Ebbisham Sports Club
Squash and Racketball Section
Annual General Meeting, minutes

5th October 2023

Attendees

Rajeeva Indiketiya, James Neill, Ken Scott, Alex Coonan, John Coonan, Paul Mewett, Chris Green, Ian Horner, Graham Leese, Lesley Coonan, Paul Carrell, Jo Robinson, Paul Steward, Gillian Mead, Chris Taylor, Dan Coffin, James Dubois, Richard Skinner

1. **Apologies:** Ian Baker, Damian Smith, Winston Heppolette, Sam Beak, Jon Bartlett

2. **Review and Accept Minutes of 29th September 2022 AGM:**

   The minutes were proposed by Dan Coffin, seconded by Ken Scott, and accepted.
   There were no matters arising.

3. **Teams Reports –** Note, full reports are provided separately in the appendix

Mens Squash Teams: Alex Coonan

Surrey Cup comprises two leagues per year, Winter and Summer.
The reduced membership resulted in two Ebbisham teams being entered for both leagues again.
1st Team, captained by **Johnny Major,** finished bottom of 5B but was competitive throughout and retained their Div 5 position for 2023/24.
2nd Team, captained by **Henry Strausser**, finished 6th out of eight in Division 6B and retained their position for 2023/24.
2023 Summer League, same captains
1st Team, finished 2nd , missing 1st by a single point.
2nd Team, battled to a mid-table finish.

Ladies Squash Teams: Jo Robinson

Winter 2022/23 1st Team, captain **Jo Robinson,** Division 2 – finished joint 2nd of 9
Maja Leese played at #1 at age 15, with 2 other juniors also in the team squad.
A special mention to the supportive junior girls and their parents for driving them to and from match venues and it's been brilliant to see the girls' strategic thinking and standard of play improve enormously playing senior ladies with very different non-coached styles of play!

Summer 2023 1st Team, captain **Jo Robinson,** Division 2 – finished 5th of 6.
2nd Team comprising enthusiastic juniors finished 4th of 4 due to limited availability.

Jo Robinson is retiring after 20 years as Ladies Captain and the Committee thanks Jo for her leadership and dedication. **Gillian Mead** will be the Ladies Captain.

Veterans Squash Teams, Rajeeva

Richard Skinner's spreadsheet skills helped facilitate player availability.
1st Team, relegated to Division 3
2nd Team, retains place in Div 4
3rd Team, retains place in Div 5

Racketball Teams: Winston Heppolette

Both Racketball teams in the Social Divisions;
1st team finished 3rd of four, 2nd team 2nd of four.

4. Competitions and Leagues Reports:

Squash Championships: Gillian Mead

Overall number of participants was similar to 2022.
Congratulations to all our winners and runners-up
Men's Open - Winner - Alex Coonan
Ladies Open - Winner - Shauna Brown
Men's Open Plate - Winner - Ian Horner
Handicap - Winner - Shauna Brown
Men's Doubles - Winners - Adam Blewer & Paul Steward
Men's Doubles Plate - Winners - Robert Wellard & Ian Baker
Mixed Doubles - Winners - Alex Coonan & Shauna Brown
Vets - Winner - Dan Coffin
Vintage - Winner - Peter Culver

Squash Leagues: Damian Smith

League participation has improved slightly to 37 in Sept 2023 from 34 in Sept 2022

Racketball Championships: Paul Mewett

Participation similar to 2022.
Open won by Nathen Newark
Handicap won by Peter Banfield
Doubles won by Chris Taylor & Colin Shermer

Racketball Leagues: Winston Heppolette

24 players, same as last year.

5. Events

Juniors: Paul Steward

25 active juniors at 2 sessions on Saturdays.
No longer any feed in from Surrey Youth Games. Also no junior Surrey Cup.
Potential for social matches with Dorking/Sutton/Reigate and other local clubs.
India (age 11) won a match for the Ladies 1st Team.
Some of the juniors are obtaining coaching qualifications.

Junior tournament. Boys champion was **Otto**. Girls champion was **Maja**.

6. Chairman's Report – Rajeeva Indiketiya

Rajeeva Indiketiya

Thank you all for attending. The AGM is an important part of our club membership.

We now have 102 active adult peak members, with a target of 120.

The section makes a strong contribution to the club's finances.

Many thanks to **Gillian Mead** for organising the Club Championships, with good participation.

We do need more Juniors to return as Student Members

How do we increase membership?

- Increase use of digital media to promote the section and the club. Utilising local FB groups.
- Jo Robinson suggested reaching out to University of Creative Arts for more students. And more taster sessions. Promote club open day to local residents. Add a "Geoff Session" on Saturday mornings.
- Dan Coffin: encourage parents of juniors to join
- Richard Skinner: squash kit for branding/promotion. Free hoody for Juniors. Put up a sign on Temple Road to help people find the club.

