

# Warwickshire Squash

## Committee Reports September 2021



### Chairperson – Nigel Orrett

How wonderful to welcome you back to WSRA business This could be at Arden or by ZOOM  
It is particularly exciting to introduce some new committee members who have been hard  
at work in the last months: -

Ming Lee- Commonwealth Games Liaisons  
Bhawna Singh-Junior Chair  
Andy Murray-Masters Rep

Please be sure to read all reports BEFORE the A.G.M so that we can use the time as  
productively as possible-members will answer queries you might have.

There is less than a year to the Commonwealth Games and we must do all we can to make  
our sports as high profile as possible to try and rectify this ridiculous situation where we are  
not represented in the Olympics.

Please see Ming's report to see the wonderful progress he, and his helpers, have already  
made. Particular mention must be made of MIKE HARRIS for his enthusiastic embracing of  
the squash roadshows.

The SQUASH STARS initiative developed by Chris Ryder, Ming Lee, Chris Hall and Andy  
Murray is another exciting initiative to introduce youngsters to our sport.

We are blessed with an incredible number of talented coaches in our County; however,  
clubs MUST ensure that they are fully covered to coach: -

- 1-ES registered
- 2-Safeguarding qualifications
- 3-First Aid qualification

Let's hope we can all work together to establish: -  
MARKS AT THE HEART OF ENGLISH  
SQUASH

## **Junior Chairperson - Bhawna Singh**

Two successful county closed held events July / September.

Recruitment for county coach successfully- contract for 12 months to be signed. Start date 1/9/21 annual salary of £2500. Contractual obligations include running 6 weekends of junior training, organising and running of the county closed and attending stage 2 inter county championship.

Roxy Keshavarz is level 2 coach and will be mentored by Chris Ryder (for a fee) for the 1st year.

We have had chats with off the wall people and are in the process of developing a school's program for Warwickshire - still in initial stages.

I have finally had an acknowledgment from Aldi regarding them receiving my email and they are considering our organisation for sponsorship.

Junior squash bank account is open. I need to add Ming to it as our treasurer. We have online banking and card for it.

## **Treasurer – Chris Barker**

The accounts are attached separately and mainly speak for themselves. there are a few "funnies" as you might expect.

### **Income:**

We were blessed with money (£4815) from ES via the WM Forum.

We collected the ES rebate based on the previous year of £5143. This will obviously be very much lower in this year.

### **Expenditure:**

There are two unusual items, Covid grants- money we have given to clubs to help pay for covid items.

The other being Warwickshire's investment in 2 mobile mini squash courts to promote throughout the West Midlands Midlands squash and the Commonwealth Games 2022. The cost of the 2 courts is £20K out of which we have received £4K from ES, £4,500 from adjoining counties and £5,500 from Birmingham 2022 .

In the attached accounts only one has been provided for as the second one was commissioned in mid-summer this year.

Even with all the past problems and worries we are still in a healthy financial position.

## **Competitions, Events, Development and Safeguarding - Mo Sarwar**

### **Senior Intercounty Competitions**

Unfortunately, we have been living through some strange times over the last 18 months. There are no results to report for the 20/21 season, but squash activities are starting up again under strict covid guidance. The normal intercounty competitions for junior, senior and masters have been scheduled to run this season. The dates can be viewed on the England Squash and Warwickshire Squash websites.

### **Events**

- Squash Senior County Closed for 20/21 season to be hosted by Leamington SRC on 23/24 October 2021.
- Racketball (Squash 57) Senior County Closed for 20/21 season will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at Coventry and North Warwickshire SRC
- The 221/22 Competitions will be run towards the end of the 21/22 season.

### **Coach Development/Education**

Covid has obviously prevented us from running any coach education courses over the last 18 months. We are endeavouring to work with England Squash in order to be able to run some L1 and L2 courses in Warwickshire. Additionally, Warwickshire will also run some 1<sup>st</sup> Aid and Safeguarding courses for those coaches that need these to maintain their coaching license.

### **Safeguarding**

No safeguarding issues have been brought to the attention of Warwickshire Squash over the last 12 months. S always we are happy to provide awareness training around this area for club volunteers/parents if requested.

## **Liaison Officer - Chris Hall**

Clubs are continuing to adjust to the return to squash, with some recovering more quickly than others. It seems juniors have been the quickest to return to play and many clubs reporting a really strong uptake within their junior sessions. Adults have perhaps been a bit more cautious to get back on court but a good number continue to return.

