



Cumbria Squash and Racketball AGM

Minutes – meeting held at Penrith Rugby Club Tuesday 17th September 2013

Present:

Name	Club
Chris Lilley	Penrith
Douglas Thomson	Individual Member (Sedburgh)
Guy Huxtable (minutes)	Wigton
Ian Richardson	Windscale
Ian Stephenson	Windscale
Paul Bell	Carlisle
Richard Utting	Penrith
Ronnie Bell	Carlisle
Shayne Holliday	Kendal
Tom Armstrong (Chair)	Individual Member
Angela Cwaczko	England Squash and Racketball

Apologies: John Honeyman (Wigton), Jonny Irving (Wigton), Penny Hitchin (Kendal), David Henderson (Kendal), Ian Lowrey (Whitehaven)

10 members attended the meeting – quorum was achieved

For interest, this is the AGM attendance history over recent years

	Members	Clubs
2007	12	4
2008	13	5
2009	13	6
2010	13	5
2011	14	6
2012	10	7
2013	10	6

Notes of the meeting

Agreed that	Actions
<p>The minutes of the previous meeting were a true record The minutes were issued to Executive Committee members, Junior Committee members, ESR, members on the general e-mail distribution list, CSR website</p>	None
<p>The date for the end of the financial year for Cumbria Squash and racketball (CSR) should change to the end of June each year The Constitution will be changed accordingly</p>	Chris Tom
<p>The Executive Committee should consider ways of increasing the attendance at the AGM</p>	Executive Committee
<p>The following should be members of the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Lilley – Treasurer and league secretary • David Henderson – Junior Organiser • Guy Huxtable (communications) • Jonny Irving (communications) • Paul Bell - Coaching • Tom Armstrong (Chair and Secretary) <p>We are pleased to report that Bridget will continue to work with Guy & Jonny outside of Executive Committee to develop and maintain our website</p> <p>There were no additional volunteers advised by the clubs prior to the meeting or from the floor from meeting attendees</p> <p>Ronnie Bell will no longer be a committee member but will work in close liaison with it and help wherever and whenever he can.</p> <p>Tom passed on a message from David – the Junior Committee always welcomes additional volunteers so anyone wishing to join it please contact him directly</p>	None
<p>Communications with clubs. Agreed that we would set up new processes for communicating with clubs so that club officials would be sent information and asked to distribute it to members rather than it going straight to members from CSR. This now needs agreeing with clubs and detailed processes set up</p>	Guy & Jonny

CUMBRIA SQUASH & RACKETBALL

2012/2013 SEASON AGM

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

At the beginning of the season, after an encouraging 2011/2012 Season, which followed a similarly encouraging performance in 2010/2011 Season, we were quite up-beat and saw no reason why this season's Activity & Development Plan (previously known as Action Plan) should not be based upon similar initiatives. We expected even more progress.

We had not achieved everything in those seasons but our requirements and expectations for the involved activities and initiatives were the same. Generally we needed to maintain and work to improve what we had been successful with and work even harder to resolve the problems associated with the other less successful activities. It was very much in our minds as we started the season that we still had our major and long term ongoing problems to resolve, with respect to improving adult participation generally, the maintenance and development of our County Leagues and last but certainly not least, developing processes/activities to encourage women players to support us.

How did we do?

You will see our performance from the Activity and Development Plan 2012/2013 Final Report- issued 6 June 2013. This is a detailed and comprehensive report that gives you information on all of our initiatives so I have no need to repeat it in this report. It shows good progress in some areas but unfortunately not in our major areas of concern and we made unexpected retrograde steps in other activities. This situation gives me a feeling of disappointment and concern for the future of our organisation. It poses the question of where do we go from here? - and if we do nothing and just let activities drift away, what does it leave us with?

