



**MINUTES OF THE 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HERTS SQUASH RACKETS ASSOCIATION  
HELD AT POTTERS BAR SQUASH CLUB ON 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2014**

Present: Paul Drakes                      Treasurer  
          Isobel Smith                     Ladies Captain  
          Mike Byrne                      League Secretary  
          Peter Newman

1. **Apologies:** Fiona McClure, Adam Fuller, John Milton, Mike Champion (Chantry)

2. **Chairman**

Paul Drakes, acting as Chairman as the post is still vacant. Firstly Paul spoke about the very sad passing of Peter Farr. Peter had been involved in squash for many many years as a coach and as player in Hertfordshire. He had never been ill previously but was sadly diagnosed with a brain tumour and died three months later on 16<sup>th</sup> June. The funeral will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July at St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Graveley and Paul will be attending as a friend but also to represent Hertfordshire Squash and to pay our respects.

Paul asked the meeting whether they had read the minutes of the last AGM. Martin Miller proposed the minutes and Jan Bryn. seconded them. Paul thanked all team captains and committee members for their help and support but particularly to Mike Byrne for running the mens leagues.

3. **Secretary's Report**

In Mark's absence Isobel gave a very brief report on the mens county results. Notably the Mens 1<sup>st</sup> Team were now National Champions having won the play offs in May, which were held in Wimbledon. The team was Adrian Waller, Chris Ryder, Angus Gillams, Nick Mulvey Joe Green and Keith Timms (Captain). An incredible achievement and congratulations to the team. The O35 team remain in the Premier Division. Mens O'45 were in Premier Division, having won promotion last season and came third, well done to them.

5. **Ladies County Report**

Isobel reported that the Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> team had missed out on promotion to Division 1 by 1 point and therefore remain in Division 2. There are now some strong younger players coming through which is great news for the team, namely Grace Gear, Ali Hemingway, Amber Marshall and Hannah Daly.

The Ladies O45 team playing in the Premier Division narrowly missed going to the play-offs but great performance by the team.

Herts put a team in O50 for the first time and managed to get to the play offs in Nottingham. Unfortunately it was not to be this year, but we're hoping to do even better next season. The team was Isobel Smith, Sheila Blake, Maureen Morrison, Julie Ann Pegrum.



## 6. Treasurer's Report

Paul presented the set of accounts for the year. He pointed out that Herts Closed prize money had been paid out after April. The major expenses are the county teams with the men's 1<sup>st</sup> team a much larger than the others. However Paul explained that the committee match whatever sponsorship the team can obtain and this goes towards paying the professional players and allowing them to represent Herts and the Committee wish to go on supporting this approach.

Paul also told the meeting that a direct debit had been set up on the account without our knowledge for £107 to Creation Ltd, probably a clerical error. Paul has dealt with this problem and the money will be refunded, and direct debit cancelled. This amount will show up on the accounts next year as being paid out and then being refunded, and so this is why it is being minuted.

The accounts were proposed by Martin Miller (Letchworth) and seconded by Paul Gandolfo (Haileybury). Accounts attached.

## 7. Herts Closed

**The Herts Closed Championship** was held at Broxbourne Squash Club on 14<sup>th</sup> /15<sup>th</sup> September 2013 and was a very enjoyable event. Paul thanked Geoff Taylor for organising the tournament and also the sponsors for their support. Numbers were much lower than previous year and it is hoped that with better advertising and a different venue this year, we can generate more interest and entries.

Full results for 2013 Herts Closed were:

Mens A	Angus Gillams bt Nick Mulvey
Mens B	James Clyne bt Paul Cousins
Mens C	Tom Lo bt Paul Gandolfo
Mens O35	Mark Woolhead bt Geoff Taylor
Mens O45	Marvin Rust bt Tony Stewart
Mens O55	David Wells bt Gary Spindler
Ladies	Brogan Lane bt Isobel Smith

Mens A Plate	Keith Timms bt Jack Fowler
Mens B Plate	Mark Blake bt Steve Leverington
Mens C Plate	Peter Izatt bt Chris Wren
Mens O35 Plate	Craig Perry bt Peter Foley
Mens O45 Plate	Martin White bt Paul Hunt
Mens O55 Plate	Tony Clifford bt Phil Collins
Ladies Plate	Amber Marshall bt Hannah Daly

This year's tournament will be held at Radlett Squash Club on on 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> October and we have hopefully avoided junior closed dates this year. Paul asked the AGM to put this date in their diaries.



