

**DERBYSHIRE SQUASH & RACKETBALL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
7.30PM 21st June 2017
Kedleston Room,
Rolls-Royce Leisure Centre, Moor Lane,
Derby. DE24 9HY**

Present:

Committee: Gill Ford (League Secretary), Ray Patrick (Treasurer), Phil Scully (Men's County Captain), Helen Wilson (Junior Representative), Jo Wallis (Development), Jonathan Brooks (County Secretary).

Club Representatives and Other attendees: John Pearson (Queens Park), Amanda Lennox (Rolls-Royce), Doug Whitfield (Burton), Gaz Beeby (Alfreton LC), Paul Doran (Ashbourne), Jo Wallis (Princes Sports Club), Dean Gregory (Duffield), Lesley Sturgess (Duffield), Jon Brooks (Hood Park), Steve Coppard (King Edward VI), Julia Muzyka (Bradley House), Nigel Millington (David Lloyd), Annette Hayden (The Manor).

Clubs not represented: Draycott, Repton, Sandiacre Friesland, Nottingham.

Welcome to the Derbyshire Squash and Racketball AGM for 2017. It's been a changing year for us with reduced numbers of players and clubs. There has also been a significant change on how England Squash support the sport. This has been driven by their reduction in funding which mainly comes from Sport England. Their staff have been reduced to less than half what it was a couple of years ago. As a result more ownership has been placed on the County organizations which results in more work and increased costs for us. We are fortunate in having a conscientious group of people on the committee who put in a lot of effort to keep everything moving along smoothly, well most of the time.

As agreed at last years AGM there has been a revision in the provision of trophies we present. We will now only provide trophies to the winners. The others will get a mention here before their names are consigned to the archives.

As usual we will need proposers and seconders for the various items that need approval.

AGENDA

1. Previous Meeting - minutes and matters arising.
2. Election of Officers / Committee and Vacant Positions
3. Treasurers Report and Accounts
4. Development
5. Junior Section

6. Derbyshire County Leagues
7. County Knock-Out Cup
8. County Championships
9. Summary of County Teams
10. Achievements by Derbyshire Qualified Players and Teams
11. Website www.derbyshiresquash.co.uk
12. Presentation of League Trophies
13. Any other business

Please note that in accordance with the DSR's Constitution only Member Clubs are able to vote at the AGM, one vote per club. A Member Club is affiliated to England S&R and has at least one team in the Derbyshire Leagues.

1. Previous Meeting matters arising

22nd June 2016 held at Nightingale Hall, Rolls-Royce Leisure Centre, Moor Lane, Derby. DE24 9HY

The minutes of that meeting were available as always on the website and there were no matters arising notified to the committee.

Acceptance of these minutes as a true record.

Proposed by: Paul Doran

Seconded by: John Pearson

2. Election of Officers / Committee and Vacant Positions

Nominations:

Jonathan Brooks (County Secretary)

Ray Patrick (Treasurer)

Gill Ford (League Secretary)

Phil Scully (County Captain)

Helen Wilson (Junior Representative)

Mark Fidler (Welfare Officer)

Jo Wallis (Development Officer)

No other formal nominations had been received for any DSR post and it is proposed that the current committee be re-elected on block.

Propose: Elect en bloc

Proposed by: Doug Whitfield

Seconded by: Gaz Beeby

3. Treasurer's Report and Accounts

You will find a copy of last years accounts with the handout.

After some concerns last year over potential issues we have in fact had a good year, with only a £200 reduction in cash in hand.

Income last year was £3700 compared to £5300 the previous year with the main shortfall being England squash funding. This funding is not guaranteed annually but we do have some more this year.

Subscriptions were in line with last year as was our England squash rebate.

Expenditure was however well down on the previous year resulting in the small cash reduction.

As you can see the main change from last year is in the area of county team expenses. The reason for this is a change the county match format where games are now played on one day as opposed to a weekend resulting in no need for over night stays.

Junior development costs reduced but I think it's fair to say that activity has continued at previous levels as you will hear shortly.

So in summary cash reserves have reduced slightly but our working capital continues to be maintained in excess of one years level of expenditure which has been our golden rule since dsra went bust several years ago.

I don't foresee any significant change over the next year with income increasing slightly as a direct result of England squash funding offsetting a small increase in expenditure.

I will take any questions at this point

One other point:- very few clubs have paid their summer league subscriptions so prompt payment would be appreciated.

