



Committee Reports

1) Chairman's Report: Mo Sarwar

I have been on the Warwickshire committee for over 30 years in various roles and this last year as county chair. In the squash world, Warwickshire has always been and continues to be one of the strongest counties in the country. We are blessed with lots of good clubs and excellent coaches and have had numerous successes in the intercounty competitions as well as individual performances from junior to senior levels. More details on our successes in captain's reports which should be on our county website.

Covid has taken its toll on squash but did encourage more electronic communication which has enabled us to continue with county business without having to meet up. We are doing our best as volunteers but if you feel we can do more or better still if you want to help us do more then please feel free to contact me. We always need expertise on the committee and at present we could do with an administrator and a marketing person to attract potential sponsors.

The county lost the services of some key people over the last couple of years such as Nigel Orrette (Chair), Chris Barker (Treasurer) Maxine Holt (administrator) and Rachel Woolford (administrator). My heartfelt thanks to these individuals for their services to Warwickshire Squash. My thanks also go to the present committee for the thankless tasks that they perform to maintain our status in the squash world.

2) League Secretary Report: Roger More

We have some new teams entered the forthcoming winter leagues and this year our two universities have different term times so this has made scheduling matches more difficult than normal plus accommodating some requests for teams to be in a preferred division. A few matches have been moved to half term week in the main squash to accommodate so can I ask teams to prepare well ahead to ensure they can field their team.

As ever there have been some administration errors by teams so can I ask captains to try to eliminate them as we want matches to be determined by the effort of players on court. Wolverhampton actually would have won division 4 if they hadn't made an error in their last match last winter.

We have put a brief summary of league rules on the site and I have suggested that a copy of rules plus marking rules be kept by your courts so that these can be referred to when necessary but they can obviously be obtained on line as well.

In the summer we had moved the bonus points for a racketball match to be moved in line

with ladies squash and a vote is needed to allow this to continue in future leagues and is on the AGM agenda.

We want our sport to be played in the correct spirit and that any improper behaviour is stamped out with markers ensuring that the use of conduct warnings, points, games etc are followed.

The standard of play across our league is improving yearly with many clubs enjoying their bar profit benefiting as a result and we would ask spectators to applaud good shots from both players.

Unfortunately, a couple of clubs are gaining a poor reputation for applauding errors from away players and we are going to award a plaque for the most hospitable club, to be voted on by all clubs. The voting procedure will be announced towards the end of the winter league.

Thanks to the majority of captains who do ensure things run smoothly and please ensure that new captains are informed of their duties to make the role of League Secretary less time consuming.

3) Junior Report – Bhawna Singh

Another successful year for the juniors

County closed in October followed by team selection for intercounty stage 1 in November. 14 teams were entered, all through to stage 2 apart from 1 team .

Stage 2 in March 23 was successful with 2 teams winning the trophy and further 4 in top 4 positions nationally.

Highest number of girls compared to any other county (almost double to the next level)

June saw the inter-regional championship and West Midlands were the national winners with more than 80 percent of the teams consisting of Warwickshire juniors.

October last year we lost Roxy our county coach to a Padel initiative in Bristol. We advertised in July this year and are pleased to welcome Jordan Hardwick. Jordan has already supported the juniors through last year's training and competitions. Jordan and Chris have already been working hard to develop a junior calendar and data base for our juniors. We have also been successful in getting on board a number of new sponsors.

The junior county closed for this year is on 23/24th September and will be held at West Warwickshire Sports Club

4) Safeguarding Report – Mo Sarwar

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

5) Ladies Team Report: Leonie Holt

A hugely successful season for the ladies team who won the inter county championships held Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis and Squash Club. Following on from our 4th place finish in 2022, we boasted a strong line up for this years' event.

Buckinghamshire were the opponents in the first match, a 4-1 win taking the team through to the semi-finals. Another 4-1 victory, this time against second seeds Gloucestershire, set up a final against top seeds South East Wales. Another strong performance rounded off the weekend in style to claim the title.

Ladies Squad: Kiera Marshall, Yasshmita Jadishkumar, Meha Shah, Rosie Kirsch, Libby Corke, Natalie Townsend

6) Men's Team Report: Sam Miller

Having won the Inter County championship last year (for the first time in living memory), the Men's team arrived at the Premier Finals weekend in Wolverhampton ready to defend their title.

