

East of Scotland Squash Association

I would like to highlight the following points from season 2009-2010.

East of Scotland Leagues

There was a new League Secretary in place for last season – Dougie Brown. He has written a comprehensive report, so I will not repeat any of the detail here. However I would like to thank him for the very considerable effort involved in getting the online results entry system (SquashMatrix) up and running for Open Divisions 1/2/3 and Ladies Division 1. Next season all divisions will be using SquashMatrix. This will mean that results will be available far more quickly than before, and will let all the players see their own, and everyone else's results.

Refereeing Bonus This initiative, conceived by Ron Pearman, started in October 2006 was fully rolled out during the season. From January 2010, to qualify for the 2 point bonus, a team must have a qualified Level 3 Referee. It has fully achieved its twin objectives of increasing the awareness of the Rules of Squash, and the number of qualified referees. By the end of the 2009-10 season, in the East of Scotland, there were:

2 Grade 1 Referees

7 Grade 2 Referees

98 Grade 3 Referees

114 other players who had attended the "Introduction to the Rules" course.

League Sponsors – After 8 years without a sponsor, SCOTSTRINGS (www.scotstrings.co.uk) sponsored the East Leagues for the 2009-10 season. SCOTSTRINGS have decided not to continue its sponsorship next season, so if anyone reading this is interested, please contact me, or any other committee member.

2010 AGM

This year's presentation of trophies to the winners of each the League Divisions will again take place during the AGM at The Grange Club, on Tuesday 22nd June 2010, 7:30 p.m. Can each divisional winner please send at least one representative to collect their trophy?

Finance

The funds of ESSA continue in a good state of health. The bottom line of the accounts for 2009-2010 will show a modest surplus. Full accounts will be available at the AGM, as will the Treasurer, Dave Ireson who has been successful in generating extra development income.

Over-35 Team Cups Thanks again to Richard McIntosh for organising this. Edinburgh Sports Club beat Tyne in the Final. Abercorn beat Grange B in the Plate Final.

East of Scotland and Scottish Squash

This was the sixth year of the single-tier "Board". Regions now nominate a single Regional Director (the East's is Henry Pearce). The long overdue new Scottish Squash website arrived last season and is a vast improvement on the previous one. At the 2009 Scottish Squash AGM there was much discussion about the old issue of some regions requiring its league teams to affiliate to Scottish Squash (e.g. East and Grampian), while other regions did not (e.g. West and Dundee & District). At the 2010 West AGM held on 7th June, their member clubs agreed (by a margin of 4 to 1) to require all teams playing in the West Leagues to affiliate to Scottish Squash. This agreement requires that a new affiliation fees system is agreed at the Scottish Squash in July 2010. **THIS IS GOOD NEWS FOR ALL EAST CLUBS**, as it will end 11 years of inequity whereby East and Grampian teams made a large financial contribution to Scottish Squash, while many West and Dundee & District teams made no financial contribution at all. Assuming the new affiliation system is agreed at the Scottish AGM, then no East team will be worse off, and many will be significantly better off. I have appended details of the proposed new Scottish Squash affiliation fee system, and some FAQs, at the end of this report.

Squash Rankings website

Started in March 2005, www.squashrankings.co.uk now contains all the individual results for the East of Scotland Leagues for seasons 2004-10, the Grampian Leagues for seasons 2005-10, the West Leagues for seasons 2005-10 and most Junior/Senior/Masters events in Scotland. Approx 1,600 players are ranked. The ranking aspect of the website is (by the very nature of a purely results based ranking system) a little controversial, but should generate interest. The 66,000 or so individual results should be of interest to some of the regular East League players – even those who have long since given up hope of improving their ranking! The future for this website is uncertain at the time of writing. The move to using online results entry (SquashMatrix) would, in theory make www.squashrankings.co.uk surplus to requirements, however it is very likely that it will continue for at least the next season.

Senior Tournaments

The 30th East of Scotland (Hugely Enjoyable) Championships were held at Colinton Castle in October 2009. Although not the lowest in recent years, the entry of 27 men and 2 ladies was nevertheless disappointing. Chris Ferguson beat John Grindley in the Mens final, and Elaine Inglis beat Yvonne Ferguson in the Ladies final.