See Appendix 1

Acceptance of Accounts

Proposed by: Steve Coppard

Seconded by: Paul Doran

4. Development -

Good evening, I'm Jo Wallis one of the Derbyshire Junior Squash Development Team along with Helen Wilson and coach Mark Tasker.

Squash: it's a numbers game.

These are some numbers for the whole of Derbyshire Junior Squash.

There are 4 venues within Derbyshire sending young players into the county squad sessions. Thank you. If any other clubs want to look at possibility of encouraging juniors, please get in touch with one of our team.

50 young players on our books for county squad training. These young players are recommended by their club coaches and form our training squads from which the Junior Inter County Teams are selected.

We held 8 county training squad sessions throughout the season. Run by UKCC level 3 coach Mark Takser, and I am pleased to say we have retained his services for next season.

32 juniors entered the 2016 Derbyshire Junior County Closed in September which was held at Duffield.

20 Derbyshire Juniors are active on the ES Ranking system, which means they travel around the country at weekends to enter national level sanctioned events, showing great commitment to our sport.

4 of our young players have achieved a top 50 ranking and to support them, they have benefited from free county training this season.

We entered 4 Junior Inter County teams into this **NATIONAL** event this season. The format is: **England** is divided into up to 4 regions and the **counties** are seeded based on last years performance. Within each region there are 1-4 groups depending on entry numbers. After Stage 1, the top team from each of the regional group's moves to the finals section at stage 2, and the runners up from each group move to the trophy part of stage 2. The winners of the stage 2 regional finals progress to the national finals in January, where the overall winners become national champions. The Winners of the stage 2 regional Trophy also progress to the national Trophy finals in January. All teams play in stage 1 & 2, but only the best play again in January.

U13 boys finished 4th in the regional stage 2 trophy finals. Which means they finished just under half way out of the 35 counties that entered teams.

We entered two **U17 boys** teams this year: **Derbys 1** finished 3rd in regional stage 2 finals and **Derbys 2** finished 2nd in the regional stage 2 Trophy. So, again finishing about midway in amongst the 33 counties that entered.

U17 girls finished 3rd in the **national** Trophy final in January, having **won** their regional trophy group and did one better than the boys teams (yet again!).

Our U11's had their own Festival event and we sent one boys team this year and they had a fun day out at Manchester squash centre, and did very well for such a young team.

We are working with the young players we have, to facilitate their progress through competitive junior squash.

We do this in many ways

In addition to the events I have already mentioned we:

1. Run the Derbyshire Junior Grand Prix which Helen will cover separately.
2. Have Social Media presence on Facebook: which is available to anyone and is for ALL Derbyshire squash, so anyone can post and share there.
3. Encourage and Support our Juniors to enter ES sanctioned events and thus get national ranking points.
4. At one national event we organised 'Live coaching' from Mark Tasker to great effect.
5. Are involved with Regional Liaison/ Regional Forum/ Regional coach and try to stay abreast of regional and national developments for the benefit of our county.
6. Provide a point of contact for players and coaches and external organisations and other counties to get in touch and share good practice and links with our county.
7. Always on the look out to find Sponsors for events and T shirts etc. Please get in touch if you have anything to offer in that respect.
8. A new venture this year is that we are Supporting Juniors to become young squash coaches. We have one who has begun already, and expect more in the coming season.

Squash, **it's a numbers game** and we do need more young players coming through the system in order to maintain the level of squash participation and to feed into the adult leagues, and to ensure we have enough talented youngsters to represent Derbyshire in the future.

To that end, next season, in addition to strengthening all of the above:

I hope to:

1. Bring in some grass roots development via School Sport Partnerships
2. Organise a Marking and refereeing course to which you will all be welcome: adults and juniors.
3. Facilitate ongoing CPD for our Derbyshire based coaches

If anyone is interested in any of the things I have mentioned, please get in touch with me. AND do follow us on FACEBOOK for regular updates.

AND FINALLY, and most importantly: the Derbyshire Junior Grand Prix; the bed rock of **Derbyshire Junior Squash**.

After running the series every year for the past 12 seasons Helen Wilson was presented with a gift from all the players and parents of the Grand Prix this season.

5. Junior Section - Helen Wilson

Junior Squash Grand Prix Event and End of Season Awards.

This season has seen 38 players from Derbyshire and the surrounding counties play in these popular Junior Squash events. Although this is a reduction in numbers from previous years, it still demonstrates there is a decent number of talented, enthusiastic youngsters turning up at these events and we 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.

