

Norfolk Squash Rackets Association

Minutes of

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 21st July 2016 7.30pm

At East Anglia Tennis and Squash Club Lime Tree Road Norwich

Present:

Adam Goodson (Chairman), Barnham Broom
Tim Venes (Treasurer), Fakenham
Wendy Farrer (Committee member), Beccles
Matt Bolt (Committee member), Rossis
Martin Braybrook, Cromer
Jonathon Collett, UEA
Max Dawson, Bannatynes
Karan Cox, East Anglia
David Gouldby, East Anglia / Bannatynes
Kevin Harvey, Bannatynes
Mark Heazle, Loddon
Simon Howling, Barnham Broom
David McCourt-Hall, Broadland
David Youngs, East Anglia

Minutes were taken by Wendy Farrer

1) Apologies

None received

2) Minutes of 2015 AGM

Approval of minutes proposed by Martin Braybrook, seconded by Matt Bolt

No matters arising

3) Annual report on NSRA activities 2015 – 2016

(verbal report from the Chairman)

This had been another challenging year for the Executive Committee.

The committee had lost its Chairman, Andy Trim, Adam Goodson as Vice Chairman having stepped into the role of Chairman. The Secretary, Hannah Colby had resigned and the League Secretary, Hadley Farrer, had recently moved to Bermuda. Tony Hendon had run successful spring racketball and summer squash leagues in 2016, for which thanks were given, but did not wish to run winter leagues. The committee therefore currently had no Secretary or League Secretary. Despite this, there had been notable achievements.

Leagues had run successfully on the whole, with the exception of the Winter League Premier Division. Division winners were:

Summer 2015:

Premier division - East Anglia 1
First Division - Fakenham
Second division - Barnham Broom 2

Winter 2015-16:

Premier division - (League abandoned)

First Division - Broadland 2

Second division - UEA 1

Third division – Bannatynes 3

League results were posted using the Leaguemaster system for the first time. This was a very useful data access point but it did however require all home teams to post results promptly, which hadn't always happened.

A Ladies League had been run by Tony Hendon in winter, this year's winners were Barnham Broom. A well-attended end of season squash and supper presentation was held at the Broadland Club.

A County Racketball Open, one senior Grand Prix, the County Closed Squash and a County Doubles tournaments had been run successfully. The number of entrants for the Norfolk Closed were up and the championships had been very successful.

County squash teams in the senior, Over 35s, Over 45s and racketball teams in the senior and Over 40s categories had played in inter-county leagues, results were posted on the NSRA web site when available and can also be found via the England Squash and Racketball web site on Leaguemaster.

Junior squash activity had been revitalised by a new Junior sub-committee led by Karan Cox and initiated with support from Karen Selby of 'Off The Wall Squash'. This has resulted in very good entries at the Grand Prix's and the Junior Closed, for example a recent GP at Lime Tree attracted 49 entries.

Juniors had also taken part in inter county tournaments.

NSRA had received £1000 from England Squash's Grass Roots Development Fund which we matched with another £1000. This had provided development activities based on schools around the County in the Kings Lynn, Fakenham, Loddon, Kessingland and Broadland area. Nicky Green, Jake Bond, Mark Heazle and Max Dawson had all been involved.

4) Accounts for 2015-16

A summary of the annual accounts was presented by the Treasurer (attached as an appendix).

Main income came from League Fees, Tournament Fees, Junior Events and England Squash rebates and the bank balances were on a par with the previous year after taking account of end of year credits and debits.

Question from floor asked if previous Junior Monies had been received by the Senior Account. The Chairman advised this was due to happen tomorrow. The current balance figure did not take account of this (approximately £5,000) or just over £7,000 in a deposit account.

Karan Cox was advised that the Junior representative Anita Dixon had access to bank details for paying in and out.

Approval of the accounts proposed by David Youngs, seconded by Karan Cox. Agreed.

5] Election of Executive Committee 2016/17

No nominations for committee officers received.

The vacancies for League Secretary, Secretary and other non-portfolio members to take on key roles therefore still existed, which it would be vital to fill if the committee is to be effective.

An important role to fill was an England Squash / County Association Liaison Officer who would help to obtain monies distributed through the regional County Association.

