

Suffolk SRA AGM

Held by video conference

Wednesday, May 26th, 2021

1. Present: Alec Livingstone, Kristian Day, Emily Ison, Ali Livingstone, Stuart Lipscombe, Anselm Gurney, Josh Turmel, Peter Alexander, Sarah Bartley, John Goodrich, Ashley Burton
2. Apologies: Andy Isles
3. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, May 13th, 2020 had been circulated and were accepted. There were no Actions arising.
4. Chairman's Report [AL]: There is little to report on the past year, but a lot to look forward to as we reopen the sport after Lockdown. We are very dependent on guidance from England Squash and they have been very active in generating online support for players, clubs and coaches. They have also provided a lot of 'bounce back' funding to help kickstart activity with Ipswich, Lexden, Martlesham and Risbygate benefitting. Ipswich and Lexden also received grants of £10k from Sport England to alleviate the financial constraints resulting from lockdown. Currently there are hygiene considerations on and around courts but there are very few restrictions on court. Internal club competition is allowed and we now have guidelines for the restarting of inter-club competition. Upcoming initiatives include World Squash Day on Oct 9th and the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.
5. Treasurer's Report [KD]: The finances are in good shape, in part because some of the Regional grant funding has not been spent because of the lockdown. It was noted that the funding for Emily Ison's 'bounce back' events was England Squash Forum funding passed through the County accounts.
6. County Coach Report [EI]:
 - a. Juniors
 - b. County teams. We have yet to see the structure of the ICC. Travel and hospitality are key considerations and the age groupings are also under review.
 - c. Tournaments. There is a proposed schedule for Junior events to get the rankings into shape. Current proposal is Junior Closed on July 3rd/4th and Junior Regional on August 13/14/15th. Moreton Hall indicated an interest in hosting the County event and ISC has been approached re the Regional. Both are dependent on ES coming up with proposals to manage numbers of players and spectators.
7. CIO proposal [AL]: The proposal to move Suffolk Squash to CIO status was abandoned due to the poor turnout for the meeting.
8. Election of Committee.

The current committee was re-elected en masse:
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 (Martlesham), Stuart Lipscombe (Ipswich Sports Club)

The League Secretary will be assisted by a sub committee yet to be announced.
10. AOB.
11. There was no discussion of League structure

Alec Livingstone
County Chairman
May 27, 2021

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.