

# Ebbisham Sports Club

## Squash and Racketball Section

### Annual General Meeting, minutes

29<sup>th</sup> September 2022

#### Attendees

Rajeeva Indiketiya, James Neill, Damian Smith, Steve Chesters, Dan Coffin, Graham Leese, Len Scott, I Bayer?, Adam Blewer, Winston Heppolette, Robert Wellard, Philip Pereira, Richard Skinner, Dave Riches, Paul Carrell, Gillian Mead, Paul Steward

[any others??]

1. **Apologies:** Paul Carrell, Alex Coonan
2. **Review and Accept Minutes of 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020 AGM:**  
The minutes were accepted. There were no matters arising.
3. **Teams Reports** – Note, full reports are provided separately in the appendix

#### Mens Squash Teams: Alex Coonan, presented by Adam Blewer

Surrey Cup comprises two leagues per year, Winter and Summer.

2021/22 Winter League first competition since the pandemic.

Declining membership resulted in two Ebbisham teams being entered for both leagues.

It is hoped numbers will improve to facilitate a return to entering three teams in 2023.

**1<sup>st</sup> Team**, captained by **Alex Coonan**, finished 5<sup>th</sup> out of seven in a tough winter league in Division 5R and enjoyed some close matches.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Team**, captained by **Johnny Major**, despite finishing 7<sup>th</sup> out of eight in Division 6B it was a very tight competition, and they were within 10 points of finishing 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### 2022 Summer League

**1<sup>st</sup> Team**, captained by **Johnny Major**, finished bottom of Division 4B, but was always competitive and rounded off by winning their final 2 matches.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Team**, captained by **Henry Strausser**, played in a league of 8 including 3 very strong clubs so they should be proud of convincingly avoiding relegation by winning their final 3 matches to finish 4<sup>th</sup> overall.

## Ladies Squash Teams: Jo Robinson, presented by Gillian Mead

**Summer 2022 1<sup>st</sup> Team**, captain **Jo Robinson**, Division 2 – WON their league, with a rotating group of 7 team members including 3 juniors. