

Draft Minutes of the Essex Squash Rackets Association AGM And Presentations Held at Kingswood on Wednesday 9th June 2010

ACTIONS	detail	
ESR insurance	Find why insurance was discontinued	DN
Ladies at AGM	Review ladies attendance	BS

Present (committee): Dave Neller, Brian Clark, Lyn Stiffell, Barbara Sanderson, Elaine Oddie, Steve Payne, Carl George and Dave Lazarus
Apologises: Chris Vine, Philippa Neller and Sue Woodhouse
Present (clubs): see attached list

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

Previous Minutes

Actions had been cleared. A correction regarding attendance of Carl George was made. The Minutes of the 2009 ESRA AGM were adopted – proposed by Goresbrook and seconded by LA Warley.

Matters Arising

The issue of membership cards were taken up with ESR and the new membership system should enable personal details to be entered on line allowing members to take control of their membership status. The manual process, using a spreadsheet to list membership data, will still be available but will take longer.

Chairman's Report – Dave Neller

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. Dave made reference to the detailed County Report which had been distributed. It was noted that a group of London clubs not in Essex were affiliated to Essex.

Our senior teams had performed creditable in the intercounty finals.

The Squash closed championships at Kingswood in January were very successful.

The Racketball closed event was not well attended, but kept the emphasis of Racketball.

The Men's league was won by Redbridge and the Ladies by Epping. These clubs will represent Essex in the ESR national cup which starts in September.

A racketball league was started this year and initially 10 teams showed an interest but this ended up as 4 teams which competed over the season. Redbridge were the winners. On September 5 at Kingwood there will be a playoff event for all teams and an extra prize. The trophy donated by ESR would be presented.

Elite players that are associated with Essex were highlighted. These included world ranked stars and high ranked juniors.

Development issues were part of the committee function. Waterside was a recently recovery success but there was a threat of loss due to redevelopment. Meetings had been held with Castle Point Council to retain the facilities on Canvey Island and ESR were helping.

Affiliation was down a bit though some new clubs had joined. The ESR online system was hopefully going to improve the situation.

The website had been neglected as updates had not been regular. This was being addressed to allow regular formats to be updated independent of the designer. There was a shop on the site which was related to the league management for racketball so far.

Referee and marking high grades had been won by some Essex people.

Development progress was presented and the eastern development team from ESR was introduced. Dave explained that affiliated clubs were supported and clubs needed to call for ESR help to develop their activities.

Goresbrook asked what had happened to the insurance scheme that had been promoted previously. Dave said that he thought it had been removed some time ago but accepted an action to get an ESR response. **Action: DN.**

Most of the development progress had been in the North East but the West was now making progress with school participation up from 8 to 12. There was going to be a new centre in Harlow which would be targeted by Carl George.

A revised league structure had not got off the ground because it needed an organiser. Help to develop use of the auto league system was required and Carl George offered to trial this during the summer.

Financial Report - Elaine Oddie

Our finances were under strain with a deficit standing at c£1000 and if this deficit continued we would run low on funds. We were £600 under paid for the last year leagues and late payment invoices had been handed out at the meeting and clubs were requested to pay their late amount quickly before the new season invoices were posted out in July. Other income was a 12 ½ % of England Squash

affiliation fees, small surplus from tournaments and a regular Quiz. Major expenditure was for county teams c£3300 (an increase due to extra team and high travelling costs) and junior support c£2000. The committee would be reviewing the budget to bring the accounts into balance. The accounts were adopted; proposal Kingswood and seconded Woodford Wells.

