

Minutes of the Warwickshire County Squash Management Meeting held on Tuesday 6th Feb 2018*

Present: - Nigel Orrett, Chris Barker, Mo Sarwar, Roger More, Max Holt and Leonie Holt.

1. Mo's Report:

Two inter-county weekends that our Men's teams are involved with:

3rd – 4th March

Over 45's – Captain – Andy Murray/Jon Summers – Cov and N. Warks are hosting

Over 65's – Roger More – Kenilworth are hosting

Squash 57 – Jason Pike – Away in Surrey

Squash 57 over 40's – Jon Summers – Cov and N.Warks are hosting

24th – 25th March

Over 35's – Marcus Hayes – Away in Oxfordshire

Over 50's – Tim Osgerby/Jon Summers – Away in Rochdale

Over 60's – Roger More – Away in Prestwich –originally Oxfordshire

County Closed – Winners are on the website

There was a great atmosphere for the finals. There was a miscommunication at the beginning regarding courts and unfortunately the bar was closed for the final and no food was available. If Leamington are to host again this should be rectified.

Entry numbers were OK for the Men's event but numbers for the Ladies' event were poor. Some entries were paid online but the only account available for this was the Junior one.

Action – Mo to check with Keith Harvey the situation with regard to money paid in. Income from the event was £11000 and expenditure was £900 approximately.

2. Coaching Courses:

A Level 1 course is being held on March 25th.

Action – Mo to ensure Chris Hall puts this on the County website.

A Level 2 course is also planned but a date and venue have yet to be decided.

Action – Mo to confirm the above once he has seen England Squash on the 14th February 2018.

3. Ladies' report:

The Over 40's – Captain Alison Insley – Are through to the finals play-off. W/end of 24th and 25th March.

The Over 50's – Rachael Woolford – Unfortunately were one point short of making it to the finals weekend.

Senior Ladies – Captain Leonie Holt. There was some discrepancy regarding the Premier League finals weekend date but it is confirmed as the 28th and 29th of April. Sarah Jane Perry says she will play if available and if her tournament schedule allows. Venue not yet confirmed.

4. League Business:

The summer league will start on the 14th May and finish on the 20th August. There will be 6 teams in each league. The closing date for entrants will be the 16th April. The entrance fee will be £45. It was agreed to try an "early bird" payment of £30 if payment received by the treasurer by the 2nd April.

The Ladies' League appears to be running very well. The League issue of a player in the Ladies League was discussed by the League sub-committee and agreed that where a club removes all of its teams from a section of the League any players are then allowed to play for another club. This is to be ratified at the AGM. Other matters were discussed and were being dealt with by Roger.

The discrepancies caused by squash levels was discussed i.e. a player might win 3-0 but lose points. There appears to be no way of avoiding this.

5. Treasurer's Report:

The County needs to keep a £10,000 buffer but we should make £15,000 available for County initiatives.

Three suggestions were made:

- Juniors
- Coach/Officials development
- Seniors

This will be discussed at the AGM

A proposal is being put together for an “Awards for All” award by Nigel Orrett and Pat Cropper.

6. Chairman’s Report:

i) British Junior – The Open was a success. The referees we trained now need to be upgraded to County grade referees.

Action – We need to co-ordinate volunteers better next time.

ii) AGM – As the leagues are now so well organised we need to concentrate on improving participation and, therefore, need to help clubs to attract and retain more members. To do this we need to meet with club chairmen or coaches. It was suggested that this year we should ask clubs to send their Chairman and/ or coach to the AGM rather than the usual team representative. We already have a Warwickshire Coaches “WhatsApp” group that allows coaches to communicate. It is thought that perhaps we should try and organise a coach/chairman day/afternoon.

iii) Girls Can – We already have three girls booked on to the Level 1 course on the 25th March.

Action – Mo to find out costs at his meeting with England Squash on the 14th February 2018.

iv) Inter-County Format – We have been asked to discuss, and report back to England Squash, the format for the Inter-County weekend:

- The dates – These need to be consistent from year to year – There was a mix-up with the Premier League weekend this year.
- Format – Our views are that the traditional weekend format works well and so there is no need to change it.
- Age Groups – There are too many Master’s groups. We need to have less or avoid having similar age groups on the same weekend. We would suggest Over 35, 45, 55, 65, 75 Men.

v) England Squash

a) Website – It is considered that the website is a nightmare since it is not user friendly.

b) Communication – It was agreed that trying to communicate with England Squash is impossible. They do not respond to emails and the phone is always on answerphone and no-one returns calls.

c) Manchester – It was considered that it would be great if Squash had a “Wembley” Manchester is thought to be a disappointment. A fixed venue for finals would be brilliant even if it meant a different venue for different age groups.

d) Insurance – The insurance included under England Squash membership is unclear.

7. Affiliation:

With the increase in affiliation costs some clubs are only affiliating members who play in their internal leagues or teams. We need to know the actual number of people playing squash and, therefore, clubs need to disclose true membership numbers.

8. AOB:

i) Dates of Committee meetings for 2018 are as follows:

15th April, 15th July, 15th September AGM, 2nd October, 4th December

ii) Minutes.

Action – Max to send minutes to Chris Hall to put on the website.

iii) 2017 Report.

Action – Nigel to send Max an overall report of events for 2017.

Information regarding the AGM needs to be sent out by the 25th August.

9. Date of Next Meeting: 15th April