If we give up on our efforts to improve the situation and accept where we are now we will be a county:

- Without any Women's Inter County Teams – this season we had to drop the Senior Team that had just been re-introduced the previous season after many years without one. Prior to that we have had no women's teams of any category for many years
- With only one Women's County closed Championship – the Senior Women's Championship – that has very little support, just enough to keep it going. We have had no women's age group championships for many years
- With progressively dwindling Men's & Women's County Leagues – we will be lucky to have a Women's League next season.
- With only two Men's Inter County Teams – Senior & Over 60 – we also entered the Over 45 competition but could not even field a team to meet Stage 1 commitment
- With only one Men's County Closed Championships – the Senior Men's Championship. Our efforts to also hold a wide range of Age Group Championships last season were unsuccessful – none was held
- With very little adult support or interest for Coach and M&R development
- With very little support from clubs to even consider introducing Racketball even though ESR has offered to pay for Paul's services for road shows & coaching to promote the sport

This season we hoped to make progress in these activities but failed to do so.

What should we do next season?

As a County association that by definition works on behalf of our Clubs I believe that we provide most processes and activities expected of us to meet our internal county and club requirements. We also maintain the comprehensive activity scope and infrastructure expected of us by ESR to hold our status as a valid, well respected and fully integrated county in its national network, which allows us to take advantage of the benefits of such status

I have always worked to achieve and maintain this for our organisation and hope that we can continue in this way but we will not be able to do so if we fail to change the situation detailed above – a situation that would be even worse if the Men`s County League takes a down turn from its current low level, then we would be in real trouble.

We will end up being primarily a Junior County Organisation with no adult activities and limited technical support processes.

My concerns if this is the case are – what effect will it have on ESR expectations of us and how will that effect the financial and other support it gives? – what will be the effect on junior players?

By extremely good management of CJS over many years and a lot of hard work by the committee members concerned we have a junior organisation that is second to none and continues to develop – you will see from the ADP report that there are some aspects of it that we need to work on but nothing that can`t be resolved, so this is an excellent situation to be in and we must do everything to ensure that it is maintained. My concern is that with no established adult structure to join, when our junior players have to leave the junior ranks - to provide competition for them, to continue their development and give them an excellence pathway to the national scene - what will they do? We will have let them down if we allow this to happen.

So, the Executive Committee had a decision to make - what do we do next season? – do we just let activities drift away and see our credibility as a comprehensive and fully effective organisation disappear? – or do we keep fighting?

I think you know my answer - as you are aware I don`t give things up easily because once activities are lost it is very difficult to re-introduce them, so before we made the decision we looked for something that may have been contributory to the situation and we came up with the following that we thought fitted that category - we all felt that our communications processes were limited and not very good - and the poor support given by some clubs in promoting our activities did not help even though I have requested better support from them many times over the years

I hope that we are not “grasping at straws” but we saw these as problems that if resolved would give us the confidence to try again with hopefully some degree of success. We already have some development work being progressed on communication processes and website by Guy, Jonny & Bridget that will improve the way we advise clubs and the membership generally what we are doing - and we will try again to encourage clubs to set themselves up to positively react to county information and be proactive in meeting our requirements. I have already sent a note to clubs asking for their support in this way.

On this basis we have decided not to drop any activities and to prepare next season`s A&D Plan with similar content as last season`s plan and effectively try again and hope that we are successful

We are already progressing one initiative to hit two of our ongoing major concerns - increase adult participation generally and increase the involvement of women particularly. Based upon some work done as part of this season`s A&D Plan, we are holding a Racketball Development Workshop on the same day as the AGM – you have already been made aware of this by Guy. The Yorkshire Squash and Chapel Allerton Club racketball expert, Peter Edwards,

will be guest speaker to inform us how and why he introduced racketball to his club and the benefits of doing so. Also, how he encouraged other clubs and Yorkshire Squash county organisation to incorporate racketball into their activities – Yorkshire Squash has a very impressive racketball set up. It is very important that you support this workshop so please come along

If at the end of next season we have still not made significant progress, with the best will in the world I have to accept the situation – I don't think the Executive Committee would agree to further attempts to run activities that obviously the membership does not want – too much time and effort is involved and volunteers are only prepared to do so much before calling it a day. We will then have to take stock and decide on the future structure and direction of our organisation and its relationship with ESR.

