

Dorset Squash & Racketball
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 10th July 2024 @ 18:30

At The West Hants Club, Roslin Road South, Bournemouth, Dorset BH3 7EF

1. Apologies

John Pitt, Giles Watts, Tom Munro, Ian Frampton

Present (and clubs represented) -

Bournemouth Sports: David Beater, Samara Stewart, Jimmy Prentice, Chris Miles, Pendle Hill

Bridport: Not represented

Canford: Gary Boome, Geoff O'Neill, Anthony Jenkins,

David Lloyd Ringwood: Bill Thatcher, Paul Martin

Dorchester: Not represented

Hamworthy: Ben Homer

JP Blandford: Not represented

Milford: Ian Chislett Bruce

Purbeck: Not represented

Springfield: Not represented

Two Riversmeet: Charlie Campbell-Wynter, Michael Turvey

West Hants: Jane Smith, Bev Vatcher, Andy Corben, Paul Taylor, Peter Elviss, Dan Ralley, Nick Macey, Mike Annen, James Allingham, Mike Ypes, Nyah Williams, Andy Corben

Unattached - David Williams

2. Approval of minutes of 2023 AGM:

The minutes of the 2023 AGM were accepted as a true record by all present.

3. Matters Arising from 2023 minutes:

There were no matters arising.

4. Annual Reports

a) Chairperson's Report – Gary Boome

See attached

Gary informed the meeting that since his report was published the Committee were notified of the sad passing away of Ian Lever; he was a player and Club rep for Springfield and Purbeck.

The Ladies County Closed Racketball took place at the end of June with 16 entries and Nyah Williams becoming the new Ladies Champion, she now holds both the Squash and Racketball County titles. Well done Nyah.

b) Treasurer's Report – Mo Lahda

See attached

c) Junior Squash Report - Bev Vatcher

See attached

d) League Coordinator Report – David Beater

See attached

5. Adoption of Accounts

The accounts were adopted as a true and accurate record of Dorset Squash's financial affairs by all present (See attached for the Dorset Squash Accounts 2023-2024)

Proposed: Nick Macey; Seconded: Mike Annen

6. Election of President

David Williams was nominated

Proposed: Gary Boome; Seconded: Paul Martin

Approved by all present.

7. Election of Management Committee

All nominations had been received by the Secretary in accordance with the Constitution of Dorset Squash.

Nominations for Main Officers 2024/2025

Chairperson Gary Boome

Honorary Treasurer Mo Lahda

Honorary Secretary Jane Smith

Proposed: James Allingham; Seconded: Mike Ypes

Approved by all present

Nominations for Positions on General Committee 2024/2025

League & Cup Co-ordinator David Beater

Website Manager/Press Liaison Brian Barnes

Junior County Manager /Development Officer Bev Vatcher

Assistant Junior County Manager Samara Stewart

Head of Coaching Andy Corben

Refereeing & Marking Co-ordinator David Williams

Tournament Organiser Gary Boome

Junior County Development Officer Nyah Williams

Junior County Development Officer Jamie Broomfield

Inter County Liaison/League Management Officer Paul Taylor

Proposed: Ian Chislett-Bruce; Seconded: Ben Homer

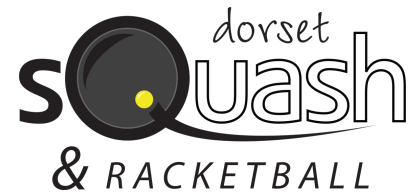
All the above nominations were approved by all present



David Beater receives the Basil Hebden award from President David Williams for services to Squash and Racketball in Dorset

Gary Boome announced his intention to resign as Chairman with effect from July 2025. He asked the meeting for volunteers to take on his role or join the Committee to assist his hard working team, assuring the room that the Chair's role is not difficult with such a good team to back them up!

The meeting closed at 7.45pm



League Management Committee Meeting (LMC) on 10th July 2024

Chaired by David Beater, League Coordinator.

1) Introduction DB thanked the League Committee for their contributions for assisting with advice to league structures and decisions over issues as they arose this summer.

2) Summary of Rule Updates:

At the Spring Meeting held on 24th March 2024 eight clubs were represented and some minor adaptations to the rules were made. These were circulated to clubs with amendments in blue prior to the AGM. We hope most have seen and read these changes.

It was decided at the Spring meeting we would form a league committee and we have since had our first meeting held on the 29th May. The committee has contributed to a number of league issues over the summer months.

3H ES membership. We endeavour for all clubs to have ES membership and all individual county league players as paid up members too. We will need to do well with overall ES membership numbers to achieve the enhanced rebate. A discussion took place on the cost for individual players to play in the leagues which has been set at £15 for the county. It was suggested whilst there is a rule for individual league players to be fully paid up and signed up ES members they would not be penalised for the coming winter league and we will monitor how the individual membership take up goes. In the meantime we ask clubs to support the county in encouraging individuals to join up for Dorset Leagues in light of the benefits of the enhanced rebate.

