyce (Alfreton LC), Gerry Higginbottam (Bradley House), Julia Muzyka (Bradley House), Anthony Horsley (The Manor), Neil Tatham (The Manor).

**Apologies:** John Beastall (President),

**Clubs not Represented:** Repton.

**1. Previous Meeting matters arising**

19<sup>th</sup> June 2013 held at The 'Pavillion', Rolls-Royce Squash, Derby  
*Acceptance of these minutes as a true record.*

Proposed by: Paul Doran

Seconded by: Kevin Britchford

**2. Election of Officers / Committee and Vacant Positions**

Nominations:

John Beastall (President).

Graham Hall (Chairman).

Jonathan Brooks (County Secretary)

Ray Patrick (Treasurer)

Gill Ford (League Secretary)

Phil Scully (County Captain)

Helen Wilson (Junior Representative)

No other formal nominations had been received for any DSR post and it is proposed they be re-elected on block

*Propose: **Elect en bloc***

Proposed by: John Pearson  
Seconded by: Eric Archibold

Current vacant positions are:-

- Welfare Officer - Vacant
- Racketball Coordinator - Vacant
- Competitions Coordinator Officer- Vacant
- Development Officer - Vacant
- Marketing Officer - Vacant
- Age Group County Captain - Vacant

### **3. Constitution amendment**

#### **Section 4. MANAGEMENT**

Currently section 4.5 indicates that:-

4.5 A quorum for the Management meetings shall be five members but must include at least one from:

4.5.1 Chairman or deputy Chairman/Secretary/Treasurer

**Proposal:** A quorum for the Management meetings shall be four members.....

**Vote: For 15 Against 0**

**Proposal carried**

A suggestion was tabled by Paul Duran (Ashbourne) that should the committee increase in size the 'quorum' could be increased as well. Possible inclusion in constitution to be reviewed at next committee meeting.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report and Accounts**

Cash in hand has reduced by some £700 to £7275 but this is still a healthy position against an annual expenditure of £4500.

Income last year reduced by £1400 mainly in the areas of subscriptions from clubs and lack of grants and England Squash funding. Subscriptions were down as we only charged teams £45 instead of £55 for the winter leagues. This was due to miss-communication and when it was spotted some clubs had already paid so we decided to leave it as it was. On the expenditure side the main increase on the previous year was attributed to InterCounty expenses with one match being carried over from the previous year, otherwise not too much change year on year.

In summary cash reserves have reduced by £700 but our working capital continues to be maintained at one years level of expenditure which has been our golden rule since the DSRA went bust several years ago.

**See Appendix 1** for details.

#### **Acceptance of Accounts**

Proposed by: Steve Coppard

Seconded by: Gerry Higginbottom

#### **5. Development -**

Development this year has been restricted to the lack of a 'development officer'. We did however allocate some funds to Mark Tasker to further his coaching. In return for this he provided coaching hours for junior and senior InterCounty competitors.

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

##### Grand Prix

This season has seen over 50 players from Derbyshire and the surrounding counties play in these popular Junior Squash events; players coming from 6 different clubs. We have many talented young squash players 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.

If your club has youngsters interested in playing in the GP events please tell them to keep their eyes on the website for the date of the first event or tell them to contact me (my contact details are on the website).

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Derbyshire Squash for their kind donation and my fellow committee members - their support of our juniors, and of me, at the committee meetings is certainly very much appreciated.

Along with Kevin Barton, I will continue to organise the Grand Prix events next season, starting in September.

The Winner of the Grand Prix Title this season was Joe Thomas from Princes Club - formerly Brampton Manor.

## **7. Derbyshire County Leagues - Gill Ford**

In the winter leagues we had a slight reduction in the number of clubs and teams entering there were 54 teams representing 15 clubs. The result being a total of over 600 matches being organized. At the close of the season there were only a small number of matches not played.

The use of a 'single' racketball league also seemed to work well with all matches being completed.

