

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF YORKSHIRE SQUASH AND RACKETBALL ASSOCIATION HELD AT 7.00 PM ON THURSDAY 9 JUNE 2016 AT PONTEFRACT SQUASH CLUB

PRESENT: Mike Clemson (Chairman and Ferriby Hall), Marc Thomas and Robert Field (York), Nicky Horn (Ampleforth College), Mark Shipley, Gill Choyce and Steve Ridge (Pontefract), Mark Birtles (Hull and ER, and Hull and District Squash League), Tom Murton and Dan Lawrence (Hallamshire), Andy Wood and Dan Hall (Wakefield), Mark Miller and Mark Lang (Heaton), Dave Clarke (Doncaster), Peter Keen (Abbeydale) and Matt Stephenson (Dunnington)

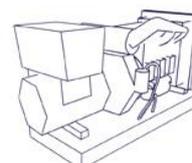
APOLOGIES were received from Dr. Assem Allam (President), Richard Grayson (Rothwell), Andy Cockerill (Hull and ER), Malcolm Hanson (Barnsley), Steve Martin (Doncaster), Steve Towse, Joe Woodhead and Steve Everitt (Malton), Steve Smith (Harlow), Mark Tasker and Murray Scott (Abbeydale) and Angela Cwaczko (England Squash)

MINUTES of the AGM held on 6 July 2015 were approved as a correct record

### ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

The Annual Report was given in the form of a series of presentations by the volunteers responsible for each area of activity.

- (a) *Grassroots Development Project.* Nicky Horn reported that the Project, funded by England Squash and match-funded by our main sponsor, paid coaches in clubs and centres around the county, to introduce squash to juniors and women, including making contact with schools adjacent to clubs. Around 1,000 new players had sampled squash or racketball, of which about 200 were expected to continue.
- (b) *Junior Development Project.* Dave Clarke reported that this project seeks to encourage juniors below Inter-County level, by providing a competitive pathway and support for about 250 'improvers'. Two players progressed to ICC team level, and a further 21 played in ICC 2<sup>nd</sup> teams, two of which won stage one and then finished third in stage two, and the girls under 13 team won the Plate event. Fifteen players represented Yorkshire in the ES Under 11 Festival, the two girls teams finishing as runners-up and fourth, while the boys teams were 3<sup>rd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> out of 29 entries. The 2<sup>nd</sup> boys team was made up of 8 and 9 year olds! Dave also organised three training sessions involving 100 players, as well as 12 competitions and matches against both clubs and counties. With the help of Derek Norris, more events are being planned over the summer, and a squad of 26 players will play for Yorkshire in the Northern Cup, in which Yorkshire compete with several other counties



- (c) *Junior Teams in the Inter-County Championships.* Steve Ridge reported that we had entered teams in all eight age group categories, seven of whom had qualified for the finals. Three subsequently won their category, and another three were runners-up, making Yorkshire the leading county. Steve also reported that Yorkshire players had won five of the ten categories in the Junior Regional Championships, and were runners-up in three more. He also noted that four Yorkshire Juniors played for the winning England teams in the European Team Championships, and that Sam Todd (Pontefract) was the first male winner of a Junior British Open Title for 14 years.
- (d) *Men's teams in the ICC.* Marc Thomas reported that the First team had finished third in the Premier Division, and the Second team achieved promotion to Division One. The Over 35 team retained their place in Division Two, and the Over 50 team retained their place in the Premier Division. The Over 45 team finished 3<sup>rd</sup>, as did the Over 65s, and the Over 60s finished fourth. The Over 55 team, having to field a weakened team, were relegated to Division One. The Racketball team came 4<sup>th</sup>, but we had to withdraw the Racketball Over 40 team for lack of available players.
- (e) *Women's teams in the ICC.* Gill Choyce reported that the Women's First team, led by Fiona Moverley, reached the final, where they were beaten 3-2 by Cheshire. The Over 40 team came third and the Over 50 team also reached the final, losing to Kent
- (f) *Junior County Championships.* Steve Ridge reported that these had been held at Pontefract in September with a good entry, and were used as a guide for selection of ICC team squads
- (g) *Senior County Championships.* Marc Thomas reported that these had been played at Pontefract in January, and included Men's A and B tournaments as well as Men's Over 40s and Over 50s and a Women's tournament
- (h) *Yorkshire League.* Marc Thomas reported that the League had gone well, with Barnsley winning the Premier Division, Abbeydale 2 Division One and Pontefract 3 Division 2. Proposals for allocation of teams to Divisions for 2016-17 were agreed, and it was also agreed that Marc should have delegated authority to adjust the rules about the number of non-Yorkshire players eligible to participate during the season
- (i) *Promotion of Refereeing.* Adrian Etherington reported that there was one new County Grade and one new Tournament Grade Referee. Two courses had been attended by 48 squash players, resulting in 20 players taking the follow-up exam and becoming Club Grade Referees
- (j) *A report of England Squash activity in Yorkshire* was read to the meeting. The ES North region Participation Manager is working with local contacts in Leeds, Sheffield and Hull to develop Squash 101 workshops and other promotional activities

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Peter Keen reported that in the 2015-16 financial year, Yorkshire Squash had income of £21k, made up mainly of sponsorship from Allam Marine of £10k, Yorkshire League entry fees of £2k, Junior Development Project sponsorship of £3k and the rebate from England Squash in respect of ES Affiliation and Membership of £4.5k.



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Main items of expenditure were the travelling and accommodation expenses of the Inter-County teams (£9k), the Grassroots Development project (£3k), the Junior Development Project (£2k) and the County Championships (£1k) with some outstanding claims still to be received. The bank balance was £18k, although £10k consisted of a contingency reserve (£5k) and a donation earmarked for support to the junior ICC squad members (£5k)

Appreciation of their support, without which Yorkshire Squash activities would be considerably curtailed, was recorded for our major sponsor, Allam Marine; a Sheffield based Businessman and some of the Local Leagues for their support to the Junior Development Programme; and Italik for their support to the senior County Championships

### **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE FOR 2016-17**

Chair	Marc Thomas
Secretary	Mike Clemson
Treasurer	Peter Keen
Members	Gill Choyce Robert Field Nicky Horn Steve Ridge Mark Shipley Matt Stephenson
Co-opted members	Dave Clarke Adrian Etherington Steve Widdison
Ex-Officio	Angela Cwaczko (representing England Squash)

### **BUSINESS PLAN 2016-17**

Marc Thomas described that our plans for 2016-17 fall into four main areas:

- (a) Competitive activity – in particular, promoting juniors through our Junior Development Programme and support to new junior leagues;
- (b) Participation – working closely with a small number of willing clubs;
- (c) Coaches and coaching – get a better understanding of who is doing what, support coach education and work to match demand and supply;
- (d) Underpinning activity – such as improving communication, working with other areas and ensuring proper financial records.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no further business, and the Chairman declared the meeting closed.



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