To complete this part of my report I will end with a similar statement that I ended my report with at the last AGM, to remind you of what we have and what we risk losing if we don't make the necessary changes:

A very effective Junior Organisation - sound financial processes that are being progressively improved - good financial reserves - a very generous long term sponsor - a wide ranging infrastructure for men, women, boys & girls covering competitive activities, technical support processes and administrative processes - excellent relationship with and support from ESR. Angela considers us to be the best managed county in the NW Region - dedicated volunteers to manage and administer our organisation – and much more.

All we need is the dedicate support from Clubs and their members to allow us to maintain and take advantage of these and ensure that our organisation continues and flourishes.

We have it all going for us so it would be sad if we let this situation slip away.

OTHER INFORMATION

1. Sponsorship

It is important at the AGM that I mention the generous organisations that give us financial and other support

- **Thomas Graham & Sons Ltd (Roger Smith – Managing Director)**

We have just completed the 6th season of a 10 season agreement where Roger provides us with £1000 per season financial support for CJS.

In addition, he also generously finances our new County Player Recognition Process, for all of our county players – senior & junior. As you will be aware this is based upon new squash shirts and Roger is financing their purchase. We have just completed the first of a five year agreement with him.

Roger – we can't thank you enough for such generous support that is very much appreciated

- **Dunlop**

As part of England Squash & Racketball and Dunlop County Support Programme, Dunlop continues to provide squash balls for home Inter County matches & prizes for Junior county Closed Championships to the value of £900 – this season in the form of 6 Biomimetic Pro GT-X 130 squash Rackets worth £720 and 6 Dunlop Backpacks worth £180. As usual we raffled them amongst the juniors entering the championship.

Our thanks to Dunlop for this generous support that has been given for many years.

2. Bereavement

Sometimes at the AGM unfortunately I have some sad news to report and this is one of those occasions. I am sorry to report that three of our squash colleagues died this year – Simon Storey, Sheena Jones and Ken Pearson. I issued a separate note to the membership for each of them.

On behalf of our organisation I send our deepest sympathies to their families, friends and squash colleagues

3. Special Achievers

Each season I am pleased to acknowledge special achievers

- **Peter Smith** for winning The Hazel Award
- **All winners** of the County Closed Championships
- **All winning teams** in the County League and League Cup Competitions
- **Ronnie Bell** for being selected as Captain of England Over- 60 Squash Team for the end of season Home Internationals at Nottingham in May 2013. The team won both of its matches and Ronnie won both of his games at No 1. This is not the first time that Ronnie has been in this position, in previous seasons he has achieved England honours in the Over 50 and Over 55 teams
- **The Girls U19 and Boys U13 Inter County Teams** for reaching the Inter County National Finals
- **Chloe Lowes** for winning the Matthew Allison Award at the Junior county Closed Championships
- **Kelly Briscoe & Craig Richardson** for being selected as Women`s & Men`s County League Players of the Year
- **Individual players who have given exceptional performances in ESR Regional and National competitions** – I don`t get reports on all of them so I will not try to name them – I am sure to miss someone
- **Wigton Squash Club** for obtaining reaccreditation of their ESR Silver Clubmark Award

I can`t end my report without thanking the clubs and people who have supported us during the season

