

**MINUTES OF THE 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HERTS SQUASH RACKETS ASSOCIATION
HELD AT NUFFIELD ST ALBANS ON MONDAY 20th AUGUST 2018**

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| Present: | Peter Newman | Chairman |
| | Paul Drakes | Treasurer |
| | Isobel Smith | Ladies Captain |
| | Mike Byrne | League Secretary |
| | Adam Fuller | Junior Representative |

1. Apologies: None

2. Chairman's Report

Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting, he asked those present whether they had read the minutes of the last AGM which had been circulated and were also on the website. Laura Taylor (Nuffield) proposed the minutes and Gavin Bone (Allenburys) seconded them.

He reported that it had been a great year for Herts, the Herts Closed had been successful, the leagues had run well and also many county successes. He thanked those who helped organise squash in Herts particularly the team captains, who have a thankless task.

Individual achievements were England selections for Home Internationals for Keith Timms (Broxbourne) for O35 team, Eamonn Price (Harpenden) for O50 team, Gary Raw (Harpenden) for O45 team, Louisa Dalwood (Nuffield) for O40 team and Isobel Smith (Nuffield) for O50 team.

Peter told the AGM that Herts had a new partner, namely Melior Squash, Nick Thompson. Some people may have noticed the logo on the website and league system. He will be supporting Herts whenever he can. Nick is keen to support squash and his business is court maintenance and restoration. He will give discounts to Herts Clubs and Peter suggested contacting him should a club need any work doing.

The committee had suffered major disappointment with regard to their application for a grant from Sport England. The committee have spent a great deal of time and effort over the last few years working with Chris Vine, putting this application together, setting up strategies for coaching etc and hoping and planning to push on with some major funding from Sport England. However, the application was refused and was then re-submitted, answering all queries that were asked but it was refused again with a statement that it would not be worth re-applying. The county is in a good position financially and so were naturally disappointed that the funding was refused.

The key to development is good coaches and bringing junior players on. Adam Fuller said that he would now be working with Gary Nesbitt from Nuffield on development of juniors.

Adam said that although he had taken over as chairman of the Junior Committee it had been difficult for him to allocate the time needed to coordinate the role. For this

reason, Gary Nesbitt has stepped in and will be working Adam and Paul Main on the Beds/Herts Academy and will be building this up again over the next year, with hopefully sessions being held at Nuffield.

Peter told the AGM that Berkhamsted Squash Club had secured the great honour of becoming a Performance Hub for England Squash. There are only four of these in the Country, one in Pontefract run by Malcolm Wilstrop, Nick Matthew at Hallamshire and Rob Owen in Warwickshire and now Berkhamsted. Adam Fuller will be working with Paul Carter on this exciting new venture.

Peter then told the AGM that the Herts Squash Association had registered for charity incorporated status. The main reason for this being that the Committee would not be held individually liable for any accidents or events that occurred to a player in Herts. The first stage of this had been for the committee members to be nominated as Trustees. A vote was taken and everyone voted in favour of this happening.

3. Secretary's Report No Report

4. Men's County

Peter reported on the various county teams.

He reported that the Herts Mens 1st Team had regained their title of National Champions, a great achievement. The team were Adrian Waller, Phil Waller, Nick Mulvey, Keith Timms and Joe Green. The team had been 2-0 down in the final and pulled back to 2-2. Nick Mulvey was 2-0 down in the final match but dug deep and won 3-2 giving Herts the Championship.

The Men's O50 team had become National Champions again, congratulations to them.

The mens O45 teams unfortunately couldn't quite get there and were runners up in their final.

The mens O35 team had unfortunately had to withdraw from the Stage 2 due to lack of players.

A special mention was given to Adrian Waller, firstly for supporting his county and playing for the county team. He also played for England in the Team Championships and then to top his season played in the Commonwealth Games in Australia and winning a silver medal in the mens doubles with his partner Daryl Selby. For these achievements the Committee had decided to award him the Wilkinson Sword this year.

5. Ladies County Report

Isobel reported the team members this year were Grace Gear, Brogan Lane, Cathy Abernethy, Louisa Dalwood, Isobel Smith, Jo Preston, Libby Montgomery and Sheila Blake. During the season they had been unable to field all the juniors which would have most likely got them promotion. But the team managed to avoid relegation and stay in Division 1.