The 29th East of Scotland Masters (Edinburgh Sports Club, January 2010) was again very well supported with 100 entries. The entries were well spread over the Men's age groups, and there were enough ladies to allow

an Over-35 and Over-50 event again. Men's events were held at Over-35/40/45/50/55/60/65/70. The event has now got about as big as it can get, given that we have "only" 5 courts and 3 days to schedule it in. All results are on the East website –

Full results for the Hugely Enjoyable and the Masters are on the East website www.essasquash.co.uk.

Juniors

Claire Kidd took over from John Bain last season. She will report on junior activities at the AGM.

East of Scotland Squash Association Committee

I would like to thank all the office bearers and members for their help in past season. All other Office Bearers and Committee Members are available for re-election. We would welcome at least 2 more committee members and we would like at least one more lady member. It is important that as many clubs/teams as possible are represented on the committee.

East of Scotland Squash Association Office Bearers and Committee members 2009-2010

Chairperson - Eric Donohoe

Secretary - Dave Ferguson

Treasurer - Dave Ireson *

League Secretary – Dougie Brown

Junior Convener – Claire Kidd

Members - Yvonne Ferguson, Richard McIntosh, Henry Pearce

Tournament Organisers

Masters: Eric Donohoe

Over-35 Team Cup: Richard McIntosh

Closed: Dave Ferguson

Eric Donohoe, Chairperson,
East of Scotland Squash Association, 17th June 2010

1 INTRODUCTION

What follows are the revised Membership Proposals for season 2010 – 2011 for Scottish Squash.

These proposals, based on a proposal generated by the West Region, have been the subject of further consultation. These proposals have the support of the Directors of Scottish Squash.

2 SUMMARY

2.1 The existing cost of affiliation is replaced by a per team charge for every team playing in a local open league and a small charge for every member of the club, irrespective of whether the club is 'Court hiring' or 'Owning'.

2.2 Clubs' that affiliate would be required to provide the name, address and email address of up to 10 'competitive members' per team. These 'competitive members' would be able to access all the current facilities offered by Scottish Squash but they would not have an individual vote at Scottish Squash's AGM.

2.3 Clubs' that affiliate are also required to provide the name, address and email address of all their members. Club voting rights would be one vote for every 10 such named members. Those members, as well as 'competitive members' would be known as 'Registered Members'. They would have the same rights as existing club player/supporter members. They would not have an individual vote at Scottish Squash's AGM.

2.4 The 'Individual' class of membership to be removed from the Articles of Association. This will prevent players from non affiliated clubs accessing Scottish Squash competitions and services.

2.5 Individuals who are not resident in Scotland may apply for 'Membership of Scottish Squash' and thereby play in Scottish Squash events.

2.6 An existing affiliated club whose region is not affiliated to Scottish Squash would continue to access all facilities offered by Scottish Squash.

3 NEW MEMBERSHIP SCHEME

3.1 The cost per team is set at £225.

3.2 The cost for all club members is set at £1 per member.

3.3 The junior competitive player is set at £10.i.e. a junior who plays in regional tournaments.

3.4 A junior playing in a senior team in the local open league and listed by the Club under the 'team fee' would be classed as a 'competitive player'. No extra fee would be payable.

3.5 A Region who affiliates to Scottish Squash would be required to pay an annual fee of £50.

3.6 'Membership of Scottish Squash' is set at £30. (See '2.5' above)

3.7 An existing affiliated club who under the new scheme would pay more in the season 2010/2011 will have their fee for the season frozen for one year at the current cost. There after they would be required to pay according to the new scheme.

4 INCENTIVES

4.1 From October 2010 a Club may claim a reduction in their annual affiliation fee for each of the following:

- a) £30 for every UKCC Level 2 Coach and £50 for every UKCC Level 3 Coach.
- b) £30 for every Grade 2 Referee and £50 for every National Grade Referee.