8 (b) Play Ups now allowing 5 play ups not 3. The aim is to enable captains to have more available players from Lower teams. Concerns were raised about allowing too many 'play ups' because all it relies on sharing players between teams and does not achieve full commitment in each team. Captains, however, have struggled to achieve full team turnout in recent months and it was felt if we give captains more available players we hope to achieve more matches played on the original agreed date without the need for rearranging.

Rearranging fixtures Request/reminder to captains If you do need to rearrange a match please email the League coordinator and opposition captain at the same time, giving the minimum due notice (4 days). That way we can get the new date on the system as soon as possible and helps with the smooth running of the leagues.

9(a) Players cannot be re registered for a different club. An exception may be allowed should the league committee agree. E.g a player not getting enough matches.

9(e) Teams withdrawing from the league. If they want to rejoin to a lower division this is usually not allowed. However, providing the league coordinator and committee are agreed on the levels of individual players an exception could be made.

10e) Clubs with more than one team in the same division (currently only effects West Hants and Bournemouth) should play each other first in each half of the season. However, since sometimes matches are rearranged and move we have made an allowance to get this played in

the first half of period 1, or the first half of the period 2. As long as the matches are **not played** at the end of each half this should be acceptable.

Unregistered players. Occasionally clubs simply forget to register a regular team player and the offending player is only penalised by forfeiting that string. In most cases players who are unregistered go ahead and play a match unknowingly in their rightful position and have no idea they are unregistered until the captain puts in the results after the match, then realises the player is not listed in the drop down.

This rule will remain in place for the winter leagues 2024/5 and further discussion will take place at the League Committee this autumn as to whether it is necessary to penalise all lower rubber.

3). Four Person Teams. The county committee was asked to consider a vote on 4 person squash teams or to keep 5. We recapped on some of the advantages of the alternative options.

Advantages of 4:

- 1) Less players to get a full team
- 2) Easier for transport
- 3) Earlier finish, earlier to bed for players and club operators.
- 4) Count-backs can be fun!

Advantages of 5:

- 1) Suit purists
- 2) 5 players can create a great interest in the final game if the scores level at 2-2
- 3) More people playing in a team, more getting team experience including youngsters
- 4) If we give in to 4 players it might then be 3 and then fold like the ladies.

Smaller clubs might benefit more with 4 person teams as they have a smaller pool of players to get 5 players committed for the match. Concerns were raised if we were to move to 4 person we might never go back to 5's. It was suggested 5 person teams create a better atmosphere with more opportunity for supporting your own team (4 player teams requires two to referees/markers while the other two players are on court)

Ten clubs voted (via email in advance of the meeting or present at the meeting).

Result:

Division 1: 5 player teams won by 6 votes to 4
Division 2 & 3: 5 player teams won by 8 votes to 2

4) Winter Leagues Structure Handout. A discussion took place on the draft handout. Confirmation of team commitment was needed from a small handful of clubs/teams and we await feedback. Given the small size of division 2 squash it was suggested whether we could bring a team up from div 3 (Two Riversmeet unable to field 2 teams in Div 2 because of sharing players issue, Bournemouth 3 possibly not strong enough to move up from division 3?). Three rounds of fixtures (15 matches) was suggested by Andy Corben to achieve more fixtures if we only have 6 teams.

Winter Cup will be replaced by a Spring Cup will be held after the winter leagues have finished, so end of March, April and May (avoiding Easter) with the aim of having no overlap with the leagues and knockout. This means it will be clear if players have played twice for the club to qualify for the knockout cup. We have the added advantage of seeding teams from the league too. Players must play two matches (not three) for their club before qualifying for the cup.

LEAGUE ENTRY FEES for winter 2024/5 Is set at £65 per team.

5) KARAKAL BALLS. These are WSF approved and the committee have purchased balls for teams to trial. Karakal have offered a sponsorship partnership for us to consider. These balls can be trialled over the course of the season and we welcome feedback.

SUMMER CUP FINALS DAY is booked at Two Riversmeet on Saturday 7th September. Draft schedule was handed out and will be advertised shortly.

5) AOB.

REFEREEING AND MARKING - Calling the Shots

David Williams informed the meeting that England Squash are now offering clubs the opportunity to host a face to face 'CALLING THE SHOTS' Marking Awareness Workshop for £150 with an England Squash Tutor

To encourage clubs to host a course Dorset Squash & Racketball will provide funding towards the course.

Presentations



Hamworthy Racketball 1: Division 3 Winners. Ben Homer (above left) receives the trophy from David Williams (President)



West Hants 1 Racketball: Division 1 Winners (above): Mike Ypes (L), James Allingham (C) and Paul Taylor (R)

Bournemouth Squash 2: Division 2 Winners (below left), Jimmy Prentice and Chris Miles receive the trophy

Two Riversmeet 1 Squash: Division 1 winners (below right) . Charlie Campbell-Wynter receives the trophy.
Bridport 1 Squash: Division 3 Winners: Not present.