Discussions had taken place about a paid Administrative Officer but this had so far not been progressed.

Nominations from the floor were requested to fill the vacancies.

Kevin Harvey put himself forward to become the new League Secretary. This was seconded by Karan Cox.

The Chairman said that the remaining vacancies would be addressed at the next committee meeting, due to small numbers at the AGM it was not possible to receive further nominations tonight.

6) Resolutions for discussion and decision

None had been received.

7) Items for discussion

Max Dawson raised the point that the re-arrangement of fixtures clause within the rules of the league led to problems. In general a majority of attendees agreed with a no rearrangement clause.

The Chairman agreed to discuss with the committee and reach a decision about the re-arrangement match clause

Max Dawson also commented on the apparent changing of league rules mid –season.

The Chairman stated that unprecedented situations had meant that rules were not in place to cover these, making mid - season rule changes necessary, also that a complete list of email addresses for captains was necessary to keep teams informed of rules.

League Master was a good system that could help to ensure everyone was aware of league rules. The controller of the system was knowledgeable and helpful and it would be possible to arrange for either team to input the result of a match, to avoid missing results. Captains should acknowledge receipt of the rules via this system.

Karan Cox asked if the Ladies League could be on the system. It was agreed to do this.

Max Dawson also questioned why it had been decided to abandon the 2015-16 winter Premier League.

The Chairman replied that because of the regrettable events that had taken place several teams had pulled out and the committee made the decision to abandon the Premier Division for that season.

David Youngs apologised if East Anglia's withdrawal had caused some of the problems.

Simon Howling said that Barnham Broom had pulled out because they wanted to make a stand and prevent ongoing problems continuing.

Max Dawson read from a pre-prepared statement regarding an incident at Lime Tree Road where a Bannatynes player had been physically assaulted by an East Anglia supporter. While agreeing that the Bannatynes player did have issues on court with his behaviour and needed help with this, he questioned why the victim of the assault had received a 4 match ban and the aggressor dealt with apparently leniently.

Both the Chairman and David Youngs said that the aggressor had received a written warning and a ban from the league for the season, although that ban did not include county racquet ball matches.

Tim Venes commented that all the above was a repetition of problems that the committee had already dealt at length and which had consumed a disproportionate amount of committee time resulting also in the loss of committee members. Wendy Farrer agreed and stressed the need to move forward.

The Chairman said that since East Anglia, Bannatynes and Diss would all be in the Premier Division of the coming winter league, he trusted that this would be conducted in the spirit of the game and not beset with similar problems. Some problems related to the "buying in" of players and more accurate and fair adherence to the player nomination order rule would need to be addressed.

Presentation of league trophies

Trophies were available for presentation for the 2015 Summer and 2015-16 Winter Leagues.

Jonathon Collett received the trophy for Winter 2015-16 2nd Division on behalf of UEA.

No other trophies were presented that evening.

Meeting closed at 9pm

Appendix

**Norfolk SRA Summary of Accounts
for year ending 31 March 2016**

INCOME

League entry fees

Summer league 2015 (21 teams) £672.00

Winter league 2015-16 (32 teams) £1,450.00

Ladies league 2015-16 (5 teams) £80.00

County Senior tournaments 2015-16 £1,232.20

Broadland GP; Cty Racketball Closed; Cty Closed incl
raffle; Norfolk Doubles

Junior events £475.00

GPs, Jnr Open

ESR rebate £401.38

Grassroots Devt Programme £1,000.00

Grant from ESR

TOTAL INCOME **£5,310.58**

EXPENDITURE

County teams expenses £1,635.45

Squash - seniors; O35s; O45s; Racketball - O40s

County Senior tournament costs £382.00

Racketball and squash Cty Closed trophies

Junior squash / events £619.36

Trophies / prizes; court costs; travel exps; web site

Grassroots Devt Programme £552.50

Consultant costs; coaching sessions with school groups

Miscellaneous costs

£605.52

Coaching qualification grant; league trophies engraving; Leaguemaster and web site costs

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

£3,794.83

PROFIT/LOSS FOR YEAR

£1,515.75

Current account balance on 31.3.2015

£5,209.40

Current account balance on 31.3.2016

£7,848.45

£2,639.05

