

Draft Minutes of the Essex Squash Rackets Association AGM And Presentations Held at Kingswood on Thursday 9th June 2011

ACTIONS	detail	
Junior ranking	Attend to Thorpe Bay request	<i>BC</i>
Junior support	Review under privileged support	<i>comm.</i>

Present (committee): Dave Neller, Brian Clark, Lyn Stiffell, Barbara Sanderson, Elaine Oddie, Carl George and Dave Lazarus

Apologises: Sue Woodhouse

Present (clubs): see attached list

Dave opened the Main Meeting and welcomed everyone. He thanked Kingswood for hosting this year.

Previous Minutes

There were no comments. Thorpe Bay proposed and Chelmsford seconded acceptance and this was carried unanimously.

Matters Arising

Actions to be cleared were covered. Dave Neller had reviewed the ESR insurance and said that it was deleted from ESR benefits because it had been shown to be of little value. Barbara Sanderson commented that at this meeting 25% were women which were a higher proportion than the number of league teams. There being no other comments the actions were deemed to be cleared.

Chairman's Report – Dave Neller

Presentation- Dave introduced his report by way of a power point presentation as the previous year. This would be available on the website after the meeting.

County Report- Dave Neller made reference to the detailed County Report which had been distributed.

Competitions- Intercounty, squash closed, racketball closed and leagues were reviewed. There was a new club winner of the men's league in LA Fitness (Thorpe Bay) and the league numbers were about the same. The ladies league was also about the same size with its customary autumn and spring winners. Racketball had been run with a new format but no northern teams had formed a league to compete as an entire county but this was an ongoing development task.

Personalities- Essex stars on the world, national and county scene were presented. Barbara Sanderson pointed out that Lauren Briggs was on a come back after injury and Dave hoped that this would result in a turn out at the closed next January.

International masters in 2010 -gave Essex some 3 gold and a silver medal and Hazel Marsh our special ambassador was featured.

The I/C performance- was very good with many teams in finals and U17 boys winning the Trophy final.

Juniors- Among the juniors who had done so well in team events there were individual successes. Dave listed the junior personalities that had excelled this year and there was a large list including their rankings and Elise Lazarus was highlighted as ranked 1 nationally u13 at 10 years of age.

A comment was made about the identification of rankings and that Harry Kitchen u11 ranked 19 from Thorpe Bay had not been acknowledged. Brian Clark said that ranking were culled from ESR website and sometimes positions were fluid. Brian would review and give Dave an update for his presentation.

Action: BC

Hazel Marsh pleaded the case for less privileged players who had performed well but found it difficult to fund the **costs to enter and travel to** tournaments. The committee would review appropriate cases

Action: committee

Clubs- Dave praised Essex clubs for support to the county organisation; Kingswood for tournament events and meetings, Redbridge for juniors, racketball promotion and I/C finals (which ESR had been pleased with the support) and Woodford Wells for racketball closed. Dave Neller was very appreciative of the support given to Sarah Neller at Woodford after her injury.

The committee- had met five times at Kingswood and a representative had attended ESR meetings. There had been a development meeting with Sport Essex in Chelmsford, which had identified current opportunities for funding. Annual development progress is in the county report.

Affiliation- ESR was planning to change the affiliation method and Essex had provided some input. More news would be available after Dave Neller's attendance at forthcoming ESR Council meeting in Birmingham.

The website- was functioning well and there had been no adverse comments.

Sponsorship- was limited but still worth while. The juniors still received prizes from Dunlop. Sport Essex funding is being negotiated.

R&M- There had been no R&M courses but these could be run when requests were received.

County development- activity was presented. A series of goals to be achieved in the coming year were tabled in the PowerPoint presentation.

Affiliation- Club members have not registered in large numbers to gain the benefit package offered by ESR. There is a link to help on the Essex website. Support initiatives for affiliated clubs can be sought by contacting ESR regional manager Mark Williams or county chairman Dave Neller. Regional funding may change and the forthcoming ESR meeting should clarify (Dave Neller attending)

Essex league development- was being planned and the idea of regionalising into 4 groups was proposed. The idea was to develop a regional championship structure that feeds the county championships and county squads. The juniors have a similar arrangement which had been successful.

Other development- ideas were to introduce off peak packages to stimulate demand.

An example in drawing the county together had been successfully trialled by the ladies, when they organised a competition, for teams from the east and west of the county, held at Kingswood. The trophy was presented to Epping. There was another ladies initiative at Epping organised by Chris Vine and Lauren Selby.

Another initiative was to review feedback from the racketball group and hope to run this out county wide.

Financial Report - Elaine Oddie

The accounts were distributed. Reference was made to the bleak view last year. **This year's financial performance was a big improvement.** The county had raised income from events and cut expenses which had resulted in a healthy reserve balance. Approval of the accounts were proposed by Dragons and seconded by Clements. There were no dissensions.

The budget was accepted for the coming year with a small deficit.

Election of Officers

The re-election of current Officers, who were all willing to stand again, was proposed by Clements and seconded by Chelmsford.