At the start of season there was a short period when results were not available on the website in a timely manor. The majority of these issues were as a result of incorrectly completed score cards and the late submission of a list of players for that club. Players changing clubs at the start of the season are a particular issue and notification of their previous club is essential.

We have had 3 requests that would require changes to the current league rules. These requests are a result of issues that have arisen during last season. The three issues are:-

1) With the number of teams at individual clubs increasing, it is now common for two teams to play in the same week on different nights. This allows an individual player to play for two different teams in the same week. The current rule to cover this states that '*a player cannot play for more than one team on the same day*'. This dates back to when substantially all teams played on the same night.

Question - Do we wish to change this rule, it currently gives larger clubs an advantage.

Possible solution - We change the wording to '*a player cannot play for more than one team in the same week*'.

The vote was taken on 'Keeping the rules as they are'

**Vote: For 13 Against 2**

**The proposal was accepted**

2) During the latter stages of the KO Cup it seems that some teams fielded players of a higher standard than had previously played for that team.

Question - Do we wish to change the rules to counter this, it currently gives larger clubs an advantage.

Possible solution - We change the rules to 'a player must have played at least 2 or 3 times for the team in the second half of the season'.

Following discussions it was decided this possible change would not be voted on.

3) Number of times a player plays for a team before he is tied to that team. The current rule to cover this states that 'During EACH half season ANY nominated player may "play up" for ANY higher team THREE TIMES ONLY on the next occasion they will be tied to the higher team'. With the current number of teams in a division being reduced in recent years this rule has less effect.

Question - Do we wish to change this rule, it has been reviewed in the past.

Possible solution - We change the rules to 'TWO TIMES ONLY on the next occasion they will be tied to the higher team'. We could apply it pro rata depending on the number of teams in the division. e.g. 8 or 7 teams - 3 times, 6 teams - 2 times.

The vote was taken on change to 'Two Times Only'

**Vote: For 6 Against 8**

**The proposal was defeated**

There was significant discussion around the number of teams that would be in the 'premier' league after 'The Manor' struggled to field a team last season on 'Lumb Farm' will close shortly although the members may base themselves at Alfreton Leisure Centre for the coming season. It was decided that the current rule of promotion for the winning team in division 1 would be enforced. This was voted on

**Vote: For 12 Against 3**

**The proposal was accepted**

## 8. County Knock-Out Cup 27<sup>th</sup> April, Alfreton Leisure Centre

Another successful finals weekend brought the Derbyshire Squash and Racketball season to a close. Thank you to Alfreton Leisure Centre for hosting and Helen Wilson and Phil Scully for organizing the event.

Congratulations to:

Section A	Brampton Manor 1	bt	Burton 1	3-2
Section B	Rolls Royce 1	bt	Brampton Manor 2	3-2
Section C	King Edward VI	bt	Ashbourne 2	4-1
Ladies	Duffield	bt	Ashbourne	4-1

## 9. County Championships 24/25<sup>th</sup> January, Duffield Squash Club

Congratulations to:

Mens	Adam Turner	bt	Sam Watts
Mens Handicap	Steven Barker	bt	Mick Burton
Mens Plate	Steven Barker	bt	Chris Barker
Mens O35	Brendan Hickerman	bt	Charlie Wall
Mens O45	Glen Woodhead	bt	Adrian Murphy
Mens O45 Plate	Felix Frixou	bt	Tony May
Mens O55	Nigel Millington	bt	John Pearson
Mens O55 Plate	Mike Dyer	bt	Jonathan Brooks
Women's	Lesley Sturgess	bt	Heidi Walters
Women's Plate	Jo Shelley	bt	Sue Smith
Women's O40	Lesley Sturgess	bt	Sue Smith

## 10) Summary of County Teams

LEAGUE	M SENIOR	W SENIOR	M 035	W 040	M 045	W 050	M 055	M 060	RB SENIOR	RB 040
PREM						STAY			RELEGATED	STAY
DIV 1	STAY	STAY	STAY	STAY	STAY		STAY	PROMOTED		
DIV 2										
CAPTAIN	PS	LS	CW	LS	JF	LS	NM	JB	SA	SA
PS	PHILLIP SCULLY									
LS	LESLEY STURGESS									
CW	CHARLIE WALL									
JF	JASON FEARN									
JB	JOHN BEASTALL									
AH	ALAN HAGGER									
NM	NIGEL MILLINGTON									
SA	STUART ATKINS									

