

Dundee and District Squash rackets Association

Annual General Meeting 2011

Tuesday 3rd May 2011 at The Fort bar, Broughty Ferry.

Apologies

Nick Cunningham, Sue McLean, Matt Shaw and the Abbotsford team, Susan Anderson and Crieff ladies team, Boyd Kydd.

Present

David Gordon, David Williams, Lisa Respinger, Gary Johnston, Robin Nisbet, Iain Gordon, Jennifer McArtney, Chris Willcox, Mark Agle, Mairi Cumming, David Coutts, Chris Thistlethwaite, Stuart Semple, Cath Halley, Sue Stewart, Chris Respinger, Rob Respinger, Les Dick, Ewan McCulloch, Karin Respinger, Aileen Don, Aileen Jackson, David Pert, Sue Campbell. (24 total)

Clubs represented – Forthill, David Lloyd, Dundee uni, Montrose, Leuchars, Crieff ladies. (6)

The apologies were read out.

The minutes from last years meeting were proposed by David Coutts and seconded by Mairi Cumming.

Presidents Report

David Gordon started by saying that the individual tournament and knockout cup finals had gone very well this year. He thanked the committee for being present and helping at both events and especially Bruce Melville and David Williams who did a lot of marking at the events. He said that the website has suffered a "blip" and thanked Bob Wyllie for his work on the site in previous years. He thanked David Williams for his work in getting Resultzone and the forum going. There are 16 players on the forum and players have reported that they enjoy the personal stats on Resultzone.

Treasurers report.

This was available to be read at the meeting. There were no questions to Jennifer McArtney about them.

Mens match secretary report, David Williams.

Some matches were unplayed because of the severe and lengthy bad weather especially at the bottom of div 2.

Results were as follows

Knockout cup B plate runner up – North Fife 2
Knockout cup B plate winner - Dundee University

Knockout cup A plate runner up – St Andrews 1
Knockout cup A plate winner - Perth 2

Knockout cup B competition runner up -
Knockout cup B competition winner - Forthill 1

Knockout cup A competition runner up - Montrose
Knockout cup A competition winner – Abbotsford

Division 2 runner up – North Fife 1
Division 2 winner – Forthill

Division 1 runner up – St Andrews
Division 1 winner – Montrose

David Williams mentioned that there was a large discrepancy in the levels both between the teams and in some teams at different parts of the season or compared with the previous year. He proposed some possible changes which would depend on the number of teams entering the league and cup. These included the possibility of having 3 smaller leagues with promotion/demotion at mid-season. The league previously had 3 leagues and it was conceded that this will lead to some repetition, playing the same team twice in the half but it would mean that these matches were more competitive. No one objected to David being able to alter things as he seems fit once the number of teams is known.

Ladies match secretary, Lisa Respinger.

This year there were 11 teams who all played each other in the first half then split into gold and silver leagues after Christmas. Most matches got played although some were conceded due to the bad weather. Nortel ladies unfortunately had to drop out.

Silver League was won by Dundee Uni Ladies
Gold League was won by Crieff 1

Knockout cup plate Cupar beat Brechin
Knockout cup final Crieff 1 beat David Lloyd.

Website.

Iain Gordon who plays for Dundee Uni has been employed as web site designer with Robin Nisbet to liaise with the committee.

The cost at out set will be considerable but from then on will be administration only which may be covered by sponsorship if we can attract that.

Draft 1 has been prepared and the first stage should be ready in 6 weeks. The second stage will be like Resultzone.

Galleries and retrospective league results will be there.

Question : Chris Willcox asked if Resultzone would be accessed via our web site or embedded.

Answer : Iain Gordon replied that it would be embedded.

Comment : Robin Nisbet encouraged people to access the site as a large footfall may help us in seeking sponsorship.