Election of Officers

The re-election of current Officers, who were all willing to stand again, was proposed by Clements and seconded by Epping. 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	Redbridge 1B	Div 2	Springhealth
Div 2 summer	Epping 2	Div 3W	Epping
Div 1 autumn	Connaught 1	Div 4W	Epping
Div 2 autumn	Epping 2	Div 5W	ECC
Div 1 winter	Epping 1	Div 3E	Kingswood
Div 2 winter	Epping 3	Div 4E	Kingswood
	Men's summer		Men's winter
Div 1	Kingswood	Div 1 whole season	Redbridge
Div 2W	Met Police (not present)	Div 2	Springhealth
Div 3W	Ongar (not present)	Div 3W	Epping
Div 4W	Epping	Div 4W	Epping
Div 3E	Triangles	Div 5W	ECC
Div 4E	ECC	Div 3E	Kingswood
		Div 4E	Kingswood

Any Other Business

Woodford Wells, Carl George, wondered why so few ladies were present. Barbara Sanderson would review why. **Action: BS**

Dave thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Clubs Attending

Bishop Stortford	Epping	Old Brentwood	Woodford Wells
Chelmsford	Goresbrook	Old Chigwell	
Clements	Kingswood	Park Drive (Maldon)	
Connaught	L A Fitness (Thorpe Bay)	Redbridge	
LA Fitness (Dragons)	Lexden	Romford YMCA/Harrow Lodge	
ECC (Triangles)	Next Generation (David Lloyd)	Tilbury	19 of 29 clubs
3 League clubs not attending: David Lloyd Southend, Met Police, Ongar Love Lane			
7 Non-league clubs not attending: Brentwood School, Frinton, Harlow, Harwich, Holmwood School, Lexden, Wick Lodge.			

Draft Minutes Approved..at AGM June X 2011.....

Chairman

**Draft Minutes of the Essex Squash Rackets Association
Men's League Annual Meeting held at Kingswood
On Wednesday 9th June 2010**

ACTIONS	detail	
Scoring	Survey for new season	committee
League tables	Trial during summer	CG

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

Apologises: Chris Vine

Present (clubs): see attached list

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

Previous Minutes

A correction applied as Carl George had attended. David Lloyd proposed and Tilbury seconded acceptance of the minutes. The vote was unanimous in favour.

Matters Arising

PAR had been used in the premier division successfully and was now under trial for the summer throughout the league.

Leagues – Lyn Stiffell

Report Lyn reported the success of Redbridge who only dropped 17 points in the season and now will represent Essex in the ESR national cup. We wish them all success. Lyn reviewed other results including some very close finishes which makes for excitement. Lyn was sorry about delays in getting results out but some clubs were slow sending in match results. There had been no major problems; the league had run smoothly. Dave asked for a vote of thanks for Lyn's efforts, which was heartily supported.

PAR scoring A discussion of issues followed started by Steve Wright, Goresbrook about PAR11 scoring. This was now experienced for the summer league and was not liked and would drive people away from squash towards racketball. Matches were becoming too short. Tony Mudd, Kingswood suggested that social life of the fixtures was being affected as the games were over too quickly. Geoff Went, Chelmsford wondered if it was a ruse to get more people on to the courts and further said that rival league could result if nothing was done. Dave Neller said that ESR supported all scoring formats but the prime method was PAR11. Dave Lazarus said that top players were happy but acknowledged that lower divisions might find the games too quickly over as rallies were shorter. Kitchen, LA Fitness SOS, said that Badminton had had similar problems as the scoring changed. Badminton was now PAR21 best of 3. Other suggestions were tabled best of 7 etc etc. Dave Neller summarised that the length of the matches was the critical issue. Kitchen said that at the lower levels of the game mistakes caused shorter rallies and PAR11 caused the games to be over quickly. Brian Clark suggested that teams recorded the timed length of matches in the current summer league and adds this to the submitted results. It was agreed that the committee must take some action to improve matters and that a survey prior to the start of the season would be conducted with options tabled: stay PAR11 (best of 5), HIHO (best of 5), PAR15 (best of 5), PAR 11 (best of 7), and PAR25 (best of 3). Premier would stay at PAR11 (best of 5) **Action**

League results Kitchen, LA SOS said that the website was not up to date. Dave responded that this was being deal with currently. Woodford Wells asked what had happened to the electronic system for results. Dave said that this was being used for racketball already but needed someone to run it for squash. Carl George agreed to trial for rest of summer. Lyn would provide team data and Carl would input the data. **Action**

Any Other Business

None

Dave Neller thanked all for a constructive meeting with lots of participation and closed the meeting at 8.15 pm.

