D&C Committee Meeting Wednesday 4th February 2026 - Minutes

Meeting opened at 7:00pm

Present: J Rowsby, D Andrews, N Collins, D Geldart, G Watson, G Smith, S.Rowsby

Apologies for absence: B Duke.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

Nov 25 minutes amended and accepted as true record.

Jan 26 minutes needed further changes (NC to amend)

Special note – Johnny Buckton has stepped down from the committee due to other commitments. The committee would like to thank Johnny for all the work he has done for the county as a committee member and also county junior coach.

Matters Arising: - all actions from Jan 26 meeting to be taken in the main meeting sections

1. Primary club contact - Chairman (NC to contact all chairs) **NC**
2. Coaching contact – club coaches (DG to check coaches emails) **DG**

Safeguarding:

England Squash has been sent a reminder of coaches named for the county, many of whom are no longer involved and who have not held relevant certification for years to be removed. **Complete**

The county has done everything possible to try and get coaches that are not in qualification up to date. This has been cascaded to coaches through the Safeguarding WhatsApp group. It is now the responsibility of the individual clubs to manage coaches operating at their clubs.

DA highlighted some reports that juniors (U19) are not wanting to wear goggles during team matches. The ES rule is very clear that ALL juniors should wear goggles when playing squash – even in friendly matches. A junior cannot play their team game if they do not wear goggles. If this impacts the team order, then points will be forfeited in line with the rules.

Treasurer's Report:

JR had sent out balance sheet information prior to the meeting. The key messages were around the losses made on both the county closed and masters tournaments. The county is prepared to suppor**t** the main tournaments, but it was agreed further discussion is needed to minimise any future losses. Agenda item for July 26 **(GS)**

JR reported that Charity Board accounts are finalised, but a trustee's report is also required. Action NC to complete trustee's report. **(NC)**

For future competitions any person not paying the entry fee before the draw will be removed. DG to monitor

League Report:

Agreed that Bannatyne player will return to the correct squash levels position for second half of the season. GW reported 3 ladies matches outstanding and all 3 have been chased. Issue with Barnard Castle trying to rearrange match with Hartlepool – GW to talk to Hartlepool Team Captain. **(GW)**

Durham Uni 1st vs 2nds team match played with players out of order – points forfeited by both teams.

JR asked about the rearrangement of Ladies matches at beginning of season. This was due to two men's team from same club in the same division – county requires them to play on the same night.

Tournaments/Competitions:

Big thanks to Sedgefield for hosting the Masters Tournament. Thanks to all the players who entered and supported the event. Looking to increase numbers next year and get more people involved. SR suggested combining County Closed and Masters as one option. Further discussions will take place prior to next years competitions.

Mens O65 team entered in to Inter County Event. D&C will host the match at Norton on March 14th playing Northumbria and Lancashire. Players county T shirts kindly donated by Wellsprings properties.

The men's senior intercounties match takes place at Norton on Feb 14th & 15th playing Lancashire, Cumbria and Merseyside.

Venue of the next Junior Northern Cup to be decided – possibly Carlisle.

Funding update:

Redcar have been awarded £880.0 to support projects to increase ladies and juniors into the sport. Redcar will be providing updates to the committee and the success of the projects.

No other requests have been received for ladies funding following the email which went out to the clubs.

Juniors:

Next Dunlop Challenge is on Feb 6th at Nunthorpe.

DG has approached Nick Matthew to run a coaching camp along with Michael Andrews over the summer.

County Website:

Minutes to be supplied once completed and approved.

OB:

1. Presentation night discussed – GW to talk to Stephen Heatley to try and get players for an exhibition match. **(GW)** SR suggested a plan B to combine the League Cup finals followed by the presentation night.
2. AGM date to be agreed at next meeting **(NC)**
3. Tees Active looking to come and present to committee on working with governing bodies. They also run free safeguarding courses – need to check if ES compatible.
4. SR mentioned the possibility of a gas and electric account for D&C squash across all clubs. Many clubs are linked to third parties/charities so this may prove difficult.
5. DA suggested setting up a shared folder for the committee to hold information **(GW)**

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

All meetings starting at 7:00pm:

Next meeting Wednesday 4th March