

**CHESHIRE SQUASH RACKETS ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD 19<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020 AT 7.30PM VIA ZOOM**

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Present at the meeting:

Alan Batchelor (AB)	Pete Billson (PB)
Johnny Goodall (JG)	Graeme Heward (GH)
Jane Law (JL)	Roy Lomas (RL)
Andrew Nickeas (AN)	Ged Shields (GS)
Babeth Thompson (BT)	Polly Woodward (PW)

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- 1 **Apologies for absence:** Robbie Blair, Julie Astbury, Kirsty West, Jane Wood, Joss Garvey
- 2 **Minutes of the last AGM :** the Minutes of the last AGM held on 19th June 2019 were agreed – AN proposed that these were accepted and this was seconded by JL
- 3 **Chairman’s Report :** Kirsty West was unable to attend the meeting and AN acted as Chairman for the AGM. KW’s report was read to the committee and a copy attached. She also asked PW to add to her report, the sad news that she has just received which is that Bill Wilson sadly passed away on Monday after a battle with cancer. He has been a Cheshire player for many years and our thoughts are with his wife Yvonne and family. AN will go to the funeral as a friend of Bill’s and also to represent Cheshire Squash.
- 4 **Treasurer’s Report :** See attached. JL reported that we have made a very healthy profit this year and the total amount in the bank accounts is £38,375. The Nationwide are closing their Treasurer Trust accounts and will therefore be closing our account. JL will arrange for the funds to go into the Barclays current account and will look at opening an interest bearing account once new accounts can be opened.  
  
AB asked if we had received the enhanced rebate from England Squash and JL confirmed that we have not. Apparently, Yawar Abbas, chair of NW Counties has gone back to England Squash to see what is happening with the rebate.  
  
The junior accounts are just being finalised and will be presented to the next meeting.
- 5 **Appointment of Auditors :** PET Taxation Services (Pam Tickle) was re-appointed as auditor – proposed by JL & seconded by PW
- 6 **County Team Report – Men :** Due to Covid 19 the only mens inter county event that took place was the senior team and they remain in their division
- 7 **County Team Report – Women :** Due to Covid 19 there were no ladies county team matches
- 8 **Ladies League Report :** JW sent a report to the committee (attached) – due to Covid 19 the league was suspended on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020. At that time Division 2 had completed their matches and this division was won by Heswall 1 who will receive their trophy and be promoted. It is proposed that no other winners trophies will be awarded for last season

The league committee are monitoring the situation to see when a new season can be started

- 9     **Junior Report** : . PB report attached. He went through events until Covid lockdown and during this time he has been planning for when squash will recommence. He has a program of events for the new season which will be adapted when play can resume properly again. PB has taken this time to process many administrative tasks and he has had an offer from Rebecca Mather to help with Inter County organisation which he will be taking her up on. Unfortunately a Junior committee has not been formed due to lack of support. PB will be focusing on trying to increase the number of young female players. AN thanked PB for all his efforts and success in developing the juniors.
- 10    **Referees Report** : Report attached. GS thanked all the referees and committee for their support.
- 11    **Cheshire Closed** : The event was well attended and once again we had sponsors All results are on the Cheshire Squash website and RL tanked GS for organising referees, all the sponsors and Alderley Edge for once again hosting the event.
- AN thanked RL for organising our flagship event
- 12    **Covid 19 update** : England Squash announced the rules yesterday (14/7/20) for clubs to safely re open courts. Clubs must abide by their rules and we will put a link on the Cheshire website to the regulations. Competitive squash is not yet allowed and we will be keeping the situation under review.
- 12    **Election of Officers for 2020/21** : A list of officers was presented to the meeting. There are various vacancies – KW would like to step down to Vice Chairman due to her current work commitments, PW would like to resign from the committee and pass over the Secretary role due to moving away and Julie Astbury has resigned. There are also a couple of other vacancies. It was agreed that a new position be created – Racketball Coordinator and Graeme Heward is happy to fulfil this role. It is very difficult to find new committee members and as there are quite a few vacancies and no proposals to fill these it was agreed that the election of officers would be deferred until the next committee meeting.
- 13    **AOB** : The date of the next meeting is 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 and will probably be held on Zoom. There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50pm

# Cheshire Squash Rackets Association

## Chairman's Report

2019/2020

Welcome everyone to the first Online Cheshire Squash AGM! Thank you all for attending tonight.

