

**MINUTES OF THE 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HERTS SQUASH RACKETS ASSOCIATION
HELD VIA ZOOM MONDAY 10TH JUNE 2024**

Present:	Eamonn Price	Acting Chairman
	Louisa Dalwood	Treasurer
	Isobel Smith	Secretary/ Ladies Captain
	Ali Coker	Mens Captain
	Mike Byrne	League Secretary
	Gary Nisbet	Junior Representative
	Mhairi Gritz	Committee Member
	Julian Craxton	Committee Member
	Andrew Eilfield	Committee Member
	Katie Winterstein	Committee Member

1. **Apologies:** Adam Fuller, Jillian Lilico, Greg Millhouse

2. **Minutes of 2023 AGM.**

These were agreed.

3. **Ladies County Report**

Isobel reported that this season the Ladies O40 and O50's teams had gone straight to the finals weekend in May.

The O40 team of Mhairi Gritz (Nuffield), Jo Preston (Tring), Katie Winterstein (Tring) and Sally Philp (Nuffield, super sub) won all their matches. They won all three matches and became National O40 champions.

The O50 team of Louisa Dalwood (Nuffield), Libby Montgomery (Harpenden) and Jillian Lilico (Radlett) won all four of their matches and also became National champions. Fantastic achievement by all the squad.

4. **Mens County Report Report**

Ali gave a quick round up of the Men's teams – Rui Soares, Joe Green, Rob Luke, Tim Dixon and Olly Dixon did very well at the promotion weekend. They beat Cambridge 5-0 but narrowly lost in the semi-final 3-2 (with two matches going to 5 games) to a strong Surrey side (Phil Rushworth at number 4 !!) We were missing Lee and Nick Rossiter as well as Nick Mulvey so we have a really strong squad to go again next year.

As for the O35 team, unfortunately we lost to both Suffolk and Essex, there simply aren't enough players coming through to the O35's but hopefully that will change in the next few years.

O55

Eamonn reported that unfortunately the normal squad members were not available for the 1st stage matches, and although a team was fielded they narrowly missed out on reaching the finals this year.

5. Treasurer's Report

Louisa reported that she was getting to grips with the Treasurer role having taken over from Paul Drakes last year.

Overall the bank balance was looking healthy with the main expenses coming from junior intercounty matches and the master inter county. The sponsorship money for the Closed had helped greatly with keeping expenses down. Accounts were proposed by Justin Turnpenny (Harpenden) and seconded by Mhairi Gritz (Nuffield)

6. Junior Report

Gary report that it had been a successful season with Herts managing to field county teams in all categories apart from Girls U17 & U19.

10 Players had been selected for the England Squash programme.

Gary continued to run his county squad training.

What is lacking in Herts is good communication with coaches and clubs around Hertfordshire. We need to build up a good framework to encourage more clubs to participate in the junior programme.

A draft calendar has been drawn up and a junior sub committee will be meeting shortly to finalise a way forward.

7. Herts Closed 2023

The Herts Closed 2023 was held at Radlett Lawn Tennis & Squash Club. Many thanks to them for agreeing to host the tournament again and for letting us take over their club for a weekend. We really do appreciate their support with this event.

Unfortunately, the worrying trend of falling number of entries continues compounded by injuries etc. This did not stop those who entered having a great time and playing some very entertaining squash. Thanks to everyone who entered the event and made it such a great weekend of squash.

Isobel was supported over the weekend by Lesley Garner who, with her expert knowledge of running the Herts Closed for many years in the past, helped the weekend go smoothly. We also welcomed being able to use a new marking system designed by Clive Baker from Nuffield St Albans. Players were able to use tablets to mark the matches, with scores being stored automatically on the system making it far easier to run the tournament. This is the future!

The tournament was very generously sponsored by John Apthorp and our thanks go to him for his support

Racketball was included again, with an unfortunate clash with the British Racketball Championships again, however we still had more entries than last year.

All categories were still very competitive and lead to some great finals. The results are below:

Mens A

Nick Mulvey bt Nick Rossiter 3-0 11/8 11/4 11/7

Mens B

Mark Godfrey-Evans bt Bilal Ahmed 3-2 8/11 8/11 11/6 11/6 11/6

Mens C

Nick Cooper bt Keith Winfield 3-1 11/5 11/4 8/11 11/7

Mens O35

Vig Gunasegaran bt Gary Nisbet 3-0 11/8 11/9 11/0 (conceded)

Mens O45

Ryan Fitzsimon bt Andy Duckworth 3-2 11/13 5/11 11/7 11/4 13/11

Mens O55

Teejay Sogunro bt Tony Stewart 3-0 11/4 11/5 11/4

Mens O65

Julian Craxton bt Keith Ragg 3-0 11/4 11/9 11/5

Ladies

Mhairi Gritz bt Jillian Lilico 3 -2 9/11 11/5 11/5 8/11 11/5

Ladies O40

Jillian Lilico bt Katie Winterstein 3-0 11/6 11/5 11/4

Racketball

Adam Grilli bt Mark Godfrey-Evans 3-1 11/8 11/4 13/15 11/6

Mens Plate

Jonathan Perolls bt Raju Shah 3-0 11/7 15/13 11/3

8. Date for Herts Closed will be 4th – 6th October 2024 – venue not yet decided.

Eamonn reported that he and Isobel were hopefully going to speak with John Apthorp, the sponsor, to ascertain if he would be flexible on where the tournament was held.

