

Suffolk SRA AGM

Held at Ipswich Sports Club

Wednesday, May 10th, 2023

1. Present: Alec Livingstone, Emily Ison, John van Heuman, Stuart Lipscombe, Sarah Bartley, Grant Bryant, Rob Marsh-Feiley, Keith Buckley, Josh Turmel
2. Apologies: Kristian Day, Ali Livingstone, Chris Lockwood, Russel Haythorpe
3. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, May 18th, 2022 were accepted. There were no Actions arising.
4. Chairman's Report [AL]: The Chairman confirmed that he is stepping down in the belief that the game needs a serious injection of new blood with ideas and enthusiasm to stem the interminable decline in the sport in the UK. There is good activity within the clubs, particularly the bigger ones, but little 'county' activity. Partly it is down to the small number of active clubs which makes it difficult to generate any kind of competitive spirit and there has been discussion with ES about regionalising competition but to no avail. There is little dynamism coming from ES - the main drive this year has been to force Counties to demonstrate good governance - Sport England funding will depend on it. We are well shaped to comply, with a draft CIO Constitution, Rules for operating the Association, and a response to the ES compliance document. It will be for the next Chairman and committee to establish the next steps.
5. Treasurer's Report [KD]: There was no verbal report due to KD's absence. However the summary is as follows. Once again there is a small loss, mainly because of many clubs having failed to pay their league fees. [JvH and KD to follow up.]

Income = £750 (compared to £2,465 last year)

Expenditure = £1650

Loss = £900

6. County coach Report [EI] Emily announced that she was stepping down after 10 happy years with Suffolk Squash. In particular the juniors have flourished under Emily's direction culminating in getting a girls county team from Suffolk to a national final and coming home with silverware. Beating Yorkshire was a memory to treasure.

Coaching

In Suffolk we currently have 2 active coaches willing to participate in County activity, without coaches and clubs on board it will be impossible to grow Suffolk Squash. Congratulations to MH who have recently hosted their first GP Junior Event and have kick start their new junior programme with some ever growing numbers.

Achievements

- Will Burton gained his first ever England Cap and captained the u13 side at the 5 nations
 - Emma Bartley received a scholarship to Drexel University
 - Matt Bartley finished top 8 at the German Junior Open
 - 6 Suffolk players selected for the Aspire Programme
 - 7 players selected for Regional Programme
 - Promising number of U9 players and players competing in local GP events
7. League Secretary Report [JvH]: Key focus has been to maintain participation in an aging sport, whilst maintaining the competitive nature of the sport for individual and our teams to enjoy a night out in safe and good social setting.

PARTICIPATION levels

Winterleague

	Autumn/Spring	2021-2022	2019-2020	2018-2019
Divisions	4/3	3	3	3
Teams	18/17	19	22	23
Players	160/152	183	177	161
Players (1 match only)	38/26	39	32	13

Summer League

	2023	2022	2019	2018
Divisions	2/3	2	2	2
Teams	Tbc	15	14	16
Players	Tbc	154	164	159

Comments:

- Lexden and Diss returned in Autumn,
- Slowly decline teams and players
- Div1 summer struggled with different nights, increase in walkovers.

Competition (winterleague):

Division	Champion Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023	Supercup 2023
1	Moreton Hall 1	Ipswich 1	Ipswich 1	Tbc
2	Moreton Hall 2	Moreton Hall 3	Frinton 1	Tbc
3	n/a	Ipswich Jets	Earls Colne	Tbc
4	n/a	Ipswich Tom Cats	n/a	n/a

Observations:

- Two teams dropped out at the last moment, which made the 4 pools of 5 obsolete.
- playing levels in all divisions have become more balanced, making wins/results less predictable and more entertaining.
- Many cancellations and walkovers in Summer.
- A few dispensations for players and teams were required this year to enable teams to compete and field teams in accordance with the playing schedule.
- Teams filled in their own scores which meant the leagues were updated to a decent standard, only a few minor mishaps.
- Compliments to all captains for their efforts to field teams and minimise postponements to the schedule and updating their scores. Both Autumn and Spring finished within their allotted time schedule.

Going forward:

- Attempt to kick start a local Racketball league with teams of 3.
- Rename the Super Cup the 'Stumpy' Cup in memory of the enthusiastic and well loved League player Steve Maitland who died recently.

- 'Away' league teams to play a deposit to mitigate losses on meals when visiting players don't stay for the team meal.

8. Election of Committee.

The Chairman, Treasurer and County Coach all retired. The new committee was elected as follows

Chair - Chris Lockwood

Vice Chair, Secretary - Sarah Bartley

Treasurer - Keith Buckley

League Secretary - John van Heuman

County Coach - Josh Turmel

Committee Members - Ash Burton, Ryan Harris

Club Representative - Stuart Lipscombe, Grant Bryant

The League Secretary will be assisted by a sub committee yet to be announced.

10. AOB. Nothing to report.

Alec Livingstone
County Secretary
May 12, 2023