



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Presented to Shropshire Squash AGM – 14th September 2023

I herewith present the Chairman's Annual Report.

It has been a great year with a full season played. We had a good number of teams in the leagues, the Junior County Closed returned and development got back on track.

County League / Competitions: There were 3 squash leagues and a racketball (squash 57) league, there were a few initial issues with teams withdrawing just prior to or within a week or so of the leagues commencing resulting in a lot of by weeks for teams which was not enjoyed, we need to address this to ensure this does not repeat to ensure we can maintain a strong and enjoyable league. The League Knock Out Cup Competition again went well, the finals night, hosted by Shropshire SRC, was again a great success and a fitting end to the season. We also ran the Junior Squash County Closed, with the Senior and Senior Squash County Closed and the Racketball (Squash 57) County Closed currently taking place, due to culminate on 30th September with a final's night hosted at Shrewsbury SRC.

Congratulations to all of our League and Cup Winners and Runners-up. There is a complete list of the winners and runners available to download from the website, but I will pick out a few mentions.

Leagues Shrewsbury SRC A won the division 1 title. **Shropshire SRC B** won the Division 2 title, **RAF Shawbury** won the Division 3 Title and **Shrewsbury SRC 2** won the Racketball (Squash 57) league title.

Club Knock-out another successful competition with **Academy 1** winning the A Cup. **Shropshire SRC B** won the B Cup, **RAF Shawbury** doing the double winning the C Cup and **Brookside** won the Racketball (Squash 57) Cup. Thank you to Shropshire Squash Club for hosting the finals evening and Don for running the competition.

Junior County Closed – Thank you to Shrewsbury Squash Club for again hosting the junior county championships. It was fantastic to see some exciting, competitive and quality squash from our junior players, with great support and vide throughout the day.

Great work from Ian Tanner for organising, the volunteers from Shrewsbury SRC, and our sponsors Hometyre & Simply Driving Lessons.

Thank you.

There were some great results including Frankie in the U11s, Cordelia Jones winning the under 13 girls after the U11s last year and Jaydan Ingram winning the boys U19 in a great finale to the day.

The full list of winners is available on the website.

England Squash (ES) Inter-County Championship: The County supported a men's master's team (O45), and in the Junior Championships we supported 2 junior teams an U11 & U19. The senior teams were as competitive as usual and generally held their own during a very competitive season. The junior team did really well against tough opposition.

National Racketball Championships It was great to see entrants from Shropshire in the event again with very strong draws, Chris Morris lost to Simon Parke in the semi-finals and Chris Wase to David Lord in quarter finals of the men's O50. Racketball is going from strength to strength with other national competitions such as the British Open and Head Nation Series. Keep it up.

Looking forward to 2023/24:

Leagues:- Don has completed and published the Squash league structure for the coming season with the first matches due to be played early October. Don / Max will provide a short update later in the meeting.

Please note as advised in the last AGM there has been a slight increase in league fees. Please ensure you pay your fees promptly; late payment penalties will be applied. Please contact Barry Talbot if you have any issues. Squash - £84, Rball - £42, Cup £15 (If no league team)

Also, please ensure you don't forget to pay the club ES Affiliation Fees. Teams will be withdrawn from the league if England Squash (ES) affiliation is not current by 31st October and / or our league fees have not been paid. We have current live data on all received payments and player affiliations via the new ES website county portal, please pay any outstanding fees promptly.

County Closed Competitions:- We will be running both Junior and Senior Events this season. The Junior County Closed taking place 24th September, so get your entries in! The men's, ladies', masters and racketball county closed events will follow the same 'play by' dates format from last season for the early rounds and a finals weekend and will be held in early 2024.

ES Inter County Competitions:- We are awaiting confirmation of entry details and also the format to be used this season.

We will need to notify ES about teams for this coming season as soon as the format is known, therefore please can you confirm if you are willing to run a team and which category. Also If you or you know of anybody who wants to represent the County in any of the age groups then please let Lee Picken of the Committee know!

Other Competitions:- Shrewsbury SRC will be running the Chris Flint Junior Open and an ES Bronze Event both in 2024, more information will be issued soon, but you can also check the ES website as well. Great to see some competitions in the county.

Development: We continue to work with ES to discuss Squash Development in Shropshire. We are currently awaiting details of the available funding from ES to support our squash development opportunities and programmes. We as always welcome any applications from clubs to support events and programmes and to improve the level of coaching. Ben Schur and I continue to look at development opportunities for the county and it is great to see programmes such as Squashstars continue to grow. We also have the Junior Academy & Primary Schools programmes. Our county coach, Ben Schur, has been working tirelessly throughout the year managing and running the Academy and Schools programmes, supporting clubs and promoting our sport using the mobile glass court at numerous events, thank you, and also thank you to the volunteers that have also helped out at the events and supported Ben.

The Shropshire Squash website – We are currently reviewing a possible avenue to update our website, will share more details when it is available. I know I say it every year but it is your website and you can all add news, match results / reports, promote your events etc to keep everyone upto date, so please use it. You can issue anything that you would like advertised to any of the committee.

ES Governance Standards:- Es advised at the Council meeting in Nov 21 that the updated Code for Sports Governance was being adopted, this has set out 12 minimum governance documents that we, as your committee, have to get into place. The deadline for this is August 2024 , we have been working hard to get these in place. There are a couple of areas I just wanted to highlight this year –

1. Committee Structure – There are mandatory positions noted in the documents. The one main position that we do not have at present is County Secretary, so in the next 12mnths we need to make sure this position is filled. Please let me know if you would be interested / willing to take u the post.
2. Committee Term Duration - The maximum term a committee member can serve s 9yrs, so if we start this process from the receipt of the documentation, we need to ensure we have a full rotation by 2031. This will need some succession planning and thought by all.

These standards are an important step in ensuring that England Squash are able to continue to support and to provide funding to county associations in the future, so it is vital we get ourselves in a good position.

These will also help us to protect ourselves, members, players and volunteers.

That completes this year's report. I conclude with a personal and very sincere vote of thanks to all on the Management Committee, who have once again unfailingly promoted and supported Shropshire Squash

through another successful season. Please feel free at any time to attend a committee meeting to see how the committee works or be involved in a Championship weekend for example, or anything! Just Let Barry, Don, Elaine, Ben, Lee, Max, Ian or I know: We look forward to your interest. We do need to continue to add members to the committee and it is not a huge undertaking, only 4-6 mtgs a year but it is crucial to the running / development of the county squash.

I would also like to add our thanks to all of you, the volunteers, players, team captains and club committee's for all of the support & work that you do as without you we would not have any county leagues, cups or competitions keep up your great work and please remember we are here to support all of you.

I close now, by inviting any comment or questions on the report.

14th September 2023