Ali said that the event needed better advertising and suggested flyers going out to clubs and multiple reminders.

Isobel reported that a sub-committee had been set up with Lesley Garner, Scott Richardson and Clive Baker. Clive will be using his software to run the tournament and also add up to date messaging and QR's code for entering the tournament.

9. Ladies League

This season, there were only seven teams in the league this season Harpenden unable to field a team, but with Bishops Stortford rejoining the leagues which was great.

It was close at the top but in the end Tring ladies came out on top winning 9 out of their 12 matches, with Radlett coming second. The player of the season was Mhairi Gritz for the third year running.

10. Mens League

Mike Byrne reported that the leagues had all run smoothly with consistent number of teams.

Summer League 2023

Division 1	Radlett 1
Division 2	Radlett 2
Division 3	Nuffield 3
Division 4	Nuffield

Mens Winter League 2023/24

Four divisions with 36 teams

Division 1	Tring	Lee Rossiter	Radlett
Division 2	Bishops Stortford	Nii Thompson	Bishops Stortford
Division 3	Nuffield 2	Tom Archer	Icklefield
Division 4	Haileybury	Matt Savides	Haileybury

In the Herts Cup held at Radlett again this year.

Junior Cup Bishops Stortford beat Tring 3-2

Senior Cup Bishops Stortford beat Biggleswade 3-2

11. Chairman's Report

Eamonn listed the events that had been organised this season, being Junior and Senior County Closed, County Leagues and Cup Finals, Gary and Julian organising the Junior county training and competitions, Regional Masters Event at Nuffield and Bronze Masters at Tring, Racketball Masters Intercounties at Berkhamsted with 18 counties represented. Herts were Runner Up in Over 40s and 50s, 3rd in Over 60s. Next event in May next year and Junior Bronze events at Berkhamsted and Tring. We're going to try and work this year to coordinate 2 /3 more bronze events.

Eamonn also gave a mention the Herts Professionals

Adrian Waller current WR 26th, Rui Soares 58th, Grace Gear 45th, Herts League player Katie Malliff 39th in the current World Rankings

Masters Players

- British Closed: Winners Tony Clifford (Men's Over 80s) and Louisa Dalwood (Women's Over 50s). Runner Up Eamonn Price (Men's Over 60s)
- Home Internationals Players: Ali Coker (O45), Chris Lynam making his debut in O50, Andrew Eilfield in O55, Eamonn Price O60, Julian Craxton making his debut in O65. Louisa Dalwood, Jillian Lilico, Mhairi Gritz (representing Scotland) Three of the players had been asked to play in the inaugural Trans-Atlantic Masters Series: Louisa Dalwood, Jillian Lilico, Eamonn Price, playing teams from USA, Canada and Ireland.
- British Open: Winners Tony Clifford (Men's Over 80s) and Eamonn Price (Men's Over 60s). Runner Up Louisa Dalwood (Women's Over 50s)

Junior Calendar

A draft has been prepared for discussion. The aim is to diversify and increase participation levels and we will need all our clubs help to promote events and activities Both county squad and developing players will be included.

Wilkinson's Sword

- Worthy winners are the Ladies Inter-counties Masters team/squad who won both the Over 40s and Over 50s titles

Eamonn concluded by saying that all ideas and suggestions and volunteers very welcome!

He said a big thank you to all on the Committee for all of their hard work this year and to those in our clubs that have organised events. We had a pretty good 23/24 season and we hoping for an even better one this coming season.

Eamonn gave a special thank you to Isobel for keeping everyone on track!

12. Nomination of Officers

Nominations were;

Chairman	Eamonn Price
Treasurer	Louisa Dalwood
Secretary	Isobel Smith
Mens League	Mike Byrne
Mens Captain	Ali Coker
Junior Rep	Gary Nisbet
Junior Safeguarding	Adam Fuller

Committee Members	Mhairi Gritz
	Scott Richardson
	Andy Eilfield
	Jillian Lilico
	Julian Craxton
	Greg Millhouse
	Katie Winterstein

The new committee were nominated en bloc unanimously.

10. Any Other Business

Laura Taylor asked if there was any opportunity for the committee to organise a refereeing course to enable her to go further in her ability.

Herts are looking to organise a marking workshop. Also Lee Drew had been approached to organise a refereeing workshop hopefully tying in with beginning of season at Nuffield. Gary is waiting to establish a date with him. There would not be certificate it would just be informative.

Eamonn said that the committee would be open to support the finance of a course if they were asked.

Ali promoted PSA Satellite event at Berkhamsted and this will be advertised through the Herts website and Facebook and also to Mike's contacts.

The meeting finished at 8.30 p.m.