

# YORKSHIRE SQUASH

## THE YORKSHIRE SQUASH & RACKETBALL ASSOCIATION

[www.yorkshiresquash.com](http://www.yorkshiresquash.com)

*President – Dr. Assem Allam*

### ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

#### STATUS OF THE ORGANISATION

Yorkshire Squash and Racketball Association is registered with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) Registration No. 1176274. The Trustees are Matt Stephenson, Peter Keen, Mike Clemson, Nicky Horn and Mike Robinson, who are appointed at the AGM, with one third retiring annually but being eligible for re-appointment. The Management Committee consists of the five Trustees, and up to five further members are elected at the AGM. Currently, they are Steve Ridge, Gill Choyce, Mark Shipley and Billy Hawes. The voting membership of Yorkshire Squash is those venues with squash courts which are affiliated to England Squash. The Constitution and Rules and Byelaws can be seen on the Association's website [www.yorkshiresquash.com](http://www.yorkshiresquash.com) The administrative address of the Association is via the Hon. Secretary 15, Melton Road, North Ferriby HU14 3ES

#### YORKSHIRE LEAGUE

Thanks are due to Richard Antcliff, who took over the running of the Yorkshire League from Marc Thomas, and established IT systems to make it more manageable. After some initial teething problems, the League ran smoothly throughout the season. It also increased in popularity, giving the opportunity to add a fourth division. Seventeen clubs entered a total of 37 teams. In the Premier Division, Dunnington retained their title, Woodfield earned promotion by winning Division 1, and Harrogate LT and S were the winners of Division 2. The inaugural winners of Division 3 were Hallamshire III. Full results are available on the YS website, and Mike Dale provided weekly roundups of the matches for several regional newspapers throughout the season

#### COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Junior Championships were staged at Pontefract on 11/12 September and attracted a good

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entry. Organised efficiently as ever by Steve Ridge with assistance from Pontefract members, it featured categories from Under 11 to Under 19 in two year segments for boys and girls. The Girls Under 19 winner was Polly Clark, and Sam Todd was the Boys Under 19 winner. Full results are on the YS website

The Senior and Masters Championships had to be postponed from January due to the late withdrawal of the Organiser. Billy Hawes stepped into the breach, and ran a successful event at Pontefract, again with the help of the team of willing Pontefract members, on 11/12 May. Winner of the Women's 'A' event was Katie Smith, and Taminda Gata Aura triumphed over Adam Taylor, 11-9 in the fifth game, to become Mens's County Champion. The Championships also featured Masters events in a number of categories. Full results are on the YS website

The Racketball County Championships were run by Peter Edwards at Chapel Allerton, with financial and publicity support from Yorkshire Squash

## INTER-COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Yorkshire Squash seeks to give maximum opportunity to players to represent their County, and therefore seeks to enter teams in every category of the ICC. This year, a change in the organisation of the event by England Squash meant that all Masters events were played on the same weekend, meaning that players could only be selected for one age category. Despite this, YS entered a total of 25 teams with considerable success, making Yorkshire the leading County. Inter-County Champions were the Girls Under 19, Under 17 and Under 15 and the Boys Under 19, along with the Women's Senior team and the Women's Racketball team. Regretfully, none of the Men's Masters teams reached their respective finals, and the Women's Over 45 team had to be withdrawn for lack of available players. Thanks are due to all the Team Managers. Full results are on [www.englandsquash.com](http://www.englandsquash.com)

Yorkshire also entered four teams in the Northern Cup, which is for Junior teams in the northern counties. Yorkshire uses this as an opportunity to 'blood' juniors who have not been selected for the ICC teams, but despite this, won two of the four age group categories, and were runners-up in the other two. Thanks are due to Derek Norris for organising and supporting the teams

## BRITISH OPEN MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS

This event was held at Hull University alongside the main Open Championships, and Yorkshire

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had two winners – Andrea Santamaria (Women’s Over 50) and Mike Clemson (Men’s Over 75), and a runner-up – Phil Wakefield, in the Men’s Over 60.. Andrea also won the Over 50 event at the EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS, where Julie Field won the Over 60 event. Andrea made it a hat trick by winning the Over 50 title at the NATIONAL MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS, where Adrian Wright won the Over 75 event, beating Mike Clemson in the final. Last but not least, James Willstrop won the NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS title

In the BRITISH JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS, also held in Hull, Yorkshire had one winner – Asia Harris in the Girls Under 15, and a Runner-up – Lydia Robinson in the Girls Under 17

