

Gloucestershire Squash Association

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday 20th January 2025

Time: 7.30pm

Location: Old Patesians Club, Everest Road, Cheltenham

Attendees:

Ewen Denning (Chair, Stroud), James Hession (Treasurer, Old Pats), Jade Rothman (League Secretary, CLC), Mark Toseland (Development Officer, EG), Dan Heaton (Committee, Old Pats), Sam Maylott (Committee, Old Pats)
Dave Crisp (CCS), Luke Hall (CCS), John Sumner (Cotswold), Ben Heuze (EG), Rob Kingscott (Old Pats), Mike Hindle (Old Pats), Andrew Gayler (CLC), Izak Heys (CLC)

Apologies

Jonny Harford (Wycliffe)

Welcome & Introductions

- The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees and noting the apologies from Jonny Harford of Wycliffe. He also thanked everyone for attending and the committee members present for their work during the year.
- The minutes from the 2024 AGM were presented for discussions and approval. The being no comments or corrections the minutes were unanimously approved.
- The Chairman was able to report that, following a period of recovery after the Covid Pandemic, squash participation in the county appears to have stabilised and started to grow again. The league is operating at a stable level and the county Closed tournament is running annually. With healthy finances and the junior and senior organisations now fully merged, the GSA is now in a position to embark on activities to develop and grow the sport in the County. With squash set to be an Olympic sport in 2028, this provides an opportunity to raise the profile of the game and attract new people to take it up.

Finance Report

- The Treasurer presented the accounts to May 31st 2024 for approval ahead of submission to the charities Commission. Attendees were invited to review the detailed accounts for which the highlights are as follows:
 - Income for the 2023-24 year was £6,872 (2022-23 £11,788) with total costs of £7,520 (2022-23 £7,082) resulting in a deficit for the year of £648. It was noted that the deficit was the result of some delayed income which will be captured in the 2024-25 accounts.
 - Total financial resources at year end amounted to £18,411 (£19,059) after all liabilities.
 - As at the date of the AGM cash on hand amounts to c.£21,000
- After discussion the accounts were unanimously approved for submission to the Charities Commission.

League Operation Report

The League secretary presented her report on the league operation during 2024.

- At year end the league is operating with 23 teams across 4 divisions. This includes Hereford which is outside the county and in Spring 2025 Monmouth will also join the league. This will be offset by the withdrawal of one of the Wycliffe teams in the Spring league.
- It was reported that Cheltenham College are considering entering a team again for the 2025/26 season.
- There was a discussion on the current rules for the league with a focus on the criteria for setting team order. Currently, under the Squash levels ranking system, teams may vary the playing as long as there is no more than a 20% difference in ranking of a higher ranked player when playing below a lower ranked player. It was debated whether this was too restrictive in certain circumstances and there should be relaxed. Reasons for allowing this were suggested as allowing players recovering from injury and those who have not played for sometime. After full discussion it was agreed that these were not reasons to justify relaxing the current rule which generally works well as the Squash levels algorithm works well to adjust rankings with results thereby correcting situations where people would need to play out of order.
- It was also noted that the link to the rules posted on the website was currently not working.
- The requirement for the home team to provide post match hospitality to the away team was raised for discussion. It was unanimously agreed by all at the meeting that social contact is an important part of the league operation to promote cohesion of squash in the county.
- The quality of refereeing was raised as an issue for discussion given that few teams have players who have attended courses or have formal refereeing qualifications. It was agreed that the GSA will investigate the possibility of running annual courses for members to improve performance in this area.
- The possibility of holding an end of season social event and awards presentation was raised for discussion. It was unanimously agreed that this is a good idea and Andrew Gayler of CLC agreed to take on responsibility for organising this.
- It was also suggested that a whatsapp group be setup for all team captains to facilitate improved communication of league matters across all teams.

County Squash Development

Given the relatively strong financial position of the GSA relative to annual expenditure, the attendees were invited to discuss options for investing money to support development of the game in the county. With East Glos continuing to grow and attract members, it is seen as important for the County that other clubs are sustained in order to maintain a wide and distributed playing base in the county. Members were invited to share ideas for developing the sport across the county with input as follows:

- Can we better use using social media / websites to improve publicity and raise the profile of Squash in the County as a means to bring in more players from all parts of the county?
- The playing base for racquetball is increasing in most clubs. Are there sufficient number of interested clubs / players to have a dedicated league or incorporate it in to the existing league structure?