## 11. Achievements by Derbyshire Qualified Players and Teams

- Joel Hinds - World 69 From 92 Last Year And Injury
- Ashley Davies - World 223 - Turned Pro
- Lesley Sturgess - 11<sup>th</sup> Cap For England 050, Caps For England In Wales And Scotland - 050s Winning all matches
  - East Midlands Racketball Champ
  - Won 055s Women's Nationals
  - Derbyshire Champ (Last Time 25 Yrs Ago)
- Sue Smith - Playing Around The World. German Masters 045s Winner Swedish And Welsh Open Runner Up.
- Jason Fearn - East Midlands 045s Rball Champ, Quarter final in 045's Rball Nationals.
- Nigel Millington - Semi final in 055's Rball Nationals.
- Neil Nightingale - 060s England Cap.
- Murray Scott - 2<sup>nd</sup> In Squash Nationals And Reserve For England 045

### Teams

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

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

We have updated the site with a 'twitter' feed so results will be available as soon as they are entered via that medium.

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 2013/14**

	Champions	Runners-Up
Premier	Duffield 1	Brampton Manor 1
Div 1	Duffield 2	Rolls-Royce 1
Div 2	Rolls-Royce 2	Duffield 3
Div 3	Queens Park 1	King Edward VI
Div 4	Duffield 5	Ashbourne 2
Div 5	Hood Park 3	Duffield 7
Ladies	Burton	Ashbourne

### **14. Chairman's Address**

Ladies and Gentlemen, firstly I'd like to thank everyone for giving up their time this evening to attend our Annual General Meeting and I'd once again like to offer my personal thanks to my fellow committee members for giving the County Association another year of their time to serve on the committee voluntarily.

The past 12 months have seen an abundance of squash activity in Derbyshire. There have been many ups and downs and news has been both positive and negative.

For example we have seen much development involving clubs in our county.

At Lumb Farm the uncertainty has finally been resolved insomuch as the players now know for sure that they will no longer be using the club when the Winter League commences. Ilkeston Manor has lost both its full time coach, and the majority of its players, leading most recently to the withdrawal of its' team from our Summer Squash League. Brampton Manor has been sold as a going concern, undergone a name change, and subsequently missed the opportunity to use a £45000 Sport England grant to fully refurbish it's courts to a very high standard. It will though carry out a programme of improvements to all four courts next month, paid for by the present owner, and he has publicised plans to re-establish court 5 and provide tiered

spectator seating. At Glossop, the decision has been taken by the owners to reduce the number of courts to one, at a time when both courts are frequently over-subscribed, although ESR are playing an active role in seeking to reverse this decision. And at Duffield they have once again retained the Gold Clubmark Standard and are currently formulating plans which will possibly lead to the club totally relocating and building a fantastic new facility. Queens Park Sports Centre in Chesterfield is due to be demolished and rebuilt. They will have 1, 2 or 3 courts. Or maybe none at all depending on who you listen to.

As far as players are concerned, in this past season we have again seen Derbyshire players achieve high standards. Amongst our juniors we have Regional Champions and up and coming players who regularly win junior sanctioned events. We have very young players who are amongst the elite in their age group and attract sponsorship from the likes of Tecnifibre and Salming. We have two players who have done remarkably well and have gone on from being world class juniors to become members of the ESR Academy Programme. And of course we have Derbyshire born professional players who continue their rise up the PSA rankings. In addition we have extremely high standard County League players who win regional and national titles. In fact, only last week, this small county of ours produced yet another winner at national level. Lesley Sturgess was crowned Women's Over 55 National Racketball Champion. And let's not forget Nigel Millington, who also flew the flag for Derbyshire, but narrowly lost the Men's Over 55 final.

