

Minutes of the Squash & Racketball Section AGM, 7pm Wednesday, May 29th, 2013

Present: Emily Ison, Alec Livingstone, Kristian Day, Dick Partridge, Tom Goody, Melvin Robinson, Denis Groualle, Raj Choudry, Jan Harms, Andy Yorke, Pascale Cadier, Phil Shaw, Nigel Griffith, Ryan Betts

Apologies: Karen Cottee, Ali Livingstone, Joey Kemp

1. The Chairman opened the meeting by congratulating Jaclyn and Joey Kemp on the arrival of their daughter and reporting that just prior to the meeting squash had been shortlisted for inclusion in the 2020 Olympic Games
2. The Minutes of Meeting held on April 2, 2012 were presented. All the matters arising are dealt with below.
3. Chairman's report. Alec Livingstone reported on his brief tenure as Chairman, having taken over mid-season from Kristian Day.
 - a. Current status. The section is in good health. Although hard to measure on the short term, compared to our position a few years ago we have moved forward considerably with better facilities, a strong coaching set up and a series of events which are welcomed by members and also help to put the Club on the map. The strength of the junior players is beginning to show dividends as they move into the senior ranks in leagues, tournaments and teams.
 - b. We have had a great year for events, largely fuelled by the arrival of Joey Kemp as Head Professional. His contacts are largely responsible for bringing James Willstrop to the Club for an exhibition weekend and getting us on the PSA Tour calendar. The latter was a gamechanger for the Club, being the first professional tournament we have held. We learned a lot through that experience and hope to move forward next year with a mix of exhibition, WSA and PSA events.
 - c. Court 6 will be returned to the section for play from Sept 1. Courtcraft will be on site for a week in August and will do what remedial work on the other courts is possible in the week once Court 6 has been sorted out. As an experiment, Court 6 will not be pre-bookable but will be an 'open' court for people to use on a first come basis.
4. Playing report. Kristian Day reported on a mixed season for the Club's teams. It is always hard to get the compromise right between producing the most competitive teams and satisfying the social expectations of players, a view reinforced by 4th team captain Nigel Griffith. There is a feeling that the Suffolk League is getting a bit 'dull' and needs to be revitalised if we are to encourage the top players back on a regular basis. Club Nights for both squash and racketball continue to be popular, with numbers largely matching the court availability. Court 6 will be added to the squash Club Night once it becomes available.

5. Coaching report. Emily Ison reported in Joey's absence. The coaching structure put in by Joey, including Jaclyn and Emily is producing results. The junior squads are as strong as they have ever been, with high national rankings. But they are also introducing lots of new juniors through the schools' programme. The juniors are enjoying considerable tournament success and that is being reflected in the ability of the Club and County to attract major tournaments. It is hoped to host a junior Silver grade tournament next season, one of only a handful in the country. Both Emily and Joey are now coaching the County's junior players. Senior players aren't forgotten with day time sessions, evening drills and many individual and group sessions.
6. The following Committee appointments were approved by the meeting after the Chairman had thanked the present committee for its hard work and enthusiasm. In particular he thanked Karen Cottee for her involvement over many years and once again thanked Melvin Robinson for his work on the internal leagues.
 - a. Chair – Ali Livingstone
 - b. VC – Kristian Day
 - c. Ordinary Members – Emily Ison, Joey Kemp, Jan Harms, Dick Partridge, Allan Norman, Tom Goodie, Alec Livingstone
 - d. Junior Rep – Ryan Betts
7. AOB
 - a. Court bookings. There is still concern over courts sitting empty although the reality may not be as bad as the anecdote would indicate. The committee has made a few small changes to scheduling and booking rights which have made a small improvement but will continue to monitor the situation, particularly with regard to those who frequently cancel courts at short notice. The meeting specifically asked that the committee look at sending out reminders a day earlier, and by SMS, and offering the ability to cancel courts on-line on the day of play.
 - b. The junior trip to New York is being replanned following concerns over cost, time and likely player benefit. It is proposed to fit in a smaller scale overseas trip this year.

Alec Livingstone

May 30th, 2013