### PROMOTION OF COACHING

During the year, an up to date database of qualified Coaches living in Yorkshire was compiled, and a picture built up of Coach availability and location. Financial support was given to a small number of Coaches taking the England Squash Level 3 qualification, in return for subsequent assistance with some of the Yorkshire Junior teams in the ICC, and all Coaches were encouraged to become a Coach Member of England Squash and meet the qualification criteria, giving them, among other benefits, insurance cover. Nicky Horn and Peter Keen did a considerable amount of work liaising with Coaches and with the relevant staff at England Squash, and Mark Shipley undertook to draw up a programme of Coaching courses in Yorkshire for 2019-20, again in conjunction with the relevant member of staff of ES. More details are given later of the financial support given to Coaches for programmes of work aimed at bringing more people into the game

### PROMOTION OF REFEREEING

During the year, Yorkshire Squash took advantage of the fact that Martin Roberts, who has worked for England Squash as Referees Co-ordinator, lives in Yorkshire, to recruit him to promote and support Refereeing in Yorkshire. He commencing by contacting all known qualified Referees in Yorkshire to find out their current level of activity, and is planning a programme of Workshops for Referee training around Yorkshire in 2019-20

### PROJECT SUPPORT

Yorkshire Squash sought to support Coaches and Clubs seeking to recruit and retain players in the game, by offering information, advice and funding for relevant projects. This included acting

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as an 'agent' for the dissemination of funds made available by England Squash for projects aimed at their particular programmes, notably Squash 101 and Squash Girls Can. To date, YS has allocated £17,000 to assist projects, mainly run by Coaches, to promote squash and racketball at 34 different venues with squash courts, including traditional Clubs, Leisure Centres and Universities. Thanks are due to Peter Keen for co-ordinating and stimulating this programme, which is ongoing

## FINANCIAL REPORT

The Financial Statement is produced as a separate document and presented by the Treasurer

## RUNNING THE ORGANISATION

The Committee welcomed a new Chairman, Matt Stephenson, himself one of the country's leading Over 45 players, and met four times during the year, during which it reviewed and updated its promotional strategy. Compliance procedures were confirmed, relating to Safeguarding, Equity, Risk Assessment and Data Protection, and the Safeguarding Officer, Jayne Robinson, circulated all venues with squash courts in the county with advice on Safeguarding measures and particularly the need to have their own Safeguarding Officer. A welcome newcomer to the Committee, Mike Robinson, took on responsibility for the website and the introduction of a regular newsletter, to be circulated to the various email lists which the Secretary continued to update, consisting of the various types of venues with squash courts, Coaches, ICC Team Managers, Yorkshire League Team Captains, and Local League Organisers. A Calendar of Events of particular interest to players, Coaches and venues in Yorkshire was maintained on the website. The County Association's financial affairs were maintained immaculately by the YS Treasurer, Peter Keen, and the County welcomed a new Hon. Auditor, Jackie Anderson, to replace Robert Field

After many years involvement on the national scene, Mike Clemson stood down from his positions as Co-ordinator of the County Associations Network and Secretary of the England Squash Masters Committee. His place on the England Squash Council was taken by Peter Keen, with Matt Stephenson as Deputy. Congratulations are due to Richard Antcliff, who has been elected onto the Board of England Squash, and commiserations to Mick Todd and Stephen Blacksell, who failed to be elected – although it is good that Yorkshire could put forward three people for what is a demanding and time consuming position

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Three people will not be standing for re-election to the Committee of Yorkshire Squash at the AGM. Robert Field latterly acted as Hon. Auditor, but for many years was an active member of the Committee, and his company, Italik, was the County Association's main sponsor. Gill Choyce is probably the Committee's longest serving member and at one time was County Secretary, but in recent years has been responsible for organising the Women's teams in the ICC. Sincere thanks are due to them both. Regretfully, Mike Robinson has had to withdraw for health reasons. We wish him well for the future

Much of the activity above would not be possible without the generous sponsorship of Dr. Assem Allam, whose grandchildren are now making their way in the world of adult squash while his son in law is a member of Yorkshire's Over 60s ICC team. We are most grateful to Dr. Allam, who is a true friend of Yorkshire Squash

Finally, thanks are due to all the Committee members and associated Volunteers who are responsible for the activity above which makes Yorkshire one of the foremost County Associations in the promotion of squash and racketball. However, we are conscious that much more can be done, and our priority in the coming years will be to establish closer links with all the 130 venues with squash courts in the county, who between them have over 350 courts, to encourage and support them in making the best use of their courts, bring more people into the game and seek to retain current players

Mike Clemson

Secretary

August 2019

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