

CUMBRIA SQUASH & RACKETBALL
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ZOOM MEETING 2021/2022 SEASON
3 FEBRUARY 2022

- 1. INTRODUCTION** (I have directed these minutes in detail for the benefit of the Exec members but hope that clubs that get copies read them – so that everyone knows how busy we have been during lockdown and our intention for the future – it is important that everyone knows the full picture if we want to bounce back effectively)

Hi Exec members – it is a long time since we met as a full committee (Feb 2020). Thank you very much for volunteering your services for our organisation for another season – much appreciated – it feels very good that we are in operation again. We left this meeting until the second half of the season because of uncertainties re the Covid lockdown rules. Also, thank you for keeping things going as best as we could under the very difficult and restrictive Covid 19 lock-down circumstances – we have done everything with the well-being of our members in mind – **Including:**

- Providing ongoing comprehensive contact and with our members, via telephone, e-mail and some direct contact with them, for our local requirements and as instructed by ES & NWRP – and to offer our help to clubs in whatever way possible
- Supporting our members financially on a local basis and working as part of the NWRP to make decisions on how the very generous grants from ES should be distributed across our four NW Region counties and then to manage that work.
- Making every effort in all of the work we have done to meet our CIO Constitution requirements. Maintaining our AGMs is a good example.
- Once we knew that ES was restarting the bounce-back of its regular activities at the beginning of this season we decided we would do the same. We are working on this with focus on our competitive and junior coaching activities that obviously require the involvement of clubs/player – this allows us to help them with their bounce-back activities. We have many other very important regular activities in our scope and some ideas for development across the whole range of our activities - we will start to plan for them as the season progresses with the aim of implementing them next season in a controlled way.
- Working to try to increase the Exec member volunteers to allow us to work in a more effective way across our wide scope of activities. In 2020 we started with 6 member – thought we were getting at least two more since then but we are down to 5 – which is not good.
- In anticipation of the volunteer situation, we have done a lot of work in deciding what our management structure and associated responsibilities would be to allow us to do a reasonable job with the 5 people we have- that work is ongoing and should be completed this meeting. The Organisation Structure diagram will show the results of that work. We have one benefit compared to the situation in 2020 – in having a dedicated Junior Organiser. Chris Lilley, who has already made great progress in re-starting our very important Junior County Coaching process where he is getting impressive support from our juniors - a good start. Increasing Exec support has been an ongoing effort for many seasons and must continue. You will see that Tom is shown as having Trophy Management responsibilities, a duty that Ian who has left us had agreed to take on. He has volunteered to this, what he hopes is a temporary job, so that we can move forward,

2. ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES

2.1 Executive Committee Members.

Tom Armstrong – Chris Lilley – Guy Huxtable – Damien Whelan, Andrew Smith – refer to the Organisation Structure diagram for their positions on the committee and associated responsibilities

2.2 Resignation of Executive Committee Member Ian Lowrey

We were very disappointed and sorry to be told by Ian (on 20 January this year) that he was retiring for personal reasons. He will be a great loss to us because he has given his effective services to our organisation for a very impressive 13 Years – 8 on our very effective former Junior Committee and the last 5 on our main Executive Committee. He has done a great job for us and we will miss his vast experience in managing squash at the high level required by both committees. As well as that, Ian was a pleasure to work with – he always operated in a quiet gentlemanly way that we all appreciated. We thank him for his service and will miss him and wish him and his family all the best for the future. Tom has already sent a note of thanks to him on behalf of the committee.

2.3 Welcome to a New Executive Committee Member (Andrew Smith)

Tom gave a very friendly welcome to Andrew who is a member of Kendal Squash Club. Andrew gave us a short introduction of himself. We feel that he will be a great asset to our operation

2.4. Potential New Exec Member

We have had a potential new member on the cards for some weeks who before we can accept him, in accordance with our rules, needs to resolve some problems associated with a committee member being a member of an affiliated club. We await information from him. **Action – Tom & Exec**

2.5 CSR CIO Trustees.

There are currently two situations that we need to review relative to trustees. The first one is that we have one trustee who is not on the Exec and plays no part in day to day decision making – Jonny Irving. We feel that we are not involving him in a way that meets the CIO Constitution and need to change that. The second is Ian Lowrey who has just left us and we need to know if he wishes to remain as a trustee - when the same situation will apply. We need to check with the constitution and clearly identify what is expected of such a trustee and then contact both and make them clearly aware of their responsibilities if they stay on as trustees. **Action Guy**

Electing more trustees from remaining Exec members was discussed with no decision made. That subject will be raised again at the next meeting, **Action Tom**

3 PLANNED ACTIVITIES AT THE TIME OF LOCKDOWN IN 2020 THAT WE WISHED TO PROGRESS

3.1 County League Trophies 2019/2020

Review of results data at the time of lockdown showed we had sufficient to correctly declare winners for both leagues and we decided we would present trophies. We hoped to purchase and deliver them before the end of 2020. We did not achieve that and as of now the job has still to be done. The question is “have we missed the boat” on this? We will contact the captains of the winning teams and see what they wish us to do. **Action Chris**

3.2 The Hazel Award

The established award process to determine a new winner will not be carried out this season. Instead, we will be presenting the 2019/2020 selected person with their trophies – to ensure they get the full honours for their achievement. Presentation will be held at the League Cup Finals event at Windscale Squash Club. We will need to – invite Hazel’s family to present the award – prepare the citation – check the trophies are

still available at Tom`s home, check with Windscale Club to see that it is ready for the award presentation

Action Tom

3.3 Level 3 Coach Qualification Course for Gavin

This has been a long standing intention over a few seasons for our County Coach – that has been delayed for ES communication reasons that were out of his control. Gavin advises that the next course will be in Jan 2023. We will be financing the cost of the course and its associated pre-assessment course which is an ES requirement to confirm acceptance to the main course – **Action Tom and Gavin**

3.4 Annual General Meeting 2019/2020

Decided to go ahead with the AGM without holding a formal meeting because of the Covid situation. It was held in a way that met most of the requirements of the CIO Constitution – with full communication to members in all aspects of it, Chairman`s & Treasurer`s Reports. Our members accepted this approach. We also carried out the 2020/2021 AGM in the same way to avoid disrupting clubs in their bounce-back work by holding a meeting

4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ORGANISATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

We only had one problem that prevented agreement of the management structure and that was appointing a named leader for the County Information Manager position in the GDPR process. We aimed to do that at this meeting –and did so. He is Guy who was already earmarked on the Organisation Chart (below).

The Org Chart will be issued to clubs with these minutes and posted on the website – **Action Tom & Guy**

5. FINANCIAL

5.1 Management Accounts

2021/2022 to date

We are in a very good financial position due to less spending as a result of Covid lockdown stopping competitive activities and the generous financial bounce-back support from ES/NWRF. The accounts and a summary of incomes and expenditures were given to committee members and reviewed with Chris

2020/2021 – still require annual audit **Action – Chris**

5.2 Financial Bounce Back Support to Clubs from ES/NWRF

We had some queries to clubs about requests from some of them for this support that were returned as not meeting criteria. What is their current status and what is the overall situation re that process? **Action Chris**

5.3 Financial Participation Support to Clubs from ES/NWRF

This is financial support for clubs and county that sets up development programmes for four initiatives and records them on ES APPS processes – Squash Girls Can, Squash 101, Squash 57 (Racketball) and Junior 101 This is new – clubs have recently been sent all the information and have been invited to contribute. No feedback yet.

5.4 CSR Financial Support to Members

This is the waiving of IMS for member clubs and Individual Members of our organisation for 2020/2021. We are also continuing that for this current season 2021/2022 and in addition we are waiving County League Team Fees for the season

5.5 Enhanced Rebate

This is an annual rebate to us from ES for membership subscriptions paid by clubs. We worked pre Covid to achieve the Enhanced Rebate and were waiting for confirmation of it from Richard Hantcliffe – we are still waiting for it. Richard to be contacted. **Action Chris**

5.6 Thomas Graham Sponsorship (Roger Smith MD)

To help his business, we offered Roger the opportunity to waive his annual sponsorship of £1000 cash because of the Covid situation. Being the generous person he is he adamantly refused and paid the 2020/2021 amount. We thank him very much for his generosity. He will also be paying this seasons money which is the last season of our 15 year agreement with him We don't know what the future holds re sponsorships but Roger will be contacted to see if he would be interested in continuing his involvement.

Action Tom

6. THIS SEASON`S COMPETITIONS AND JUNIOR COUNTY COACHING

6.1 County Leagues and League Cup

The County Leagues are going well – there are no current problems. There are two leagues of 6 teams

The County League Cup – is going well - There was some concern/debate as to who could or could not play in the Cup finals on one of the teams but that was resolved in the meeting. **Action Damien** to make sure it happens

Trophies have still to be provided for both competitions – **Action Chris** for general trophies and **Damien** for the annual challenge trophies – finding out where they are and getting them.

6.2 Junior County Coaching

This has been restarted by Chris and Gavin and is doing very well. There have been 5 sessions across the county with a total of 84 juniors attending. This is great progress in this very important activity in our junior development drive. It is going so well that it was agreed to extend the programme in an unlimited way to take full advantage of this starting success **Action Chris & Gavin**

6.3 **Inter County Juniors** – No entry this season – waiting for further development of our juniors

6.4 **Inter County Seniors** – one Men`s team entered

6.5 **Inter County Masters** – Men`s Over 55 and Over 65 teams entered

6.6 **Racketball inaugural County Closed Championships** – being organised

6.7 **Junior County Closed Championships** – being organised

6.8 **Senior County Closed championships** – being organised

NOTE- A programme of events giving more information is being prepared for items 6.4 to 6.8 Action Damien assisted by Activity Organisers as shown on the Organisation Chart

6.9 **Masters County Closed Championships** – carried out successfully at Carlisle in December 21 –Men`s comp at Over 35, over 50` and Over 60. Winners were: Ryan Barton beat Tony Hetherington in the Over 35s, Mark Vasey beat David Lindsay in the Over 50s and Robin Ridley beat Collis Sheik inn the Over 60s

6.10 **Northern Cup** – This is a NWRf managed event and no decision has been made yet to hold it. We expect it around July – Tom is a member of the forum and will be keeping an eye on it – **Action Tom**

7. **INSPIRE ROAD SHOW**

This is another NWRP managed special event – it was started in the region in 2018 – we held it very successfully at Windscale Club in June 2018 and were planning to hold another in 2019 at Penrith Club but Covid put a stop to that. No discussion at the forum yet – same as Northern Cup – **Action Tom**

8. **SQUASH FACILITIES**

8.1 Workington Junior Squash Club

A 2-week school introductory session has been planned for the Sports centre with Gavin as tutor. The intention is that this is followed by a restart of the weekly junior coaching sessions set up by Peter Messenger. Some time ago Tom discussed this with Gavin who said he would accept managing such sessions as well as being coach, providing the Exec would accept him in that position because he is employed by the exec to coach – not to be involved in the administration This needs further discussion **Tom & Exec & Sports Centre Management.**

8.2 Develop New Senior Squash Club at Workington Sports Centre

We have discussed this with Sports Centre management and in principle we have their support for it – we are waiting contact from the centre. One requirement of us is that the club must be organised and managed by squash people – the centre will provide the facilities.

Meanwhile, we have made a small move towards it by some players fielding a Workington team in the League Cup competition. This is a start of identifying interested people. The next step will be to try to expand on that group. **Action Tom** to contact Craig Hewitt

8.3 Cockermouth Squash Club

The single court which is part of a complete refurbish of what is now a rugby club is in use but the whole set up is not ready yet for its return as a club in our organisation. We will keep an eye on it **Action Tom**

8.4 Whitehaven Squash Club

There is still no formal notification that the squash facility at Whitehaven Sports Centre will re-open but all indications are it will not. As a result, for now, we will end our current concern and interest in it until we are told otherwise. Meanwhile Whitehaven players have been kindly accommodated by Windscale Club and we thank the club for that We are hoping that some of them would like to be involved in a Workington club and would like to be part of its development Ref 8.2

9 **BEREAVEMENTS** Since the last Executive Committee Meeting on 20 Feb 2020

Sadly we lost David Henderson (our previous Mr Junior Squash) on 7 Dec 2020. Tom reported this in his 2020/2021 AGM report and a tribute to him later in that month that was circulated to all members. Ref Item 10

We also sadly lost Fred Murray from Carlisle Squash Club who passed away early this year after a tragic accident at home. Tom has been in close contact with Celia his wife and Lisa his daughter to give his and our condolences. He normally sends a tribute to members for all deaths and intends to do so for Fred.

Action Tom

10. **PERMANENT MEMORY OF DAVID HENDERSON**

It was agreed that because of David`s great work with our juniors the most appropriate memory would be linked with the Junior County Closed Championships. We will be awarding **The David Henderson Cup** to the

winners of the Boys and Girls U19 events each year. There will of course be a boys cup and a girls cup

Action Guy

11 TECHNICAL (this item was missed in our meeting)

Our intention is to hold two Awareness Workshops, one for **Qualified Coaches** and the other for **anyone interested in M&R**. Andy Breen a NW Region coach has been contacted to see if he could be involved with the coaches' workshop with Tom Fairhurst who is the new Regional Coach. This would be a good way of meeting Tom.

