

THE YORKSHIRE SQUASH & RACKETBALL ASSOCIATION

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President – Dr. Assem Allam

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2021 AT PONTFRAC T SQUASH CLUB

PRESENT: Matthew Stephenson (Chairman), Dominic Pegg (Treasurer) Nicky Horn, Hugh Mannerings, Scott Wilson and Derek Norris.

APOLOGIES: received from Billy Hawes, Andrew Tressler, Steve Ridge

MINUTES: of the meeting held on 2 August 2021 were approved as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING: None

FINANCE: The Treasurer reported that the association is good health, with approximately £30k in the account.

The Chairman has been approached by Chris Simpson to provide some sponsorship from his company (Mazars), HM & NH to follow up with Chris. The Chair is keen to look elsewhere for funding. There is a need to develop a discussion with our key sponsor Allam via Steve Forster to understand the long-term funding. Committee members expressed concern over exclusive relationship impacts on ability for YS to obtain additional funding.

Action: NH and HM to approach Mazars

DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS IMPACT REPORT: The Development officers updated the committee on their activity since the last committee meeting. Barry Anderson from Bedale Squash Club attended an Off The Wall (OTW) schools coaching seminar and shared the findings, this was offered out to all the coaches across the county via a webinar, unfortunately it was poorly attended, HM/NH will share the resources via other channels, e.g. email, newsletters, etc

The Chair indicated that the association should review the funding offered for new coaching courses as there is concern that this does not have the impact needed. NH/HM suggested that the association works to connect with new coaches through offering a mentoring programme to help them build confidence on court.

It was suggested that YS should write a letter of contract for anyone wishing to undertake Level 3 funded (whole or part) by the association so that there is impact and commitment.

YS will aim to support anyone who on low income would like to undertake their level 1 or 2 coaching, this would be through a simple means testing process, HM will review the current application form to ensure it meets the association needs.

Action: HM/NH will share the resources via other channels, e.g., email, newsletters, etc. HM will review application form. NH to look at a mentoring programme



Women's squash week (September) enjoyed a good profile across the YS social media channels with clubs creating multiple events to engage female players. Observations about the success of the programme are that female coaches and lead female players in clubs are critical to build engagement and to make sessions work. The importance of having an 'activator' to lead and organise sessions is central, the committee acknowledged that more needs to be done to support this annual event. Suggestion to ask top female players to help showcase the sport to other players / members, needs organising.

Action: Reflection by all Committee Members and topic discussion next meeting

International Mixed Ability Sport (IMAS) event at Barnsley Squash Club was very successful, this was a combination of networking with IMAS. IMAS have generously supported the event, through regular meetings, advertising content, finance to pay for facilities / coaches. The committee are really pleased with the outcomes of the event as it supports the broad values of sport and the association (inclusivity). It also leads by example to help clubs reach out to their wider community and attract more people into their facilities. England Squash also see this as a significant opportunity for clubs, they undertook interviews and created some short films to showcase how inclusive the sport of racketball can be. England Squash have made available specific funding pots for clubs to access to develop similar projects. Another event is planned for 2nd December at Barnsley.

Action: HM/NH to advertise IMAS event on social media

HM/NH visited **Scarborough Squash Academy** to meet the new head coach, Lew Marsden, who has some great plans for developing the club. Lew has a wealth of experience in the sport and is an old Level 4 ES coaching qualification. He has set up regular events to appeal to different user groups and will be looking to develop a school's programme. He has many connections which may help YSRA in the future.

HM/NH have reached out to the **Local leagues** with all now returning to some form of competition, this is a healthy outcome for the sport and indicates a good appetite for a full return to squash/racketball. It was noted that more needs to be done to develop local **racketball** leagues as this is an area that is unrepresented. The Chair is keen to see a **Racketball** league set up in York, approach Ladies Y&D to host the racketball league. Malton, Dunnington, Collingham, York, RI, Pocklington, John Bulmer of Malton has been approached to help lead a new league.

Action: The chair requested Racketball as a key agenda item for the next meeting. Committee members to reflect for the next meeting

NH/HM submitted to ES for regional funding £6k but unlikely to receive all, so we expect part funding.

