



Avon and Badsquash AGM minutes

Monday, 16th May at 7pm at BAWA

Apologies for absence

Thanks to those who let us know they couldn't make it this year but in general turn-out was low this year which is a shame because we had a lot on the agenda that affects squash in our area and therefore *you*. If you don't attend, you don't get to hear the detail and discussion around the decisions we make and you don't have a say.

It was also disappointing that when we gave all the trophies out there were very few of the winning teams there to receive them.

We all love to play, we should all want to be involved in the future of the game.

Matters arising and approval of 2015 AGM minutes

Last year's minutes were approved. There were no matters arising.

Treasurer's report

Olly went through the finances and they were accepted. Copies of the full accounts showing where the income came from and what was spent on what were handed out to all AGM attendees but here's a very high level summary:

'Avon & BAD Squash & Racketball Accounts' for 1st May 2015 to 30th April 2016.

- £3,581.76 (IN)
- £3,886.43 (OUT)
- £10,786.92 (OVERALL TOTAL IN THE BANK)

Olly made the requests we always make because it affects our finances (and effort needed):

- Please pay your league fees in good time so we don't have to chase you
- Please pay your affiliation fees to England Squash in good time so we get the rebates. We missed a few rebates this year so missed out on our ES cashback.

County events update

Nick went over the county events. In general Avon is very well represented in the county events around the region and fairs well. Unfortunately the information is not well published on the ESR website so it was quite a job finding out what had happened over the last year.

If we can get the results into a form we can post, we'll put something on the website.

These results pulled off the Leaguemaster which runs the inter-counties:

Nom	Berkshire	Nom	Avon 1	Result	Games
1-2	Tim Burrell	1-1	Daniel West	0 3	7/11 4/11 8/11
1-3	Simon Rodwell	1-2	Sam Ellis	1 3	4/11 11/5 8/11 4/11
1-4	Paul Johnson	1-3	Oliver Morrall	0 3	5/11 5/11 2/11
1-6	Ben Burbank	1-5	Barney Elworthy	0 3	5/11 7/11 10/12
1-7	Jamie Waters	1-6	John Welton	3 1	5/11 11/1 11/5 11/9

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Result: 4 18

Nom	Avon 1	Nom	Hampshire	Result	Games
1-1	Daniel West	1-1	Kyle Finch	1 3	8/11 1/11 11/5 10/12
1-2	Sam Ellis	1-2	Adam Corcoran	0 3	6/11 4/11 6/11
1-4	Richard King	1-3	Gary Hinton	2 3	10/12 12/10 7/11 11/9 7/11
1-5	Barney Elworthy	1-5	Mike Elford	3 2	11/6 4/11 3/11 11/7 11/7
1-6	John Welton	1-7	Stefan Stanton	3 1	11/4 8/11 11/7 11/7

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Result: 9 17

Nom	Middlesex	Nom	Avon 1	Result	Games
1-2	Gurbhaj Kahlon	1-1	Daniel West	1 3	9/11 11/9 3/11 4/11
1-3	Guy Olby	1-2	Sam Ellis	0 3	8/11 7/11 8/11
1-4	Mike McLaughlin	1-3	Oliver Morrall	3 0	11/4 11/6 11/2
1-6	Alex Couch	1-4	Richard King	1 3	9/11 5/11 11/8 12/14
1-9	Charlie McCall	1-6	John Welton	0 3	8/11 6/11 9/11

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Result: 5 17

	Promotion B		P	W	L	D	F	A	Pen	Total
1	Surrey		3	3	0	0	58	9	0	58
2	Hampshire		3	2	1	0	36	35	0	36
3	Oxfordshire	HOST	3	1	2	0	32	39	0	32
4	Avon 1		3	0	3	0	12	55	0	12

Junior development update

Richard King (Avon Squash Development Manager) wasn't able to attend in person but sent in this report:

Junior Inter counties

This Season Avon entered 5 teams, an increase of 1 team on the previous season into the Inter County Championships with a Boys Under 13,15,17 team entered and also a Girls Under 15's/19's team.

All teams and players competed very well throughout the tournament with a special congratulations to the Girls u19's team for reaching the trophy Final.