As usual, events were held at Princes Club, Duffield and Ilkeston Manor and some tremendous squash has been played, not just by those in the top groups but also by some of the newcomers to the game. The hope is that many of the players will step up and play in sanctioned events and represent Derbyshire at inter-county level in the not too distant future.

After 12 years, this was the last Grand Prix that my husband Andy and I will organise. Andy, my husband has been helping out with the GP events for 12 years too, perhaps not always front of house, but always there sorting out the GP points, order of play etc.

Awards were presented by Michael Wallis, last year's Grand Prix Title winner and a racket grip was given to each player.

Firstly I presented an award to Adam Brass from Glossop Club. Following in the footsteps of two of his older brothers, Tom & Seb, who both played in the Grand Prix events, Adam arrived, puppy faced, not much bigger than his racket and in the bottom group. Nervous, just a beginner, he consequently lost all his matches. And that was the case in at least the first 2, if not 3 GPs he played in. No wins. There were tears, there was frustration, but there was also determination. I fondly remember that when Adam did win his first Grand Prix match his Mum wasn't watching - she was supporting one of her other boys. But I saw! His little face lit up and that was the start of things. Still only 13 years old, Adam is an example to us all. He has grit, determination, yes he can get frustrated, but usually at himself, but he's a fighter.

Adam was presented with a squash T shirt with his name on the back.

The Most Helpful Award was presented to someone who throughout the season was helpful - someone who could usually be counted on and who actually frequently volunteered to mark - Finlay Stott, (Duffield Club) who also received a T shirt with his name on the back.

Most Improved Player, always a tricky category as, honestly, so many players have come on during the season, however, this season, and winning a racket the award was presented to Alex Lapworth (Duffield Club).

The Future Champion Award, with the prize of a racket went to Harry Watson (Princes)

The Grand Prix Title Trophy which is the award presented annually to the player who has accumulated the most points throughout the season - check out some of the names on the

trophy - Joel Hinds who was, at one time ranked in the top few best players in the world; our very own Phil Scully, the current county champion as well as being captain of the county team. More recently Matt Barton and my own son, Alex Wilson, both who now play for the first team at Newcastle University, Duffield's, Molly Tomlinson etc etc. was won by Matthew Gregory (Duffield) with Harry Watson (Princes) the Runner-up.

6. Derbyshire County Leagues - Gill Ford

In the leagues we had teams from 16 different clubs. The number of teams entering was slightly down again at 46. The result being a total of 272 matches being organized and played. Penalty points were not added till the end of the season. We will attempt to apply them at the time they occur next season.

There were a number of instances during the season where teams failed to turn up or give notice that they would not be turning up. In some of these instances the opposing team will still have to pay for the courts and food. This cost needs to be born by the offending team. This event is covered by rule 10. b).

A copy of the rules is available on the website should you need to check anything.

There was some discussion on teams not turning up and the amount of penalty points applied for this event. It was felt that a team should not be penalised for turning up with 4 players (currently 5 points) beyond loosing that rubber for the missing person also the penalty for turning up with 3 players should be 5 points (currently 10 points). If a team fails to turn up or give less than 72 hours notice they will be penalised 20 points (currently 10 points). At a show of hands 8 of the 12 clubs represented were in agreement. This will be included in a change to the rules.

Summer League 2016

	Champions	Runners-Up
Div 1	Burton 1	The Manor
Div 2	Queens Park 1	Duffield 2
Div 3	Duffield 3	Queens Park 2
Div 4	Burton 2	Duffield 4

Winter League 2016/2017

	Champions	Runners-Up
Premier	Princes 1	Duffield 1

Div 1	Queens Park 1	Duffield 3
Div 2	Hood Park 1	Lichfield 2
Div 3	Queens Park 2	Alfreton 1
Div 4	Duffield 7	Burton 4
Ladies	Ashbourne	Duffield
Racketball	Burton 1	The Manor 1

Trophies will be presented at the end.

7. County Knock-Out Cup 9th April, Duffield Squash Club

A good finals weekend brought the Derbyshire Squash and Racketball season to a close. Thank you to Duffield for hosting and Helen Wilson and Phil Scully for organizing the event.

Congratulations to:

Section A	Princes 1	bt	Burton 1
Section B	Duffield 3	bt	Lichfield 2
Section C	Duffield 5	bt	Alfreton 1

Trophies will be presented at the end.

