

**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 WEDNESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
2022 AT PONTEFRACT SQUASH CLUB**

**PRESENT:** Matthew Stephenson (Chairman), Dom Pegg (Treasurer), Nicky Horn & Hugh Mannerings (Development Officers), Scott Wilson (Committee member)

**APOLOGIES:** received from Billy Hawes, Andrew Tressler, Derek Norris

**MINUTES:** of the meeting held on 20 January 2022 were approved as a correct record.

**MATTERS ARISING:** None

**FINANCE UPDATE:** The treasurer agreed to chase for last years accounts, (speak to Jackie Anderson) and will review the payments from Ridings cup captains. **ACTION: DP**

The Development Officers agreed to follow up with England Squash for the additional participation funding circa £1,000. **ACTION: HM & NH**

The Chair met with Steve Forster (Allam), agreed £5k this year (2022) and £5K (2023) next year, Dom warns that this drop in income will leave the association low on funds. The association has yet to invoice Yorkshire League clubs for the Team fees (£50 per team), referee fees for prem (£250 each team). **ACTION: DP**

The committee now needs to seriously review other funding options such as a levy, as opted by other counties, in addition to looking for further sponsorship options from other sources. **ACTION: COMMITTEE**

Mazars donated £650 to Yorkshire Squash activity. The committee are pleased to receive this funding and the chair has thanked Chris Simpson for his support in securing it through his work (MAZARS). This should become an annual grant.

**FUNDING:** the accounts have some outstanding invoices for Referees and Yorkshire League fees, the Treasurer will send out invoices and update the committee once all incomes have been received. **ACTION: DP**

The Ridings Cup t-shirts income need to come in from 5 Ridings. There is also income from ICC T Shirts which if the Treasurer can highlight who has paid the DO will chase. **ACTION: DP/NH**

The Chairman is keen to make the the accounts to be simple for the Treasurer to manage so that he has less complex issues to deal with.

The committee discussed the current impact of mileage claims as nationally we are all feeling the impact of rising costs of fuel and living. The Treasurer agreed to review current mileage claims to consider the impact of increasing the allowance. The Chairman was concerned that an increase in the allowance would impact significantly on the budget and so suggested the association would make a contribution towards players attending matches.

The committee agreed that mileage claims within the Development Officers roles should be increased to cover costs, in principle they should not be personally out of pocket for undertaking their duties on behalf of the association. An increase from 20p to 30p per mile was agreed, however the committee would like this to be reviewed to understand the impact on the budget. Currently the Development Officers are limiting their visits to clubs and where possible are communicating with venues/coaches etc via telephone and zoom.

#### COMPETITIONS:

- **Squash ICC:** The men's first team lost the final, this was considered to be due to poor preparation the night before the event.
- **Squash ICC:** The ladies team lost to Wales in the first round but won everything else, they felt unlucky.
- **Squash Masters: The ladies team was withdrawn** due to lack of availability of players, won through to the O50's final but once again lack of availability of players meant the team were unable to compete. The over 40's lost all matches, but were invited to the final weekend and lack of players means the team has been pulled. The committee felt this needs addressing and is costing the association unnecessary funds to enter teams. O65 team was withdrawn, O45 & O55 are playing in the final, O35 didn't progress. Fi Moverly won the O35s, runner up Sarah Champion. (Footnote the O45 won)
- **Yorkshire League** – winners, Queens. Trophy will be conferred at AGM
  - Div 1 – Winners Harrogate
  - Div 2 – Winners Pontefract 5

The Chairman suggested a regionalised competition with Div 1 & 2 (to help save on travel costs). Potential for a play-off with the divisions after the league is completed, play semi-final & final to find the eventual winner.

Chairman to check the constitution for rules around amending the competition format / structure. Keen to revitalise the competition to boost interest. Potential for summer league (3 man team).

