

**MINUTES OF THE 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HERTS SQUASH RACKETS ASSOCIATION  
HELD AT NUFFIELD ST ALBANS ON MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019**

Present:	Peter Newman	Chairman
	Paul Drakes	Treasurer
	Isobel Smith	Ladies Captain
	Mike Byrne	League Secretary
	Derek Thorpe	Development Officer

1. **Apologies:** Adam Fuller , Mhairi Gritz (Nuffield), Phil Jenkins (Letchworth)

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 Eamonn Price (Harpenden) seconded them.

He reported that it had been a great year for Herts, Adrian Waller has reached a career high of World No. 21 and other professionals based in Herts are also progressing up the ranking list, Rui Soares, Joe Green etc. 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, Ali Coker (Bishops Stortford) for O50 team, Louisa Dalwood (Nuffield) for O45 team and Mhairi Gritz (Nuffield) for Scotland O35 team. All players had successful results.

The Committee had obtained an admin grant of £5,600 and this would be covered in the development section. Last season has also seen a change of league software which seems to be working o.k. as people get used to it. England Squash are also implementing a scheme whereby all players in the league have to be registered members of England Squash. This is being trialled in summer league and will be implemented fully in the winter

Peter thanked the rest of the committee for their hard work during the year, and reiterated that the roles were voluntary and the committee gave up their time to carry out their roles.

3. **Secretary's Report**  
**No Report**

4. **Men's County**

Peter reported on the various county teams.

He reported that the Herts Mens 1<sup>st</sup> Team had retained their title as National Champions, a great achievement. The team were Adrian Waller, Joe Green, Nick Mulvey, Tim Dixon, Phil Waller.

England Squash had decided to try a different way of running the inter county weekends whereby all masters matches were played over the same weekend, which caused problems for teams who utilised players for different age categories.

The Men's O50 have made it to the National Finals in June and were hoping to retain their title again.

The mens O45 team had to withdraw for the inter county champs as they could not get the players as some were already playing for O50 team.

The mens O35 team qualified for the National Finals, however they have had to withdraw as they could not get a team for that weekend.

## **5. Ladies County Report**

Isobel reported that unfortunately she had withdrawn the ladies 1<sup>st</sup> team as there were not enough players available.

The O40 team members were Libby Montgomery, Sheila Blake, Jill Lillico, Laura Taylor, Rachel Kirkby and Isobel Smith; The qualified for the National Finals and will have Louisa Dalwood and Katie Winterstein also in the team.

The O50 team members were Isobel Smith, Jillian Lillico and Sheila Blake. The team have also qualified for the National Finals in June and are hoping to do well.

Isobel then told the AGM that she had organised the ladies squash event on 11<sup>th</sup> May at Nuffield St Albans following last year's successful event. This year there were slightly fewer ladies with 25 ladies attending throughout the day. Winner of the plate competition was Nicky Seabrook who beat Carmel Horgan 2-0. Winner of the main event was Mhairi Gritz who beat Sheila Blake 2-0. This was a fun competition and the trophies for the winter league were also presented to the Nuffield Activeless Ladies.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

Paul presented accounts for the year which had been sent out by email and posted on the website.

Paul explained that whilst the balances appeared healthy this was because we had received a development grant which could only be used for certain expenses and that the true reflection of the financial position of the organisation was down considerably. The committee had decided to use some of the reserve funds to support the Closed Championships without a sponsor. He further explained why the grant from England squash had reduced, again the committee were aware of the change to the way grants are allocated and why it was so important that we qualify for the 'Enhanced Rebate'. Paul reported that following last year's AGM, the committee decided not to pay the exorbitant fees Ninenil were charging. Following acrimonious negotiations and parting on bad terms the new contract with Leaguemaster was working and costing a third of the previous amount.

The accounts were proposed by Paul Drakes and seconded by Jan Bryn Jolffssen (Melbourn)

## 7. Herts Closed 2018-2019

The Herts Closed 2018 was held at Broxbourne Squash Club this year as a change of venue. Thanks to Broxbourne for hosting the tournament.

There was quite a drop in entries this year particularly in the Age Groups due to injury, holiday etc. which was a shame. The B tournament also down on numbers this year but this didn't matter as the Mens B Final was a real cracker of a match between Paul Cousins and Jordan Ryan. The Men's C competition welcomed some new players and provided a great final between 15 year old Zan Farooqi and Graham Blackburn. We did however have more entries in the Mens A tournament culminating in two great semi finals and an amazing final between Adrian Waller and Rui Soares. The ladies event sadly not well represented but again a great final between Grace Gear and Nyah Williams. Thanks to everyone who entered the event and made it such a great weekend of squash.

The results were as follows:

Men's A Adrian Waller bt Rui Soares 3-0

Ladies Grace Gear beat Nyah Williams 3-0

Ladies O40 Sheila Blake first in round robin Libby Montgomery 2nd

Men's B Paul Cousins bt Jordan Ryan 3-2

Men's C Zan Farooqi bt Graham Blackburn 3-1

Men's O35 Keith Timms beat Peter Newman 3-0

Men's O45 Steve Lloyd beat Peter Newman 3-0 (walkover due to injury)

Men's O55 Teejay Sogunro bt Grant Kleiner 3-0

Men's A Plate Rob Luke bt Hasnaat Farooqi 3-0

Men's Mixed Plate Martin White beat Tom Bensley 3-0

The tournament will be held at Radlett again this year on 4<sup>th</sup>-6 October 2019

## 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 slightly shorter than normal as on the teams only played each other three times. The winners were Nuffield Activeless team, Player of the season was Mhairi Gritz from Nuffield who won the Jan Ingham trophy.

