

Shropshire Squash - End of Season Review Meeting 2017

Date: 9th May 2017

Venue: Shrewsbury SRC

Attendees:

Committee - Ian Dinwiddy (CH). Don Wallington (LS). Linda Pritchard (LDO)

Clubs Representatives - Guy Rutter (SSC). Graham Moore (SSC). Gary Woodman (LFSRC). Glen Woodman (LFSRC). Gary Nolan (SSRC). Cyril Nolan (SSRC). Merv Davies (SSRC), Roxy Keshavarz (WLTSC), Beth Grinsell (WLTSC), Stef Walczak (WLTSC), Graham Hook (LSC), Keith Hansell (LSC), Stuart Clark (LSC), Tim Leddon (BSSC).

Clubs not represented – Castle Country Club, Lilleshall, Club 72, Harper Adams, Market Drayton.

1. Apologies: Graham Jackson (SSRC), Jean Appleby (BCSC), Graham Burnett (BCSC), Oliver Nixon (MD), Mal Lakelin (SSRC).
2. Introduction – DW introduced the meeting and ID added that these meetings were to be used to review the previous seasons competitions and leagues and give everyone a chance to have their input into any proposed rule changes or competition rule changes.
3. Leagues –
 - a. DW gave a brief overview of the seasons leagues –
 - Div 1 – 9 Teams generally ran smoothly. A few issues with postponements / walk overs.
 - Div 2 – 9 Teams generally ran smoothly.
 - Div 3 – 10 Teams again ran reasonably well.
 - Squash 57- 7 Teams - No issues generally, a few issues with results uploading.
 - b. Proposed Rule Changes – The following changes were discussed and agreed in principal and will be updated for formal vote / implementation at the AGM:-
 - Rule 9.1 – Players can only play up to 4 times for a team before being ineligible for any lower teams. Do walkovers or forfeited matches count? Walkovers / forfeited match results will not count towards Rule 9.1. When entering a result in this instance the players names should not be entered. SportyHQ does not differentiate but any 5-0 result can be checked as & when necessary. A SportyHQ instruction document explaining how to check how many times a player has played has been added to the website.
 - Rule 11.1 – Sentence to be added to confirm that a player is 'Cup Tied' to a team once the player has played for that team in the Knockout Cup(s).
 - Rule 17 – Points - Postponements / Walkovers – A proposal was received from Phil Caudle (Shropshire SC) regarding how points could be deducted / awarded in the event of a defaulted match as noted below.

Whilst writing I would also like to put a proposal forward (for next season obviously) about the taking of points for defaulted matches. Any system is open to abuse of course, but I think that we should be promoting getting a game played first and foremost. Encouraging the rearranging of games rather than the claiming of points, and in the interests of trying to keep it fair, and minimising the effects on other teams in the league, could the defaulting team have 10 points deducted from them, and the claiming team take only half point, so plus 10 points. The incentive is therefore there to get the game played from both sides to maximise the potential points tally. Better to play with a weak team and get some points, than not play and lose points.

We would be happy to adopt this approach and will ask for a vote at the AGM.

- Add Rule 17.3 Points – Postponements / Walkovers – The league secretary shall decide the level of points to be conceded by the defaulting team. The maximum penalty shall be the maximum winning points in rule 17.1, the minimum shall be equal points to each team depending on the justification provided.’
 - Rule 22.1 – Any team may insist that a fixture be played on the pre-arranged date and the team in difficulties must play or (subject to rule 22.3) concede the points as detailed in rule 17.3.
 - Rule 22.3 – ‘Postponement of a match. A match may be postponed by mutual agreement of both Captains **‘and approval by the league secretary’** in respect to Court / Player safety or as a result of an act of God. Once the new date has been agreed, that date becomes the new pre-arranged date. If the reason for the postponement is beyond the scope of the defaulting team, the opposing Captain should strongly consider replaying the match. **‘The League Secretary will decide on any dispute’**. A shortage of players should not be used as a reason for postponement.’
- c. Players – seeded v non seeded v spares. (question from a player). No real difference between seeded & non seeded (spare) players names. Teams can seed all players within a team but must seed at least 5 prior to the start of a season.
- d. Play offs – an email was received from Market Drayton requesting to drop the play offs in favour of reverting to the previous system of automatic promotion and relegation for top 2 and bottom 2 clubs, the general consensus from those present was to retain the play offs system, but a formal vote will be taken at the AGM.

