

**Minutes Sussex Squash and Racketball Committee Meeting held at the Weald SC on  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at 7.30PM**

**Attendees**

Chris Markham(CM), Paul Millman (PM) Chair, Karl Manning (KM) Fiona Western(FW), John Millard (JM) and Simon Tunley (ST)

**Apologise**

Paul Fennell ESR (PF) Mick Sheeran (MS) Mike Tonge (MT) and Ian Robinson (IR)

	<b>Action</b>
<p>1. <b><u>Matters Arising from minutes of last meeting 3rd May 2011</u></b></p> <p>Minutes accepted. KM stated he had been trying to speak to Berkshire via his Hants contact in regards them potentially buying the LMIS system but as yet has had no joy but would continue to chase. Everyone now happy that clubs need to enter an ESR number against their members playing in the leagues although there was concern on how long this could take.</p> <p>ST to chase up Neil and Becky Bradshaw about the coaching they have done since being qualified. At this point a discussion was had about adding club coaches to the SSR website so people can find a coach if required. KM confirmed this had to be done by the clubs that had coaches via their standard logins. ST agreed to contact the clubs/coaches to encourage them to get their relevant coaches details onto the system for all to access.</p> <p>CM agreed to chase up Tim Vail for the racketball results.</p> <p>Discussion were had over funding Chichester SC national league team. All felt there would be minimal benefit to Sussex as a whole. It was felt the interest was not strong enough from the average club player only really from aspiring younger players, therefore it would be difficult to measure the gain. It was agreed however that PM would contact Chichester and discuss the option of funding tickets so junior players could attend to watch and</p>	<p><b>KM</b></p> <p><b>ST</b></p> <p><b>CM</b></p> <p><b>PM</b></p>
<p>2. <b><u>Website</u></b></p> <p>KM passed around an update sheet which can be found in Appendix A below. It confirmed the changes he has made to the system. He also made some recommendations around clubs having their own website and being able to input internal league results as an option; this would count as ranking point on the LMIS. KM has an option to provide a format to run box leagues for clubs. PM suggested contacting clubs to see if there is a desire for this functionality and from this decide the way forward and how to fund it whether via clubs or SSR development fund. It was agreed a decision would be made at our next meeting</p>	<p><b>KM</b></p>
<p>3. <b><u>Senior and Junior County Closed Events</u></b></p> <p>FW confirmed there were only 63 entries for the junior closed and this was down by 16, which is disappointing. Based on the numbers there will be no plate events this year. In regards the senior closed the entries were very poor and there are concerns about it running. Ben Hutton is looking to push again once the junior closed is finished.</p> <p>A discussion was then had over the entry fee for the junior closed and squad fees. Although parental feedback had been received indicating that people felt costs were now starting to be seen as a barrier to taking part, there was concern over changing it now and it was decided to revisit over the season. However committee agreed for</p>	

<p>any future county closed event a budget should be produced highlighting the costs and then utilise this to decide what the entry fee should be based on trying to breakeven; this will obviously be based on taking an average on the number of potential entries. FW did suggest a bursary for those struggling to pay for squash sessions however it was felt this could be difficult as it would hard to decide, who would meet the criteria.</p> <p>Overall it was agreed that fees would be reviewed at the end of the season as well the potential costs to run events or squad sessions</p> <p>The senior county closed was then discussed CM suggested, as a change, to running it over a set time period where you arranged your matches with opponent within a set time period and did this over a number of weeks. You would then have a finals day where those reaching the business end of the draw would play their matches in one venue. Cm confirmed that this has worked before.</p> <p>PM made the point that it could be an option to use the LMIS system to facilitate entry into the county closed by organising matches based on the division a player plays in or even their present overall ranking. PM asked KM to look into and see if viable and feedback at the next meeting.</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>KM</b></p>
<p><b>4. <u>Development Plans -Focus clubs/Referees Workshop</u></b></p> <p>MT although could not make the meeting sent around an email confirming where we were at with the development plans. Unfortunately feedback at present has been limited apart from the work MT had done at Crowborough. Paul Fennell is keen to organise a separate meeting with MT and others to discuss the project in more edtail and its impact. A meeting has been arranged for the 10<sup>th</sup> October at the Triangle. JM confirmed that the work he was doing at Steyning primary school was going well and thanked the committee for their support on this.</p> <p>Discussion was had on the proposals put forward by MT see appendix B which were looking for further funding. There were concerns that most of them were not club driven and therefore there could be an issue with sustainability, however discussions were had about cluster clubs working together to create better pathways for new players.</p> <p>The committee agreed to support the women’s and girls project. The committee deferred a decision on adult beginners and schools options pending a review meeting with Paul Fennell and the need for confirmation of any funding from ESR. All agreed it would be good to run another coaches workshop as the one in July was a real success.</p> <p>There was a general discussion over clubs being more proactive to drive initiatives and also show greater enthusiasm about engaging with development work in order to support their own clubs and get more people playing the game from all age groups/sexes. At present it seems to be the SSR committee who is having to almost press gang clubs to buy into it.</p> <p>PM made comment on the feedback PF provided from ESR and there was some general discussion on how ESR development projects and SSR’s are joined up. PM is keen for MT/PF and himself to meet up to discuss the way forward for development and funding.</p> <p>ST confirmed the ESR are were offering to fund a referees workshop in our county, which would allow people to become at least provisional C grade referees. The committee thought it would be a good idea to look at holding one and tasked ST to test the water to see what the interest might be. ST agreed to email all clubs</p>	<p><b>MT</b></p> <p><b>ST</b></p>

