

**DERBYSHIRE SQUASH & RACKETBALL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
7.30PM 20th June 2018
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), Doug Whitfield (Participation Organiser).

Club Representatives and Other attendees: Chris Respinger (Queens Park), Gaz Beeby (Alfreton LC), Peter Fox (Ashbourne), Jo Wallis (Princes Sports Club), Dean Gregory (Duffield), Debbie Rogers (Duffield), Ray Patrick (Hood Park), William Gray (Bradley House), Doug Whitfield (Burton), Phil Mobley (Sutton Bonnington).

Clubs not represented: Draycott, Repton, Sandiacre Friesland, Nottingham, Rolls-Royce, King Edward VI, David Lloyd, The Manor, Fulwood, Tollgate.

Welcome to the Derbyshire Squash and Racketball AGM for 2018. It's has again been a challenging year for us with reduced numbers of players and clubs. The only area where there has been an increase is in the 'Senior Citizens' age group where we had to introduce a new category of over 65 in the Derbyshire Closed competition. A good sign in its self as it means more players are staying active longer. At the other end of the scale the signs are not that good as we will see later.

As you can see we have a new face on the committee, Doug is helping out in the temporary position of 'Participation Organiser', we will hear for Doug later.

We discussed and agreed a number of changes to the rules at last years AGM these rules have now been re-issued and can be found on the website.

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. Junior Section
5. Development
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

21st June 2017 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: Phil Mobley

Seconded by: Dean Gregory

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)

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 en bloc

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

Propose: Elect en bloc

Proposed by: William Gray
Seconded by: Chris Respinger

3. Treasurer's Report and Accounts

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

Prudent financial control has continued throughout the past year resulting in our cash reserve increasing by £650.

Income last year increased by £1500 compared to the previous year all down to funding from England Squash. All other income streams being in line with the previous year.

Expenditure increased by £400 mainly due to financing some coaching courses with the cost coming out of our England Squash funding. Development outlay was also supplemented by this funding hence the financial reduction although activity was still in line with last year as you will find out later. By and large the England Squash funding is to be used in promoting squash and increasing playing numbers. You will note we purchased a few shirts for our junior team members.

So in summary, it was a good financial year where cash reserves increased by £650 to £6590 which means 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 for see any significant changes over the next year although our England Squash funding will reduce slightly.

I thank you for prompt payment of league subscriptions. I will take any questions at this point.

Some of you are no doubt that there are changes taking place to England Squash membership this year. They are introducing mandating membership which is compulsory for clubs participating in county leagues to be affiliated to England Squash and for all players entering its competitions to also be members. We already implement this policy.

Presently England Squash rebate is 12.5% per club courts and £1 for each declared players. Last year we received £387.

The new membership fee will be £12.50 per player.

The new rebate will increase to £3 per player plus 20% of the court fees. England Squash is also prepared to charge an additional player levy of £1 per player to help increase county funds however we did not feel that was necessary in our case.

There is one bone of contention which I have raised before and that is there is little correlation between the number of ES player members per club and their nomination lists. In some cases there is a wide discrepancy.

It is obviously within our interest to rectify this issue as this could easily treble our rebate so do we have any recommendations on how we achieve this.

See Appendix 1

Acceptance of Accounts

Proposed by: Chris Respinger

Seconded by: Phil Mobley

4. Junior Section

Following the disappointing number of county junior teams that Derbyshire was able to enter into inter-county competitions this year, just 3, looking ahead, I'm afraid it looks even worse. I'm not sure that we have the enthusiastic and (highly) talented number of youngsters that we have had in the past. When I contacted the local squash coaches recently, asking for names of players to be considered, I received just 3 names from just 2 coaches.

But perhaps I'm missing something/someone?

England has the highest number of squash players in the world, but with Sport England's recent survey indicating that participation in squash has been on a steady decline for the last five years, there is a call for everyone to pick up their racquet and get back out on court and to encourage family, friends and neighbours to do likewise!

Squash is not alone in showing a drop in participation. Golf, basketball and swimming have also seen a dip, and the general reduction in people playing sport can only be viewed as a national embarrassment. Persuading children to put down their mobiles or leave their X-Boxes alone to get any kind of physical exercise is becoming harder and harder for parents, coaches and teachers alike.

There are a few solid, successful clubs and leisure centres offering squash within our county with people busy building strong junior participation, and busy keeping new members coming in through the front door, yet, despite the best efforts of the managers, coaches, volunteers, and people willing to give up large amounts of their time, our teams are struggling, numbers are dwindling.

Not that many years ago my son was fighting to get a place in the county team. We had numerous talented players all vying for a place in that ultimate quest - to play for their county. We had teams representing the county at each age group, from U19 down to U11

including one, sometimes two girls' teams. And they *were* successful. Last year, as I said earlier, we fielded just 3 teams.