We are very confident of being able to maintain the extra team next season as the young players are now developing and ready for County activity. We should also retain the teams/players that have entered last year.

Junior County Tournaments

The Avon Junior Squash Grand Prix 15/16 season (Graded event for all abilities)

This Circuit has been running for 2 seasons now with the idea of encouraging Avon Squash's juniors to participate in competition but in a less intimidating environment than say an England Squash event.

Sadly with Bradley Stoke changing direction with squash we went down to 4 events this season but the Junior county closed saw an increase of 10 extra participants on last year and the girls entries was much better.

The events were/are being played at BLTSC, LANSDOWN, VIVOSPORTS + Junior County Closed.

There is still 1 event to play at BLTSC. Participation numbers have been averaging 40 still as last year but many juniors are now competing in higher tier events like England Squash Sanctioned events which was the whole purpose of the circuit.

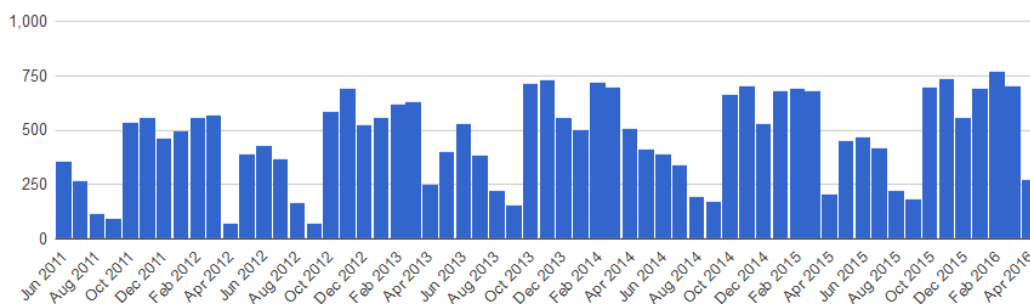
With the Great help of Rose Bamber and Charlotte Weldrake (county coaches) we have been running girl only development squads which have been running for a year now and our aim to encourage girls participation in squash is definitely working.

You will notice in Charlotte's report that the female/girl participation is rising in the county with even a team playing in the BAD league.

Due to the nature of many events and outreach projects in the next month I will circulate a full report at the end of the season.

League participation summary

We have a page on the website that shows how many players are playing league and club boxes (for those running boxes on the system). Try **Home->Participation**.



We currently around 700 players – fairly constant over the last three years and generally up on the years before. We were running at 550 players back in 2011. We are increasing rather than decreasing which is good.

Unfortunately, we are losing courts rather than gaining them and this is having a knock-on effect to generating the fixtures which is getting harder and harder.

Data is available for individual clubs too. Same page on the website – just scroll down to find your club.

England Squash update

This from Chris Peach, our regional rep:

Facilities – I have continued to have contact from Bath & NE Somerset Council and Bath Squash League regarding the squash courts at Bath Centre and Keynsham. The club (through Nick Shearn) have started to do a little more work with protecting these courts and we will continue to support them with that albeit this may be too late. I will continue to work with Nick to find the best way forward for the club. We have also recently awarded some funding to the Lansdown club to help ensure the remaining courts in the area are kept at the best possible standard.

Leisure Providers – On a more positive note we are continuing to work closely with Easton & Horfield Leisure Centres (through Everyone Active) to look at their current squash provision and offer and how it can be enhanced. If feasible this work will then led on to the training of activators at each site and the implementation of Squash 101 sessions.

England Squash membership

We have agreed that you need to be an ES member to play league. We define ‘play league’ as playing at least three times in one league – remember that we have one league before Christmas (Autumn League) and one league after Christmas (Spring league). We’re not enforcing this for summer league, doubles league or the ladies leagues.

Unfortunately, the ES membership system is cumbersome and can’t keep up so the rule we actually apply is; for every member of a team that has played three times or more there must be a member of that team who is an ES member.

It is monitored by the system and relies on team/club captains entering their players membership numbers. The penalties (3 points per non-member player) are not switched on yet as we’re still giving time for clubs and players to get sorted.

