
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT PONTEFRACT AT 7.30 PM ON Wednesday 14 SEPTEMBER 2022

PRESENT: Matthew Stephenson (Chairman), and the following:

Dominic Pegg (Pontefract & YSRA Treasurer), Hugh Mannerings (Dunnington & YSRA Development Officer), Nicky Horn (Harlow & YSRA Development Officer), Derek Norris (York University), Mark Burnley (Rothwell), Peter Hindmarsh (Referee YPL), Mike Clemson (Ferriby), Harry Falconer (Cleethorpes), John Zielinshi (Cleethorpes), Steve Ridge (Pontefract), Russell Payne (Hallamshire), Amy Eagan (Hallamshire), Lewin Marsden (Scarborough), Mike Swain (Pontefract), Steve Green (Pontefract), Matt Godson (Pontefract), Coulton Hill (Harrogate), Andy Wood (Wakefield), Dan Hall (Wakefield),

APOLOGIES: were received from Andrew Tressler, Billy Hawes, Scott Wilson

MINUTES: of the Annual General Meeting held on 13 September 2021 were approved as a correct record.

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22.

The Chairman welcomed all present, and introduced the Annual Report.

The past 12 months have seen our sport recover from the pandemic with evidence that during the period of forced closure our community used the time wisely to invest in upgrading facilities, connecting with their membership and reviewing ways to attract new members. We are pleased to report that no clubs have closed, there is a national increase in sales of squash and racketball related equipment and the recent Commonwealth Games brought home a gold medal for James Willstrop and Declan James in the men's doubles.

The county has also seen our top players, Nick Wall, Asia Harris and Sam Todd move through the national and international rankings. Their development has undoubtedly been shaped by their involvement in the Yorkshire League (Premier). This year we watched as Queens Sports Club dominated the league only losing one match and were crowned champions for 2021. The surprise team were Pontefract 2 who came second. Our thanks to Mike Dale for his excellent write ups and Billy Hawes for organising the league.

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Local Leagues: There are 14 local leagues, all running independently of the association – we appreciate their work in supporting both squash and racketball. Racketball has seen a growth this year with more local leagues, a county team and a team playoff event at the end of this month at Collingham.

ICC success: Yorkshire entered team events in every age group from Juniors to Seniors. At national level masters, we saw individual success from players such as Fi Moverley (O35's), Sarah Champion (National O35's) whilst team success was the Boys U19 and Stuart Hargreaves and Nick Wall Senior in the Men's National O50's, Andrea Santamaria in the women's O50's. Lastly we also congratulate Mike Clemson our past Secretary who won the Vets Club of GB over 80's title.

We are very grateful to the 117 venues which grow our sports from grass roots level to international. It was great to see Wigginton become the England Squash Club of the year 2022. YSRA would like to thank every venue for doing their part in driving squash and racketball.

We are fortunate to have senior coaches working at county and national level, such as David Champion, Suzanne Horner, Andy Cockerill, Jayne Robinson and Steve Widdison in addition to over 100 coaches – all of whom help grow the game in our county. A special mention to Aron Robinson of Old Crossleyians is now leading a national campaign – Squash in the Mosque.

Our thanks to Carrie Ramsey of Chapel Allerton for a successful Junior County Tournament. This was followed by 2 ICC training sessions with Coaches Neil Guirey, Nick Matthew and David Pearson. Thanks to Derek Norris for managing the junior teams to the ICC finals and doing so well. The Ridings Cup was reinstated this year, hosted by Hallamshire – which was won by North Yorkshire.

Notable absences this year were the Senior County Closed and the Northern Cup. We aim to change this next year.

Thanks to Dom Pegg our treasurer for all his work looking after the accounts, we appreciate the commitment alongside your full-time career.

Lastly we have two part time development officers in Nicky and Hugh to run events in the county and as you will see from the report – the association could not function without them. Moving forward we need to find funding for their future and a larger committee who can help drive both squash and racketball ahead in the next 10 years.