Election of office bearers

position	Person elected	Proposed by	Seconded by
President	David Gordon	Sue Campbell	Ewan McCulloch
Treasurer	Jennifer McArtney	David Gordon	Karin Respinger
Secretary	Jennifer McArtney	David Gordon	
Mens match sec	David Williams	David Gordon	Robin Nisbet
Ladies match sec	Lisa Respinger	Mairi Cumming	Sue Campbell
Web coordinator	Robin Nisbet	Mairi Cumming	Sue Campbell
Ordinary member	Gary Johnston	Sue Campbell	Dave Coutts

David Williams said that he would be away for 4 months of the following year and Robin Nisbet and Gary Johnston agreed to help as required.

Iain Gordon will not be on the committee but will attend meetings as required when there are issues to do with the web site.

Ewan McCulloch has severed his achilles tendon for the second time so will probably retire from Squash. Everyone wishes him well.

Scottish Squash

The committee met with John Dunlop

David Gordon

It was previously obligatory to join SS but clubs became disenchanted with the perceived lack of benefits and most Dundee clubs left. DG was disappointed that John Dunlop focused on racketball at the meeting (SS seem to be going back to the roots of increasing court usage to try to preserve courts so that they will be there for present and future squash players). The committee proposes to increase the DDSRA fees but give a reduction to those teams joining SS. Perhaps £60 versus £20.

Robin Nisbet

proposed that the fee paid by non-SS member clubs should be much larger to encourage clubs to join as we should be supporting our governing body. He felt £60-£100 was appropriate. Joining SS costs £225 per team with reduction for clubs who have coaches and referees. One benefit is liability insurance for club players but the main benefit is perhaps altruistic in ensuring the future of squash / clubs. SS would develop links with schools and provide equipment that would benefit the clubs. Only 4 out of the 66 clubs who are members are from Tayside.

David Williams

Added that members can attend the SS AGM and vote on national issues, that SS need support to help them in bids for money and that lowering the DDSRA fees for clubs that join would soften the blow of SS fees.

Cath Halley

For juniors to play tournaments and access coaching their club has to be affiliated.

Sue Stuart

Your club needs to be affiliated for you to play in masters events, represent Scotland in the home internationals, to enter "B" tournaments, and to get matrix points.

Robin N

Your club cannot host official tournaments.

David W

SS will pay for Disclosures which you would need if you were offering coaching.

Cath H

One of the SS coaches has been to Creiff to give coaching.

David W

Perth have just joined their junior members which is much cheaper.

Robin N

SS fees are discounted by £30 for every coach/ ref the club has and £50 if there is a level 3.

David W

SS will run a coaches course if you have 10 or more candidates. And the level 1 course is discounted by 75%.

Rob Respinger

Areas which are booming have had lots of contact with SS eg highland and Grampian.

Sue S

SS fees were previously £1,000 so now is the time to join.

PAR scoring system

David W

PAR 11 worked well at the individual tournament but some games were too short therefore he feels it is too short for league matches so proposes PAR 15 if we change.

David Pert “stay with the old scoring system , want longer matches”

Robin N “ditto”

Ewan McCulloch “ 15 is a long match, maybe too long”

Mark Agley “ Par is used on TV to shorten games and make it more understandable. Why change for the sake of it?”

David W “some mens matches were lasting too long” “ would get a closer game with PAR 15”

Ewan M “ prefer PAR 15, better game”

Jennifer McCartney “ Don’t think there are enough teams represented to have a vote”

Mark A “ it would change the games / shots played. Would it be worth a trial in division 1 or with the knockout cup match?”

A show of hands resulted in

	In favour of a change to PAR 15	In favour of present scoring system
Men	4	11
Ladies	3	6

So it was felt that captains should canvass opinion and report back.

AOCB

David Gordon said that the rules about league matches and the knockout cup should be put on the web site after review by the committee.

Ken Daly in absence asked if DDSRA could be on facebook and twitter.

Matt Shaw in absence asked if the dates of the knockout cup and individual tournament could be set much earlier.

Rob Respinger thought it would be better to seek sponsorship now.

Robin Nisbet felt that we need to wait for the footfall before we could sell spaces on our site.

The meeting was closed and followed by presentation of prizes and a quiz.