The draw was kind on the Saturday, with the team receiving a bye in the first match due to a couple of counties unable to field a team. This resulted in the first hurdle being overcome – securing a place in the top division for the 23/24 season.

The semi-final was against a strong Sussex team. Without both Miles Jenkins and Chris Hall (laid up with illness and injury respectively), the Team were a bit weak (if truth be told) up the order. Sam Miller drew the short straw and agreed to be the sacrificial lamb at 2, and Lewis Anderson headed up the middle order at 3. Both players struggled to get on top and never really looked threatening. Conversely, Elliot Morris Devred put in a solid performance against a classy opponent, weathering the storm to finish a comfortable 3-1 victor. Wrapping up the win for Warwickshire was Guy Pearson and Jordan Hardwick. They never looked in trouble and ensured that the Team returned a 3-2 win with two equally impressive performances.

Sunday was finals day and saw Kent line up as the obstacle between Warwickshire and a second successive title. On paper it looked very even. As with the semi, the Team struggled up the order; despite a valiant effort by Sam and Lewis, they were both unable to make any headway, both going down in 3. Elliot continued his brilliant form by dominating throughout – winning comfortably in 3. With much work to do, it fell on the shoulders (again) of the lower order. Abd-Allah Eissa came into the team and accelerated to victory with a mature and calculated performance. And so it fell to Guy to return what would have been impressive win against a very experienced opponent. Alas it was not to be; despite giving it his all and being in contention across the first 3 games (all going to tie breaks), Guy succumbed and Kent deservedly won a very tight encounter.

So not quite the accolades of last season, but not far off. The Team are in a strong position to mount a challenge to reclaim the title next season, with both the expectation of missing players to return, and the likelihood of both Abd-Allah and Jordan moving up the order (need to give the oldies a break!) as they develop through the season.

Men's Squad: Elliot Morris, Sam Miller, Lewis Anderson, Guy Pearson, Adb-Allaha Eissa, Jordan Hardwick

7) Masters Report: Andy Murray

Three of our masters' teams travelled made it through to the national finals in April, held at Peterborough Squash Club and Hunts County Squash Club. Our Men's O45 and O55 sides acquitted themselves well but lost out in the stage 1 weekend.

The men's O35 side were looking to retain the title they claimed in Sheffield 12 months ago. It was to be a much tougher affair this time round. Every match went the distance as they overcame Avon and Yorkshire 3-2 before a final against Surrey which they victorious by the same score line. All three matches could have gone either way and players really stepped up.

The ladies O40 team found themselves up against some tough opposition, finishing in fourth place after games with top sides Surrey, Hertfordshire and Kent.

Our O50 ladies secured a brilliant second place finish with a win over Sussex, however South Wales proved too strong.

Men's O35 Squad - Sam Miller, Howard Lancashire, Jason Pike, Jon Tate, Nick Staunton, Rob Staunton, Neil Staunton, Sohdi Nat, Allan Walton, Tom Robinson, Mat Holt, David Boothroyd.

Men's O45 Squad – Nigel Stephens, Brett Green, Bruce Hopkin, Graham Stanford, Paul Murphy, Jonathan Peak, Paul Gibbs, Jim Morris

Men's O55 Squad – Steve McBride, Dave Harper, Mark Dakeyne, Martin Clarke, Geoff Redfern, Daljit Nahil, John Stanway

Ladies O40 Squad - Natalie Townsend, Helen Mayers, Debbie Locke

Ladies O50 Squad - Jane Armstrong, Ali Bate, Ginny Lee

8) Racketball Team Report: Chris Hall

The men's team travelled to Nottingham as defending champions, sporting a slightly changed line up from the previous season with some new faces. A very successful weekend with win's saw us progress from their group to set up a repeat of last year's final against Devon. Despite some close matches Devon were too strong and left us with a still impressive second place finish.

Our Over 50 team also had a great weekend, finishing in 4th place overall and every player involved in some very competitive matches.