These were re-elected unanimously.

Presentation of Trophies

Trophies were presented for last summer, autumn and winter sessions.

Ladies presented was by Barbara Sanderson

Men's presented was by Lyn Stiffell.

	Ladies		Men's autumn
Div 1 summer	Dragons	Div 2	Springhealth
Div 2 summer	Redbridge 2	Div 3W	Epping
Div 1 autumn	Redbridge 1	Div 4W	Woodford Wells
Div 2 autumn	Epping 2B	Div 5W/E	Springhealth
Div 1 winter	Epping 1A	Div 3E	Old Brentwood
Div 2 winter	Redbridge 2	Div 4E	Springhealth
	Men's summer		Men's winter
Div 1	Redbridge	Div 1 whole season	LA Thorpe Bay
Div 2W	LA Gidea Park (NG)	Div 2	Epping
Div 3W	Redbridge 2	Div 3W	Met Police
Div 4W	Connaught	Div 4W	Epping 2
Div 3E	Kingswood 3	Div 5W	Redbridge 4
Div 4E	LA Thorpe Bay	Div 3E	Triangles
		Div 4E	Clements

Any Other Business

75th anniversary- Woodford Wells, Carl George, gave advanced notice that Essex would be celebrating their 75th anniversary next year and were considering a celebration ball in Sept/Oct with a budget of £40 ticket price. More details would be coming out during the coming season.

County activity- Chelmsford, Geoff Went, wondered why there was so much activity in the south of the county and less in the north and central. Dave replied that this was central to our development plan and outlined our efforts to improve the county's integration.

'Happy Birthday'- to Sue Woodhouse, currently away was proposed by a ladies contingent.

Dave thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Clubs Attending

Bishop Stortford	LA Fitness (Dragons)	Met Police	Woodford Wells
Chelmsford	ECC (Triangles)	Next Generation (David Lloyd)	
Clements	Epping	Old Brentwood	
Community Links	Goresbrook	Ongar Love lane	
Connaught	Kingswood	Park Drive (Maldon)	
D L Basildon	L A Fitness (Thorpe Bay)	Redbridge	19 of 31 clubs

ALL League clubs attended: 12 Non-league clubs did not attend: Brentwood School, Cathall Leisure Centre, Essex University, Frinton, Halstead Leisure Centre, Harwich, Holmwood School, Kelmsford Leisure Centre, Lexden, Saffron Waldon, Wick Lodge, Witham Sport Centre.

Draft Minutes Approved.at AGM June X 2012.....

Chairman

**Draft Minutes of the Essex Squash Rackets Association
Men's League Annual Meeting held at Kingswood
On Thursday 9th June 2011**

ACTIONS	detail	
Connaught hospitality	review	BC/LS

Present (committee): Dave Neller, Brian Clark, Lyn Stiffell, Elaine Oddie, Carl George and Dave Lazarus
Apologises: Susan Woodhouse

Present (clubs): see attached list to main meeting

Dave opened the Men's Management Meeting and welcomed everyone. He thanked Kingswood for hosting this year.

Previous Minutes

There were no comments on the minutes. Acceptance was proposed by Woodford Wells and seconded by Met Police. The vote was unanimous in favour.

Matters Arising

Dave Neller commented on the actions. Scoring survey indicated that PAR 15 was preferred. Online league results system was an issue that was difficult to resolve as our league was complex. Most counties use one night. Routes to coping would involve changing our league to fit in or getting bespoke package. The committee was looking at approaching a student design which would not be costly.

Leagues – Lyn Stiffell

Lyn reported the success of LA Fitness who won the first division over the whole autumn and spring periods congratulations to them.

Results were slow to be made available from clubs, which was particularly bad for the summer period. Lyn requested that the matrix be actively filled in as that yielded multiple copies of each tie.

The league numbers had not fallen much during the year. Old Chigs was a failed club and would not be competing again.

LA Fitness requested that their name be consistently reported as L A Fitness Thorpe Bay (and not Southend)! Chelmsford raised an issue about promotion to Div 1 at the Xmas break. Connaught had not agreed to be promoted which was not according to the rules and Chelmsford felt that this should be mandatory. Also at issue was Connaught's social pattern as the team was often young and not motivated to integrate after the matches. Action was taken to review the situation. **Action: committee**

Any Other Business

There was a request from the committee for support for software for our league.

Dave Neller said that our development strategy was to grow the league by involving the NE part of the county where the Border league currently existed.

LA Thorpe Bay suggested that a cup Competition be introduced to add more competition between clubs. Dave said that he was trying to involve the Border clubs in this kind of initiative.

Brian Clark drew attention to unpaid league fees particularly for the summer and issued invoices to those clubs; Bishops Stortford, Dragons, Epping, L A Fitness Thorpe Bay, Next Generation, Maldon, Woodford Wells, D L Basildon. Courage Hall was not present.

Dave Eller thanked all for a constructive meeting and closed the meeting at 8.15 pm.