4.2 From October 2011 for the season 2010/2011

A Club may claim a reduction in their affiliation fee of £25 for every junior team playing in a local junior league or tournament with a minimum of 3 players per team; minimum of 12 matches per league or 4 tournaments with 12 matches.

5 COST COMPARISONS WITH THE EXISTING SCHEME.

5.1 Court Hiring: Assumption Club has twelve members and names 7 players per team

Existing scheme, £120 + 7 @ £19 + 5 @ £5-50p = £290.50

New scheme, 1 team @ £225 + £12 = £237.

5.2 Court Owning: Assumption

Club has sixty members and 3 teams and names 7 players per team

Existing scheme, £250 + 21 @ £19 + 39 @ £5-50p = £863.50

New scheme, 3 teams @ £225 + £60 = £735.

6 FAQ

6.1 WHY IS THE MEMBERSHIP BASED ON TEAMS?

There has been a concern that Scottish Squash is asking for a fee for ALL members, when quite a few local players feel that they gain little from Scottish Squash affiliation. However, team members do get services, and some are likely to be coached or have been coached; will be refereed, sometimes by a "qualified" referee, etc

It is however equitable that the largest burden of the membership fee should fall on Teams.

6.2 WHY £225 PER TEAM?

If all clubs affiliate Scottish Squash income will still only approximate to £50K from membership, where currently it is just over £40K.

This will still contribute less than 20% of the running costs of Scottish Squash. The new fee structure means there may even be slight reductions for some currently affiliated clubs

6.3 WILL SOME EXISTING AFFILIATED CLUBS PAY MORE?

For clubs who will be required to pay more under this scheme, their fees will be "capped" for season 2010/2011. Subject to a review of the season's actual income, these clubs would be expected to pay the full subscription fee the following year. It is thought that these circumstances generally apply to clubs that are under recording their team players per team compared with the average club.

6.4 WHY STILL ASK FOR A £1 MEMBERSHIP?

Scottish Squash wants to encourage all clubs to tell us their membership. All sponsors and sportscotland want to know what our player base is before awarding us monies. To do this we need a more comprehensive database. Scottish Squash may also use the date to better communicate with players.

The membership fee is a token amount. There is no benefit now for a club to conceal players. All members of affiliated clubs recorded in this way will have the status of "Registered Member".

6.5 WHY HAS THE "COURT OWNING" AND "COURT RENTING" AND "NO. OF COURTS" PART DISAPPEARED?

The fee concerning no of courts was done away with when the existing current scheme was put in place a few years ago. The court renting clubs often feel they have to pay "twice" and the bigger court owning clubs feel they pay disproportionately more. The new arrangement makes this irrelevant. If you have more teams because your commitment is high, then you pay more – if you don't the fee is consequently less. The payment will better reflect access to benefits and use of services.

6.6 WHY THE REGION AFFILIATION FEE?

In the first instance a proposal is going forward in the Scottish Squash AGM to limit the number of Regions to 6, and that the boundaries of the Regions be those of the 6 Institute of Sports. This is not expected to make any significant change to the existing regions but it should assist in Scottish Squash plans to work closer with the Institutes and in the planned development of Regional squads. Regions are expected to pay a £50 token fee simply to demonstrate their commitment to Scottish Squash.

Regions will benefit from a formal relationship with Scottish Squash accessing for example participation in the Future Funds employment scheme, the “Cashback” element of the RACKETBALL launch ; and any of the Inter-Regional competitions which are planned.

6.7 WHY “UP TO 10” MEMBERS PER TEAM?

Scottish Squash believe that teams will easily affiliate 7 or 8 players in any one team, and they can do that. However if a club had only 1 team and it affiliated only 7 players, it would still have no votes at the AGM which would be inequitable.

The ability to name 10 players per team allows the club also to access 1 vote at the Scottish Squash AGM.

6.8 WHAT IS THE VOTING SYSTEM?

Clubs will access votes based on the “per 10 members” as exists at present. 1 vote for every 10 members of the club, i.e. includes the team players and all the others who do not play for a team. This would include juniors. However, they must all be registered with Scottish Squash by name, address and email.

