

Suffolk SRA AGM

Held by video conference

Wednesday, May 13th, 2020

1. Present: Alec Livingstone, Kristian Day, Emily Ison, John van Heuman, Ali Livingstone, Mark Baggott, Colin Gebhard, Stuart Lipscombe, Rob Marsh-Feiley, Anselm Gurney, Martin Levens, Ben Sear, Josh Turmel, Steve Snelling, Mike Hegarty, Ryan Betts, Neil Cross, Peter Alexander, Andy Isles, Adrian Meredith, Chris Lockwood
2. Apologies: Sarah Bartley, Ashley Burton
3. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, May 15th, 2019 were presented and accepted.
Actions:
 - a. AL has a personal licence for LM tournament software which is available to anyone who wants it.
 - b. Good wishes were passed to Mike Hegarty.
 - c. County age group event held.
 - d. Junior County League planned but halted by CV
4. Treasurer's Report: The finances are in good shape, in part because some of the Regional grant funding has not been spent because of the lockdown. The League continues to provide valuable funding of £1440 which offsets around £1300 on social media. The bursary programme has been popular with around £1000 spent to support junior and coaching activities. Extra income of £1400 this year has come from the joint Suffolk/Essex Junior programme and the reserves sit around £7k. The Treasurer's Report is attached.
5. County Team Report:
 - a. There was almost no activity before lockdown, only the first phase of the Senior event being completed.
 - b. The abrupt end to the season was disappointing as we had strong support for the age group teams. Next year we would expect to field Senior, O35, O45 and O55 teams
 - c. There was a request to publicise team selection to encourage some new faces to play. [Action]
 - d. It was conformed that financial support was normally provided for travel and food.
6. Junior Report.
 - a. 3 teams in this year's ICC with U13 girls just missing out on a medal.
 - b. The new County setup with Essex is beginning to yield results. 27 juniors signed up and looking forward to bigger and better things.
 - c. A number of nationally ranked County juniors; Will Burton, Harry Griffith, Matt Bartley, Emma Logan, Bonnie Elvin, Ella Hall and Emma Bartley.
 - d. Emma Bartley made semis of British Nationals and finished in top 20 at BJO.
 - e. Saxon Cup continues to impress with this year's events introducing over 90 children to the sport
 - f. The progress Emily and the other coaches have made with juniors in recent years was commended by the meeting.

7. County Championships: The Championship was held at Ipswich on Nov 23rd All the results are available online at <https://altournaments.leaguemaster.co.uk/cgi-county/icounty.exe/showtournamentlist?tgroupid=3>. Champions
- a. Men's A Cameron Haddow
 - b. Men's B David Nairn
 - c. O35 Kristian Day
 - d. O45 Andrew Ramsey
 - e. O60 Robin Phillips
 - f. Racketball Denis Groualle
 - g. BU17 Matthew Bartley
 - h. BU15 Oliver Scrivener
 - i. GU15 Rebecca Woolf
 - j. BU13 Harry Griffith
 - k. GU13 Nancy Akyol
 - l. U11 William Burton
8. England Squash Report
- a. AL has taken over Chair of Eastern Region Forum. Visited clubs in all the counties and helped distribute circa £10k of Forum funding which has now been extended to end March 2021.
 - b. El and Karen Selby have funding for Schools' project. AL has funding for a Racketball Roadshow (so far registered 39 'new' racketball players from Ipswich, Martlesham and East Anglian Club).
 - c. ES has now awarded 115 bounce-back grants of £200. Ipswich, Lexden, Martlesham and Risbygate have received the grant.
 - d. Ipswich and Lexden have both received grants of £10k from Sport England to alleviate the financial constraints resulting from lockdown.
 - e. The tournament software debacle continues. As stated above, AL now has an unlimited licence for the League Master product which produces the best display screens. He is available to provide support for any event, including all the scheduling and reporting as well as display screens if required.