We have to accept that we give more to England Squash than they give back. We have decided to support our governing body as it is their role to improve squash as a whole across England. They are measured on:

- Participation
- Elite success

They are measured by Sport England who provide a lot of their funding – and who also cut their funding significantly in the last twelve months.

Election of officers

The four existing (remaining) positions were opened up to anyone else who would like to help run squash in our area. After the usual looking at the floor it was agreed that the current incumbents would continue in their roles:

- Chairman – Nick Drysdale. Our county rep to ES.
- Finances – Olly Morrall
- League secretary (mixed) – Richard Bickers
- League secretary (ladies) – Pippa Green

Do remember that these roles are voluntary and on top of everything else we are trying to do. It's always nice to be offered help – be a contributor, not just a consumer!

Roll of Honour 2016

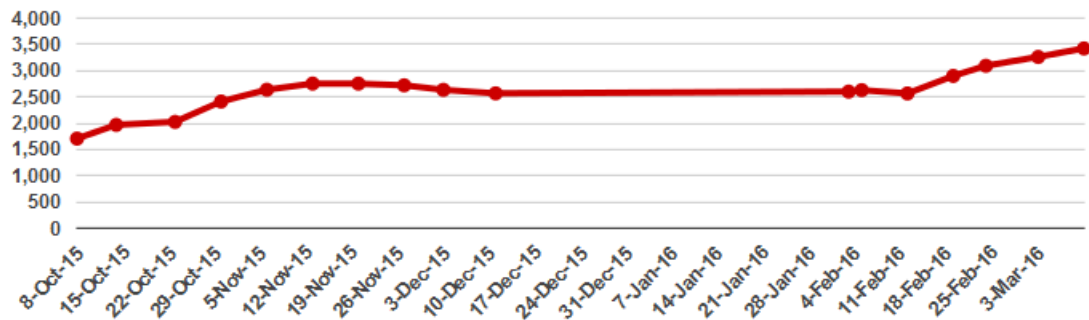
- **Best Junior of the Year** – awarded to **George Morgan** – who very sadly died on court. In memory, this award has been renamed the **George Morgan junior of the year**. Here is the nomination:

He had achieved his goal this season of 2000 on the night he passed away playing some really fine squash in the process of this season. He gave 100%, was always fair and sporting whilst always playing with a huge smile on his face. Squash and improving his and everyone's game around him was always key with George and as only being 20 had a very mature squash game and style. Just speak to any of his opponents over the last season and his results stand for themselves. What a huge credit he has been to Bradley Stoke club and BAD in general.

- **Jeremy Burns greatest contribution to squash award** – awarded to **Richard Bickers** for all the effort put in organising the mixed leagues, running the website and general support of the county.
- **Most Improved player of the Year** – based on the ranking system over the last 12 months and awarded to **Max Irwin** for an amazing 147% improvement over the year!

Pos	Player	Team	Last Division	Last match	Level last year	Level now	Improvement
1	Max Irwin	University of Bristol Mavericks	(M) Premier B (15/16)	09 Mar 2016	1383	3,420	147.3%
2	James Howell	Vivo Sports 5	(M) Division 1 (15/16)	20 Apr 2016	1239	3,035	145%
3	Aidan Slattery	Vivo Sports 7	(M) Division 6 (15/16)	20 Apr 2016	685	1,593	132.6%
4	Michael Brooks	University of Bristol Foxes	(M) Division 4 (15/16)	23 Mar 2016	916	1,877	104.9%
5	Mike Bangham	Vivo Sports 7	(M) Division 5 (15/16)	23 Mar 2016	345	670	94.2%
6	Brodie Stephenson	Vivo Sports A	(L) Division 2 (16)	10 Mar 2016	157	301	91.7%
7	Jordan Milbourne	Kingswood A	(M) Division 6 (15/16)	24 Feb 2016	566	998	76.3%
8	Davey Pinder-White	David Lloyd F	(M) Division 6 (15/16)	20 Apr 2016	410	706	72.2%
9	Ben Turner	University of Bristol Summer Ballers	(M) Division 3 (15/16)	17 Mar 2016	905	1,512	67.1%
10	Andrew Hardie	BAWA D	(M) Division 8 (15/16)	23 Mar 2016	431	715	65.9%