- We should continue with the County Closed doubles which proved very successful when held in 2023
- Are there enough juniors across all clubs to hold some form of county interclub competition or perhaps a junior county closed tournament - at some point in the season?
- Access to coaches remains an issue for some clubs to support people new to the game or seeking to improve their skills. Can the county fund programmes at target clubs?
- Is the junior squash stars programme still running and can it be taken to additional clubs?

The Committee agreed to review all these suggestions to produce a development plan for the county.

Election of Officers

As per the GSA constitution, elections of officers progressed as follows:

- Chair – The current chair confirmed that he was willing to continue in office for a further year. Nominations for the position were invited from the members present. There being no further nominations, Ewen Denning was unanimously elected to serve as County Chair for 2025.
- Treasurer – The current Treasurer confirmed that he was willing to continue in office for a further year. Nominations for the position were invited from the members present. There being no further nominations, James Hession was unanimously elected to serve as County Treasurer for 2025.
- County Secretary – The position currently being vacant, nomination were invited from members present to fill the position for 2025. Izak Heys of CLC was nominated and confirmed his willingness to serve in the role. There being no further nominations, Izak Heys was unanimously elected to serve as County Secretary for 2025.
- With no further new nominations to the committee, all other members agreed to continue in positions for 2025.

Any other Business

There was no other business proposed, and the AGM was closed at approx. 9pm.

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE SQUASH ASSOCIATION
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024
Charity No. 1180594**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024**

	2024 £	2023 £
INCOME		
<u>Senior</u>		
England Squash Rebates	1,588	765
Tournament Entry Fees	-	681
League Registration Fees	-	1,320
Saving Account Interest	-	7
<i>Senior Subtotal</i>	<u>1,588</u>	<u>2,773</u>
<u>Junior</u>		
England Squash Participation Grant	-	3,800
Cadbury Donation	2,153	-
Junior County Squad Subscription	2,145	4,450
Junior Tournaments	866	765
Saving Account Interest	120	
<i>Junior Subtotal</i>	<u>5,284</u>	<u>9,015</u>
Income Total	<u><u>6,872</u></u>	<u><u>11,788</u></u>
 EXPENDITURE		
<u>Senior</u>		
County Squads	651	746
Tournament Costs	200	988
Website expenses	261	592
Pro Player Sponsorship	1,500	-
County Squad Kit	238	-
Advertising/Promotion	-	122
<i>Senior Subtotal</i>	<u>2,850</u>	<u>2,448</u>
<u>Junior</u>		
Junior County Squad	4,218	4,122
Junior Tournaments	452	512
<i>Junior Subtotal</i>	<u>4,670</u>	<u>4,634</u>
Expenditure Total	<u><u>7,520</u></u>	<u><u>7,082</u></u>
 EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME	<u><u>- 648</u></u>	<u><u>4,706</u></u>

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MAY 2024**

	2024 £	2023 £
CURRENT ASSETS		
Lloyds TSB Current Account		
<i>Senior Split</i>	2,018	4,280
<i>Junior Split</i>	3,254	12,760
Lloyds TSB Deposit Account		
<i>Senior Split</i>	2,019	2,019
<i>Junior Split</i>	10,120	
Paypal Account Senior	1,000	-
	18,411	19,059

REPRESENTED BY:

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

Balance at 1 June 2023	19,059	14,353
Excess of income over expenditure	- 648	4,706
Balance at 31 May 2024	18,411	19,059

NOTES:

Senior

The main income stream in the financial year was an England Squash Membership Rebate. The largest areas of expenditure were on our senior county squad and inter county events (which were partly sponsored to help with kit), website costs and a new initiative to help fund pro players. We were late on invoicing the league subscription fees and there is a catch up in the following financial year which will be reflected in the next set of accounts.

Junior

The main areas of income were junior county subscriptions and a donation from the Cadbury Trust. The main areas of expenditure were costs associated with running the county squad such as coaching and court hire.

These accounts have been prepared by:



James Hession ACCA
Accountant and GSA Treasurer
Date: 29/12/2024

Accounts Adopted at GSA AGM XXXXXXXX

20/01/2025