

**Sussex Squash and Racketball Committee Meeting
Weald Squash Club
27/04/2010 7.30PM
MINUTES**

Present: Simon Tunley (ST) (Secretary), Fiona Western (FW), Chris Markham (CM), Paul Millman (PM) (Chair), Mike Harris (MH); Paul Fennell ESR (PF), Karl Manning (KM) and Mike Tonge (MT)

	Action
<p>1. Apologies for absence</p> <p>Ian Robinson (IR) and Mick Sheeran (MS)</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of previous meeting/Matters Arising</p> <p>The minutes from the 23/02/2010 were accepted as an accurate record. PM raised issue of Dunnings Mill and possible funding from ESR. He is keen that their case is seen as important and that DM are recognised as a big part of Sussex squash; it would also impact on the potential junior development aspects in that area of the county.</p>	
<p>2. Website</p> <p>General discussion on content who updates and upgrades. It was agreed that predominately the website was to manage league results and fixtures however there is the potential to have developmental and coaching info on the website. Discussion over home page and perhaps just creating links that sign post people to areas.</p>	
<p>3. County Closed</p> <p>MH confirmed he was keen to see the county closed run again and proposed hosting it at Corals in October. It was agreed it had to be a graded event with age groups and if feasible tie it in with a junior squash festival and exhibition match between two top pros; this would help in attracting entries if the entry fee included a ticket to watch the match. Mike presented the costings/draft posters/entry forms for the event which included the exhibition match and the committee agreed to under write the event on the basis MH would do his best to cover as much of the cost as possible through entries. MH requested that no league matches be held on the weekend that was agreed in October and CM/FW/KM agreed this was fine.</p>	

<p>No discussion was had on the junior county closed ST to contact Ben Hutton to see if happy to TD this agin with perhaps the help of FW.</p>	<p>ST</p>
<p>4. Treasurers Report</p> <p>CM presented accounts to the committee which at present were in a healthy state, from looking at these it made sense that we try and support the county closed. CM asked for a clear steer on what the budget should be for the junior development account and what it would be used for. MT agreed that it should focus on the county development plan which included supporting new coaches. MT to feedback to CM on this. CM was also keen to sort out funding for the senior county teams as it was not clear how budgets were agreed for them and apportioned. PM agreed that CM to should contact them to confirm future funding and resolve the issue on what is defined as pro player. It was agreed that CM should encourage county teams to feedback their results especially when requesting funding from him</p>	<p>MT</p> <p>CM</p>
<p>5. Junior County squads</p> <p>FW/MH confirmed squads were going very well and were looking to introduce feeder squads for players with potential. MT confirmed GS had a good girls squads in place. CM and MT met with Vanessa about the junior accounts and they were all up to date and included both Ben and Graham's fees etc. Vanessa confirmed that Ben did a great job on the accounts front. Only issue was agreeing where additional funds should be found for national finals and whether this should be accounted for out of the junior accounts rather than the development account. FW was keen that coaches should feedback on the success of the county squads especially if they get to national finals. The committee agreed that perhaps termly reports from the county coaches made sense and as discussed before even attendance at some of our meetings even if only once a year. ST re-affirmed that job descriptions should perhaps highlight this and MT agreed to dust off and re-send to coaches and speak to them about attendance/reports.</p>	<p>MT</p>
<p>6. Junior Development</p> <p>MH presented a paper which listed what he felt were the priorities for Sussex squash. These were:</p>	

Sussex Coaches Forum to look at:

- a) Coach education
- b) Increasing numbers of young coaches (apprentice scheme)
- c) Increasing participation in all age groups but especially girls
- d) Increasing the knowledge of racketball and doubles
- e) Changing attitudes

Other areas that MH raised that he felt needed addressing were lack of communication between clubs and county coaches and also more club coaches feeding through juniors to county squads.

MH felt the first focus was a Sussex coach's forum as he felt it was a way of helping coaches to be more proactive in promoting the squash/racketball offer. It was agreed that MH to write to all the coaches in Sussex to invite them to a forum. ST offered the university of Sussex as a potential venue for this. MH to let ST know

7. **Leagues.**

CM confirmed he would hold the annual club fixture meeting on the **17th June 2010** at the Olympos Burgess Hill at 7.30pm. CM to let all clubs know. FW stated she would not be organising a ladies meeting due to the lack of attendance but would send out information. All agreed the date of the AGM to be the **15th July 2010 at 7.30pm** and CM said he would see if could host this at the Olympos as well due to the venue at Sussex University now being unavailable. CM to confirm. Discussions were had over whether Chichester SC would be entering the Sussex leagues next season, as it had been rumoured they might play in the Hants league instead. Obviously various concerns were raised about using losing a major club and also the potential impact on the junior side of the game.

CM

CM

However following the meeting Mike Phillips from Chichester confirmed that nothing had as yet been decided however they would be holding a meeting on the 18th May to make a final decision. He stated it might only impact on the men's 1st team and possible the juniors as they have found within their leagues they have had to travel long distances to play games, where as the men's teams in Div 2 and below only have to travel to matches in the west of the county, which makes it much easier. Based on this information it might be worth MP speaking

<p>to MS to see if the junior teams can be put in leagues closer to home in the future? PM/MT mentioned about meeting with Chichester about the issue however this possibly can wait until a final decision has been made by the club. PF has confirmed that the decision to change leagues would not affect the eligibility to play for the county team if they still wished to.</p> <p>MT mentioned the creation of a racketball league for next season and this would be on the LMIS and would include a team from West Kent.</p> <p>FW stated the ladies KO cup finals were taking place at Corals on Friday the 30th April. She confirmed that she is still committed to running the ladies leagues for now and also supporting Ben Hutton with the boy's county squads. FW to test the water on what teams will be available for next season. Fw has sent a letter round to all clubs that do not at present have a ladies team to gauge interest for next season. West Worthing and Horsham have shown an interest</p>	
<p>9. Senior County Teams</p> <p>No specific news from the team although as mentioned above CM to let teams know that their funding will be dependent on them feeding back results to the committee as it is important we know how they get on. These then can be published on our web pages.</p>	
<p>10. ESR</p> <p>PF mentioned about ESR hosting a regional forum and the committee agreed it was a good idea and would try and send someone to attend. PF also mentioned about having match funding available for potential bids made by Sussex. PF is keen to give John Millard a focus and a coordination role to get coaches working with him around the county.</p>	
<p>11. AOB</p> <p>PM stated we need to show our appreciation to John Parr for his long standing service to Sussex Squash; it was agreed to try and invite him to the AGM and present him with a gift. CM to contact him to see if he is happy to attend.</p> <p>Date of Next Meeting was agreed to be the 8th June 2010</p>	<p>CM</p> <p>ST</p>

at the Weald SC. ST to book