A club may decide to just pay for say 50 members and one team and give no names etc. In this situation they would get no votes and team players could not access any services etc. They would still be required to pay the team fee.

6.9 WHY REMOVE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP?

There is no “Individual member” under this system – except for the individual member living outside the country – so this is a change from the past. (see next FAQ – MEMBERSHIP OF SCOTTISH SQUASH).

This change will prevent players within unaffiliated clubs accessing services. This will no longer be allowed.

100% club affiliation is the key to the future health of the sport in Scotland. Strong affiliated clubs are in the interest of all players. Going forward under the scheme, all members listed with Scottish Squash in an affiliated club have the status of Registered Member.

6.10 WHAT IS THE REASON FOR THE STATUS “MEMBERSHIP OF SCOTTISH SQUASH” ?

There are some players who play in Scottish Squash tournaments who are not members of Scottish Squash clubs because they live outside Scotland. In addition there are some Age Group Internationalists who live elsewhere also.

This allows them to become members of Scottish Squash, without any voting rights – but they can still then play for Scotland if selected.

Of course these individuals also have the choice to join an affiliated club

6.11 WHAT IS THE “AMNESTY” FOR CLUBS WHICH HAVE BEEN LOYAL IN THE PAST?

It is thought to be inequitable if the West do not affiliate, to penalize those who have supported us through the 10 or so years when West have not affiliated. Therefore Strathgryffe; Western; David Lloyd (Renfrew); and Newlands plus the Dumfries club and Inverness and a couple of others – would still have access to Scottish Squash benefits if they affiliated – even if their Region did not.

The effect of that would be that an individual player who wanted to play National League squash, or enter tournaments sanctioned by Scottish Squash, would need to be registered at an Affiliated Club.

For instance, if a player moved to the West for a period (Students, etc) then they would join one of the Affiliated Clubs to stay “involved” in competition and possible Scottish team selection. Members of unaffiliated club would receive no such benefits.

If West do not affiliate, those Academy players who play for Div.1 clubs in the West in their local leagues, will only be able to represent Affiliated Clubs. Players whose major sponsor is Scottish Squash (i.e. Academy Players) will not get Academy funding if they play for unaffiliated clubs

Neither will they be eligible to play for Scotland.

6.12 WHY ARE THERE INCENTIVES?

Scottish Squash has looked at the service provision, and also at who is accessing this. In addition Scottish Squash is aware of the need to have more coaches and referees in the run-up to the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and to service the “launch” of RACKETBALL in Autumn 2010.

It is equitable and in the interests of the Sport to give incentives to clubs who have more members who access the services, or who develop and maintain strong Junior Sections.

For example there will be incentives for

- a) having any Grade 2 (or above) coaches
- b) any grade 2 (or above) referees
- c) junior teams who play in a league or regular competition

6.13 HOW MUCH WOULD A CLUB CONSISTING OF ONLY JUNIOR MEMBERS PAY?

The fee is £10 for every 'competitive' junior and £1 for all juniors in the club.

If there were no 'competitive' juniors then the fee would be £1 for every junior in the club.

6.14 HOW DOES A 'MASTERS PLAYER' AFFILIATE WHEN HE DOES NOT PLAY FOR HIS CLUBS' NORMAL LEAGUE TEAM AND HAS THEREFORE NOT BEEN LISTED UNDER THE TEAM?

If the player is listed by the club as a Registered Member and pays £1 then this will enable him to play in all masters events at no extra charge other than the normal entry fee.

6.15 A 'COMPETITIVE' JUNIOR PLAYS FOR THE SENIOR TEAM IN AN OPEN LEAGUE, WHAT IS THE CHARGE FOR THE JUNIOR?

If the junior is identified under the team fee (name, address, email) (£225) then there would be no further charge, other than £1 under the all members aspect of the scheme.

6.16 WHAT IS THE REGISTRATION COST FOR A RACKETBALL PLAYER? See 6.14 "Masters Player"

**Scottish Squash
3rd June 2010**