D&C February 20th Minutes 2023

Meeting opened at 7:20pm

Present:

D Andrews, G Smith, N Collins, D Geldart, T McKay, G Watson, J Buckton.

Apologies for absence:

J Rowsby, B Duke.

Accept previous minutes as true

In last month's minutes, under league Report, Durham Uni cancelled a match against Yarm. This was incorrect. It was Bannatyne's against Yarm. The minutes were then approved.

Proposer: N Collins. Seconder: D Andrews.

Matters Arising:

A form has been signed by trustees of the committee confirming the cancelation of our CIO status. It will then be sent to the Charities Commission.

Safeguarding:

An email was sent out on 6th February to the safeguarding officers of all the clubs asking them to contact Dinah. This resulted in only two replying. It could be, the county may not have an up-to-date email list for the officers. The officers need to personally update their information on the ES website.

There is no section on our website holding information for club safeguarding officers.

Treasurer's Report:

Not being able to attend this meeting, the treasurer sent an update of accounts to committee members.

Kevin Whitfield has been invoiced for his sponsorship money. Awaiting payment.

League Report:

There have been three cancellations. Penalty points will now be awarded.

Tournaments:

With a lack of interest shown for some of the age groups for this year's inter counties competition and, ES not notify the county of the closing date, we were only able to enter a senior's team (playing at Carlisle) and a n O 65 team that were able to be entered in another areas fixture. There was no vacancy for the O 55 team.

The county would like to thank Yarm for hosting this years County Masters competition. Information on the results along with photographs can be found on the county website.

Funding update:

Nothing to report.

Juniors:

Yarm will be hosting a coaching festival this coming Sunday at Norton.

Website:

Some of the menu tabs on the website do not appear to be working (e.g., the Honours Board), there is no information when opened or, some of the content is not up to date.

Council Report:

No recent meeting.

AOB:

1. The final draft of the updated Constitution was reviewed at this meeting. After a couple of amendments, the committee were all in agreement to accept it. It will be made available for people to view ready for the county AGM where a vote will be taken to accept or reject it. Thank to those committee members involved in drafting this document.
2. The county has created a set of county junior equipment which can be borrowed by clubs should they wish to use them, on a short-term basis. J Buckton to be contacted for more information.
3. With Dave stepping down as chairman at the end of the season, a jobs list/ set of bullet points are required of what he does etc. **Ongoing**
4. Next years county closed will be offered to Yarm to host and Nunthorpe the master's competition.
5. The presentation evening will be on Thursday 20th April and AGM on Thursday 27th April. Both will be held at Norton's club house and start at 7:30pm. Kevin Whitfield will be contacted to see if he can attend the presentation evening.
6. Review the men's premier league and ladies league for next year. **Carried over**
7. The county received an email from Sedgefield regarding observations on Men's and Ladies County teams (see below). D Geldart contacted the chair of Sedgefield to go through the questions raised and what the county has in place.
8. After a player walked off a court in a recent county competition but, was allowed to continue in another round, the committee decided to modify the rules to the following: If a player in a competition leaves the court and will not to continue before a winner has been decided, that player will not be allowed to continue in the rest of that competition. The rules will need to be updated.
9. Congratulations to Tim Clark on winning the O55 National Masters Squash Championship beating Yawer Abbas, Both from D&C.
10. Congratulations go to Tim Clark and Yawer Abbas for being picked to play for the O55 England Squad. Also congratulations go to Neil Harrison for being picked to Captain the O60 England squad.

Next Meeting:

20th March @ 7:15pm

Meeting closed at 9:20pm

Good Morning

Please could you discuss and respond to the following at your next Meeting which were discussed at our recent Committee Meeting - we also put forward some ideas for each point which you may / may not wish to adopt.

1. Please clarify how the Men's County Teams are selected and how awareness to get involved is publicised - our committee noted that several of our players have better squash levels than some County players but have never been approached this season to find out if they would be interested in playing.

We noted that there is wording on the Club website about approaching Team Captains, but felt this is not a proactive approach to getting the best team selected and players contacted.

We felt that publicity of County Teams would benefit through an email to Club Secretaries as this approach appears to be successful in terms of raising awareness of County Competitions like the Closed and Masters.

We also believed that there had been commentary about County players being selected through results in the County Closed - but believe that some of the current County players did not enter the County Closed. Squash Levels to be the selection process once interested players have made themselves aware?

2. Please could you clarify why there was no Ladies County Team this year as we understand that several Sedgefield Ladies would have been interested in playing if they had been approached. Were any issues with forming a team cascaded to Club secretaries to share with Lady members / Lady Team players?

We suggest again that the Committee be proactive in communicating with Club Secretaries in the 2023/24 Season about the existence of the Team, how to get involved, and any selection process (Squash Levels?)

Regards
Chris Rowsby
on behalf of Sedgefield Squash Club