But while we have a mixed bag of good, bad and indifferent news, there is a common thread running through almost everything I've just mentioned. And that is that almost all that news came to me as a result of rumour, innuendo and hearsay. With a little bit of internet research thrown in. Maybe that's not the best way to describe it but you'll get the gist. The fact is that almost none of the news came to my attention voluntarily.

Now most people in this room would be interested to hear all of what I've just said, and will probably be hearing some of it for the first time.

If we take three of the positive stories you'll understand though why this news has gone unreported. I found out about Duffield retaining their Gold Standard by visiting the club website one day, in search of some other news incidentally. The club has never issued a press report to the County Association. News of the inclusion of Derbyshire players in the ESR Academy Programme came to me via an ESR business update. Even though I know the parents of both players pretty well, and speak to them both on a very regular basis, one of them never even saw fit to mention it to me during a 45 minute conversation we had last week. And the news of Lesley's success was acquired via my daily visit to Squashsite. In fact, as I wrote my address this morning, Lesley's success was still unreported on her own club website. Bearing in mind that she is the club coach, this is even more alarming.

The reason I mention all this is quite simple. We at DSR cannot be solely responsible for the promotion and development of our sport in Derbyshire. In the main, we all have full time jobs, and we give up copious amounts of our own time voluntarily to

ensure that squash in Derbyshire continues to be played at its current level. But without the help of players, club committee members, team captains and club coaches, much of the achievement and development of players and clubs in our county will go un-noticed. And that in itself will continue to be one of the reasons why the sport is not being taken up by new adult players and juniors.

As participants, we have a duty to this sport to ensure that it does not wither on the vine. And I think I said something similar in my address last year. Very few of our clubs have a junior section worthy of the name and if we continue to play our sport in secret that will continue to be the case. As an example, Derbyshire currently has no U11 junior player with a national ranking for the first time in 15 years. But it doesn't need to be that way because there is much positive and inspiring news to report involving players and clubs across the county, which should in turn inspire people to become involved in the sport.

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

A number of items were raised during the course of the meeting and these are included here.

Create a 'job description' for the development officer. This could be separated into smaller tasks that could be split up between a number of people and thus be more easily handled. This will be followed up by the committee.

Leagues to consist of teams of 4 players. This was discussed at length, the main issue against it seems to be the involved calculation required in the event of a draw in matches. Count back on games and then on points. We will try to obtain a response from a wider selection of players on this.

Create a new league that consists of teams of 3 men and 2 ladies. We will try and determine the interest and set up some friendlies over the coming season with the intention of introducing it in the winter leagues for the 2015/16 season.

Reduce the ladies teams to 3 players and arrange the fixtures so that two matches take place on the same night at the same club. This would improve the 'social' side of the match. We will discuss the implications and circulate any proposal to gauge interest.

Apply 'bonus' points to teams that play their matches. Currently there are penalty points for teams that do not play matches. This will be followed up by the committee.

We again had the 'post it' board available. Two items were put forward:-

- 1) Leagues of 4 teams with promotion/ demotion at the Christmas break.
- 2) Visible nomination lists available on the website.

The meeting was closed at 10:00pm.

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



**Appendix 1**

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
	2012 / 13	2013/14	Change		2012 / 13	2013/14	Change
							£
Cash in Hand	6373	8002	1629				
Subscriptions	3690	3199	-491	County expenses	1424	2086	662
England Squash rebate	418	415	-3	Lge Sec. Expenses	750	750	0
Grants / ESR funding	815	0	-815	Printing	70	0	-70
Levy	252	134	-118	County closed	18	18	0
Shirts	10	0	-10	Website / Maint.	285	295	10
				Shirts	0	0	0
				Development	219	375	156
				Cup Fees	69	65	-4
Sub Total	5185	3748	-1437	Trophies	544	526	-18
				Misc.	177	160	-17
				Grand Prix	0	200	200
TOTAL	11558	11750	206	Sub Total	3556	4475	919
				Cash in Hand	8002	7275	-727
				TOTAL	11558	11750	192