



WARWICKSHIRE

SQUASH AND RACKETBALL COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday 12th November
TIME: 18.30hrs
VENUE: Ardencote Manor Hotel

MINUTES

1. Attendees

Chairman: Nigel Orrett	Junior Development: Chris Evans
Treasurer: Chris Barker	Liaison Officer: Chris Hall
Secretary: Rachel Woolford	Ladies Captain: Leonie Holt
League Secretary: Roger More	Mens Captain: Sam Miller - Apologies
Development, Performance, Safeguarding: Mo Sarwar	Members: Maxine Holt

2. Matters Arising

Previous meetings hosted by Nigel & Sue Orrett – Thanks were extended to Sue Orrett for her hospitality

- a) Roles & Responsibilities. Whilst individuals are aware of their own responsibilities, the roles should be clearly defined for each committee member and published on the Warks www. This will help prevent duplication of effort, allow all Warwickshire players to know who does what and who to approach about varying issues and facilitate succession planning
Each member to document what they understand their role to be and send to The Secretary

- b) ICC Roger canvassed support within the Men’s age groups and feedback indicates there is sufficient interest to enter teams in all 6 Masters Categories. Captains are:
 - 35 - Nick Knowles
 - 45 - Nigel Stephens

50- Jeremy Thornton

55- Andy Hill

60 - Paul Chapman

65 - Roger More

Leonie proposed if a team withdraws then that team is not entered the following season. Should the team wish to play the following season they will be required to fund it themselves and after playing the full season, the entry can be claimed back. This received unanimous support

Rachel to submit entries on line

- c) EPC funding briefly discussed. Chris H gave overview of the request and numerous queries were raised particularly regarding the schools; which schools are being targeted and does the demographic fit with the host club? Have similar initiatives taken place before and if so what was the outcome – do we have any stats that shows player retention? If funding is to be offered what feedback is expected and do we have a way of making that clear? General consensus is to fund 1 school initiative. Nigel and Chris H to have follow up discussion
- d) Squash Girls Can deadline is 22nd November. Information has been sent out regarding a level 1 coaching course for which Mo has received a number of names – Chris E put forward Matt Palmer, Nigel put forward John Byrne and Sam Osborne-Wilde. Ideal group numbers would be 12 but this can be stretched to 14. A mentor is also being sought

3. Welcome new Committee Members

New members welcomed:

Chris H as Liaison Officer – a new role

Chris E as Junior Development Officer – historically the junior section ran independently. Now integrated and supported by this committee

Rachel as Secretary. Nigel extended his thanks to Maxine Holt for her assistance in this area

4. Reports:

- a) Chairman – report submitted and circulated. Discussion points

A new role is to be created, Junior County Coach, for which a retainer will be paid. A job advert and specification is to be drawn up and the job will be advertised. The successful applicant will work closely with, and report to, the Junior Development Officer, he/she will be expected to be actively involved in County events and will likely be filled by a Level 3 coach or someone of equivalent standing. It is expected that supporting coaches will be also available from those receiving funding from Warwickshire Squash

Sponsorship – Nigel is to produce a document to expand on this point further and is aware that Rachel Finch works in this area and could be helpful

- b) Treasurer – verbal report

Bank Balance is circa £55k

If we receive the increased rebate from ES then we should break even

Bonus £600 received from ES for most numbers on World Squash Day

Discussion was held re ES member affiliations and whilst it was agreed that both Warwickshire and the sport of Squash benefitted from them, we are not able to force clubs to affiliate its entire member base. Leonie proposed that Warwickshire clubs who aren't seen to fully support the initiative should not be funded by Warwickshire. Agreed in principle

c) League Secretary – report submitted and circulated. Discussion points

Roger has received complaints about a couple of Clubs being poor hosts. He has spoken with the clubs concerned and sent out a generic email to all club contacts

