

**AVON AND BADSQUASH AND RACKETBALL  
MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON 9 JUNE 2014 at DAVID LLOYD WESTBURY**

**1. Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman, Nick Drysdale, opened the meeting with a tribute to Jeremy Burns who had died recently and unexpectedly after running the Men's Winter and Summer Leagues for several years. Nick is in consultation with Annette, Jeremy's widow as to the best permanent memorial which will probably be a Junior Cup or similar.

He went on to list the achievements of the Avon teams over the past year in the Inter Counties Championships:

Men's 1 – Stage 2 winners, promotion to Division 1

Men's 2 – finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in Division 2

Women Stage 2 – 1<sup>st</sup> team avoided relegation

Women Stage 2 – 2<sup>nd</sup> team stay in Division 2

Over 35 Men – Avon 3<sup>rd</sup>

Over 45 Men – 4<sup>th</sup>, relegated from Premier Division

Over 50 Men – lost in National final 1-4

Over 50 Ladies – 3<sup>rd</sup>, losing semi-final to Wales

Nick then listed some of the current issues concerning England Squash.

- Players have questioned the way affiliation fees are calculated, collected and used and he explained that Avon has already benefited from financial help and support from them.
- ES is also trying to amalgamate all counties for insurance purposes which should be of financial benefit to all. Our committee is to assess each club and its level of standards before submitting it to ES.

**2. There were no Apologies for Absence**

**3. Junior Development Officer**

The Chairman then introduced Richard King, the recently appointed Junior Development Officer, who had previously worked with great success in Winchester.

Rich put forward several ideas and projects, having explained that his first aim was to unite the different clubs instead of them all acting independently and getting the smaller clubs involved as venues:

- a. Avon Junior Grand Prix – a circuit, with 4 graded events
- b. Junior County Closed, possibly in January, age range U-9 to U-19
- c. Junior Academy and Development squads - 4 invitation squads for inter-county special coaching funded by Avon Squash
- d. From next season, girl-only coaching and training sessions with Rose Bamber and Charlotte Weldrake
- e. Winchester Junior Open team trip

Further plans for the next 2 years include:

- a. Increase junior participation from currently 140 to 200
- b. Get more clubs involved in hosting junior events
- c. Enter teams from as many age groups as possible into events
- d. Introduce more Squad-based team trips to sanctioned events

#### **4. Roll of Honour**

There were several nominations for the Player of the Year award but the majority voted to commemorate Jeremy Burns.

The Most Improved Player Award was based on the change of level over the last 12 months from the ranking system as a result of achievements in their match results. The winner was Charlie Ramsey of Lansdown, who had improved his level by 250%! He wins the 'Squash Levels Cup'!

#### **5. Treasurer's Report**

Oliver Morrell reported that since the amalgamation of the BAD Squash League with Avon Squash the League fees had formed the largest source of revenue. The England Squash grant for the year totalled £3.5k, some of which had to be returned unspent

Team t-shirts for the Junior teams had been provided.

He made a plea for clubs to pay league fees promptly.

The surplus inherited from BAD Squash was to be spent on Junior level Squash, court refurbishment for smaller clubs and tournament and website development. There was also sufficient surplus to set up Open Days, coaching sessions and starter courses.

Current Affiliation fees are:

£150 flat fee for a Sports Centre

£150 per court plus £7.50 per member for a private club.

#### **6. 2013 – 14 League Results**

It had been decided by the Committee that, in the interests of all players, no individual medals should be awarded, only trophies.

Ruth Drysdale, the outgoing Women's League Secretary, announced that Pippa Green would be taking over from her. She added that the number of women playing was constantly going down and wondered whether it would be worth considering teams of 3 rather than 5 or perhaps dispensing with the food afterwards.

Rose Bamber has been engaged to promote girls' squash and to link with schools.

Ozzie Davies suggested from the floor that more women coaches should be trained.

## **7. Election of Officers**

The Chairman agreed to serve another year in office, as did the Treasurer.

Ruth Drysdale, the Ladies League Secretary having stepped down, Pippa Green will succeed her. In her retiring speech, Ruth made a plea for all teams to play by the rules in the true spirit of sport, as the number of unnecessary incidents has risen.

Richard Bickers will take over as Men's League Secretary to succeed Jeremy Burns.

There is a vacancy for a Committee Secretary, and applications are sought.

## **8. League Rules**

There was a long discussion on the current rules and their occasional abuse as well as on the falling numbers and late payments of fees.

Topics covered were:

- a) Payment of fees – promptness important, payment to Treasurer Ollie
- b) Should matches be spread across whole week? (NO)
- c) Can players play for more than one team? (NO – unless it is as a result of an unavoidable rearrangement, such as snow, etc)

It was suggested that all clubs work on 3 principles:

- a) Assume all clubs are doing their best to turn up and play
- b) Monitor unfair play, particularly at end of season
- c) A minimum level of competence is expected (i.e. timely input of results)

Other items for further discussion on the forum or elsewhere were:

- a) A suggested 1 point penalty each week if Team Captain's details are not on website (applied the day before the team's next match)
- b) Summer fees should be £15 or £12 if AGM was attended
- c) Proposed £5 penalty if player does not turn up. Not approved.
- d) Possible use of alternative ball in very cold weather. OK as long as both team captains agree.

## **9. Due to the lateness of the hour the meeting then closed.**