9. Election of Committee.

The newly elected committee is:

Chairman and County Secretary: Alec Livingstone

Vice Chairman and Treasurer: Kristian Day

League Secretary: John van Heuman

County Coach: Emily Ison

Ordinary Members: Sarah Bartley, Chris Lockwood

Club Representatives: Josh Turmel/Mark Baggott (Martlesham), Martin Levens (Risbygate), Stuart Lipscombe (Ipswich Sports Club), Anselm Gurney (Stowmarket)

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

10. AOB. Note Lucy Turmel's world ranking now 38.

11. League Secretary's Report

Highlights

- a. Debenham returned as a team
- b. playing levels in all divisions have become more balanced, making wins/results less predictable and more entertaining.
- c. Division 2 and 3 finished on schedule with a minimum of cancellations and no walk-overs.
- d. Division 1 suffered relatively more cancellations as well as a few walk-overs.
- e. 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.
- f. The use of What's app groups by division to share/post results has worked really well both in the Summer as Winter league and will continue.
- g. Compliments to all captains for their efforts to field teams and minimize postponements to the schedule (reflected in the increase of players that only played 1 match).

Discussion

- a. Agree to end the season. JvH to determine how to score the outstanding matches, the options being to use the earlier season's results or use Squash Levels. [Action]
- b. We will aim to hold the Super Cup at the start of next season – more as a bounce-back event to get people together again rather than the fiercely competitive event it has become – not. [Action]
- c. It was confirmed that we would not invite any more distant Essex clubs, ie Maldon because of travel time.
- d. Much discussion of start time. Generally felt that the stated start time was acceptable but teams had to be more determined to abide by it as well as being ready to field players as soon as courts were available.

Alec Livingstone
County Chairman
May 13, 2020

Suffolk Squash & Racketball Treasurers Report for 2020 AGM

Summary

Cash reserves as of 4th June 2019 was £4,695.04, with total income during the 2019 / 20 year totalling £6,413.24, and total expenditure totalling £3,923.83. This leaves us with a cash balance of £7,234.45, which is up by £2,489.41 year on year.

With an additional grant from the East Region Forum and income from the new Junior County Programme, we've been able to increase our income, which accounts for the surplus.

Inter-County Teams (Junior & Senior)

Following a marked change in players interest in playing Inter-County, we entered more teams, which increased the overall expense; entry fees, coaching, travel and team kit.

Website / Social Media

Lucie Selby has been proactively managing our social media activity and communications via our website, Twitter, Instagram and Facebook accounts. This has helped us communicate more effectively and engage with players more frequently. Monthly fee of £50.

Alongside the above work, she is also managing software and content updates on our website, and all posters and design as required. The quarterly fee of £135.50 includes SSL certificate and email hosting charges too.

Regional Forum Funding

We have received a total of £2,610. Alec Livingstone to provide an update on specifics.

Bursary Scheme

Overall, the Bursary Scheme has not been utilised too well this year with only £475 being used.

League Fees

These are crucial to our strong financial position and bring in £1,400 per annum for both the summer and Winter seasons.

League Secretary's Report 2019-2020.

Key focus is 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

Winter league

	2019-2020	2018-2019
Divisions	3	3
Teams	22	23
Players	177	161
Players (1 match only)	32	13

Summer League

	2019	2018
Divisions	2	2
Teams	14	16
Players	164	159

Comments:

- Increase in Juniors and junior girls participation in team squash.
- Amount of Teams and matches on constant level
- increase in players, in particular junior (girls).

Competition (winterleague):

Division	Champion Summer 2019	Champion Winter 2019-2020	Supercup 2020
1	Ipswich 1	tbc	Tbc
2	Martlesham 2	Ipswich 2	Tbc
3	n/a	Moreton Hall 3	Tbc

Below is an indicator of the competitiveness of leagues (note div 1 is not yet finished)

Division	Points gap between 1 st and last team	Previous winter
2	73	89
3	128	106*

*8 teams in division

Observations:

- Debenham returned as a team
- playing levels in all divisions have become more balanced, making wins/results less predictable and more entertaining.
- Division 2 and 3 finished on schedule with a minimum of cancellations and no walk-overs.
- Division 1 suffered relatively more cancellations as well as a few walk-overs.
- 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.
- The use of What's app groups by division to share/post results has worked really well both in the Summer as Winter league and will continue.

- Compliments to all captains for their efforts to field teams and minimize postponements to the schedule (reflected in the increase of players that only played 1 match).

Plans and challenges for the near future for the leagues :

1. Revitalize the Supercup format ; date to be announced when guidelines allow it.
2. Maintain/increase participations levels by reviewing or trying new formats(p.e. Over60's competition format)
3. Encourage with a minimum amount of rules changes, the impact of postponements or walk-overs on the outcome of the competition.
4. Engage with players, captains and clubs to keep the interest going by always exploring what can be done different or better (survey, transparency, e.g)
5. Enable captains to add players, scores and results via their smartphones, which at this moment is limited in its use.