The issue of juniors' not wearing goggles during senior matches has been raised. Roger has circulated suggestions to the league subcommittee and once all feedback has been received he will collate and take forward

d) Development, Performance, Safeguarding - verbal report

Racketball County Closed – 12 entries to date. Chris H has contacted all coaches a reminder. Nigel questioned whether it should be held, the consensus is that yes it should go ahead. Chris E asked if the low take up rates were down to players not thinking they were good enough and asked if the standard was publicized – Mo advised A and B Grades were available but standard not categorized until entries received. Chris H passed on a suggestion from Jason Pike; to run it as a Graded event rather than age group. Rachel suggested players not entering the County Closed would not be eligible to represent their county, this was deemed untenable
Squash County Closed – venue likely to be Leamington. Nigel, Mo and Chris H to discuss late Nov/early Dec and distribute details ASAP

Junior County Closed – held with approximately 60 players. £15 entry fees paid to ES, they retain £2.50 so around £750 to be claimed back from ES

In addition to the Level 1 Coaching award Mo is planning to offer a Young Leaders Award, this is aimed at juniors and is a feeder for the Level 1 coaching award

Nigel is developing a contract for those players who receive funding for the coaching award, the intention being for coaches to give back to Warwickshire squash in the form of assistant coaching/support. Nigel will distribute by email

Mo advised Chris B that we will be invoiced for a course ran last April, that Warks funded

The Safeguarding policy is to be added to the Warks www – Chris H to action

e) Junior Development - report submitted and circulated. Discussion points

Junior ICC took place 9th/10th Nov, all Warks teams entered have qualified for the final stage, including 2 x Boys U15 teams. Age Groups not entered were BU19, GU19, GU17, GU13 suggested reasons for non-participation being; some players in these categories think they are too strong to play/won't get a good enough game, ICC does not attract ranking points, parents reluctant to travel for events without ranking points. Maxine asked what the current format was and questioned whether players enjoyed the competition. Chris E advised formats differ according to age group and that representing the County was no longer deemed to be an honour. He also felt that squads were too small. Leonie commented that she only selects players who are keen, even tho' the standard may not be as high – the events are more enjoyable with players full engaged

Chris E asked what financial support is in place and how is it organised. Nigel advised that £2k pa was allocated to the junior section and if additional funding is required, an application can be made. Historically the section have raised funds themselves through event organization, i.e. car boot sales, car washing etc.

Chris E noted that for juniors to gain ranking points the parents need to be prepared to travel some distance and is keen to assess the feasibility of holding more Bronze events in Warks. Need to understand the current ES rules regarding proximity of events Chris H to distribute a calendar of events. Chris E to review and assess feasibility of holding 1 event per month in Warks

Grand Prix. Deon is running a mini-series (3 or 4 events) for non-elite junior players. It was questioned whether an upper playing level should be enforced to ensure a local elite junior does not enter and deter the non-elite player. Suggested that similar events could be run at clubs other than EPC

Chris E asked will submit a request for financial support to facilitate a new junior events at Coleshill

Chris E is aiming to broaden the player base to attract non-elite players and asked if we had a contact list of all junior players. Chris H advised that there is/was a West Midlands database held by Jon Tate and Chris Tasker - unsure if this is up to date. Once players and contacts identified the Warks www can be used to maintain it, ensuring that GDPR compliance is adhered to

f) Liaison Officer - report submitted and circulated. Discussion points

Meeting held with Jo Rowbotham (ES), the key points raised:

Use of ES App: Benefits of using include financial support, the offer of incentives and availability of resources

Mentors: Chris pointed out that current mentors are either North or South based, no-one located in the Midlands

Safeguarding: Face to face sessions are now required for first timers, follow up sessions can be conducted on the www. This may discourage volunteers from participating

Funding avenues: Chris H to share with coaches

Referees: www link is out of date. Chris is planning to redesign the Warks www and bring the information up to date

Liaison with clubs has started – met with Jason Pike at Leamington. Meeting with Chris Ryder, Solihull Arden, planned. Meeting agenda and discussion points to be sent in advance to give the club contacts time to prepare

5. AOB

6. Dates, time, venues for future meetings

Dates for 2020 meetings, 6.30pm at Ardencote unless otherwise stated

4th Feb

21st April

7th July

8th Sept – AGM, Solihull Arden

13th Oct