



Suffolk SRA AGM

Held at Moreton Hall Health Club

Wednesday, 22nd May, 2024

Present: Chris Lockwood, Keith Buckle, Grant Bryant, Alec Livingstone, Josh Turmel, Sarah Bartley, Neil Jerrett

Apologies: John Van Huemen, Ash Burton and Ryan Harris

1. Minutes from last AGM recapped.

Chris explained that there is some work still to be done to create a constitution for Suffolk Squash. Most of the old committee stood down at the last AGM so it has taken some time for new members to get up to speed, re finances, previous records etc. This is all now in place.

Also, over the last year the Suffolk Junior Closed was held, Suffolk Squash had two teams entering Masters events, the first '15-minute cup' was held and also the Stumpy Cup, all of which went well. This is as a result of proactive work by members of the committee and Suffolk Squash.

There has not been much communication from England Squash, they did advise that they would send out templates for the constitution work required around safeguarding and other policies we need to have in place, but they have not been sent. Chris Lockwood did have a call with their engagement officer David Evans last month – Chris will continue to chase him for the templates needed.

There are changes coming to membership of England Squash with various tariffs, this will have a bearing on players and clubs involved with leagues and team squash, but Suffolk Squash would get a percentage return of the memberships so there may well need to be some engagement with clubs as to what this means and what the benefits would be. Last year Suffolk Squash received £790 from England Squash. The committee felt it would be beneficial for David Evans to join our next meeting to explain all the benefits of these new memberships before clubs and players commit.

2. Treasurers Report

Keith explained that all the relevant permissions for access to the bank account had been obtained and this was his first report.

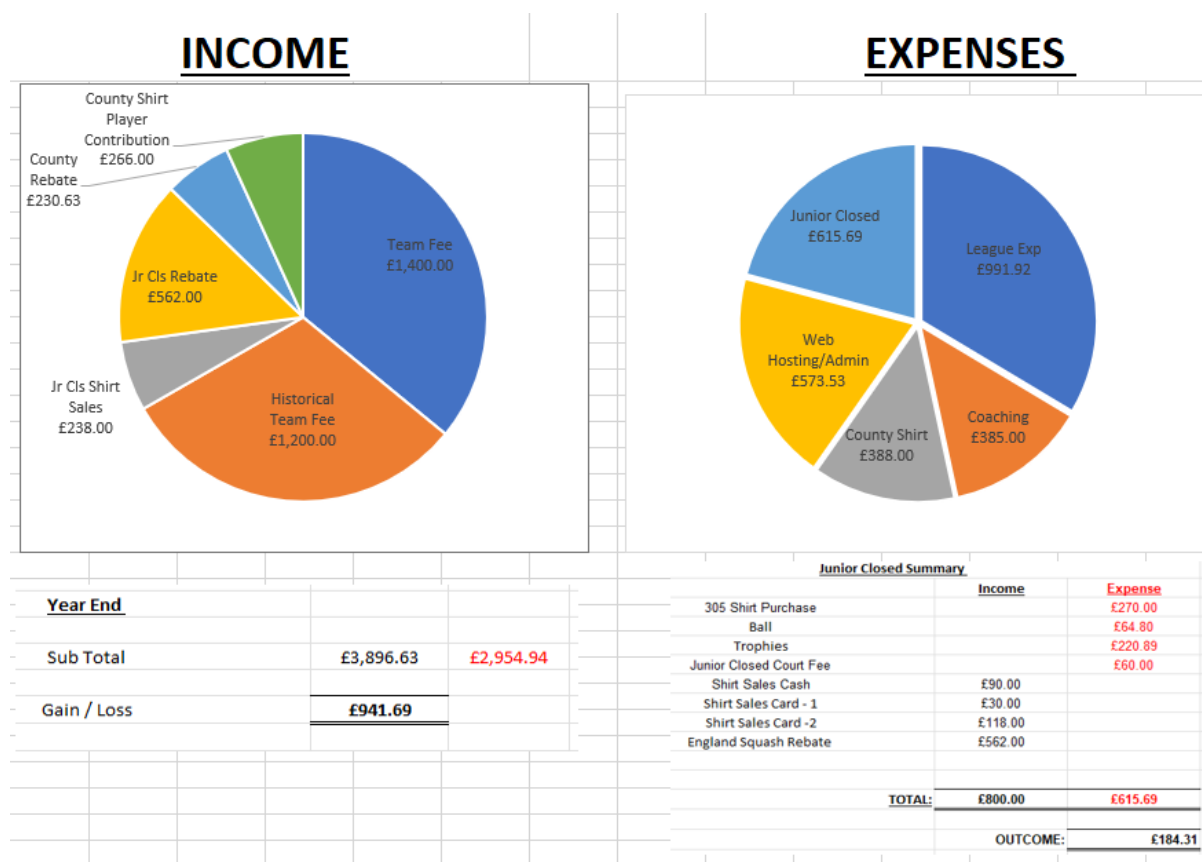
Over the last year Suffolk Squash had recouped £1200 in historical team fees which had previously not been paid, going forward some clubs wanted an invoice for transparency for their own accounts.

The total income over the last year was £3896, this includes money from current team fees, purchasing of Suffolk County shirts and Junior closed shirts.

