

**THE YORKSHIRE SQUASH & RACKETBALL ASSOCIATION**

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

*President – Dr. Assem Allam*

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON THURSDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2022 AT CHAPEL ALLERTON SQUASH AND TENNIS CLUBS**

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

**APOLOGIES:** received from Billy Hawes, Andrew Tressler Dominic Pegg (Treasurer)

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**MINUTES:** of the meeting held on 20 November 2021 were approved as a correct record.

**MATTERS ARISING: None**

**Yorkshire league** up and running – nothing more to report, running smoothly, some minor complaints around players playing out of position. E.g. Doncaster / Woodfield, struggle with understanding the rules and rivalry between the two clubs.

**County Champs** new date is 16<sup>th</sup> April – posters are needed and comms to all clubs to encourage entries. (UPDATE, new date is now 14/15 May to be held at Pontefract Squash Club)

**Junior ICC report** – Derek submitted a summary of the success of the junior programme, with better results in the boys than girls.

Discussion around the regional forum funding with Durham and Cleveland and Northumbria, HM to ask Andy Cockerill for list of names that he will be working with from Yorkshire through his Aspire programme.

The junior programme for squash is now focussed on the Northern Cup (Lancaster – Alan Batchelor). It is by invitation to participate. The Ridings Cup needs dates, 4 Ridings, format should be 1 team from each Riding (Boys & Girls, U11). This competition is for non-county players. Eligibility is based on participation at county standard, must be below. Must have at least 1 girl in the team

Use local coaches in each Riding to be responsible for bringing a team, 1 day to play. Suggested date in May.

**School Squash programme** – Matt suggests putting a presentation together for schools to review, NH – difficult to create a one size fits all. Needs a menu of options:

- Option 1 – 6 week in school programme
- Option 2 – 6 week programme based at local club
- Option 3 – Afterschool club – via club coaching programme (cost....)

Link into ES new Squash Stars Programme – clubs offer programme for 6 weeks for free, cost to parent £30 (kit includes ....)



The Chairman suggest working with the Multi Academy Trust's to get the right person interested in talking to us. Focus on term time, during school time

Collingham have a good schools programme

The Chair is keen to demonstrate that we are growing numbers in the sport to be able to show schools how popular the sport is.

**Action plan:** Matt keen to get more grass root people into the sport. Keen to see an 18 month rolling schools programme.

Nicky suggested the development officers continue with the rest of the action plan, to include Interviews with Schools about the success of the squash programme

The Chairman was clear that the key is schools, to help clubs, get the message into clubs that schools are the key, how to help the clubs / coaches.

Scott supported the need to get into the schools to target the inclusivity of the sport.

The Chairman suggest including racketball as part of the schools programme

Nicky suggested using racketball and girls, potential to get better engagement with the sport

The Development officers had drafted a survey for clubs / venues to gain a better understanding of their current activity around access, coaching and governance, this has been prepared using a simple Google Docs form to send out to venues. Issues of challenging the mindset of clubs around inclusivity, challenging the male dominance over the power structure within clubs.

**Masters Update:** NH/MS – Matt has the details, Dom and Billy also have the information. Need to pass the email to the team captains. Matt will contact all the team captains to communicate.

- Billy Hawes 35s
- John Riley 45s
- Steve Backsall – 55s
- Pete Fielding – 65s

Nicky will sort the ladies teams out (Diane Fenwick – 40's)

#### **Any other business:**

NH Governance – wants to go over the key documents on the website

Jayne Robinson – ES updated safeguarding procedures, JR interviewed by ES, JR not sure that all clubs have a safeguarding officer in place. YS needs to be proactive in checking that clubs are up to date with their safeguarding processes and

**Derek** – been in touch with Ian Ball about Y&D Racketball league, Dunnington, Wigginton, Beverley and Malton. 4 clubs to participate in a league.

Other successful leagues in the county include: Harrogate & Leeds Racketball and Sheffield league.



The Chairman was keen to invite the best clubs from each league for a play-off to find the county champions.

**Sponsorship options:** YSRA have been reminded that Tecnifibre are keen to work with coaches and clubs and offer a partnership deal with a coach to give them access to equipment and special rates etc.

The Chairman has approached Dunlop (Johnny Duffield) to discuss t-shirt offers, the Chair is keen to see what each offer – Tecnifibre vs Dunlop.

The Chairman also suggested speaking to Smash Sports about Tecnifibre so find out what they are offering

The Chairman is also keen to find good rackets to be able to sell rackets into schools programmes, Scott shared the example at Chapel Allerton where juniors receive a racket with their membership.

**British Open:** The Chairman was keen to have a presence at the British Open (end of April) and wanted to look into ticket options and ideas for using the event to network with Yorkshire clubs and people so that YSRA are seen to be involved. MS/NH & HM to follow up.

#### **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) Schools, need to collate results of participation
- (c) A school day time approach programme
- (d) Zoom calls to school academy's
- (e) Identify Coaches capable of delivering schools programmes
- (f) Plan for Ridings Cup in May
- (g) Success of ICC juniors
- (h) County Championships date
- (i) Governance
- (j) Action plan approved – key focus on schools

**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:** The next meeting will be held at Pontefract Squash Club on April 27<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 7:30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