He was also asked if he could recommend an M&R specialist for that course, we used Jos Garvey last time and she gave a good course – but a change in presentation style may be interesting and useful on this subject. Awaiting response from Andy for both – **Action Tom**

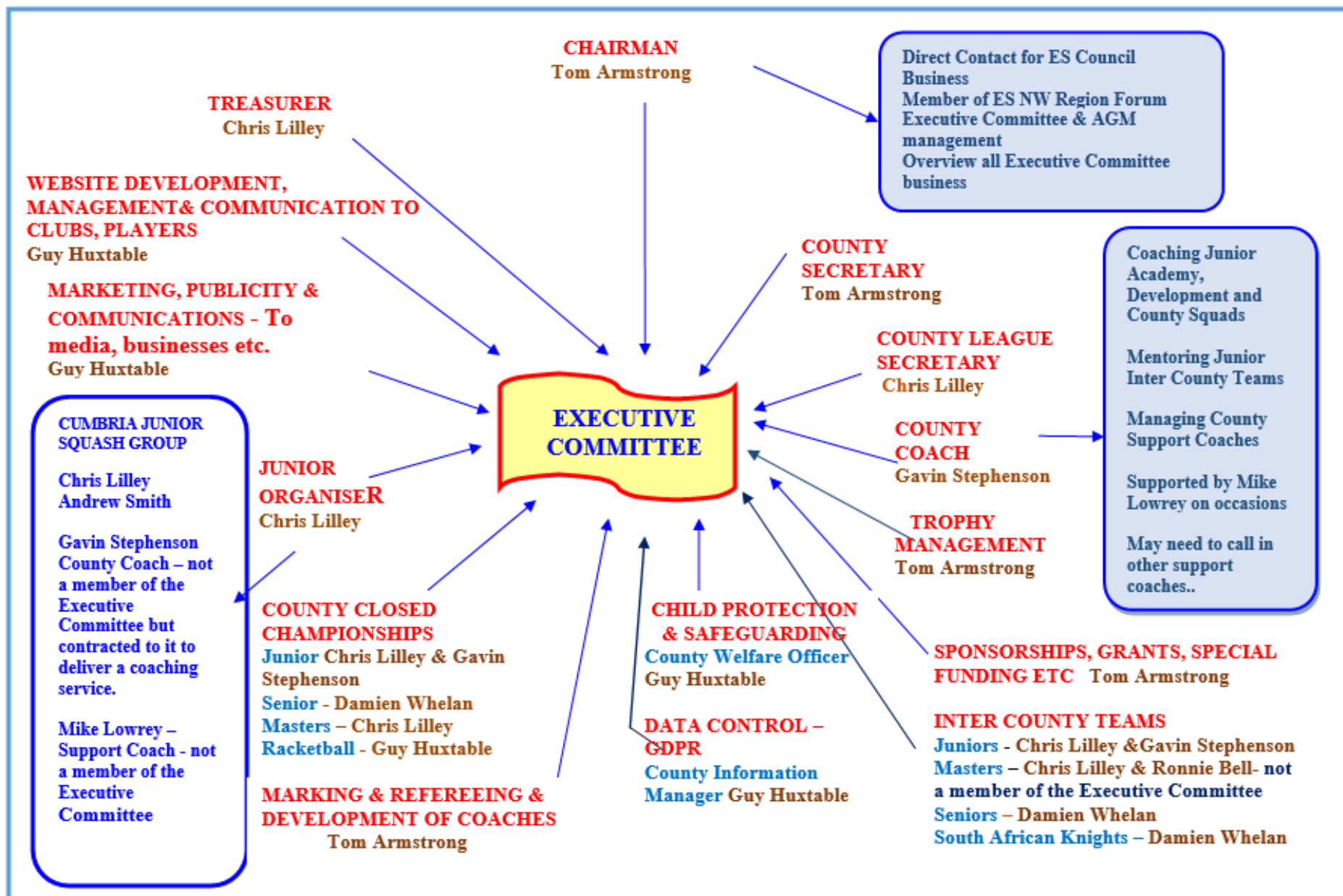
12 ` TOM`S AWARD – the Active Cumbria 2021 Service to Sport Award – Note from Tom

Receiving this award was a massive surprise for me but I was honoured and delighted to receive it, particularly as it was a county-wide award against all other sports so giving our organisation a great boost. My great thanks to Chris and Guy who nominated me for it and everyone else who may have supported them in getting information for the citation. They obviously did a great job. In addition, they even organised a congratulatory note from the CEO of England Squash, Mark Williams, which was very special to me. My thanks also to all the people across the county who sent their congratulations. This has been a very touching time for me and I find it difficult to express just how much it means to me and my family – thank you everyone.

Tom

17 Feb 2022

**CUMBRIA SQUASH & RACKETBALL (CIO)
ORGANISATION STRUCTURE 2021/2022 SEASON**



TRUSTEES OF CSR CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION No 1159944

Tom Armstrong, Guy Huxtable, Jonny Irving, Chis Lilley, Ian Lowrey