The O40 team members were Louisa Dalwood, Libby Montgomery Maureen Morrison, Sheila Blake, Jill Lillico, Laura Taylor and Isobel Smith; They missed out on getting to the finals by one point.

The O50 team members were Isobel Smith, Maureen Morrison and Sheila Blake. The team, who won the National Title in 2015 managed to get to the finals again this year. The finals had been postponed from March due to the Beast from the East and were played in June. Unfortunately Sheila Blake was not available and Elke Rubsam stepped as reserve. Herts played Kent in the semi final and although there were fantastic performances from all players they lost 3-0. They won 3rd/4th playoff against Avon and therefore came 3rd.

Isobel then told the AGM that she had organised the ladies squash event on 12th May at Nuffield St Albans following last year's successful event. This year there were slightly fewer ladies with 30 ladies attending throughout the day. Winner of the plate competition was Colleen Shelley who beat Lesley Garner 2-0. Winner of the main event was Nyah Williams who beat Jo Preston 2-0. There was a fun competition and she also presented the winter league shields to the Nuffield Activeless Ladies.

6. Treasurer's Report

Paul presented the set of accounts for the year. These had been sent out to contacts via email for people to read through and had also been posted on the website.

There is currently £8,338 in the account at year end and he said that as long as the Association does not drop below £5,000 then he is happy.

Paul said that although we hadn't been successful with our grant application we had received a grant a few years ago and this had been used in various ways. We had paid Rob Dunford to administer the junior county teams and fixtures and junior events, we had helped a junior playing abroad with expenses and also put money towards the ladies event held in May.

There is a new initiative from England Squash on raising a levy on memberships, but the committee had decided not to do anything at the moment and would wait and see what happened on this.

More money is being paid out on county expenses as the county is doing far better than years ago, therefore money is being paid for travel, subsistence and hotels etc.

The association pays £100 per month to the junior committee and this hasn't changed over the years. The juniors have not approached Association for any more than that.

Paul also mentioned that the committee were aware that they were paying above the odds for the league software and had spoken to Ninenil to ask if they could reduce the fee when it comes up for renewal in September. They are willing to look at this. Someone suggested looking at SportHQ, but Paul confirmed that we had already trialled this and it did not have the right support to run it. We will hope that we can reduce the fees in September.

The accounts were proposed by Laura Taylor (Nuffield) and seconded by Jan Bryn Joffssen (Melbourn)

7. Herts Closed 2017 & 2018

First Isobel said thank you to Kyri Costi and Radlett Squash Club for hosting the tournament again and supporting the event so well. Isobel thanked everyone who had entered the tournament held on 6TH – 8TH October. The Herts Closed was held at Radlett again last year. The tournament had slightly less entrants than last year and suffered a quite a few pivotal players dropping out in various tournaments, but in the end this didn't matter as all the categories were keenly contested.

The Men's B competition had a very strong entry and produced some very exciting matches. The ladies event had a strong entry also, and it was good to see Herts juniors Grace Gear and Nyah Williams in the final. The Mens A final was a great spectacle with incredible retrieving by both Keith Timms and Nick Mulvey. Alex O'Sullivan runner up 2016 in the Men's B tournament but managed to win the event this in 2017

The biggest talking point of the event was the size of the luminous orange t-shirts. These proved to be rather on the small size to say the least and led to some interesting sights on court!! Rest assured we will be double checking the sizing this year !!

The results were as follows:

Men's A Nick Mulvey beat Keith Timms 3-1
Ladies Grace Gear beat Nyah Williams 3-0
Ladies O40 Sheila Blake first in round robin Libby Montgomery 2nd
Men's B Alex O'Sullivan beat Matt Steele 3-1
Men's C Dave McMahon beat Oliver Eastman 3-0
Men's O35 Keith Timms beat Eamonn Price 3-0
Men's O45 Eamonn Price beat Peter Newman 3-0
Men's O55 Julian Craxton beat Daniel Wolfson 3-1
Men's O65 John Lewis beat Phillip Newnham 3-0
Men's Plate James Clyne beat David Gandolfo 3-1
Men's Age Plate Martin White beat Akin Olunloyo 3-1

The tournament will be held at Broxbourne this year on 28-30 September so please put this in your diaries and make sure you get your entries in to me which is great.

Isobel said she was looking forward to this year's event. The event will be held at Broxbourne Squash Club this year on 28th-30th September and asked everyone to spread the word and get entries in.