Draft Minutes Approved at AGM June X 2012Chairman

**DRAFT MINUTES of Essex Squash Rackets Association
LADIES' ANNUAL MEETING held at Kingswood
On Thursday 9th June 2011**

ACTIONS	detail	
Trophies	Barbara to refer to committee	
League challenge expansion	Barbara and Liz to discuss with other parties	
Events with Border league	Barbara to communicate	
Late league results	Liz to communicate	

ATTENDEES:

Hazel Marsh	Redbridge
Michelle Higgins	Redbridge
Carey Adams	Epping
Katie Hancock	Epping
Tracy Brown	Epping
Lyn Briggs	Connaught
Val Bryant	Connaught
Liz Downing	Epping & League Secretary
Barbara Sanderson	LAFitness Brentwood &

CHAIRMAN: Barbara Sanderson

APOLOGIES: Sue Woodhouse (ESR Committee), Alison Miller (Woodford Wells).

1. MINUTES of the 2010 meeting were agreed.

2. **MATTERS ARISING:**

Trophies:- Although the 2010 meeting had expressed a preference for retaining small individual trophies for the members of League-winning teams, Essex SRA has decided, for financial reasons, to present only single team trophies in future. This was accepted; however Katie Hancock (Epping) asked if it would be possible for teams to have individual trophies if they paid for them themselves. The chairman could see no objection to this but will refer it to the Essex SRA committee. (The cost would be £8- £10 per engraved trophy and requests would need to be received by the end of April (5 or 6 weeks prior to the AGM).
Action – Barbara to refer to ESRA Committee

Social tournament:- Carey had been unable to run a Social Tournament at Epping this year; however she had recently organised a coaching clinic at Epping and some members of neighbouring clubs had been invited. (see Item 3 below)

Possible Premier Cup revival:- This had been superseded by the introduction of the new Essex Ladies League Challenge Final (see Item 3) and the meeting agreed that this was the best way forward.

3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

This is incorporated into the general Essex Squash Annual report (on the website) and it will be also be circulated to the Essex Ladies' League mailing list.

The number of teams in the County League has dropped from 12 to 11. The top 2 teams – Redbridge1 and Epping1 – represented the League in a play-off with the top 2 Essex-based teams in the Essex and Suffolk Borders league and Epping emerged as overall winners.

There were 4 ladies' County teams (Senior, 2nds, Over-50 & Over-40):- the first 3 of these reached their national finals and the Over-40 team gained promotion to the Premier Division.. Unfortunately our senior team, short of some key players, finished only 7th nationally and so will be relegated next season.

Rebecca Macree is our County Closed Champion this year.

Chris Vine (ESR Development Coach) organised a small group to review ladies' activities in the county. There have been 2 concrete outcomes to date – firstly the Essex Ladies' League Challenge Final at Kingswood in May (mentioned above) and secondly a ladies' coaching clinic at Epping in June, with Chris himself and County No.1 player Lauren Selby doing the coaching. It is hoped that further clinics can be arranged.

Liz Downing (Epping) said that it would be good to widen the "League Challenge" day to include more than 4 teams; this will be discussed.

Action – Barbara and Liz to discuss the Challenge Day format with Louise Hunt (Borders League Sec.) and Chris Vine.

4. **LADIES' LEAGUE:**

- Scoring system. The meeting agreed that PAR 15 (point-a-rally to 15) was working well.

- Summer League It was agreed that this should remain SEPARATE from the Autumn and Spring Leagues; i.e. relegation/ promotion/ challenge from the Spring League will feed into the subsequent Autumn league. Relegation/ promotion from the Summer League will feed into the next Summer League. The possibility of joining with the Essex & Suffolk Border League for summer squash was discussed. It was agreed that a League format would be too difficult; however a joint sociable squash “event” on a Saturday or Sunday early in September was suggested. Katie Hancock offered to organise this event if it gets off the ground. N.B. It was mentioned that non-league clubs such as Clements Hall should be invited along. Action – Barbara to e-mail Louise Hunt, copying to Katie
 - League results Alison Miller had written to say that some teams were very late in e-mailing their results to Liz. Liz will remind league team captains to submit scores promptly, and also to inform her of any rescheduling of matches – both of these points are already in the League Rules. Action – Liz to notify league captains
5. OTHER EVENTS
- Already discussed above
6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:
- Hazel Marsh mentioned a promising junior player for whom she was anxious to provide some funding. Lyn Briggs suggested that various London “funding pots” should be contacted. Barbara said that she was aware of a national (ex-WSRA) women’s squash fund and would get more details.
 - It was agreed that the sub-committee for referral of matters on ladies’ general and league squash in Essex for the coming year will be Barbara Sanderson, Carey Adams and Val Bryant. The sub-committee for ladies’ county team issues will be the 4 team captains (Senior, Senior II, Over-40 and Over-50)
 - A vote of thanks to League Secretary Liz Downing was passed unanimously.

Draft Minutes Approved. At AGM June X 2012..... Chairman