What a season it's been...who'd have thought at the Cheshire Closed Championships last October we'd be in the position we're in now!

Obviously COVID-19 has had a major impact to the sport we love and our day to day lives.

In March this year, squash clubs around the country had to close their doors to their members. During this lockdown period we have seen plenty of creative ideas online and across social media keeping the world of squash 'alive'. From Zoom club workouts to 'Pass the Ball' videos connecting us all in a very different way than we're used to.

During this time, the committee have still been working behind the scenes, whilst waiting on England Squash updates. The update we were all waiting for came down yesterday, and I urge everyone to go to the England Squash website and thoroughly read their guidelines to safely re-opening clubs - what their criteria is and risk-assessments that need to be completed before re-opening. But it's a start!

Hopefully, if done safely and the R number stays low, we will be able to return back to 'normal' sooner rather than later. We will be staying close to the England Squash updates, as this 'new normal' continues.

I'd like to thank all members of the committee for their continuing hard work, it is very much appreciated. As always, we'd love to grow the number of people on the committee. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact myself or another member of the committee.

Here's to, hopefully, a more 'normal' 2020/2021 season.

Kirsty West

Acting Chairman, CSRA

# CHESHIRE JUNIOR SQUASH REPORT BY COUNTY COACH 2019 – 2020

## SEASON 2019-2020 ACCOUNTS

Unfortunately, the audit on the junior accounts has flagged up a few minor issues that have to be resolved before they can be passed. These were flagged up on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July, the amendments are being made and re audited this week. The overall accounts will have to be submitted to the committee at the next meeting.

Just to give you a brief overview of each of the program sections before they were halted by the corona pandemic.

Cheshire Junior Grand Prix 2020-2021 – 4 Events played – Income: £1488 Expenditure: £432

Cheshire Future Stars – 2 Sessions Completed – Income: £621 Expenditure: £129

Cheshire Elite Squads – 2 Sessions – Income: £1740 Expenditure: £1329

Cheshire County Closed – Income: £625 Expenditure: £200

### **Full accounts to follow**

## SEASON 2020-2021

At the start of the season we set out a few aims and objectives, which were as follows:

1. Continue to evolve and progress the Cheshire Junior Squash Development Pathway, special focus on adding value to Elite sessions.
2. Provide a competitive & educational platform for Grassroots squash in the county.
3. Support coaches within the county by investing in their personal up skilling and providing assistance with club programs.

Little did I know at the start of the season that Corona Virus would hit in March and put a grinding halt to all activity.

Up to that point things were progressing nicely. The junior database is showing in excess of 175 juniors and expanding all the time.

Highlights of the season were firstly the influx of new talented young performers into the county through the grand prix tournaments. Secondly was the introduction of the 'value added' Elite Sessions. More information on these highlights will follow as I break down the junior programme for the 2020-2021 season.

### Cheshire Junior Grand Prix

The Grand Prix again is working fantastically well as our introductory tool for children to experience competitive squash in a fun and educational environment. The entry fee was raised this year from £10 to £12 for each event, which seem to deter nobody. I managed to run 4 events before the

pandemic shut us down and all the events had been full, with a waiting list for some. As ever the top division gets stronger and stronger but the real highlight this year was the new comers into the bottom division, some 10 -15 of them that show real promise and can only be a huge positive for the county. As we only completed 4 of the 7 events it was decided to cancel the overall Grand Prix Competition this year and start a fresh next season.