As a county we need more players, but, realistically it is particularly the junior ranks we want to increase. It is vital we get youngsters in to our clubs because, after all, they are our future. We need to spread the word that we hold 'fun' Grand Prix events, mini tournaments, hold coaching sessions for juniors etc etc and let's aim to fill those empty day-time or weekend courts with school groups, let's get groups of people on court together more regularly to enjoy a fun, inclusive, social game and let's fill the small coaching groups with possible stars of the future.

If you know of a talented junior who has perhaps lost their enthusiasm for squash of late, but who you think might be coerced into a return with some support and additional coaching please let me know, or simply pass their name on to the junior coach at your club if you have one. Alternatively, please try and push squash participation among your family and friends. Tell everyone to give it a go!

It really would be a shame if Derbyshire only fielded one junior county squad, this next season, and had no junior county closed event, which is sadly what I'm envisaging at the moment.

5. Development

County Training

As a county, we ran 3 Junior training sessions with Mark Tasker (ES UKCC Level 3 coach) Numbers 14, 16, 8.

The remaining 4 sessions were cancelled due to even lower numbers.

Inter County Junior Teams

We entered 3 boys teams this season; U11, U15, U17. No girls.

U11: Ben Mills, Harry Watson, Felix Melton did really well.

Region 1 finished 3/12

Stage 1 Won by 3-0 beating Lancs, Yorks 2, Cheshire.

Stage 2 Finished 3rd in group behind Warwickshire & Yorks 1

The match against Yorks 1 was awesome. I was there at Duffield.

Harry won 3-1, and Felix just lost 3-2 in a five setter. Our youngest juniors are doing very well.

Harry is now ranked number 18 in the England Squash U11 June rankings.

Felix ranked 73

U15: Chris Jerram, Gabe Wiseman, Jake Bamber, Adam Brass, George Salisbury

Region 2 finished 7/8

Stage 1 Won 1 lost 2, finishing 3rd behind Lincs, Leicester. Beating Notts.

Stage 2 lost 0-2 against Worcester & Kent. Notts withdrew.

Jake, Adam & George picked up games at 3, 4 & 5. But there was only going to be one result when Sam Osborne-Wylde stepped onto court with Chris!

Chris Jerram is currently ranked 78

U17: Matt Gregory, Michael Wallis, Oliver Johnston, Harry Salisbury, Joe Houghton, Cameron Stott

Region 1 Finished 6/8

Stage 1 Lost 0-3 to Merseyside, North Wales, & Cheshire finishing bottom of the group.

Stage 2 Won 2 out of 3 matches finishing 2nd behind Cheshire, but beating Lancs & Lincs.

Matt is ranked 90

Michael 109

Junior Grand Prix

Dean Gregory kindly took over the reins from Helen Wilson and did a great job keeping the Grand Prix series going.

His full report is published on our Facebook page, which I would urge everyone to 'like and follow'.

Headlines:

5 events; one cancelled due to low numbers

3 venues: Duffield, Princes, Ilkeston Manor

29 players from Derbyshire and surrounding areas

Thanks to J&S Trophies, Matt Gregory, parents.

Winner Chris Jerram

Runner up Adam Brass

Best Sportsman Anja Raine

Best Newcomer Lilja Raine

Most improved Luca Maniadakis

The Derbyshire Junior Development Team is currently working on potential solutions to the falling numbers.

6. Derbyshire County Leagues

In the leagues we had teams from 13 different clubs. The number of teams entering was down again at 41 from 46 the previous year. The leagues ran smoothly overall with the effect that no penalty points needed to be applied.

See below - 12. Presentation of League Trophies 2016/2017

Proposed League Structure 2018/19 Season

It has proved difficult over the last few seasons to structure the leagues to provide a full season of squash for all teams across the standards of the league. To rectify this situation the league committee has decided to take the following approach for the upcoming season and politely request the support from all participating county teams in accepting promotions to make this work:

The team entry will be divided into equal leagues based around a target number of 8 teams per league, with a league of 6 teams playing each team 3 times as follows:

32 Teams - 4 leagues 8,8,8,8
31 Teams - 4 leagues 7,8,8,8
30 Teams - 4 leagues 7,7,8,8
29 Teams - 4 leagues 7,7,7,8
28 Teams - 4 leagues 7,7,7,7
27 Teams - 4 leagues 6,7,7,7 (league of 6 to play 3 times)
26 Teams - 3 leagues 6,6,7,7 (league of 6 to play 3 times)
25 Teams - 3 leagues 6,6,6,7 (league of 6 to play 3 times)
24 Teams - 3 leagues 8,8,8
23 Teams - 3 leagues 7,8,8
22 Teams - 3 leagues 7,7,8
21 Teams - 3 leagues 7,7,7
20 Teams - 3 leagues 6,7,7 (league of 6 to play 3 times)
19 Teams - 3 leagues 6,6,7 (league of 6 to play 3 times)
18 Teams - 2 leagues 6,6,6 (league of 6 to play 3 times)

The position of all teams in the league structure will be determined by last seasons performance. Exceptions to this rule will only be considered where a team can clearly demonstrate that their playing personnel has changed considerably, making them completely none viable in the league, in which case the next strongest team will go up. In this proposal the Premier division play offs are no longer appropriate, although 1up/1down promotion and relegation will be retained initially and kept under review season by season.