Men's Squad – Ben Maundrell, Ben Murray, Craig Lloyd, Jason Pike, Haroon Rashid, Tom Robinson

O50 Squad – Chris Port, Simon Knowles, Tim Osgerby, Fathi Seliman, Paul Bayliss, Paul Greenwood

9) Liaison Officer Report: Chris Hall

Squash Stars

The Warwickshire Junior Squash Stars continues to be a successful tool to attract children to the sport. Over 250 children have been signed up over the last couple of years. A big thank you to Kirkdale Building who have supported the scheme over the last two years, the previous year being their last. We now welcome Apteco as the lead sponsor. We are now up and running again for the 2023/24 season.

Warwickshire Junior Grand Prix Series

We are reintroducing the Grand Prix Series this season which is aimed at juniors with little or no tournament experience. There will be 4 events over the course of the season, the dates are included on our junior calendar and more details will be available soon.

Funding

We still have funding available to support clubs with inclusion and diversity initiatives. Grants of £200 available to clubs who run programmes which look to target participation across one of the following areas:

- Age
- Disability
- Marriage and Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy
- Race and Ethnicity
- Religion or Belief
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender
- Hard to reach communities

Please send to myself at hally_71@hotmail.com to get in touch for further information.

Calendar of Events

We have put together a pack for each club which includes some useful information for players. Please can you take this back to your clubs to display. It includes:

- Junior Calendar
- Senior Calendar

- Warwickshire Racketball Championships Poster
- Junior Development Pathway

10) Treasurer's Report

Overall, the financial report for the year ended 31 March 2023 is best described as a “return to normal” after the real difficulties, hardships and tragedies caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Our two largest sources of income from the England Squash rebate and entry fees into our competitive County leagues returned to typical levels. However, the outlook for future income from England Squash is highly uncertain as a new membership scheme is being proposed.

Expenditure has also returned to normal levels with our main areas of expenditure continuing to be for the Liaison Officer role, expenses for participation in Inter County competitions and investment into the future of our junior players (including the promotion of Squash Stars). The overall cost of Squash Stars should be rightly assessed across the 2 financial years, ended 31 March 2023 and ended 31 March 2022, and shows that it is an overall modest £569 cost.

In view of the uncertainties, discretionary expenditure on donations and promotions for the benefit of the sport of squash, have been reduced to a minimum until there is greater certainty around the future income from England Squash.

The bank balance stood at £42,353 at 31 March 2023 and a surplus of £3,017 was generated in the financial year ended 31 March 2023, positioning Warwickshire Squash Rackets Association as ready to handle the uncertainties that may unfold with the new proposed England Squash membership system.

WARWICKSHIRE SQUASH RACKETS ASSOCIATION**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	2022/23	2022/23	2021/22	2021/22
Income:				
Members' league fees	5,155		4,690	
Profit on 200 Club	895		680	
England Squash affiliation rebate	8,792		4,894	
Tournaments	363		(139)	
Unrestricted donations / sponsorship	(160)		2,750	
Restricted grants	1,800		0	
Release from accruals / development reserves	200		3,000	
		<u>17,045</u>		<u>15,875</u>
Expenditure:				
Administration including leagues	555		209	
Liaison Officer	4,587		5,421	
Trophies	117		432	
Inter-county match expenses	588		2,847	
Professional fees	1,015		1,120	
Junior section	2,608		3,067	
Squash stars (net)	1,476		(907)	
Donations	0		1,000	
Promotions	727		1,804	
Coach development	200		0	
Computer website	968		1,511	
Clothing	385		104	
County entrance fees	341		0	
Mini squash walls / Mobile Court	340		1,690	
Covid Grants	0		0	
Other	121		0	
		<u>14,028</u>		<u>18,298</u>
Surplus / (deficit)		<u><u>3,017</u></u>		<u><u>(2,423)</u></u>

BALANCE SHEET**AS AT 31 MARCH 2023**

	2022/23	2021/22
Bank balance	43,253	35,648
<u>Add:</u> Debtors	0	6,552
<u>Deduct:</u> Creditors	(560)	(4,324)
	<u><u>42,693</u></u>	<u><u>37,876</u></u>
General Reserve brought forward	31,876	34,299
Annual surplus/(deficit)	<u>3,017</u>	<u>(2,423)</u>
	<u>34,893</u>	<u>31,876</u>
Development Reserve	7,800	6,000
Reserves carried forward	<u><u>42,693</u></u>	<u><u>37,876</u></u>