	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>5. <u>Treasurers Report</u></b></p> <p>CM requested that PM needed to sign off the annual accounts. He confirmed that finances are looking good and that all clubs have paid their fees for league entry. However Storrington has not paid their affiliation fees to ESR and the committee agreed they have until the 1<sup>st</sup> October to do so otherwise they will be removed from the Sussex leagues.</p> <p><b>6. <u>Leagues inc Juniors</u></b></p> <p>All was on track in regards the various leagues. FW confirmed there would be additional costs to run the KO cup this year as she was allowing non league clubs to enter if they so wished. MS confirmed by email the junior leagues were now up and running and the first fixtures would start in October.</p> <p><b>7. <u>AOB</u></b></p> <p>Next committee meeting to be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at the Black lion Patcham</p>	<p><b>ST</b></p>

--	--

## **Summary of Action points from meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> September**

### Simon

1. To let clubs know about the coaching database on the LMIS system
2. To speak to MT or the Bradshaws about the coaching they have done since qualifying
3. To get Karl to add information to the website about coaching bursary information
4. To contact clubs to gauge interest about the option to run a referee coach workshop
5. Book Weald for next meeting

### Karl

1. To follow up letter to Berkshire about possible purchasing of our online league system
2. Liaise with clubs to see if they want the functionality to utilise the LMIS to run box leagues or interact with their websites or even have websites created for them
3. To look at the feasibility of using the LMIS to help run the senior county closed and feedback at the next meeting

### Mike Tonge

1. To follow up on the proposal regarding girls and women's squash and working with cluster clubs

### Paul Millman

1. PM to write/email Chichester about support for their national league team
2. To arrange a meeting with Paul Fennell to discuss both development plans and future initiatives where Sussex and ESR can work together

### Chris Markham

1. To chase Tim for racketball results

### Fiona Western

## **Carried over from last meeting**

### John Millard/Paul Fennell

1. Look at supporting MT on getting Middleton and Lewes back on track with their bids and also looking at how Sportivate can be best used with the clubs that were highlighted above.

# LMS System 2011/12

## **Primary change**

Separation of Club, Player and Stats information into a permanent database that does not refresh from season to season. This includes all Sections and both Counties.

Allows for:

- Identification of players that are in more than one section, and even county, by their ESR number. This will give an integrated ES Grading value for them that will be far more accurate (in progress)
- Rankings by gender and age groups (complete)
- Inclusion of club's internal league and other competition results in stats (in progress)

## **Other changes**

- Enforced password change for fixtures secretaries each season to ensure accuracy of contacts
- Players can include their coaching qualifications and this is reflected on the main website with a 'find your nearest coach' facility
- A separate password can be set-up which will allow match results to be input but not allow rankings to be changed
- Further moves towards making the system more user maintainable. Club, League and Team maintenance routines added

## **Proposed development (funding required)**

A club website and internal league system to encourage more players to take part and progress to representing their clubs in the Sussex Leagues. All results will be included in the ES Grading stats, which will assist clubs in team selection. Also helps ESR in getting registration numbers added.

KJM/20-Sep-2011

## Appendix B

### Development Account

Hello all

About 15 people stayed on for the Sussex Forum meeting last Thursday for about an hour.

We reviewed progress (funded projects, coach workshop - took place on Sunday, Chi PSL matches being better promoted round the county, racketball league under way).

In making comments below I am assuming a budget of £6K, half each from ESR and SSR

For the future we agreed:

**Women and girls.** At club level we should run some projects where small clusters of 3 or 4 clubs get together to pool their female players and provide coaching/training and some internal competition. Someone should be appointed to develop the arrangements and provide the coaching. Suggest starting with one cluster eg Dunnings, Copthorne, Crawley, East Grinstead as a pilot to see how it goes. Possibly 8 sessions with a budget of say £300 to include preparation and setting up the arrangements. After review we could try a second cluster eg Lewes, Brighton, Brighton Rackets, Uni? Girls only junior league/division suggested though maybe this should follow on from the first initiative. The need for more female coaches was suggested though this is perhaps part of the wider issue of coach availability generally.

Suggest we get on with this if agreed and not wait for September meeting. **Comments please. Total cost for 3 clusters, say, would be £900**

**Schools.** Agreed we should continue with Minisquash work in schools, along similar lines to the current projects, some of which will run into next season. 4 week programmes at £25 ph would allow say 10 schools to be targeted at a **cost of £1000.**

**Adult beginners.** Ditto - up to a total **cost of £1000** for 10x 4 week courses. Emphasis perhaps on (ladies) racketball.

**Coaching provision.** We should revisit drawing up a comprehensive list of coaches in Sussex so we can see where the greatest needs are. ST and I started to do this some time ago but it needs more time devoted to it. I believe we should aim to run two coach workshops next year - **£200?**

**Chichester PSL team.** Mike Phillips asked if SSR would consider sponsoring the team in the absence of any other sponsors. I would support that - **£500?** Would be good to be seen to be directly supporting our Gold chartered club, especially in the light of earlier issues.

**PSA event at Southdown (Lewes) in September was mentioned by Ryan Whiteley.** Agreed he would send info to ST for wide dispersal. We ought to give this maximum support. Apparently there is also an Adult Graded event in parallel with this.

Other issues we ought in my view to think about are promoting Chartered status, and marketing issues in Sussex, but we didn't discuss these in any detail.

So - suggestions above amount so far to a spend of **£3600.** This is of course only a first pass at next year's development plan. Does it look right? What else? Should more go into some of the issues above?