Expenses for the last year were £2954, including payments for courts for the Junior Closed, league master, shirts, coaching (Level 2) and super cup, trophies etc.

It appears a good revenue was generated from holding the Junior Closed so all agreed it was a good idea to hold this again, also a senior Suffolk Closed as this had not been held for some time. Chris agreed to look at a suitable date and gauge interest from players around the county.

Without holding the Suffolk Junior Closed there would be a loss on last year so all felt it was important to hold more events to ensure this does not happen this year.



3. Junior Updates

Josh explained that the Suffolk Junior Closed was a success, there was lots of positive feedback from juniors and parents. Many thanks to those that helped put this event on.

All agreed the way forward was to hold it again this year and also another Bronze event to try and get more entries and players from other counties to compete giving our juniors more experience in competitions.

There was a discussion about putting on at least a one-day junior coaching day, Josh is happy to assist with this and it was suggested that some of our Level 2 coaches could help too. Potentially August.

4. Senior Updates

Grant explained that the recent Masters event went well and Suffolk put out two teams, positive feedback was received. Thanks to Grant for pulling this together and he is keen to repeat for this year.

There was a discussion around the best way to communicate with all players, some sort of database to generate more interest for Senior County teams.

Updated Report on Suffolk Squash leagues 2023-2024.

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

Winterleague(s)

	Autumn/Spring 2024	Autumn/Spring 2023	2021-2022	2019-2020	2018-2019
Divisions	3	4/3	3	3	3
Teams	16/15	18/17	19	22	23
Players	121/tbc	160/152	183	177	161
Players (1 match only)	17*/tbc	38/26	39	32	13

Summer League

	2023	2022	2019	2018
Divisions	2	2	2	2
Teams	12	15	14	16
Players	115	154	164	159

Comments:

- Lexden and Martlesham down to 1 team only, Diss returned in Spring,
- Stowmarket and Earls Colne play(ed) with 2 teams
- Stronger decline past year in both teams and players

Competition (winterleague):

Division	Champion Summer 2023	Autumn 2023	Knockout Cup 2023	Stumpie Supercup 2023
1	Moreton Hall 1	Ipswich 1	Moreton Hall 1	Moreton Hall 2
2	Moreton Hall 2	Stowmarket 1	Ipswich 1	Stowmarket 1
3	n/a	Boasters	Martlesham 2	Boasters

Observations:

- Lost 6/7 teams in 5 years time, mainly at Multi team clubs.
- playing levels in all divisions have become more balanced, making wins/results less predictable and more entertaining.
- 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 minimize postponements to the schedule and updating their scores. Both Autumn and Spring finished within in their allotted time schedule.

Revitalize the Supercup format ; Stumpie Supercup was held on 20th april 2024 and enjoyed by all, a few more last minute withdrawels due to Easter holiday. Next year plan it again for Mid May, as we did in 2023.

Developed FA cup style format but unable to plan, will go to 2022-2023, racketball league explored but not sufficient participation as yet. This has been done in Early 2024 and the format has some merit. Key issue is the duration of the night in combination with food serving, which creates in some clubs issues for staff. Overall view is something to try again with the learnings we had and allow more time for the format.

Racket ball league hard to get started due to lack of cohesive responses and consensus on playing nights/days.

Experiment in Summer with losing winbonus upon postponements barring exceptional circumstances. This has worked well, but is difficult to maintain to in system automatically.

Plans 2024/2025:

- *Racketball summer league (target: 50 plus player, 3 players team, one court only), so far unsuccessfull.*
- *Allow more time for knockout Cup and control the time better, Again to be planned for Jan & Feb 2025.*
- *explore collaboration with Norfolk and Essex for future with regional divisions to prevent playing the same teams over and over again and therefore teams/players losing interest.*
- *Due to loss of teams and players, it looks more likely to go to a long winterleague with 2 division, consisting of each 7/8 teams. Alternnatively continue with the format of 3 divisions of each 5 teams, but this means not playing every week, and requires minimum of 15 teams.*
- *Summerleague will probably consist of maximum 2 divisions of each 6 teams ,forms to go out early next week.*
- *Maybe there is an appetite to play periodically at one (rotating) facility two matches on a Saturday. Each team playing two matches (am and PM) in a kind of summer circuit. However this is labourintensive, requires discipline from teams to show up as we use third party facilities with commercial catering.*

5. League Report

Josh explained that the season for team squash was too long with no breaks so would it be a good idea to revert to 2 divisions for winter with 7 or 8 teams.

Also is there any appetite for regional divisions?

Is there any appetite for adult coaching sessions – this will be considered.

All agreed we should hold the Stumpy Cup (15 minute format) again next May. Consideration should be given to having a Suffolk Racketball league, it appears there would be an appetite for this, potentially launch for the winter, 2 in a team, played on one day possibly at a weekend as many more people seem to be playing Racketball this year.

There was a discussion about how we encourage more people to play team squash and all agreed we should have a follow up meeting with representatives of all the teams to discuss the best way forward. All agreed it would be beneficial to have a break from team squash in April and May to allow the clubs to hold their club championships.

6. AOB

Confirmed that those in committee roles are happy to continue..Chris Lockwood as chair, Sarah Bartley as Vice Chair/secretary, Keith Buckle as Treasurer, Josh Turmel as county coach, John Van Huemen as league secretary and Grant Bryant as general committee member.