At this juncture, I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to the remarkable **Jo Robinson**, whose dedication and exceptional talent in orchestrating Squash and Racket Ball events have undoubtedly transformed our club into a vibrant and thriving sports hub.

7. Peak/Off-Peak Court Booking Fee

Currently Peak fee is £4.60 and Off-Peak is £3.80.
Court utilisation no longer supports dual pricing. The committee recommends equalising to a single rate. Meeting discussed equalising at £4.50 or £4.20, with £4.20 being the preferred rate.

8. Club Nights

Club nights, every Tuesday, Friday and Saturday are currently free to play.
Tuesday is best attended, Saturday is much less popular.
Pre-Covid the fee was £2.50. Committee recommends introducing a £1 fee, paid at the bar.

9. Heaters

The club has noted that it costs £3.60 to heat courts per session. Heaters will only be available from 1st November to 30 March, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

10. Election of Committee

Committee Members are **Adam Blewer, Paul Carrell, Alex Coonan, Rajeeva Indiketiya (Chair), Gillian Mead, James Neill, and Paul Steward**.

All current Committee members are available for re-election and are duly elected.

Please contact Rajeeva if you would like to join the committee.

11. Any Other Business:

Dan Coffin, suggested a regular newsletter for members.
Also pointed out clocks on court and in bar and changing rooms are not accurate.

Chris Green, can a squash ball serving machine be considered?
The committee is looking at some options.

The meeting was closed at 9.30pm.

Appendices

- Teams Reports
  Men's
  Ladies

- Chairman's Report

Men's Teams : Surrey Cup Report 2022/23

Winter League

In the 2022/23 season Ebbisham ran two teams in Divisions 5B and 6B. As a club we have run two teams since COVID, where we reduced from three teams to two due to a lack of numbers.

The first team was captained, as the previous year, by Jonny Major with Alex Coonan, Cliff Stretton, Dan Coffin and Jonny Major. The fifth player was rotated around the squad.

The team finished bottom of the table, winning 2 matches out of 14. However, the team was competitive to the last game of the season, and rather respectfully scored an average of 9 points per match. Although the final results would ordinarily mean relegation, which would have been disappointing, as a result of the close finish and further conversations with the League organisers, we have kept our Division 5 position for 2023/24, which is a good outcome.

The second team was captained, as previously, by Henry Strausser, with a squad of Henry, Chris Green, John Brandon, Nick Coonan, Peter Culver, John McNicholas, and a number of reliable squad players.

The team finished 6th out of 8 teams in a tight division. The main target for the season was staying up, and achieving this (and actually being clear of 7th place by over fifty points) was a good achievement.

Summer League

The summer league runs May to August with four players per team. The squads and captains remained largely similar to the Winter League, but we have lost Clifford Stretton, but gained two reliable and exciting players in Ed Choate and Greig Andersson.

The teams were again in Divisions 5 and 6. The relative strength in the summer tends to be a little weaker, and this meant that both teams were expecting to contend strongly for the top positions. The first team finished second – marginally missing out on the trophy by a single point; however, this should be good enough for promotion ahead of next summer. The second team were always comfortable, but in a battling season finished bang mid-table.

The club is now getting ready for the 2023/24 season which starts next week, in the same divisions as last season. In 2022/23 most of the playing squad were used, so the captains very much welcome any offers of interest or commitment from Ebbisham members.

We also still retain a desire to, if membership numbers warrant it, return to three teams. At the moment, I haven't heard a level of interest from members that are not playing currently in the teams, to consider setting up a third team in a lower Surrey division. However I would be very willing to discuss this with any interested members.

Best wishes

Alex

LADIES SQUASH CAPTAIN'S REPORT 2022/23

WINTER LADIES 2022/2023:

Ladies Team, Division 2 – Won 12, Lost 4, joint 2nd position out of 9

Team Members: Maja Leese (junior), Shauna Brown, Gillian Mead, Jo Robinson (Captain), Anna Wilkinson, Imogen Wood (junior), Lara Krnic (junior)

We had originally planned to have two ladies teams in the winter leagues but didn't have sufficient players so we only entered one team in Division 2.

Report: – A very good winter season with Shauna Brown returning briefly from her travels to play the winter season. Captain Jo Robinson rotated players round to ensure everyone got several matches which was relatively easy due to the large number of teams (9) so 18 matches to play!

