

## Chairman Reports 2024

It has been another busy & fantastic season for DSRA.

We started off with the Squash Closed in November and another great turn out of 44 players across 5 events and we have another name on the trophy this year with Marc James taking victory from David Lobo. The Ladies was won by Nyah Williams, with Amy Campbell-Wynter, taking second spot.

Soon after the closed we hosted a Refereeing & Marking Evening with Stan Thorton who gave us another view of how to interpret the Rules for Let/Strokes. This was well attended by all standards of players, showing that you are never too old to learn.

During the lead up to Christmas this was the perfect time for Alexis to make his mark in the UK Racketball Series with a great win at Grantham Squash Club, to win the 2023 UK Racketball Series.

“Coming down to the tightest of margins, Alexis Smith from Dorset pipped Paul Norton of Yorkshire to the 2023 Series title by the finest of margins. Just 3,560 points to 3,475, the final Doubles match of the National Doubles being the deciding factor! Both players have been incredibly consistent across the Series, both being O40s and Doubles specialists, and have regularly battled it out on court.”

Alexis has continued this great form in the 2024 Series and with a recent win at Peterborough Sports Club it will keep him in contention for the 2024 season, on the back of his great achievements this had led to him being selected to represent England in the Home Internationals in September, we wish him all the best in this.

On the Subject of the Home Internationals, it was great to see that again Dorset players are being selected to represent England, this time in the Squash Masters. So, a big shout out to Tony Webb & Gemma Barber for another team effort, winning the event in April.

Players like these are setting a great example for our Juniors. It is with great pleasure that our Juniors are also gaining great recognition. Ben Lemond was crowned the National U11 Squash Champion in October 2023. We wish him a great future and hope to see many more awards.

There was a great turn out for the Racketball Closed in February, with players from all over the county. This year saw David Lobo retain his crown as County champion for the second year running, Whilst we didn't run the Ladies event that weekend due to a number of entries being away. Bev has done a fantastic job in raising the number of Ladies participating and the Ladies County Closed is being played on the 29th/30th June with 16 entries.

We also managed to persuade England Squash to host their next Level 2 coaching course here within Dorset as we had a number of coaches that wanted to attend. This was held at the beginning of the year with a number of our Level 1 coaches attending.

We are also running an update/refresher course for Safeguarding & Protection for all Coaches & Club Protection Officers. This is being run on the 8th July at West Hants.

I would like to say a BIG thank you to the team around me, who do work tirelessly to bring Squash & Racketball to all corners of the County. If anyone would like to be involved in any part of the DSRA, then please come and have a chat with us.

Gary Boome Chairman 18th June 2024