This is what it looks like:



- **SquashLevels Cup** – based on the player with the most hits on the website and awarded to **Mike Harris** with 683 interested onlookers this year. Nearly double the number from last year! This is the top ten:

1. **Mike Harris** (Redland Squash): **683**
2. **Michael Lok** (Kingswood): **574**
3. **Dan 'Pulled Pork' West** (Weston): **531**
4. **Tom Gogarty** (Redland): **490**
5. **Bradley Jenkins** (Thornbury): **464**
6. **Hadrian Stiff** (Vivo Sports): **460**
7. **Josh Sweet** (Kingsdown): **441**
8. **Shawn Hale** (Weston): **439**
9. **Charlotte Weldrake** (Lansdown): **438**
10. **Graham Parsons** (Vivo): **436**

Trophies

Mixed league play-off winners

- Prem A – TBD!
- Prem B - Thornbury A
- Prem C - Vivo Sports 4
- Div 1 - Vivo Sports 5
- Div 2 - David Lloyd E
- Div 3 - Chew Valley A
- Div 4 - Bath Uni 3
- Div 5 - Redland Lions D
- Div 6 - Vivo Sports 7
- Div 7 - Bath Uni 4
- Div 8 - Bath Uni 5

Trophies were handed out at the AGM but it's a shame that most of the teams weren't represented so there were few players to hand the trophies to. Do please display your trophy at your club if you can.

Ladies league winners

See ladies league report below.

League reports

Mixed – Richard Bickers

The single column of divisions seems to be working well. It's simpler but remember that going up two divisions is the same as going up one before.

We've lost a lot of courts over time but have the same number of teams playing so we have to continue to play on Tues and Thurs.

There are a great deal of team/club constraints ranging from days of the week they can't play at home to the number of courts they have and avoiding half term and club night. In addition the university teams are beset by exams, BUCS matches and can only play in remarkably short term times. All this is coded into the fixture generator but often the computer says 'no' and I have to get creative.

Club captains – please keep an eye on how many teams you can really put out and please reply promptly to requests for team numbers. There is quite often a lot of churn ***after*** the fixtures are frozen.

This year we added team level to the tables page. It's interesting to see the tables are almost exactly in team level order and that the more competitive divisions are the ones where the difference between the top and the bottom teams are < 50%. Food for thought as we continue to evolve the league structure.

Ladies – Pippa Green

New team- Avon County Juniors- Charlotte managing, 2 groups- Bristol and Bath

Struggled initially, but kept going.....

No Thornbury, 3 teams from Redland, all in top division. Started in Oct with 2 divisions of 7 teams, each team playing 6 matches, in this half, then filling 3 remaining weeks with mini-tournament.

Lansdown ended as winners of div 1 after 1/2 season, but in the mini tournament on 19 Dec, lost in finals to Bristol Uni Coyotes- who had finished 2nd in the league.

Bath Uni topped div 2 before Xmas, followed by Chippenham. Kingsdown won their mini-tournament beating Weston 2 on 19 Dec. This season invited all teams to play in an end of season knock-out tournament, but despite starting well, many teams in 2nd div dropped out before the finals day, and play-off matches even in Div 1 fixtures were not all completed, probably due to poor availability because they were being played so close to Xmas. Great day for all those involved though.

After Xmas, we had attracted 2 more teams into the league- courtesy of the Universities with Bristol Uni fielding a 3rd team, and Bath Uni a 2nd team. Great news for ladies squash development!

I then ended up dividing the divisions differently - taking top 5 teams from Div 1 prior to Xmas into the new Div 1 for the New year, merging 2 bottom teams from the old div 1 to the 3 teams which had

finished top in div 2 to create the new 2nd division, and then calling the rest- ie new Uni teams, the County Girls and the 2 teams that had finished at the bottom of div 2 before Xmas - our new Div 3.