### Cheshire Future Stars Squads

These are our development squads that allow the talented new squash players to come together once every couple of months to train under the guidance of the best coaches in the county. We usually start them a bit later into the season, this is to invite any new arrivals we see at the Grand Prix events earlier in the season. This meant we could only get 2 events in before the Pandemic struck, which was really bad news as they went fantastically well and were full. We had over 10 new attendees this year which was great and 40% of these were young girls. I'm really hoping on the other side of the pandemic lockdown the kids will all remain as enthusiastic and return in the same numbers.

### Cheshire Elite Squads

Something new this year, helped by funding from the North West Forum. I was due to run 4 of these day squads throughout the season but unfortunately due to the pandemic 2 only took place. These squads are all about inspiring the young elite performers in the county through adding real value to the squads. The first squad we did was a day with Ex world No.1 James Willstrop and current world No. 50 Patrick Rooney. The kids spent the day learning of the professional players and then were treated to a fantastic exhibition in the evening. The second squad was with the world no. 2 junior Nick Wall. The young performers learnt from Nick about his route to becoming an Elite Junior and he gave an insight to how he is making the transition to becoming an Elite player on the PSA world tour. As you can imagine these days were very well received and full within minutes of invites going out.

### Cheshire County Closed 2020

As an experiment this year I ran the county closed over a single day instead of a full weekend. I wanted to see if the 1 day commitment instead of 2 would boost numbers. I found the numbers to be exactly as they had been the year prior, so to this effect I will be moving back to the traditional 2 day format next year. Once again, the events were competed in great spirits and we had some fantastic matches. The winners and runners up this year were:

Boys Under 11 Winner- Joseph Mather	Runner Up- Tom Bate
Boys Under 13 Winner – Fred Vaughan Hawkins	Runner Up – Joseph Mather
Boys Under 15 Winner – Seb Smith	Runner Up – Rueben Mather
Boys Under 17 Winner – Charles Keeble	Runner Up – Charles Morrison
Boys Under 19 Winner – Charles Keeble	Runner Up – Bryn Tummons
Girls Under 13 Winner – Bea Lomas	Runner Up – Holly Hale
Girls Under 15 Winner – Isabel Sargent	Runner Up – Bea Lomas

## England Squash Inter County Championships 2019-2020

This season we entered all the boys teams and the girls under 13 team into the event. All teams performed fantastically well, the Boys Under 11, 17, 19 and Girls Under 13 all made the finals. The Boys under 13 and 15 missed out by 1 position. It is really encouraging to see how well we are fairing on a national level against some far bigger geographically speaking counties.

## Cheshire Coach Education and Up Skilling

This season we contributed financially to Nathan Taylor Wilson completing his England Squash Level 3 coaching award. He will work back the contribution in coaching hours for the county, he is a great asset to the team. We sadly had to cancel a young leaders coaching course that we had planned for a number of the more senior juniors with Matt McFahn due to the pandemic, we will look to run that next season.

## Looking to the future with Corona Virus 2020-2021 Season

Following the announcement from England Squash Yesterday (14/7/20) a date has now been set to return to the courts to play adapted and socially distanced squash. As of the 25/7/20 a coach can lead a group session of up to 5 members from different households as long as there is no more than 2 people on a court at once and they are observing social distancing rules. This leaves it a little limiting as to what can be done.

Generally, I program the new season of activity to commence in September, which I am hoping by this point we may have slightly more relaxed rules. I will adapt the new program where needed, to make sure all sessions and tournaments adhere to the social distancing rules set at the time. This may mean using multiple venues or putting on more sessions with fewer numbers. All will be assessed as we get closer. Positive news looking forward is that I have secured sponsorship again from Dunlop for the county programme, they will provide all the prizes for the Grand Prix this season.

Another positive to the enforced pandemic lay off has been the time for me to process many administration tasks I have to perform. This will greatly help streamline everything for next season. I have kindly had an offer from Rebecca Mather to help with Inter County organisation which I will be taking her up on. I have also tried on 2 separate occasions to see if there would be any volunteers to resurrect the Cheshire Junior Committee, I'm afraid this has fallen on deaf ears on both occasions. I will continue to ask for next season but it is really tough to find anyone to volunteer the time and effort at the moment.