A new rule was brought in so that teams that could only field 4 players on the night would not be penalised and lose string 5. The points were split between the two teams.

## 9. Mens Leagues

Mike Byrne reported that the leagues had all run smoothly with consistent number of teams. Summer leagues, there was a decline in teams willing to play in Division 1. Therefore div 1 and 2 were combined and called Div 2. Broxbourne 3 dropped out and also Radlett leaving 35 teams.

Bushey Grove have been a welcome addition to this Summer League and hopefully they will be able to join the Winter League too.

As had been mentioned, the league software has been changed, just after Mike had put all the fixtures on the old system! However, there were a few teething problems but settled down quickly.

In the winter leagues, Nuffield were able to put two teams in Division 1 which was great. There were 40 teams overall. Letchworth unfortunately had to drop out due to injuries and players being tied to other teams. There were 39 teams, down from previous years. Mike confirmed that all the results had been captured and will eventually be put on the website for posterity

## 10. Development

Peter explained that Herts had a grant declined last year. Every year there is regional funding, split between counties in the Region. The counties have to put proposal forward to get the grant. There was £15,000 in the pot for the region and Herts managed to secure £5,600. ES are vague on criteria however the main aim is to get the participation levels to increase.

Peter then handed over to Derek Thorpe who will be dealing with the development in Herts with regard to the grant. This is a great opportunity to spend money in the county. It will be monitored by England Squash and this is why the grant has been ring-fenced, and, if needed, we can repay any money not spent. We need to spend correct and provide evidence on how we have spend the grant.

Derek explained that there are four categories that the grant can be used:

Adult 101

Junior 101

Squash Girls Can

Squash 57.

Derek said that he has visited several coaches in the county. This money could be used for marketing a 101 event, to get word out about workshops, pay for coaching exams etc. If anyone would like to get involved they should contact either Peter or Derek.

The 101 programme is a new initiative which can be run by enthusiastic squash players and aims to get the less skilful players on court and just enjoy being on court, playing games, throwing balls etc and not so much a coaching session. For this you do have to have a valid DBS. It is easy to set up a course and then is plenty of helpful material on the ES website.

Someone asked whether the person running the course would have to have insurance, if someone got injured on course. If you're a coach then you already have insurance but if you are just a player this could pose a problem. This was an interesting question and after discussion it was thought that it would be the club's insurance, but that the club would have to be fully involved with the course and know what was happening. You would also need to have a first aid qualification or the club that you are holding the course in.

Peter said that he has already received a proposal for grant money from Letchworth Squash Club.

Laura Taylor asked if the money could be used for a marking refresher course or a refereeing course, as many ladies ask for this. The committee will look into this and hopefully hold a couple courses over the next year.

## **Juniors**

Around 30 children have been involved in the programme over the course of the season. Sessions have been held monthly at Nuffield St Albans.

Teams were entered in U13 Girls, U13 Boy, U15 Boy, U17 Boys inter county championships with U11 & U13 boys reaching the plate finals.

There have been two development squad matches with Cambs and Bucks, for players just outside standard of main county teams.

The programme will expand next season and will outreach to more clubs for potential talent to join the county training programme. Adam Fuller and Gary Nesbitt is in discussion about setting a new junior committee to consists of representatives from each club in Herts to aid with this.

Alice Green a very strong junior will be joining the programme to assist with coaching.

## **11. Election of Officers**

Peter reported that all the committee were all willing to re-stand. Therefore, Peter asked the AGM if they agreed that the committee be nominated en bloc. The proposal was voted on and proposed Peter Newman and seconded by Yan .....

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

## **12. Any Other Business**

Mike informed the AGM about the current state of affairs with Gosling Stadium which had been due to close down earlier in the year as the owning company had run it into the ground. Gosling was granted a three month extension before it closed and squash members were hoping to create a private squash club and take over the running of the courts. This has still not been finalised and they have been given a further three months to September to complete everything. There would be a meeting next week to advise members what was happening. If all goes to plan the new squash club will continue running the courts at Gosling for the next five years and also hope to refurbish some or all of the courts.

Steve Lloyd from Harpenden thanked the committee for their hard work in running squash in Hertfordshire. Although there are some people who complain but on

behalf of everyone he thanked committee for keeping squash going, for their time and efforts

### 13. League Presentations & Wilkinson Sword

#### League Presentations Ladies Winter 2016/2017

Division 1 Nuffield Activeless Best Player – Mhairi Gritz

#### Mens Summer League 2018

	<b>Winner</b>	<b>RU</b>
Division 2 –	Tring 1	Letchworth 1
Division 3 -	Gosling 1	Haileybury 2
Division 4 –	Gosling 2	Letchworth 3
Division 5 –	Letchworth 5	Hailebury 4

#### Mens Winter League 2017/18

Division 1	Bishops Storfod	Best Player Marcus Connor (Tring)
Division 2	Harpenden 2	Best Player Chris Lynham (Harpenden)
Division 3	Hailebury 1	Best Player Mark Godfrey Evans (Harpenden)
Division 4	Tring	Best Player Tom Archer (Ickleford)
Division 5	Harpenden 4	Best Player Richard Gourier (?)

#### Herts Cup

Junior Cup	Nuffield bt Harpenden 5-0
Senior Cup	Broxbourne bt Harpenden 3-2

**Wilkinson Sword** - Not awarded this year.

The meeting finished at 8.45 p.m.