#### ACTION: MS

HM offered to plot clubs on google maps for possible YL. **ACTION: HM**

- The date for the **County championships** has been fixed and will take place on 14/15 May at Pontefract Squash Club, Billy Hawes is managing the event. **ACTION: BH**
  - Update; it has been decided to cancel the competition, due to a lack of entries, the plan will be to reschedule for later in the year. **ACTION: HM to send messages out via social media channels to inform**
- **The Ridings Cup** (U11 and U13) will take place on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May – all organised, 5 ridings, at Hallamshire. **ACTION: NH**
  - North Yorkshire Chris Codrai – Green – 5 U11, 5 U13 - £110 to YSRA
  - East Yorkshire Andy Cockerill – Red – 5 U11 5 U13 - £110 to YSRA ( no U13 girl)
  - West Yorkshire (West) Sarah Champion – Blue – 5U11, 5 U13 - £110 to YSRA
  - South Yorkshire Adam Turner – Yellow – 5 U11, 5 U13 - £110 to YSRA ( Ella Jacobi)
  - West Yorkshire (East) Jayne Robinson – Orange – 5 U11, 5 U13 - £110 to YSRA
- **Racketball League** playoffs - Nicky to provide details, winners of local leagues are invited to a play off, proposal to approach Collingham to ask to host. Date suggested June 2022. Nicky to talk to Steve Widdison about hosting the event. Calderdale & Kirklees, Hull, Harrogate, Sheffield and District. **ACTION: NH**

- **Racketball ICC** – putting in a racketball men’s ICC team, needs t-shirts - 13/14 June. Elspeth Edwards was approached to run a team but was not available.

#### **ENGLAND SQUASH:**

NH/HM discussion with David Evans,

- new **Squash Stars** programme has been launched. 15 clubs in Yorkshire have signed up. Nicky to check which clubs are ready to go this term and advertise on social media **ACTION: NH**
- ES **‘The pledge’** getting the gender agenda.
- The committee were pleased to see that various individuals and clubs have been nominated for **ES Awards**, the nominations are: Suzanne Horner, Aaron Robinson, Wigginton, Peter Hindmarsh. Wigginton Squash Club was named Club of the year, HM/NH to liaise with ES to hand over the award to the club at an appropriate date.
- ES asked YS to invest in the **new mini-squash courts (Perspex)**, the committee discussed the benefits of the opportunity but due to limited funds are unable to invest at this stage.

#### **BRITISH OPEN:**

The committee were pleased with outcome of this event, with the Masters being run alongside the main event. Yorkshire were successful with winners, Stuart Hargreaves and Andrea Santamaria. The event also provided an opportunity for the development officers and committee members to watch competitive squash and network with our clubs and venues to help maintain connections.

#### **DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS REPORT:**

- Reports submitted, action plan for 2022,
- Venues have been surveyed, spoken to some clubs to help with issues.
- Wigginton have a Wiggy Festival on 4<sup>th</sup> June hopefully a member of the Committee will be present to support the club present the ES Trophy and see an exhibitions quash match, maybe Asia Harris **ACTION: Committee**
- Racketball is growing, U3A, Terry Wassall from Heaton keen to help **ACTION: NH**
- Schools project has seen 7,139 children take part in squash. Published the schools report, options for how schools. The Chair would like to see new programmes for next September. NH/HM to explore how to get schools to buy into the programme. HM to draw up sales proposal for schools to give an offer. Send out to all schools that we have contact with. The issue for the schools programme is having coaches to deliver, we have £90 funding to help level 1 coaches. **ACTION: HM & NH**
- Website has been updated.
- Discussion around offering clubs a visit by YSRA to help the club understand key issues, can we commercialise our visit.
- Discussion around experiences of females at clubs, impact on membership.

#### **GOVERNANCE:**

- inclusivity and diversity – how green is your club – send to clubs **ACTION: NH & HM**
- Need to review the policy statement around Inclusivity / equity to reflect the ES pledge and how YS needs to be seen to support inclusivity. **ACTION: Committee**

The Chairman suggested for the next meeting that the committee meet for a meal and drinks in Leeds. **ACTION: Committee**

**Date for next meeting:** Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August, meal & drinks in Leeds, venue TBA

**AGM in September 2022**