

East of Scotland Squash Association - Minutes of 36th Annual General Meeting (page 1 of 2)
at Grange Sports Club, Monday 22nd June 2010

Present : Eric Donohoe (Chairman & Royal Bank of Scotland), David Ferguson (Secretary & Waverley), Dougie Brown (League Secretary & Grange), Yvonne Ferguson (Committee member & Waverley), Richard McIntosh (Committee member & Watsonians), Jonathan MacBride (Colinton Castle), Pete Jones (Dalgety Bay), Christy Looby, Pete Cockburn, Alastair Ross (Grange), Ron Pearman (Scottish Squash President & Tyne).

Apologies : Dave Ireson (Treasurer & Tyne), Claire Kidd (Committee member & Heriot-Watt), Henry Pearce (Committee member & Edinburgh University), Bill Brown (C-Rooks), Richard MacBride, Archie McCue, George Mieras (Colinton Castle), Simon Boughton (Edinburgh Sports Club), George Purves (Inveresk).

1. A.G.M. Minutes and matters arising

The previously circulated Minutes of the 35th AGM (held at Grange Sports Club on 8th June 2009) were approved.

2. Presentation of League trophies/League Secretary's report

Dougie gave out trophies to representatives of the winners : (Ladies) d3 : Waverley 2, d2 : Grange, d1 : Edinburgh Sports Club ; (Open) d5 : Grange 4, d4 : Grange 3, d3 : Grange 2, d2 : Edinburgh University 2, d1 : Dalgety Bay 1, who had won the title by 6 points, despite losing out on 24 "referee bonus points" earlier in the season. Dougie gave out copies of his report. He explained how he had enjoyed a lot (although not 100%) of co-operation from the clubs in the task of entering League match results online via Scottish Squash's nicked-from-Australia Squash Matrix. He described it as a robust system used by hundreds of leagues in Australia with several nice features, such as the "Game Plan" which gives sneaky information on upcoming opponents. Ladies division 1 and Open divisions 1, 2 and 3 had taken part in the trial, while still completing and posting the traditional results cards. For next season, all divisions are to use the system. Results cards will probably still be written out on the match night, but these are not to be posted to the League Secretary. Dougie will run a familiarisation/training session with a few laptops at Grange in September, so that everyone should know what to do. Jonathan asked if you could query results under the new system – e.g. if the result hadn't been input correctly. Pete J said he'd used a similar system in Plymouth - the home captain input the result the day after the match and the away captain had a few days to agree it, or otherwise, in which case they could sort it out. Dougie said the home team should keep the card in case it may be needed to settle any mistakes or disputes. All this would be clarified at the start of the season.

3. Chairman's Report

Eric handed out copies of his Report, which had been sent to the clubs. The main talking point (apart from Waverley 1 temporarily losing their perennial "yo-yo" status by staying in Open division 1) was that the Scottish Squash affiliation issue had all but been resolved. West Squash had agreed at their AGM on 7th June to reintroduce the rule that clubs playing in their League must be affiliated to Scottish Squash (the same as our rule). This is subject to Scottish Squash's new affiliation/subscription system being approved at their AGM on 19th July. Apparently the debate at the West AGM was long and fierce, but agreement to "come back on board" had been voted through on a 4 to 1 majority. Christy asked Ron about 2 clubs in Central region which he understood to be unaffiliated – Ron said he would look into this.

4. Junior Convener's Report

Claire had sent a report, copies of which were passed round, and Yvonne went over the main points.

5. Treasurer's Report

Dave I was away up north somewhere fighting oil leaks in the ocean, but his report and accounts were handed out. Eric pointed out the surplus of just under £1,000 and a net worth of just over £16,000. Jonathan asked if there were any plans for using this money – Eric replied that there were not, but the committee was always open to suggestions from any clubs or players. The meeting agreed to once again keep the League fees at £40 per team for season 2010/11.

6. Election of Office-Bearers and Committee Members

The committee, who had whispered their availability for re-election, were immediately taken up on their rash offer and are therefore again : Chairman – Eric Donohoe, Treasurer – Dave Ireson, Secretary – Dave Ferguson, League Secretary – Dougie Brown, Junior Convener – Claire Kidd, Scottish Squash Director for the East – Henry Pearce, Committee Members – Yvonne Ferguson, Richard McIntosh. Eric welcomed any new committee members, particularly from any club(s) not already represented.

7. Any other business

Christy asked if the committee intended to follow some other regions and switch to “point-a-rally” scoring and could teams decide on any match night to use this system. Dave F said there didn’t seem to be any demand for this as we hadn’t had any requests for it. Dougie added that he would not be in favour of a mixture of scoring systems or clubs deciding what to play on the night. However, like anything else, if someone were to raise it as a proposal it would be voted on. Eric thought it may only be appropriate in Open division 1, as the top players there are playing in tournaments which use it.

Dave F read out an e-mail from James Birkhead of Dean Squash Club requesting a summer league. The one he had seen in York had teams of 6 (2 men’s team players, 2 women’s team players, 1 “veteran” and 1 non-team player). Eric said we would support such a venture if someone came forward to organise it.

George Purves had also e-mailed Dave F. Scottish Squash are to give subscription discounts to clubs for each Grade 1 (National Grade) and Grade 2 referee they have (£50 and £30 respectively). George had asked if they could extend this to Grade 3 referees as a further incentive to put players through the refereeing qualifications. Ron said they’d considered this but, given the refereeing campaign the East had run in the last few years (we now have 101 Grade 3 refs and a further 112 players have attended a course) this would be unfair on the other regions. Also, the Grade 2s and Grade 1s were doing a great deal more active refereeing. Ron also pointed out that subscription discounts were also being given to clubs for each Level 2 and Level 3 coach they have (again, £30 and £50). George had also asked about Scottish Squash “launching racketball in the autumn” as mentioned in Eric’s report. He had been one of the organisers of an informal friendly racketball league involving 6 East clubs and wasn’t aware of this initiative. Ron revealed that Scottish Squash had been granted £230,000 spread over 2 years from the Ministry of Justice to support juniors aged 11-19. Racketball was seen as a sport to introduce juniors to squash and Scottish Squash & Racketball intended to promote this in all 6 regions with incentives for clubs who take part. The Minister for Sport would be present at the launch in early August. 30 sessions of 6 weeks would be held in the first year (60 in the second year) in affiliated clubs, who would then be given the rackets, balls and eye-protection glasses used during the 6-week course. There is now a link on the Scottish Squash website to the Scottish Racketball site www.scottishracketball.com and new logos for Scottish Squash, Scottish Racketball and Scottish Squash & Racketball.

On this encouraging note, the meeting closed with its customary vote of thanks to the chair and its occupant, Eric.