The adoption of the Annual Report was proposed, seconded and agreed.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2021-22

Dominic Pegg, provided an overview of the financial accounts, these are currently being prepared for submission to the Charity Commission. The Reserve account is £12,006.44 with the current business account £13,907.31. Invoices for last season's Yorkshire League fees and referee fees have been sent to all clubs with invoices for 2022-21 being prepared to send at the end of November.

Thanks were expressed to our main sponsor, Dr. Assem Allam, for his continued support, and to Dom Pegg for acting as Treasurer for the year.

The Association Financial update was presented at the AGM, to be followed up by the audited accounts at the next committee meeting.

ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

The following nominations were accepted

- President: Dr. Assem Allam
- Chairman: Matthew Stephenson
- Treasurer: Dominic Pegg
- Secretary: no nominations were received, this role is currently undertaken by Hugh Mannerings within his paid role as Development Officer.
- Trustees: Matthew Stephenson, Dominic Pegg, Andrew Tressler and Billy Hawes
- Committee: the Trustees and Scott Wilson, Nicky Horn, Hugh Mannerings and Derek Norris.

Honorary Life Member: Dave Clarke

Nominations were requested for the Second Annual Award for an outstanding contribution to squash and racketball in Yorkshire, clubs will be asked to put forward recommendations for consideration at the next committee meeting with the winner announced in December 2022.

PROPOSAL FOR YORKSHIRE LEAGUE ENTRY FEES AND REFEREE FEES

The committee put forward a proposal for the 2022-23 Yorkshire League Entry fees for all clubs in the League to be raised from £60 per team to £75 per team, this will raise £2,625.00.

This proposal was seconded and agreed

In addition the committee put forward a proposal to bring parity to all referees in the Premier League. For 2022-23 season, all premier league matches will be refereed by a qualified ES referee and match fees will be charged at £40 per match, in addition a £15 travel allowance will be added to reflect travel costs involved in attending matches across the county. Premier clubs to pay £55 per match, invoices will be sent in November.

This proposal was seconded and agreed

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PROPOSAL OF 2022-23 YORKSHIRE LEAGUE FORMAT AND TEAMS

Under item 6, the proposal for the Yorkshire League format and teams was put forward to clubs for approval, this included a request made by Hull & East Riding to the league secretary to remain in the Premier League. Rule number 35 of the Yorkshire League Format and Rules (see YSRA website for copy) states:

35 Promotion and relegation shall normally be one up and one down between the Premier league and Division 1, and two up and two down between all other divisions. It will be decided by the number of points won by teams during the season. If two teams are level on points, the aggregate of points in the matches played between the two teams will decide. Should this be the same, there shall be a play-off match at a neutral venue, unless agreed otherwise by the two captains.

Representatives from clubs present at the AGM raised a concern over the validity of allowing Hull & East Riding to remain in the premier and requested that the Committee uphold the league rules and apply the rule of promotion and relegation, as above.

No representatives from Hull & East Riding were present to state their case for inclusion in the Premier league. Therefore it was accepted that the proposed league format should be amended to reflect the rules of the league with Hull & East Riding now playing in Division 1 for 2022-23 season.

The Chairman and the committee agreed to return back to Hull & East Riding to explain the outcome of the AGM.

The proposal to accept the new Yorkshire League format and Teams was approved subject to rule 35 being enforced.

The AGM also agreed to admit Cleethorpes into the Yorkshire League (South & East)

The AGM approved the proposal to amend the league rules for Premier players, where 2 current professional players agree, they may play their match using the 17 inch / 43cm tin. All other matches to be played at the standard tin height of 19 inches / 48 cm.

PLANS FOR THE COMING YEAR

Throughout the next year the Chairman would like to engage all clubs in discussions around the league format, to ensure that it remains competitive, attractive to play in, has a strong appeal and is fit for purpose. The association plans for 2022-23 will be reviewed at the next committee meeting with the Development Officers presenting ideas for discussion.

The association continues to need a secretary and further funding from a sponsor to continue in its current form.