8. County Championships 28 & 29th January, Duffield Squash Club

Congratulations to:

Mens	Phil Scully	bt	Dan Busby
Mens Handicap	Kieran Shelly	bt	Matt Gregory
Mens O35	Greg Loach	bt	Charlie Wall
Mens O45	Charlie Wall	bt	Mick Burton

Mens O55 Doug Whitfield bt Rob Lathbury

Womens Lesley Sturgess bt Jo Shelly

Womens O40 Lesley Sturgess

Thanks again to Helen and Phil for organizing and also Duffield Squash for hosting the event.

9) Summary of County Teams

There was a revised format this year with group matches and then a final for the top teams.

LEAGUE	M SENIOR	M SENIOR B	W SENIORS	M 035	W 040	M 045	W 050	M 055	M 060	RB SENIORS	RB 040
FINALS										3RD	
GROUPS	STAY	STAY	STAY	STAY		STAY	STAY	STAY	STAY		STAY
CAPTAIN	SW	JS	LS	CW		CW	LS	RL	JB	PS	LW

PS PHILLIP SCULLY
LS LESLEY STURGESS
CW CHARLIE WALL
LW LEE WATSON
JB JOHN BEASTALL
RL ROB LATHBURY
JS JOHN SLATER
SW SAM WATTS

10. Achievements by Derbyshire Qualified Players

- **MILLIE TOMLINSON** - WORLD 26 - Winning 2 PSA events since August 2016 tournaments. Played and won in the PSL premier league finals for Nottingham.
- **ASHLEY DAVIES** - WORLD 110 - Winning 1 PSA event.
- **LESLEY STURGESS** - 14TH year and 16th cap playing for England for the ladies O55 winning all three matches in the ladies home internationals. Runner up British open and Nationals O55s. Winner in O50s, O55s Squash 57 nationals. Service to sports award in the Telegraph awards for 40 years promoting sport in Derbyshire.
- **NEIL NIGHTGALE** - Cap for England over 65s winning both matches in the home internationals.
- **JOHN ROBERTSON** - 1st Cap for England men's O70s, quarter finalists in nationals and British open. Won the England squash award for special recognition for over 50 years of coaching and services to Squash.

11. Website www.derbyshiresquash.co.uk

The website continues to be the main source of communication and should be the first port of call for information. We continue to include and add information and any suggestions for further content can be forwarded to Gill.

12. Presentation of League Trophies 2016/17

Winter League 2016/2017

Premier	Princes 1
Div 1	Queens Park 1
Div 2	Hood Park 1
Div 3	Queens Park 2
Div 4	Duffield 7
Ladies	Ashbourne
Racketball	Burton 1

13. Any other business

The number of matches at one every week in the Racketball league was felt to be too often. This was a result of the number of teams entering and ending up with only one large league. We will review the situation at the start of the new season but it will depend on the number of teams that enter.

A similar situation applies to the ladies league in that there are too many matches to fit in the available time. A suggestion was made that their being no summer league for the Ladies then the winter season could be extended with the matches starting earlier and finishing later in the season. If possible we will incorporate that this coming season.

In the KO Cup some teams felt that it was difficult to arrange matches against teams in the adjacent league. We will review the possibility of creating a spare week in the run up to the Christmas break and then also in the middle of the season period after Christmas. It was pointed out that certain clubs had ranked players to play for them but in the end they didn't play, usually as a ruse to drop other regular players down the order. This is obviously

not in the spirit of the competition but is not something that the committee are easily able to police. If anyone is aware of any instances where this is happening, then they should report it to the committee where we will investigate the circumstances of the infringement.

Jonathan Brooks
Secretary DSR

Appendix 1

DERBYSHIRE SQUASH RACKETS ASSOCIATION 2016 / 17

INCOME

	2015/16	2016/17	Change
Cash in Hand	6785	6387	-398
Subscriptions	3255	3175	-80
England Squash rebate	400	358	-42
County closed	-67	59	126
ES Funding	1289	-39	-1328
Sponsorship	400	200	-200
Sub Total	5277	3753	-1524
Total	12062	10140	-1922

EXPENDITURE

	2015/16	2016/17	Change
			£
County expenses	2250	986	-1264
Lge Sec. Fee	800	800	0
Printing	0	67	67
Website maint.	295	300	5
Development	1286	891	-395
Cup Fees	120	0	-120
Trophies	1016	896	-120
AGM costs	150	165	15
Balls	0	103	103
Sub Total	5917	4208	-1709
Cash in Hand	6145	5932	-213
Total	12062	10140	-1922