# Minutes Sussex Squash and Racketball AGM held at the Triangle Leisure Centre, Burgess Hill on Thursday 31st July 2015 at 7.30pm

#### **Attendees**

Paul Millman (Chair), Simon Tunley (Sec. University of Sussex), Chris Markham (Mens Fixture Secretary/Treasurer Dolphin SC), Karl Manning (Web Manager LA Gatwick SC), Camron Malik (Development Officer), Jade Weston (Ladies League Secretary) Sue Kent (EG), James Norman (Horsham), Neil Proctor (Midhurst), Peter Dawson (Bluecoats Horsham), Peter Dawson (Bluecoats Horsham), Fraser Williams (Brighton SC), Aaron Parkins and Mike Farell (David Lloyd), Bill Jefferies, Nic Davies and John Shepherd (Lewes), Mike Phillips (Chichester SC), Sarah Naish and Trevor Morgan (Weald), Keith Waters (Corals), Mike Van Der Weyden and Paul Kearsley (Storrington), Andrew Watts, Gerry Gatford and Keith Woodford (Crawley), Steve Carruthers (Bognor), Ian Burton (Middleton), Alison Lems and Ashley Squires (Littlehampton), Aimee Payne (Nutley), Ian Bell and Paul Reeves (Dunnings)

# **Apologise**

Mick Sheeran (Junior Fixture Secretary),

		Action
1.	Matters Arising from previous minutes of last meeting 10th July 2014	
	Minutes accepted.	
2.	County Development Presentation	
	PM opened with update on Sussex's development initiatives and introduced Chris Vine who provided a presentation on the latest figures provided by the clubs. Copy of presentation on website and CV to send to ST to send around the clubs. CV also sent around a signup sheet for those clubs interested in a visit	CV/ST
3.	<u>Treasurers Report</u>	
	CM stated picture is a gloomy one as both the development and junior programme are very costly and even though there has been some successes it has come at a cost. CM confirmed this was not sustainable and therefore options need to be looked at and the budget for 2015/15 is yet to be finalised as keen to have an open discussion with clubs on their views on the way forward including the proposed levy. PM put forward the case for the levy and that there will be payback to clubs and added value in the long run.	Committee
	Bill Jefferies suggested that rather than a levy for players look to increase the league entry fee. Midhurst had concerns the levy was not a good fit for them as they get nothing from England Squash and Racketball (ESR) based on what they pay them. Some clubs felt the levy works better for the bigger clubs. On that note Corals SC felt comfortable supporting it.	СМ
	Discussion on doubling the league fee would match the figures from a proposed levy, however concerns that this decision would be too late for this season as budgets are already set. In addition clubs asked what is the likelihood we would not look ask for an additional levy for next season, however PM confirmed that by then the investment for this year will be the catalyst for other funding streams to support the county development plans.	

CM suggested there could be options to opt in or out of the levy and this would dictate whether a club would get development support. Middleton suggested they needed to show the presentation to their club committee first to sell the good news story.

Crawley supported this aspect but suggested we needed a clear development plan in place so we could see how the money is being spent and this would provide more confidence in clubs making a decision.

It was agreed there should be a consultation period with clubs and then make a decision of whether to opt in or out late August. SSR will liaise with clubs to confirm any decision and if agreed a way to collect as clubs are all different.

### 4. League updates and Rule Changes

Men's Squash League Winners:

Premier: Corals 1 Division 1: Corals 3 Two East: Lewes 1

Two West: W. Worthing 3 Three East: Brighton 2 Three West: Horsham 2 Four East: Crawley 3 Four West: Littlehampton 1

Racketball League Winners: Division 1: West Worthing 1 Division 2: West Worthing 2

Ladies Squash League Winners:

Division 1: Corals 1 Division 2: Crawley 1

Knockout cup winners: Corals 1 and plate winners Dunnings 1

Two planned rule changes. Firstly to allow more than two teams from each club to be in the same league and secondly result entries online have to be done within seven days, with a reminder after two. All agreed to approve these changes.

CM raised the the idea of new league teams and trying to encourage new players who wish to make that transition from internal club squash to external league squash to play in a development type league There is also the thought of trying to start a vets league. It was agreed these ideas were to go out to consultation to the clubs for their feedback going forward.

#### 5. Election of Committee for 2015/16

Those nominated were re-elected. PM stated we are keen to try and recruit volunteers to join the committee and help in the delivery of squash at what is a difficult time for the game. Andrew Watts requested the meeting thanked the committee for their efforts over the year.

