

## **Avon and BadSquash**

Meeting Minutes  
6 July 2017

### **Opening**

The regular meeting of the Avon and BadSquash was called to order at 19:15 on 6 July 2017 in Redland Squash Club, Bristol by Seamus Singh.

### **Present**

Mark Regan, Martyn Ibson, Richard Bickers and Seamus Singh

### **Apologies for Absence**

Karen deKlerk, Duncan Higgins, Richard King and Rose Bamber

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 June at Vivo Squash Club, Bristol were approved.

### **Matters Arising**

1. County Knockout Event
  - a) An action from the previous meeting for Mark Regan to put together a group and work it out, report by end of the summer. This is in progress.
2. Refereeing Proposal Working Party
  - a) An action from the previous meeting for Seamus Singh to arrange a meeting with Martin Ramsey to outline what the committee would like him to do. This was done and Martin Ramsey was attending the meeting later to give his report.
3. Junior Development Working Party
  - a) An action from the previous meeting for Seamus Singh to arrange a meeting with the coaches. This was done and a meeting was held on Thu 15 June at Vivo Squash Club. The meeting was successful and several actions arose. Seamus is to share the notes of the meeting with the committee.
  - b) An action from the previous meeting on Richard King to contact Brian Pate at Chew to liaise with them on a festival day and see what support is required. Richard contacted the coaches to see who was available to support the event at Chew. Tim Miller from Thornbury was available. Early indications are that the event was a success. A new action rises for to put together a document that outlines the committee's expectation of what will happen and what a club needs to do (such as providing pictures and a report) if we support a club in putting on an event. (RK)
4. Raquetball (Squash 57) League
  - a) An action from the previous meeting on Duncan Higgins to contact the club captains to ascertain interest in entering teams. Duncan received no responses from anyone. Redland and Vivo are both propose to enter one or more teams.
  - b) An action from the previous meeting on Richard Bickers to investigate whetehr BadSquash can be split to allow results to go in without affecting everything else. He reported this was technically possible but had not done anything in the absence of any teams indicating they wanted to enter.

The committee discussed this briefly and agreed the following actions:

- Write an article and post it on the BaD site including names of clubs entering and information on how it might run. (SS and DH)
- Create a poster for the site and get it distributed to the clubs
- Get a commitment from Redland to enter one or more teams. (MR)

#### 5. Order Change Rule Working Party

A working party was created and an invitation was posted on the BaD site for those wishing to participate on the working party to contact Richard Bickers. Richard received 3 responses and the group met on 22 June at Redland Squash Club. The group are recommending that the [Order Change rule](#) (Rule 7.2) is scrapped and that the [Out of Order rule](#) (Rule 7.3) is tightened from 2:1 to 1.5:1

The committee accepted the recommendation and agreed that the next step is to get feed back from the team captains. It was agreed to gather response form the captains via Survey Monkey. The survey would consist of two questions: 1. A simple yes no to the recommendation, and 2) comments on the amount of change on the levels from 2:1 to 1.5:1. The committee would then take note of the responses before making its final decision. (SS)

A 75% vote from the captains would be required to change the existing rule.

#### 6. Funding from England Squash via South West Region

- a) An action from the previous meeting on Duncan Higgins to find out where the funds reported in the Treasurer's report in the AGM had come from and what it is for. Duncan also will find out if there are additional funds to be drawn down. Duncan reported via email he had been unable to gather this information. SS said he would contact Linda Brickell at the SW Region to get this information.
- b) An action from the previous meeting for Seamus Singh to discuss with the coaches to decide how it should be used. This he did do and it was felt we needed to know the full parameters of the funds that have been allocated. SS to get this information as part of contacting Linda Brickell.

#### 7. Website and Social Media

- a) An action from the previous meeting for Seamus Singh to share with the committee the outline structure of the site and invite comments/suggestions. He did so. The committee agreed that the next step would be to prepare an ITT based on his document and publish it to the county. (SS)

#### 8. Composition of Committee

- a) No progress had been made on finding a secretary. It was agreed to create a document outlining the role and publish it on the BaD site. (SS)
- b) Mark Regan and Martyn Ibson spoke with Patrick Truss to ask him if he would be interested in taking on the role of Press Officer for the county. He agreed to do so.
- c) The coaches, in their meeting, highlighted the need for a Development Officer. They created a specification of the role. This was shared with the committee. Questions arose on how to fund this and where we might find someone to take on the role. Richard Bickers suggested that we could contact the County

Association Network (CAN) to see if there was anyone interested in taking on the role once the means of funding it had been sorted.