So we had 3 divisions of 5/6 teams after the New year, each playing 8/10 matches before the end of the season at Easter. Typical difficulties squeezing these into University terms and before early Easter this year, but we ended up with a good 1/2 season, completed most matches, and in particular noted improvement in the County Girls commitment and skill levels during this second half, as well as more competition in the teams aiming for promotion. Difficult for Redland spreading itself increasingly thin fielding 3 top division teams with dwindling numbers keep to play.

Delighted to announce that Lansdown won the top div again after Xmas - and were unbeaten that half. One of the Redland teams will be demoted from Div 1 next half.

Weston 1 ladies won div 2 and will earn promotion next season, whilst Chippenham who struggled this half season, will be demoted to Div 3.

Weston 2 ladies will take their place in div 2, having ended up on top of Div 3 at Easter this year.

Will look at league structure again next season, when we know how many teams will be playing. Hoping all ladies are now ESR members- have tried reminding them!

Doubles

No report for doubles this year.

Rule updates

We had the usual lengthy debate on changes to the rules. This is what we agreed. Remember that the full set of rules is always available on the website under **About->Rules**.

- Rules around playing twice in a week in order to get a team out (the 'playing up' rule) – what if the players win? Should we discount their results? How do we define 'advantage gained'?
 - Decided that a player can play up as long as they are the lowest level player in the higher team.
- Whole or part teams playing down if the higher team isn't playing that week. Is that fair? What limits should we apply?
 - We decided to allow it but only up to two players can play 'down'.
- Pro players playing in Prem B (or lower). Should that be allowed?
 - Yes. They may not have a team in Prem A to play for. This particular concern was over a player who had dropped too quickly and was subsequently unable to play in the league for three weeks.
- Order change rule – relax this one but be more stringent based on level? It's complicated to not get caught out with this one.
 - No. Leave the rule as it is. The reason is to keep the squads reasonably stable from match to match. Level also isn't so accurate we can depend on it 100% especially for new players.
- ES membership – measure using equivalent number of members who have played 3 times or more. No max of 5.
 - Yes
- Rearranging fixtures must be done within 4 weeks of the start of the season - it went on for too long last season.

- Yes
- Should the 2:1 level difference be tightened up?
 - No. We couldn't agree what number to use though there was general agreement that 2:1 was too generous.
- Carry on with play-offs? How else should we decide on the division winners? Most points won?
 - Mixed views on this one but we couldn't think of anything better. Keep them.
- Rules around who can play in the play-offs? Same rules as for last two matches in league?
 - Yes, same rules as per the league matches. We're looking for representative teams from the league in question.

Topics raised (before and during the AGM)

Bonus points

Why shouldn't a team get their bonus points if their opponents don't show up or cry off?

You already get 15 points if your opponents cry off. It is felt (and this comes up most years!) that to let this hit 19 points, creates too much thrash in the division totals. One no-show near the end of the season can throw the whole division order out.

Making the AGM more of a 'do'

Turnout continues to be low at these AGMs despite them being the key meeting at which we decide how to run the county and leagues over the next 12 months – which affects all of us.

We decided to try offering free food and a drink and maybe a match or two to turn it into more of an end of year event. We'll see how well that works out next year!

IT update

Badsquash

The website continues to evolve – most of the effort is just keeping up with the rule changes but do look out for feature changes from time to time. Also, if you have a good idea, please feed back to Richard Bickers.

You'll get a more personal experience if you register with the site. The link is on the bottom left of the home page. It doesn't cost anything and all your personal data (email address and password) is stored encrypted. Safe from the Russians.

Club boxes

Just a reminder that you can run club boxes directly on the website for free and have your results fed straight into the levels/ranking system. Just have a look at the help on the system to find out more.

SquashLevels

SquashLevels (www.squashlevels.com) is an evolution of the badsquash website that receives results from many other systems around the country so that players have a combined history for all their matches wherever they may have played. It is partnered with ES and is on the way to being the national ranking system. It's being used by around 15,000 current players across the country and has nearly 800,000 results on it now.

Badsquash users have the same level based ranking algorithm as SquashLevels but if you want to see your history on SquashLevels then just click on the 'Lookup on...' link on your player history page. You may find features on SquashLevels that aren't available on badsquash.