# 6. AOB Meeting closed at 8.00pm

# **Summary of Action points from meeting**

# Committee

1. To finalise the budget for 2015/16

# Paul Millman

1. To canvas clubs about coaching need

# Chris Markham

- 1. To send out Chris Vine's presentation
- 2. To canvas clubs on the propsed levy options

# Simon Tunley

1. To send out presentation and publish on the web

# **Entry Forms & Payment**

Please ensure that payments are received prior to the AGM / Fixture Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> July – it is a condition of the league that you are paid up by then. If your club needs an invoice and you have yet to receive one from me, please let me know as soon as possible. I am also still waiting for entry forms from Bognor, Chichester, Crowborough, Dunnings S&RC, Horsham, The West Worthing Club & Weald.

# League Format 2015/16

It was good to see that we had 6 new teams entering the leagues this coming season, and good to have Brighton Rackets back in the leagues. Unfortunately we lost 8 teams too so have 6 less teams this season on the mens side.

There was a less complex discussion over the format of the leagues than in some previous seasons and the final structure arrived at is attached.

# **Dates for Fixture Generation**

The process that clubs needed to undertake prior to the generation of fixtures was discussed.

# **Rule Amendments**

There were some discussions about rule amendments that will be presented at the AGM for agreement:

ESR – all players will need to be ESR registered to be on the ranking list for the club. Previously players have needed to be registered to play, so this shouldn't affect the majority of clubs, but stops clubs having players just sitting on the ranking list with no intention of playing.

Result entry onto the website – after a brief discussion it was agreed that results should be entered onto the website within 2 days of the match being completed. The limit of 7 days will still apply before the match is awarded to the away team if the result has not been entered – **Rule 8.3** to be amended.

Unranked players – it was clarified that anyone playing as an unranked player for a club, must still have an ESR number on the system and that clubs must add this player in a timely fashion after the match if they have not been added previously – see **Rule 11.6**.

Match Cards – all clubs were reminded of the importance of completing match cards after matches and not just relying on the home team to guess the names from the scoring sheets from the matches! A completed and signed match card is the only way that an Away side can formally challenge the result entered on the website by the home side!!

All clubs were again reminded of the importance of being on time to start matches – increasingly this particularly applies to the home side! Food is to be provided by all clubs after matches (or the opposition should be clearly advised if this is not to be the case) and it is therefore expected

that the team will stay afterwards to make proper use of this – if you are not staying, please ensure that you inform the home side as early as possible to avoid food being wasted.

All clubs were congratulated on the fact that there were very few requests for match rearrangement outside of the permitted reasons last season – long may it continue!

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

AGM – IT WAS STRESSED TO ALL CLUBS THAT ATTENDANCE AT THIS YEAR'S AGM WAS IMPORTANT WITH SOME IMPORTANT DECISIONS TO BE MADE, PARTICULARLY OVER THE FINANCES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

PRELIMINARY LEAGUES – CLUBS HAVE EXPRESSED A VIEW THAT THE BOTTOM DIVISIONS IN BOTH THE EAST AND WEST SIDE ARE AT THE STRONGEST LEVEL THEY HAVE EVER BEEN, AND THAT THIS WAS STOPPING SOME PEOPLE FROM PLAYING TEAM SQUASH, UNDER THE NOTION THAT THEY WERE NOT GOOD ENOUGH. IT IS INTENDED TO CREATE 2 NEW PRELIMINARY DIVISIONS ON THE EAST AND WEST SIDE OF THE COUNTY AIMED AT NEW PLAYERS TO TEAM SQUASH. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT 3 PLAYER TEAMS WOULD WORK BEST FOR THIS AND ALL REPRESENTATIVES WERE ENCOURAGED TO RETURN TO THEIR CLUBS AND GAUGE INTEREST IN THEIR CLUB ENTERING AN ADDITIONAL TEAM (OR 2!) INTO THESE DIVISIONS.

Vets League – in a similar vein there has been some interest in setting up a veteran's league. This would be for those over 45 and would be made up of 3 player teams. Again clubs should gauge interest and report back to the AGM.