Schools Project: HM/NH sent round discussion documents prior to the meeting, number of schools now engaged with projects on squash, Matt wants to measure how many schools involved, how many sessions delivered, how many pupils involved? Need to develop a model formula that clubs / schools can deliver. Provide a certificate e.g., OTW skills levels. The Chair has requested a template – to take to schools to offer 6 weeks programme.



NH reported that current schools in the project all want something slightly different, it is not always easy to provide the same programme. However, both NH & HM agreed to work on producing a YS model programme that can be flexible for schools to use with a local coach/club.

Action: NH & HM agreed to work on producing a YS model programme that can be flexible for schools to use with a local coach/club.

The Chair has approached Dunlop to help develop a partnership with the association and this could be connected to the school's project

Action: Chair to follow up with Dunlop to identify what support can be provided.

NH reported that Lew Marsden (Scarborough Squash Academy) has strong links with Tecnifibre

Action: NH agreed to contact Lew to see how YS might be able to partner with Tecnifibre on a school's project in Scarborough.

Action: SW agreed to talk to Carrie Ramsey (Chapel Allerton) about what success has been from the Racquets Cubed project at Chapel A – what is the retention of children in the sport?

Action: The Chair requested Schools Project as a key agenda item for the next meeting.

COMPETITIONS: The Chair reported on Yorkshire league, no issues, the league is running well. The WhatsApp group for captains is working well with teams nominated on Mondays and team sheets sent out via social media in readiness for Wednesdays fixtures. Match reports continue to be provided by Mike Dale.

ICC; Captains are known, ICC teams need to be registered. Men's first and Second team, ladies Team and age groups for Masters. Dom/Billy to register teams asap, Dom has the list of team managers.

Masters; Nicky and Matt to discuss later

Junior ICC; all the teams are in place with the exception of one U11 girl. 2 extra teams added Boys U11 and Girls U17. Team captains in place, T-shirts ordered. ICC taking place at Sheffield (Abbeydale, Hallamshire & Fulwood). 1 day only. Only travel costs to cover for the event, mileage at 20p per mile. 2 Cars max per team.

HM/NH a lot of time doing ICC prep, DP successful, looking forward to next session with Nick Matthew / Neil Guiry. The next training session will take place in January just before the ICC event and Chris Simpson has been approached to lead the training, venue TBC. Principals of training document to help teams, parents, and YS. Awaiting confirmation from Derek Norris.

Junior County Closed at Chapel A – good turnout for Boys but low turnout for girls, NH document for County Closed, review of what went well and what needs to be done for next year. Lack of trophies for all players. Need to check with Steve where any historical trophies are so we can track them down. Terry Dudley may have a record of junior winners.

The committee noted that it would have been good to have a key sponsor for the Junior County Closed. All details on the ES website for ICC, all families have been sent details.



The committee expressed their thanks and gratitude to Carrie Ramsey who took ownership and responsibility for organising and running the county junior closed. The Chair is to ring Carrie to thank her and to give her a Restaurant Voucher for Casa Mia in Chapel Allerton for £75.

**Action: HM to organise voucher with restaurant Casa Mia and advise Chair when available.
Committee member to approach Steve Ridge asking about the trophies.**

Action: NH/HM to add content on social media to raise profile of ICC to promote.

Action: HM/NH work with Faye Stephenson to help develop / enhance YS social media activity.

OTHER BUSINESS

- a) HM to speak to Steve Ridge regarding his ongoing position on the committee
- b) The Chair recommended that Derek Norris joined the committee as the Junior ICC County Team Manager so he can report on news, developments, and updates on events.

WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED?

It was noted that we had achieved the following during the meeting:

- (a) Discussions on Female, Racketball and Schools Project
- (b) Understanding of the Impact DO has had in the last 3 months
- (c) Reporting on ICC Junior Programme, Local Leagues and Yorkshire League
- (d) Thanks for Carrie for the Yorkshire Junior Closed

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: The next meeting will be held at Chapel Allerton on 20th January at 7pm. Committee members are invited to use the courts 17:15 to 18:45 prior to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm. Thanks were retrospectively recorded to Steve Ridge for the provision of a room for the meeting.