4. County Competitions –

- a. Overall all competitions were run over the season with a few issues with the Junior County Closed which need addressing. Thank you to Shropshire SC for hosting.
- b. Team knock out cup –
 - This was organised by DW League secretary. The format of all finals being played on the same night continued to work well and all agreed to keep the current format.
- c. Junior County Closed –

- Hosting – Disappointed to find that no county clubs willing to host the event, eventually WLTSC offered to host, but due to lack of entries the competition was postponed. Postponed event hosted by Shropshire SC – Entries were still low but competition was completed and went well. Early preparation and involvement required this season to ensure this does not happen again.
 - d. Senior County Closed –
 - Hosted by Shropshire SC – The format from the previous season was used, based on play by dates for the preliminary round and a finals weekend. Format worked well, but again entrants were low. Agreed to keep the same format for this season.
 - e. Racketball (Squash 57) -
 - Hosted by Shropshire SC – Was run as a separate category of senior county closed tournament using the same format. Format worked well and good to see it played alongside the other county closed groups. There was a very low turnout. We need to review this for next season.
 - f. Shropshire Junior Open (ES Copper Event) –
 - Great to see this event held in the county. Organised by Ian Tanner, and hosted by Shropshire SC. Need to ensure committee involvement as we were aware of the event and could have helped promote etc.
5. Inter County Teams –
- a. The chairman thanked the captains of last season’s teams for the time and effort in organising the teams and hosting the events. ID asked the current captains to consider which age categories should be entered next season and if they would consider continuing as captain. The chairman advised that generally entries need to be submitted by the end of July. The chairman advised that he would request confirmation when ES had issued the official entry information.
 - b. Summary –
 - Mens O35 – Remained in Division 1 (Barry Talbot)
 - Mens O45 – Div 2 – Won promotion to Div 1. (Merv Davies)
 - Mens O55 – Div 1 – Remained in Div 1 (Guy Rutter)
 - Mens O60 – Div 1 – Remained in Div 1 (Keith Wilson)
 - Squash 57 O40 – Got to finals weekend – Finished 4th O/A. (Guy Scott)
 - Boys U15 – Finished 4th. (Guy Rutter)
 - Boys U19 – Withdrew. (Dan Aimer)
 - c. Juniors – U15 & U19 Junior County Teams successfully run by G Rutter (U15), Dan Aimer (U19), hope to run again next season. Chairman noted that the county does not have a county junior development officer / coach and needs to appoint one. ID noted that he needs to re-engage with Shropshire Squash Club to see if the new professional coach (Ali Jafari) can assist the county junior set up.
6. ES Update –
- a. The chairman provided an update on the updated ES affiliation. There are three routes that can be adopted by each county as briefly outlined below.

- Option 1 - Continue with existing system where ES affiliation of clubs and players is not mandatory. No increase in rebate to county.
 - Option 2 – Agree to make ES Affiliation mandatory for all clubs and players. This will double the rebate received from ES to the county.
 - Option 3 - Apply a county levy to the fees from option 2 which would be paid back to the county from England Squash as part of the rebate payment, this is a function that allows counties to receive payments from the clubs to put towards development projects etc.
- b. The chairman discussed the merits of each option and the general consensus was that option 2 should be considered as we already insist that all teams, clubs and players are ES members / Affiliated. A formal vote would be put to the AGM.
7. AOB – The chairman confirmed that no official requests had been received prior to the meeting and opened it up to the floor.
- a. The chairman Noted that there had been some issues of foul language abuse and attitude towards the league secretary, when trying to resolve disputes over rule interpretation. All agreed this should not be tolerated and that each club needs to discuss this with their chosen captains prior to the beginning of next season and provide a copy of the code of conduct to each captain. ID also advised that he would expect each club to hold a captains meeting prior to the season to run through the rules etc so that their captains would be aware of the rules. ID reminded everyone that the committee are all volunteers trying to provide the clubs and players with an enjoyable and sociable experience with leagues and competitions we run.
- b. The Chairman advised that the county has secured some funding from ESRF, the committee are investigating the best way to invest the money into county development. Further update at AGM.
- c. Junior Development –
- The chairman recognised that we do not have a County Junior Development Officer or coach, positions that clearly need to be filled. If anyone knows of any suitable candidates, please put them forward to the county committee. The chairman noted that even if someone can't commit to full time but has some time to spare this would help. The Chairman advised he is currently doing all he can with the limited resources available.
 - Chairman to provide a Talent pathway map to define 'Club - County - Regional - Aspire' and provide contacts for each stage and issue to club coaches.
- d. Chairman to re-investigate the idea of a county junior network so everyone can discuss / exchange ideas etc. WhatsApp or messenger??
- e. A request made by M Davies to try and have even team numbers in each league to minimise free weeks during the season as sometimes there can be long gaps between matches. DW noted that whilst we try to have even numbers of teams it really does depend upon the entry numbers we received and this would be reviewed nearer the time.

There being no further business Don / Ian thanked everyone for their attendance and support and closed the meeting.