

**MINUTES OF THE 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HERTS SQUASH RACKETS ASSOCIATION
HELD AT 7.30 p.m. VIA ZOOM MEETING ON MONDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2022**

Present:	Paul Drakes	Acting Chairman
	Paul Drakes	Treasurer
	Isobel Smith	Secretary/ Ladies Captain
	Mike Byrne	League Secretary
	Gary Nisbet	Junior Representative

1. Apologies: Laura Taylor Nuffield

2. Agree Minutes of 2020 AGM

Paul Drakes asked the AGM if they had any objections with the Minutes and accounts from 2020. Obviously, this was at the start of the pandemic and the country was in lockdown so there were no actions that needed taking from the minutes and nothing pending from the accounts. The Minutes were accepted.

3. Chairman's Report

Paul Drakes introduced himself as acting Chairman as the previous Chairman, Kim Mansfield had left the post during the pandemic. The committee were looking for a replacement for this post. As there was a limited amount of time on Zoom, Paul wanted to get the main business out of the way quickly and would then open the floor up for AOB.

Paul thanked the remaining committee members for their hard work over the year, it had been one of ups and downs but things were hopefully getting back to normal slowly. He also welcomed Gary Nisbet who has agreed to be the Junior Representative for Herts Squash.

4. Treasurer's report and Approval of Accounts

Showed on screen, Paul Drakes went through the accounts for the year saying there were in a healthy situation at the end of April 2022.

Junior Squash

In 2021, the committee took back financial control of the junior section. Previously they had their own bank account and governance and the senior committee paid £100 a month into their funds.

England Squash

During 2020 and 21 England Squash continued to pay our grant when activity was at an all-time low and so in 2021/2, we received no grant from England squash.

Exceptional expenditure

The exceptional junior expenditure was because we were able to run some development projects from ring-fenced money we had been given prior to the pandemic, we also entered several teams in the county championships.

It was a quieter year than normal with the pandemic still having an impact on many aspects of daily life.

Succession planning

Paul told the AGM that he was intending to retire from the committee in 2023 after 18 years. His successor is out there somewhere and he just needs pointing in the right direction to ask them so asked the meeting if they knew someone who had a very basic knowledge of bookkeeping or indeed if any of them wanted to take the position.

The Accounts were proposed by Justin Turnpenny and seconded by Jan Brynsolffsen

5. Election of Officers

Paul proposed that the current committee were willing to stand again and asked if the meeting would vote to elect them en bloc for the remainder of the year until the next AGM in June 2023. The committee were unanimously voted in again.

6. Junior Report

Gary Nisbet reported that monthly training squads were being held in line with England Squash and these were going well.

The Junior Herts Closed was held in Sept/Oct and had 75 entrants, but we would still like to see more juniors from the smaller clubs and will be looking to encourage more juniors to join the programme.

7. Herts Closed 2022

Isobel reported that The Herts Closed 2022 was held back at Radlett Squash Club following a two-year absence. It is a great venue and Isobel thanked everyone at Radlett for their help and support during the tournament. Thanks again to John Apthorp who sponsored the event generously again. A replacement silver trophy has been bought for the Mens B event and has been named the Apthorp Cup.

There was a substantial drop in entries nearly 30 down on the last event in 2019. This was very disappointing and the committee are looking at ways to build this up again for next year.

The results were as follows:

	Winner	R/up	
Mens A	Rui Soares	Nick Mulvey	3-0
Mens B	Bilal Ahmed	Ryan Fitzsimon	3-1
Mens C	Nick Cooper	Daniel Wolfson	3-2
Mens O35	Paul Cousins	Vig Gunasegaran	3-0
Mens O45	Andy Duckworth	Nick Henderson	1 st & 2 nd
Mens O55	Teejay Sogunro	Tony Stewart	3-1
Mens O65	Julian Craxton	Peter Quarman	1 st & 2 nd
Ladies O40	Libby Montgomery	Jillian Lillico	1 st & 2 nd
Ladies	Grace Gear	Mhairi Gritz	3-0
Racketball	Adam Grilli	Vignus Gunasegaran	3-0

6. Ladies League

Isobel reported that last year a different format was tried as teams were struggling to get 5 players out each week, with most only field three. To make it more sociable, we had four teams of three playing at two venues each week. Unfortunately, Allenburys had to pull out, leaving an odd number of teams, which did make for large gaps in the season. However, everyone seemed to enjoy the new system.

It was a very close finish between Nuffield 1 and Nuffield 2, both having played 12 games and both having won 11. However, Nuffield 2 came out on top with the points. Player of the season was Mhairi Gritz from Nuffield who won 10 out of 11 matches played and wins the Jan Ingham trophy.

Mens Leagues

Mike Byrne reported that after Covid it was difficult to get the leagues up and running. Clubs struggled to get teams back playing and confident about mixing with other clubs. The overall number of teams dropped by 10 teams from previous league. There were 31 teams in 2021/2022 season with four divisions. Also, some rules were relaxed to allow more flexibility with players.

Mens Winter League 2021/22

	Winner
Division 1 –	Tring
Division 2 -	Broxbourne
Division 3 –	Biggleswade 2
Division 4 –	Letchworth

Mens Summer League 2022 34 teams taking part

Division 1	Radlett 1
Division 2	Radlett 2
Division 3	Radlett 3
Division 4	Bishops Stortford

Mike confirmed that the numbers were up for the current season to 38 teams and five division.

9. Any Other Business

Wilkinson Sword - Not awarded this year.

The meeting finished at 8.00 p.m.