I feel a real focus for not just next season but the seasons to come is to increase young female participation at county level. My goal in the next 5 years is to be able to run a county closed event for every girls age group and have a team in all the inter county championships. Which I feel is achievable with more focused programming.

## CHESHIRE LADIES LEAGUE REPORT 8/4/20

The Ladies League is, frankly, in limbo at the moment.

As I reported to the Committee's last meeting, the season came to an abrupt close on March 16th. Div 2 had finished their matches, teams in the other three divisions (which play 3-way fixtures) had one or two matches left.

The Div 3 play-offs (March 30th) were cancelled, and the AGM (usually held in May) was put on hold.

We have a sure winner for the 2nd Division and likely winners for Div 1 and 3a. 3b is less clear-cut and will probably require some sort of play-off at some stage.

Div 1: Northern 1 could in theory have been overtaken but, looking at the remaining fixtures for them and their closest contenders, and going on previous results for those fixtures, it's unlikely;

Div 2: Heswall 1;

Div 3a: Warrington SC were 50 points ahead with only one left to play;

Div 3b: Marple were 25 points ahead of Northern 3, who were 3 points ahead of Grove Park but Northern and Grove both had a game in hand over Marple and both were due to play teams they had previously beaten. Marple on the other hand, was due to play Grove, having lost to them previously.

I emailed all the 20 League clubs on 29th June to find out a) how many teams they were hoping to field next season and b) to put the following League Committee proposals:

**\* 2nd Division trophy ONLY is awarded for the 19/20 season.  
Congratulations to Heswall 1!**

**\* 1st and 3b Division winners were not decided beyond doubt so the 1st and 3rd Division trophies will not be awarded for 19/20;**

**\* Promotion/ relegation as laid down at the start of the season: with the 2nd Division having actually finished, the results there are certain and the 1st Div relegation and 3a winner results are also beyond doubt, so:**

**1st Division: Barnton is relegated;**

**2nd Division: Heswall goes up/ Liverpool and Barnton go down;**

**Div 3a: Warrington SC go up;**

**Div 3b: Northern 3 and Grove Park play off for the promotion.**

**\* League structure remains as it is.**

I have heard back from 7 clubs, 8 including my own ...so far it looks as though we may lose Knutsford (we only just got them back, when the Astra Zeneca ladies moved there!) but Warrington SC are hoping to launch a 2nd team.

I suspect that nobody is thinking about it very seriously until they know for sure that match play can re-start. I also anticipate that even when and if we do get the go-ahead, many players will be nervous about going back on court to play people they know well, never mind travelling to other clubs to play strangers.

The League Committee will continue to monitor the situation.

Jane Wood  
15/7//20



## REREREE'S REPORT

CHESHIRE SQUASH A.G.M.

2020

Well like everyone else it has been a very strange time for me too, how I have missed being told on the squash court I am the worst Referee they have ever met, and that was never a stroke or let.

Cheshire still have a complement of Referees, myself, Joss, Dave, Robbie and the club referee who is soon to become a county grade Mick Broomhall

In June I took part in an exercise organised by England Squash "right decision correct explanation, we were asked to look a match from the T.O.C in January between Joel Makin and James Willstrop, there were 27 decisions over five games and two weeks later 33 referees Roy Gingell, John Massarella and the original Referee of the match Tammer Abdelmonem Alnaggary came together in a zoom meeting to discuss 8 of the decisions, I am told this is the way things may be going even in the coaching world.

## TOURNAMENTS

In March both Mick Broomhall and I went to Hull for the English Junior Championships, I think this was the last England Squash competition of 2020.

The way things are going there may not be any competitions this year, and it is rumoured that the B.J.O will not be played in January 2021

We have a note on the Referees page of the new website [www.cheshiresquash.com](http://www.cheshiresquash.com) encouraging clubs to hold a Referees and rules workshop, Although I am told a new system for workshops will be introduced from the restart of the next season.

I would like to thank all the Referees and the committee for all their support.

## GED SHIELDS

Cheshire Squash Referee Co-Ordinator