

East of Scotland Squash Association

I would like to highlight the following points from season 2010-2011.

East of Scotland Leagues

2010-2011 was Dougie Brown's second year as League Secretary. He has written a comprehensive report, so I will not repeat any of the detail here. The online results entry system (SquashMatrix) was fully implemented for all divisions and has been running smoothly. I think it is excellent that results are available quickly, and that everyone can see all the results.

Refereeing Bonus

This initiative, conceived by Ron Pearman, started in October 2006 and was fully rolled out during the season 2009-10. 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 2010-11 season, in the East of Scotland, there were:

2 Grade 1 Referees

8 Grade 2 Referees

119 Grade 3 Referees

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

Currently there are no plans to remove this bonus, although there is a point of view that it has now served its purpose. What are your thoughts? Come along to the AGM and tell us.

League Sponsors

After 1 year's sponsorship in 2009/10, we had no sponsor last year, so if anyone reading this is interested, please contact me, or any other committee member.

2011 AGM

This year's presentation of trophies to the winners of each of the League Divisions will again take place during the AGM at Colinton Castle, on Thursday 23rd June 2011, 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 2010-2011 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 Cup

Thanks again to Richard McIntosh for organising this. Edinburgh Sports Club play Watsonians in the Final. Abercorn won the Plate.

East of Scotland and Scottish Squash & Racketball (SSRL)

This was the seventh year of the single-tier "Board". Regions now nominate a single Regional Director. For the last 2 years the East's representative has been Henry Pearce. His report is below:

This has been a year of significant change for Scottish Squash and Racketball Limited. Much of the work has been in preparation for the new season ahead.

SSRL are holding an open day ahead of the AGM on the 2nd of July for all squash players where the plans for next season will be presented to all interested parties. Details on the SSRL web site.

Much of the new activity, and it is one that every club will have to embrace, is targeted on getting more people into the sport.

The initial focus has been on introducing Racketball to Scotland.

Over 200 Racketball leaders have been trained to help initiate Racketball within Scotland.

Every club should make sure that it is geared up to introduce Racketball to get more people on the courts - all ages, both male and female.

With funding through "CashBack for the Communities" there has been a particular drive on children aged 10-19 which is beginning to make a difference.

On membership, the West rejoined Scottish Squash this year and we have been told that Dundee and District are rejoining after a break of 18 years!

SSRL are currently working on their social media. The original Scottish Squash twitter account (twitter.com/ScottishSquash) is now dedicated to the performance programme and is run by Roger Flynn and Stuart Crawford. SSRL have set up a general twitter account (twitter.com/ball2wall) which is updated regularly with all Scottish Squash related news.

And you will be pleased to know that work is underway on a new web site which will promote all versions of the sport.

With the 2014 Commonwealth Game now only 3 years away there is a lot of work being done in the background to build Games legacy. There has never been a better time for clubs to promote their sports.

With regard to the governing body management board you are encouraged to vote for the East's 2 candidates for the 3 Vice Presidency vacancies. Mike Halpin and Jim Hay at the SSRL AGM

With regard to the elite competitive sport, with a 12-0 win in their final match the Scottish Mens Team held on to their place in the European Division 1 by finishing 6th, while the Ladies team finished 5th in Division 1.

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. Given the move to SquashMatrix, I don't expect Squashrankings will exist beyond the end of 2011.

Senior Tournaments

The 31st East of Scotland Titan Sports Championships were held at The Grange in November 2010. Although not the lowest in recent years, the entry of 28 men and 8 ladies was better than the previous few years, but still slightly disappointing. Chris Ferguson beat Neil Bennett in the Mens final, and Senga Macfie beat Donna Cruikshank in the Ladies final.

The 30th East of Scotland Masters (Edinburgh Sports Club, January 2011) was again very well supported with 104 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.

Full results for the East of Scotland Titan Sports and the East Masters are on the East website www.esssquash.co.uk.

Juniors

Claire Gray (nee Kidd) was Junior Convener. 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. Henry Pearce is leaving Scotland and is not 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 2010-2011

Chairperson - Eric Donohoe	Secretary - Dave Ferguson
Treasurer - Dave Ireson	League Secretary – Dougie Brown
Junior Convener – Claire Gray	
Members - Yvonne Ferguson, Richard McIntosh, Henry Pearce	

Tournament Organisers

Masters: Eric Donohoe	Over-35 Team Cup: Richard McIntosh
East Championships: Christy Looby	

Eric Donohoe, Chairperson,
East of Scotland Squash Association, 14th June 2011