AGM / Fixtures Meeting - Thursday 30th July, 7.30pm @ The Triangle

# **ATTENDANCE SHEET**

# Clubs with a representative at the meeting:

Arun LC

Bluecoat Sports Horsham

Brighton Burgess Hill

LA Fitness Gatwick

Chichester Corals Crawley SC Dolphin

Dunnings S&RC East Grinstead Horsham Lewes

Littlehampton Midhurst Grange Storrington

The West Worthing Club

Weald

Kim Long Tony Fiveash Fraser Williams Andrew Eade Karl Manning Robert Norman Keith Waters

Andrew Watts / Camron Malik

Chris Markham Stuart North Andy Norris James Norman Bill Jeffries Ali Lewis Neil Proctor Paul Kearsley Jade Weston Sarah Naish

# **Unrepresented Clubs**

Bognor
Brighton Rackets
Cooden
Crowborough
David Lloyd
Middleton
Nutley

University Squash

#### Appendix 2.

# **Junior League AGM July 2015**

Attendees:-

Mick Sheeran - Junior League Organise
Paul Sanders - Crawley Junior Rep
Mike Phillips - Chichester Junior Rep
Chris Cade - West Worthing Junior Rep

Camron Malik - Crawley Junior Rep & Sussex Squash Development Officer

#### 1. Review of Season

MS thanked the Junior Reps for all the efforts running their Junior teams during the season, without their commitment the leagues would just not happen.

MS raised concerns having to chase far too many LMS results this season and that the Walk Over count had

raised significantly compared to previous seasons.

#### 2. Results Recording LMS

All the Junior Reps present said they found the LMS system can be too inflexible in certain areas. e.g. If a club's first team has a result outstanding then there 2nd and 3rd teams were also locked out of entering results rather than just the 1st team.

MS will raise issue with LMS Administrator Karl Manning to see if the system can be amended to just lock out the

one offending team.

Triangular matches need more emphasis within LMS on who is the home team as the same venue is used for 3 matches, MS to communicate.

#### 3. Match Date Re-Arranging.

All the Junior Reps agreed that fixed date matches had not worked in the 2014-15 season and a return to allow re-arrangements for the coming season was required.

But did feel more effort should be made in declaring NO DATES and that the original rule of 2 weeks' notice to

re-arrange a match date should be obeyed.

#### **NO GO DATES**

First half of season - All teams to supply no go dates by <u>7th September 2015</u> Second half of season - All teams to supply no go dates by <u>31st December 2015</u>

MP stressed that communication between Junior Reps needed to be stronger when confirming matches and confirming the strength of team in order to achieve competitive matches.

MS stated that LMS holds Junior Reps contact details but he would also produce a contact list and circulate

to all Clubs.

#### 3. Games per season - are there enough?

Nic Davies from Lewes raised this issue by email.

Lewes would like more matches and was there a possibility to play each other 4 times a season.

The general feeling of the meeting was that 8 matches was the ideal number per season.

Depending on the final numbers entering and number of divisions generated next season, for any division that had less than 5 teams (8 matches) then the fixtures can be generated For teams to play each other 4 times.

**N.B** It is anticipated that each division will have at least 5 teams thus generating the required 8 fixtures.

# 4. Tri Matches Div. 6 (U11)

All agreed that the Triangular format continues to work very well for the U11 division.

The number of teams for this division for next season is currently unknown.

If the numbers are not enough to format a full division it was agreed to have festival day fixtures.

Where by the all U11's teams would play each other on one day.

N.B Hopefully though there will be enough teams to have the traditional Division 6.

# 5. Confirmation of teams.

All clubs to provide their final number of teams by the <u>15th August 2015.</u> Currently known:

Chichester 4 teams Lewes 6 teams

Crawley 6 teams (possibly 7)

West Worthing 2 teams

### 6. Team Registration

Fees to remain at £20 per team.

#### 7. Promotion/Relegation issues.

MS to evaluate teams strengths with input from the various clubs Junior Reps and after final numbers on 15th August to complete the promotion/relegations places.

#### 8. AOB

Corals raised issue of a player who played both for Crawley 2nd team and 3rd team on the same day. The rules of LMS for the men's league do not allow this but this rule is not present in the Junior rules. Crawley stated they were not seeking to gain an advantage and the player was played at his correct ranking and

they had been impacted by a fixture re-arrangement when originally it would have been on 2 separate dates.

CM said the ESR directive is U11 to use a single dot ball.

All agreed this should be adopted for the coming season

MS declared the meeting closed and the trophies were presented to the divisional winners.

Div. 1 = Chichester Juniors 1

Div. 2 = Corals Juniors 2

Div. 3 = West Worthing Juniors 2

Div. 4 = Lewes Juniors 2

Div. 5 = Crawley Juniors 5

Div. 6 = West Worthing Juniors 4