- Sponsors – your support is essential to us and is much appreciated
- Everyone who has entered our competitions and attended other activities
- Clubs and individuals that have supported us in any way – including giving their facilities free of charge (this applies to all clubs we used)
- Stephen – Hazel Tait`s son, for presenting the Hazel Award. Also to Ray Tait and his wife Carolyn for coming along to support Stephen. Ray has attended the award presentation every year since it was introduced
- Angela Cwaczko – ESR NW Region Manager – for her comprehensive, generous and continued support for our organisation.
- Bridget for continuing to manage and maintain the website in a very effective way and for working with Guy and Jonny in their work to introduce the new website
- John Graham, Accountant for Penrith Rugby Club, who is our new auditor
- Vince Todhunter for continuing to help to run the Senior County Closed Championships – keeping a promise he made when he retired from the Executive Committee
- Last but certainly not least my colleagues on the Executive and Junior Committees for their dedicated services to our organisation and in providing it for giving up many hours of their valuable time. As usual it has been a pleasure working with you.

I try to keep optimistic about the future of CSR but see next season`s performance as a major indicator as to what that may be

I look forward to working with everyone to achieve a positive result

Thank you for reading this report

My best wishes to everyone for 2013/2014 season

Tom

Tom Armstrong – Chairman

CUMBRA SQUASH & RACKETBALL

2012/2013 AGM

STATUS OF ACTIONS RECORDED IN THE MINUTES OF THE 2011/2012 AGM

Ref Minute 2.2.3 Complete the changes associated with the organisations name change to Cumbria Squash & Racketball – **Tom & Guy**

The outstanding work was:

- Make the new CSR logo introduced by Guy at the meeting available to the membership and Introduce into general use
- Incorporate the organisations new name and logo onto the TG&SL squash shirts and make them available to our Inter County Teams.

Both of these have been done – **Action complete**

Cumbria Squash & Racketball
Accounts Year Ending 30th June 2013

Treasurer's Report

- Turnover increased at £7,021 compared with £6,495 last year.
- Expenditure significantly down at £6,219 (£8,830).
- One-off expenditure of £729 for new website
- Operating profit of £802 compared to a loss last year of £2,335.
- Cash in Bank stands at £6,932, up £802.
- Members' individual subscriptions and junior coaching income up.
- Inter County Competitions' expenditure, both Junior and Senior, down.
- Northern Cup not entered this year, saving of £1,757.



Chris Lilley

16th September 2013

CUMBRIA SQUASH & RACKETBALL

Income and Expenditure Account for the period ended 30th June 2013

Trading Income	2012-13	2011-12	Change
Senior			
Team Fees	£1,200	£1,320	-£120
Members Subs	£2,281	£1,753	£528
County Competitions	£420	£585	-£165
ESR Rebate	£730	£831	-£101
Sundry	£0	£12	-£12
	£4,631	£4,500	£131
Junior			
Sponsorship	£1,000	£1,000	£0
County Squad Coaching	£605	£245	£360
County Competitions	£630	£570	£60
Dev Squad Coaching	£155	£80	£75
Inter Club Team Competition	£0	£100	-£100
	£2,390	£1,995	£395
Overall Income	£7,021	£6,495	£526
Expenditure			
Senior			
Inter County Competitions	£1,017	£1,450	£433
County Competitions	£214	£576	£362
Committee Expenses	£312	£341	£29
County Leagues	£495	£255	-£240
Website	£209	£209	£0
Sundry	£8	£64	£56
	£2,254	£2,894	£640
Junior			
Northern Cup	£0	£1,757	£1,757
Inter County Competitions	£1,535	£1,880	£345
County Squad Coaching	£840	£940	£100
Mentoring IC Teams	£620	£896	£276
County Competitions	£240	£379	£139
Sundry	£0	£50	£50
Inter Club Team Competition	£0	£35	£35
	£3,236	£5,936	£2,700
New Website	£729	£0	-£729
Overall Expenditure	£6,219	£8,830	£2,611
Operating Surplus/Defecit	£802	-£2,335	£3,137
Cash in Bank	£4,485	£3,542	
Building Society	£2,728	£2,728	
Debtors	£281	£140	
Net Assets	£6,932	£6,130	£802