9. Tournaments Schedule

- a) An action from the previous meeting for Richard King to create a calendar of events and find out from all the clubs what their events are including. This is ongoing.

10. Governance

- a) An action from the previous meeting for Richard Bickers to contact Richard Antcliff for help in this regard. This is ongoing.

11. Fundraising

- a) An action from the previous meeting on Duncan Higgins to crunch some figures on the effect of increasing team fees for the 2017/18 season. Duncan did this and reported via Whatsapp that an increase in £5 across the board on team fees would raise an extra £690 per year.
- b) An action on all to setup an investment meeting to discuss how we should a) start spending some of the money we have and b) how we can raise more of our own income. Outstanding.
- c) An action from the previous meeting on Seamus Singh to share the presentation by England Squash on their thoughts on the new England Squash membership scheme. This was done.
- d) An action on all to provide the number of county players who will need kit. Martyn Ibson has costed this out and believes it will require £4,500 to fund this. He is speaking with sponsors to try and raise this amount.

12. Role of Richard Coleman

- a) An action from the previous meeting on Seamus Singh to let England Squash know Richard Coleman has no role with the county right now. This he did during a tele conference with Keir Worth.

### **Update on Coaches Forum Meeting**

This was covered by Matters Arising

### **Outcome of Order Rule Change Working Party**

This was covered by Matters Arising

### **Club Fees and ES Affiliation**

ES distributed a dump of data detailing how this year's rebate was calculated. It highlighted the fact that several clubs in the county have not paid their club fees. This affects the value of the rebate but also means not all clubs are playing on a level playing field.

With respect to ES Affiliation some clubs have struggled to complete this because of issues with the ES website.

There was discussion around the current method of validating if teams have enough members who are registered with ES. It was suggested at a straight registration ES after having played 3 matches would be simpler for all to understand. This was agreed.

Richard has been warning everyone that penalties for players who are not registered will be turned in the next season and wanted advice on the number of penalty points that should be applied as he felt 3 was too high. The committee agreed and recommended that the level of penalty points would be set at 2 per player per match.

The following action was agreed:

- Publicise to the county how we will deal with non payment by clubs and incomplete registration of players. (RB)

### **Update on Website and Social Media**

Seamus sent out draft outline to committee for comment. After a brief discussion, the committee agreed to create an ITT for building a website to be put out to the County for consideration.

### **Setup Fundraising/Investment Working Party**

The committee discussed this and it was a clear several things need to be clarified before setting up this working party. We need to get a list of the programmes the county wants to consider running and how much these programmes will cost. With that information, the committee can then create a budget and finally identify additional sources of income/funds for the programmes it wishes to run.

An action was agreed to define the process for: (SS)

- identifying programmes
- costing programme
- creating a budget
- identify how to fund programmes

### **Setup Governance Working Party**

Seamus outlined the requirements by Sport England for organisations seeking public funds to have proper governance.

The following actions were agreed:

- Share the documentation from Sport England on this with the committee (SS)
- Ask CAN for any advice it can give (RB)

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 14 September 2017 at Vivo Squash Club.

### **AOB**

*How to make use of the Press Officer*

Some discussion took place on how to best use Patrick Truss our new Press Officer. When Mark and Martyn met with Patrick the idea of Patrick writing an article once every 2 months might be

way forward. Patrick would like £100 per article. The committee felt that the best way to decide how best to make use of Patrick's talents was to conduct a trial after which it would evaluate the results and propose a way forward.

An action was agreed to engage with Patrick to commission 1 article a month for 3 months at £100 per article. (MR, MI)

#### *Equipment Donation Scheme*

Seamus proposed an idea to create an equipment donation scheme whereby people could donate their redundant rackets etc.

Action: Define how this could work. (SS)

*Can we still get free walls from ES?*

Action: Check with ES if they are still providing free walls. (SS)

Can we create separate email address for each of the major functions, ie treasurer@avoncounty.co.uk etc

Action: Investigate where they need to be created (RB)

*Is it worth the effort to create a Newsletter to keep the county updated of what is going on?*

Action: Go ahead and create one (SS)

*Is there any benefit to a Message from the Chairman being written?*

Seamus wished to convey his vision and high level ambitions whilst in the role.

Action: Write up the message and share it with the committee to be sure no alarm bells go off (SS)