## 8. Ladies League

In Fiona's absence, Isobel told the meeting that five teams had competed in the League with 12 games being played over the season. The winners of the Winter league for 2013/2014 were Nuffield 1 and the runners up were Tring.

Laura Wood was named best player.

Mike Byrne mentioned that another county had banned ladies from playing in the men's teams to encourage them to play in ladies teams, but this was thought not applicable really as very few ladies played in the mens league.

Isobel informed the meeting that unfortunately Fiona would be standing down as League Secretary due to increased commitments at home and work. The committee thanked her for all her hard work over the years with the league and on committee matters. We are therefore looking for someone to take over the leagues otherwise there may not be any ladies squash in Hertfordshire next season.

## 9. Mens Leagues

Mike Byrne reported that the leagues had all run smoothly with consistent number of teams. Mike felt that the leagues were getting stronger; division 5 in particular had been very competitive. Summer leagues are slightly disappointing with a particular lack of teams in Division 1. Keith Warman had mentioned to Mike that if given the chance some of the teams in Division 2 would have played up, Mike said that he would try and talk to teams earlier in next year to ascertain who wants to play etc. The pros and cons were discussed about three person teams against five person teams in the summer.

### League Presentations

#### Ladies Winter 2013/2014

Division 1      Nuffield 1                      Best Player – Laura Wood

#### Mens

##### Summer league 2013

Division 1      Berkhamstead 1  
Division 2      Berkhamstead 2  
Division 3      Nuffield  
Division 4      Chantry

##### Winter 2013/14

Division 1      Nuffield 1                      Best Player – Jack Fowler (Nuffield)  
Division 2      Berkhamsted                      Best Player – Paul Scott Stevens (Bishops Stortford)  
Division 3      Nuffield 2                      Best Player – Tim Bloomer (Nuffield)  
Division 4      Letchworth 1                      Best Player – Neil Morgan (Letchworth)  
Division 5      Gosling 3                      Best Player – Jay Ledger (Stevenage)

#### Herts Cup

Junior Cup      Haileybury bt Gosling  
Senior Cup      Nuffield bt Potters Bar



Paul told the meeting that the committee had thought long and hard about how to honour the memory of Harry Faulkner after his tragic death a year ago. The committee decided to buy a beautiful new silver cup, The Harry Faulkner Cup, to be awarded to the Best Player in Division 1 in the winter season each year. The first recipient is Jack Fowler, which is very fitting as Jack was a team mate and friend of Harry. The trophy was presented to him at the Herts Cup finals.

## **9. Election of Officers**

Paul reported the post of Chairman was still vacant but that he would like to propose Martin Miller as Chairman his was seconded by Richard Anthony. Paul said that Adam Fuller was still co-opted onto the committee as 'Champion for Squash'.

As previously noted, Fiona McClure has resigned as Ladies League Secretary, so this position is now vacant.

The rest of the committee were nominated en bloc. Proposed by Paul Gandolfo and seconded by Jan Bryn.

## **10. Any Other Business**

Paul told the meeting that the committee like to invite any player to attend a meeting if they wish to and hopefully, some players will take this opportunity to raise any suggestions or discuss ideas with the committee. They will be sending an official invitation via email.

The committee was disappointed with the attendance at the AGM and will enforce the rule that clubs who had not sent a representative to the AGM would be suspended from the County Leagues.

The Committee wished to encourage more teams to enter the leagues so decided to reduce the subscriptions to £40 per team but to any team who were joining the leagues or following suspension from the league, there would be an additional, one off, £20 joining fee.

Howard Gregory asked how the England Squash grant worked and Paul said that it worked on the honesty of clubs to declare how many players they had in their clubs. Some clubs are honest, some not so much!.

### **Wilkinson Sword**

Paul explained that The Sword can be presented for a number of reasons ie. Squash prowess, clubs doing particularly well in promoting squash, clubs that have excelled with their teams etc. The committee wish to support those clubs that are supporting squash in Herts and this year have decided to present the Sword to Letchworth Squash Club for their enthusiasm for squash and managing to field three teams even though they only have two courts and for managing to win Division 4 in the Winter League. Well done to Letchworth. This will be presented at a later date.

The meeting finished at 8.25 p.m.