**DRAFT MINUTES of Essex Squash Rackets Association
LADIES' ANNUAL MEETING held at Kingswood
On Wednesday 9th June 2010**

ACTIONS	detail	
Scoring system	LD to send out survey	
Social Tournament	CA to organise first social at Epping	
Premier Cup	BS and CC to discuss	

ATTENDEES:

Hazel Marsh	Redbridge
Carey Adams	Epping
Liz Downing	Epping & League Secretary
Tracy Brown	Epping
Barbara Sanderson	Dragons & Chairman

CHAIRMAN: Barbara Sanderson

APOLOGIES: Angela Hodgson (Epping). Val Bryant & Lyn Briggs (Connaught), Carole Henley (Met Police), Pauline McIlwaine (Woodford Wells)

1. **MINUTES** of the 2009 meeting were agreed.

2. **MATTERS ARISING:**
These are dealt with under specific headings below.

3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Barbara gave a verbal report. A written version 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.

There was a slight increase (to 12) in the number of teams in the County League; Epping were overall winners and will represent Essex in the national competition for County League winners in September. Unfortunately the Saturday Morning League didn't run because of lack of interest.

There were 4 ladies' County teams (Senior, 2nds, Over-50 & Over-40) and the first 3 of these reached their national finals. The senior team - led by Sarah Neller – finished 5th nationally, an excellent result.

Sarah Neller is our County Closed Champion; however the number of women entering the County Closed is still disappointingly low.

4. **LADIES' LEAGUE:**

- **Scoring system.** As agreed at the 2009 annual meeting, point-a-rally scoring to 11 (PAR-11) is currently being tried out in the Summer League. Initial feelings – received by email or word-of-mouth – are that most players are not in favour of PAR-11 because many games are very short. However PAR is now the preferred scoring method in world squash and will be used more and more in future, so the meeting felt that we should “move with the times”. PAR-15 might be more suitable than PAR-11, at least for Division 2.

Action - Liz will send out a questionnaire about the scoring system to team captains during July.

- **“Adopting” players from other clubs.** It was agreed that this system is working well:- it provides team squash for players who wouldn't otherwise have it, and it helps to maximise the number of teams in the League. (Reminder of the Essex Ladies' League rule: a club team may use players who are NOT members of the club, provided that the club does not object to this.)
- **Promotion/ relegation** The system (1-up, 1-down, with a challenge for the 2nd promotion place) is working well.

- **Trophies** The meeting agreed to retain individual small trophies for members of winning League teams, UNLESS Essex Squash thinks that budgetary cuts in this area are necessary.
- **Saturday Morning League** As this failed to get off the ground this year, there was a general discussion about the best ways of encouraging more “social” competitive squash. It was agreed to try to run some social tournaments each season, ideally with each major club hosting 1 event per year. Carey Adams said that Epping would start things off.

Action – Carey will organise a small ladies’ squash event at Epping

- **More Essex League teams?** The meeting thought that we should make every effort to persuade clubs who have dropped out of the Essex League to return (e.g. Bishops Stortford, Met Police, Kingswood, ECC)

Action – Liz will contact representatives from these clubs.

6. OTHER EVENTS:

- It was agreed that either ECC Chelmsford or Dragons Brentwood would be a suitable venue for the 2011 Quiz.
- Carey said that she hopes to organise another Fiona McLeod Handicap Tournament at Epping in the coming season.
- Barbara will discuss with Colleen Campbell the possibility of reviving the Premier Cup (giving hard practice to the top 20 ranked ladies in the county) . Tracy Brown might be able to provide some assistance in running this competition.

Action – Barbara to discuss with Colleen

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- 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)
- Votes of thanks to League Secretary Liz Downing and Chairman Barbara Sanderson were passed unanimously. There was also a unanimous vote of thanks to Dorothy Barnby for her many years of service running the Over-40 and Saturday Morning Leagues.

Draft Minutes Approved..At AGM June 2011.....

Chairman