The Warwickshire Squash Stars programme has been very successful with 65 new juniors signed up to the scheme so far. Juniors are given the chance to purchase a starter pack, including equipment (racket, t-shirt, goggles, ball) and 4 lessons at a club of their choice for just £25.

Warwickshire Squash have also supported this financially, along with sponsorship from Kirkdale Buildings (Mike Cleaver) and IPRO Sports (Andy Murray). A big thanks to Ming Lee, Chris Ryder and Andy Murray for their work on this.

We have been assisting Worcestershire Squash to help them get a similar scheme up and running, this includes setting up an information page for them on our website as they currently don't have one. IPRO Sports are also providing the booking/payment platform.

Our Warwickshire squash coaches WhatsApp group keeps providing a really good communication platform for clubs and coaches to share ideas and best practice.

The plan is to undertake another club survey in the near future to gain a picture of how covid has affected clubs. Current thinking is to do this in the new year to give clubs further chance to recover and therefore get a more accurate view.

Also planned is a Warwickshire Squash Calendar on the website with details of all local events, both junior and senior. This had been tricky to do before the season as events were being announced quite late and the England Squash calendar was not published. It will be possible to get this live over the next week.

Women's squash week is approaching (will be running the week of our committee meeting) and a number of our clubs have events running. We will share these on social media and report on the website.

Edgbaston Priory are potentially in danger of losing a couple of courts to a gym/fitness studio. I believe their squash members are working hard to put forward their objections. During a phone call with Ian Russell, we suggested that Warwickshire Squash could possibly provide written support if required, Ian will let us know.

## League Secretary - Roger More

The COVID virus had prevented us holding a conventional league format for some time but we did manage for some clubs to have a few friendly matches this summer.

Hopefully we shall see the 2021/22 season be completed but we will obviously have to react to any restrictions imposed should COVID raise its ugly head higher again. I have been asked if teams need to provide after match food, so can each club get a view from their team players in order that we can have their view, rather than individual opinions. This issue was raised a few years ago and food plus a drink was considered part of team squash so maintained. COVID may alter some opinions.

The league starts week commencing Monday 4th October and although we have lost a few teams I was relieved to see that we have managed to keep a lady's squash league going and with so many juniors at our clubs, I hope we can strengthen this over the coming years. In the main league we have reduced the maximum number of teams per division from ten to nine which has helped have six more even divisions and will help with the issue we have had in the past with our university term times. Currently they are a significant part of our league with eight teams but I wonder why they don't field a lady's team? Having nine in a division means that there are some teams finishing a week before others. I would hope that teams 'play the straight bat' in the final two weeks to ensure that all matches are played to maintain the integrity of the league.

I shall stress again at the AGM how important it is for each club to keep all of their contact details up to date. They are responsible for this in order that automatic messages are received by current team captains and administrators. Clubs and team players need to be England Squash affiliated and although I shall try to assist with administration where needed, I couldn't cope with clubs expecting the league secretary to perform all of these duties. Please can club administrators check that their proposed team players are fully affiliated which they can see when they log in to the league administration system and add them to their team order.

Trophies for the main league and racketball season of 2019/20 will be presented at the AGM. Unfortunately, the ladies league wasn't completed and we had initially planned to finish this during the summer of 2020 but it couldn't take place, so apologies to Solihull Arden Ladies who arithmetically were strong favourites in division one and the three teams in with a chance of winning division two.

### **Men's Captain - Sam Miller**

Little to report due to no recent competition. The team remain in the premier division and are expected to compete over the weekend of 9/10 April 2022. We expect to be contenders for the title depending on player availability.

### **Ladies Team Captain - Leonie Holt**

Unfortunately, we have very little to report on from the last 18 months but we do have some plans in place for the coming year. The plan is to hold 2 full Ladies County training mornings for everybody interested in playing for the county at Senior and Age Group level.

These mornings will be run in the same way as the previous one that was held with the idea of moving these events around the county and having the local club coach run the sessions. Food will be provided afterwards as the social side is just as important as the squash.

The Ladies Senior Team had an informal training session last week to try and get people back on court together and to kick start Women's Squash Week.

If you are interested in playing County Squash, please contact Leonie Holt ([leonie\\_holt@hotmail.com](mailto:leonie_holt@hotmail.com)).

### **Masters Captain - Andy Murray**

The masters have had a quiet year with no tournaments, but are now looking to rebuild across all age groups after covid. We are very keen to build consistency in each category and specifically need motivated captains for each group. Andy is happy to hear from those keen to take on a captaincy role before the first inter county dates in March 2022 ([andy@iproports.co.uk](mailto:andy@iproports.co.uk)).