8. Ladies League

In the Ladies Winter League, we had five teams, Harpenden, St Albans, Activeless Ladies playing out of St Albans, Allenburys and Tring. The season had been much better than the previous season. The winners were Nuffield Activeless team, The player of the season was Mhairi Gritz from Nuffield who won the Jan Ingham trophy.

Isobel said that she had been asked to consider a four-women team format as a couple of teams were struggling to field a team. She would look at this option.

9. Mens Leagues

Mike Byrne reported that the leagues had all run smoothly with consistent number of teams. Summer leagues, there had been a bumpy start, only four teams in Division 1 and six in Division 2, therefore the two divisions were amalgamated as Division 2. It is proving to be a good competitive division. There was also a late withdrawal in Division 5 and Radlett were also forced to drop out due to injuries. Upcoming winter season, entries are coming and it is taking shape.

Mike asked the AGM on their thoughts on the Herts Cup. The junior cup is always well supported but in the Senior Cup, teams have dropped out and not bothered playing. Eammon Price suggested maybe just having the top four teams playing a semi and final. Mike with canvass opinions and make a decision.

10. Development

Development covered in Chairman's Report

It was suggested that committee should write a letter to the World Governing body with regard to the rejection of the grant application as so much work had gone into this. The committee would discuss doing this.

11. Election of Officers

Peter reported that all the committee were all willing to re-stand. Mark Blake will stay on as a committee member but has stepped down as Secretary. Isobel has agreed to take on this role. Therefore, Peter asked the AGM if they agreed that the committee be nominated en bloc. The proposal was voted on and proposed by Mhairi Gritz and seconded by Mark Shattock.

Peter asked if anyone would like to join the committee as new members always welcome.

12. Any Other Business

Paul Main asked who the Herts Child Protection Officer, this is Adam Fuller was currently the Safeguarding Officer for Herts.

Colleen Shelley asked about England Squash memberships and how these are monitored. Paul went through the process of how clubs should submit how many courts they have and how many players. This obviously varies from club to club and is very difficult to regulate.

Adam Fuller said a few words on the state of the junior squash in Herts. Adam has passed on the reigns to Gary Nesbitt who will be coordinating development in Herts & Beds. There will hopefully be four squad sessions a year held at Nuffield. Gary will also be organising the Inter County matches. The junior committee are looking for parents or anyone interested in helping to join the committee to spread the workload.

They are hoping to get Herts Junior squash back on the map where it should be. They will also be having sessions for beginners and building up the juniors in Herts.

Justin Turnpenny from Harpenden said that they wanted to enter an extra team in the winter league but that their courts would be fully occupied. The suggestion would be to play away matches on Tuesday nights and their home matches on the Friday. This would mean the opposition would only have to play one match on a Friday. Paul Drake said that they would also be allowed to play at a different venue, but this did not seem an option. Mike will canvass opinion from teams in the same division and report back.

Paul Main asked if teams who have their meals at Weatherspoons could be aware that there are juniors on the opposition team and that Weatherspoons do not allow under 16 in after 9p.m which has prevented juniors playing for the team in some circumstances. Peter Newman suggested Mike Byrne mention this to all team so that opposition teams pre-warned home teams where this may be the case and alternative arrangements could be made.

13. League Presentations & Wilkinson Sword

League Presentations Ladies Winter 2016/2017

Division 1 Nuffield Activeless Best Player – Mhairi Gritz

Mens Summer League 2017

Division 1 – Harpenden
 Division 2 - Stevenage
 Division 3 – Haileybury
 Division 4 – Gosling 1
 Division 5 – Ickleford

Mens Winter League 2017/18

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| Division 1 – Broxbourne- | Best Player | Keith Timms, Broxbourne |
| Division 2 - Bishops Stortford | Best Player | Ali Ambrose Bishops Stortford |
| Division 3 – Haileybury | - Best Player | Matt Inglis Nuffield |
| Division 4 – Haileybury | Best Player | Paul Cooper Haileybury |
| Division 5 – Berkhamsted | Best Player | Derek Brown Berkhamsted |

Herts Cup

Junior Cup Broxbourne bt Haileybury 3-2
 Senior Cup Bishops Stortford bt Broxbourne 3-2

Wilkinson Sword - Awarded to Adrian Waller for outstanding achievements this year including representing England in Team Championships, Winning a Silver medal in Commonwealth Games and helping Herts regain National Championship.

The meeting finished at 8.35 p.m.