It is suggested that a club having two teams in the top division shares resources to give the best possibility of the second team being competitive. This has tended to work ok in the racket ball league over the last couple of seasons and is a suggestion rather than a rule that the league will enforce.

New teams will be entered in the league structure at a level most appropriate to the standard of their proposed players based on all form known to the league (should include squash levels rating).

The team entry deadline will be strictly observed to enable the above structure to be established and fixtures made available in a timely manner to allow courts to be booked and the season to start on time.

7. County Knock-Out Cup 15th 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 Phil Scully for organizing the event.

Congratulations to:

Section A	Duffield 1	bt	Princes 1
Section B	Duffield 2	bt	Duffield 3
Section C	Ashbourne 1	bt	Burton 4

Trophies will be presented at the end.

8. County Championships 20 & 21st January, Duffield Squash Club

Congratulations to:

Mens	Adam Turner	bt	Owen Whitfield
Mens Plate	Stephen Barker	bt	David Gonzalez
Womens	Lesley Sturgess	bt	Sue Smith
Womens Plate	Jenna Crisp	bt	Debbie Rogers
Mens O35	Brendan Hickerman	wo	Charlie Wall
Mens O35 plate	Santo's D'Souza	wo	Gareth Evans
Mens O45	Richard Smith	bt	Charlie Wall
Mens O45 Plate	Dean Gregory	bt	Martyn McAllister
Mens O55	Doug Whitfield	bt	Steve Coppard
Mens O55 Plate	Shaun Baxter	wo	James Rosborough
Mens O65 Group Winner	Rob Lathbury		

Mens O65 Runner Up Neil Nightingale

Handicap Michael Wallis bt Kieran Shelley

Handicap Plate Martyn McAllister bt Sue Smith

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

9) Summary of County Teams

LEAGUE	M SENIOR	M SENIOR B	W SENIORS	M 035	W 040	M 045	W 050	M 055	M 060	RB SENIORS
FINALS										
GROUPS	Prmoted div 1					STAY div 1		STAY div 1	STAY Prem	
CAPTAIN	SW	not entered	not entered	not entered	not entered	CW	not entered	RL	JB	not entered

SW SAM WATTS
CW CHARLIE WALL
RL ROB LATHBURY
JB JOHN BEASTALL
LW LEE WATSON

10. Achievements by Derbyshire Qualified Players

- **MILLIE TOMLINSON** - WORLD 27 - Winning another 4 PSA world events since Sept 2017 .
- **LESLEY STURGESS** - 15TH year and 17th cap playing for England for the ladies 055 winning all three matches in the ladies home internationals. 2 regional masters wins ladies over 55s. Winner in 050s, 055s Squash 57 nationals.
- **JOHN ROBERTSON** - Quarter finalists in nationals and British open.

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 2017/18

Summer League 2017

	Champions	Runners-Up
Div 1	Duffield 1	Fulwood
Div 2	Lichfield 1	Burton 1
Div 3	Hood Park 1	The Manor 2

Winter League 2017/2018

	Champions	Runners-Up
Premier	Princes 1	Manor 1
Div 1	Duffield 2	Burton 2
Div 2	Burton 3	Queens Park 2
Div 3	Ashbourne 1	Duffield 7
Div 4	Queens Park 3	Burton 5
Ladies	Duffield 1	Ashbourne
Racketball	The Manor 1	Burton 1

13. Any other business

The relevance of the KO Cup was discussed and on balance it was decided to keep it in place. How the sections are split will be reviewed when we know how many teams are entered into the leagues.

A question was raised on the rule regarding being tied to a team after a number of matches and its application to the 'Summer Leagues'. The rule still applies with it being reset at a point halfway through the season even though there is no natural break.

We need to locate the trophies for section B and C of the KO Cup.

Jonathan Brooks
 Secretary DSR
 22nd June 2018

Appendix 1

DERBYSHIRE SQUASH RACKETS ASSOCIATION 2017 / 18

INCOME

	2016/17	2017/18	Change
	£	£	£
Cash in Hand	6387	5932	-455
Subscriptions	3175	3075	-100
England Squash rebate	358	387	29
County closed	59	84	25
ES Funding	-39	1716	1755
Sponsorship	200	0	-200
Sub Total	3753	5262	1509
Total	10140	11194	1054

EXPENDITURE

	2016/17	2017/18	Change
	£	£	£
County expenses	986	889	-97
Lge Sec. Fee	800	800	0
Printing	67	0	-67
Website maint.	300	300	0
Development	891	493	-398
Cup Fees	0	42	42
Trophies	896	791	-105
AGM costs	165	148	-17
Balls	103	100	-3
County shirts	0	237	237
Misc	0	54	54
Coaching courses	0	750	750
Sub Total	4208	4604	396
Cash in Hand	5932	6590	658
Total	10140	11194	1054