A special mention to the supportive junior girls and their parents for driving them to and from match venues and it's been brilliant to see the girls' strategic thinking and standard of play improve enormously playing senior ladies with very different non-coached styles of play! Go girls!!

SUMMER 2023:

Ladies 1st Team, Division 2 – Won 4, Lost 6, 5th out of 6 teams
(Team Members: **Maja Leese** (junior), **Shauna Brown, Gillian Mead, Jo Robinson (Captain), Sam Beak & Anna Wilkinson**

Ladies 2nd Team, Division 3 – Won 1, Lost 2 (3 unplayed), 4th out of 4 teams
(Team Members: all nominated junior girls: Lara Krnic, Imi Wood, Cara Naidoo, India Smith & Lily Bowles (Captain David Wood)

Report: - On a positive note, we tried to reinstate a second ladies team which comprised our enthusiastic, upcoming junior girls. But due to exams, holidays, rearrangement dates etc, it proved difficult for new 2nd Team Captain, David Wood (Imi's father) to arrange matches so only 3 out of 6 matches were completed.

Our 1st Team were weakened by the departure after only one match of Shauna Brown, our no.2 player, to USA and only sporadic availability from other players due to illness, injury, holidays and other commitments so we only came 5th out of 6 teams this summer.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023/2024 WINTER SEASON:

Good luck to our No.2 Shauna Brown who left the Club and the UK to return to Utah to get married to Carter on 7th October 2023 in a mountain cabin in the woods – very Shauna!!

We would like to run two ladies' teams again but we're awaiting confirmation of this as this report is being written.

And a final note to say that, after 20 years of being Ladies Squash Captain and/or 1st Team Captain, I have decided to stand down at the 2023 Squash AGM to enable someone else with fresh ideas and enthusiasm to take up the helm. Gillian has agreed to take this on temporarily but hopefully others will step up and do their bit.

JO ROBINSON, LADIES SQUASH CAPTAIN - 1st October 2023

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Rajeeva Indiketiya

I want to express my appreciation for your presence at today's AGM and It is with sincere gratitude that I extend my thanks to each and every one of our dedicated squash members for your unwavering support over the past year.

Financially, our section plays a pivotal role in bolstering Ebbisham, standing as one of the most significant contributors within the entire club. In response to rising costs and inflationary pressures, we have responsibly adjusted our membership fees, ensuring they remain exceedingly competitive compared to other vibrant clubs in our region.

Our Club has a strong presence in Surrey and has done well in a challenging economic environment. In April and May of this year, we had 107 active Squash adult peak members, and it dropped to 103 members at the end of October. We provide valuable service to local communities by encouraging them to participate in activities during the daytime.

Let's celebrate our achievements and highlights: Our Ladies 1st team secured an admirable second-place finish in the Division 2 Summer League. Choosing to stay in the same division reflects our commitment to managing expectations and fostering the sheer enjoyment of playing squash. The participation in Men's and Vet's teams remains robust, with the enrolment of the same number of teams. It's heartening that our Club Night enjoys fair participation during the week. A special shout-out to Maja Leese, Lara Krnic, and Imogen Wood for their selection to represent Surrey in the upcoming 2023/24 Girls Under 17 team.

Tournament and Event Recap: Our Club Squash Championship was held and had a fair participation. We hope for better participation next year. We used club software to run the tournament, reducing the massive administrative effort. Thank you, Gillian & Alex, for running the Tournament and trying out the software. We had our Racket Ball tournament and would like to thank Winston, Dave and Paul for running the tournament. Racket Ball is becoming increasingly popular, and Ebbisham sees more players playing the sport. Ebbisham fielded two teams in the Surrey Racquetball Leagues in the summer. The first team finished 3rd of four in Social Division 1, winning two of our six matches, while the 2nd team just missed the top spot by four points in Social Division 3, winning 4 of our six matches.

Coaching and Development Programs: We provide a junior coaching program on a Saturday and a healthy number participate (around 26) in the session. However, we have a challenge in attracting more juniors to the coaching program. Would like to see more juniors joining the club. But as junior players leave schools and move on to universities, we need more members to join the section.

At this juncture, I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to the remarkable Jo Robinson, whose dedication and exceptional talent in orchestrating Squash and Racket Ball events have undoubtedly transformed our club into a vibrant and thriving sports hub. A special thanks to Gillian Mead for assuming responsibility for running Ladies' teams.

Moreover, our gratitude extends to the unsung heroes—The Squash Committee, the behind-the-scenes helpers, captains, organisers, drivers, and social members. Your collective efforts are the backbone of our club, making it the great institution it is.

In conclusion, thank you all for your continued support, and here's to another year of camaraderie, sportsmanship, and success on and off the squash courts. Cheers and Merry Christmas.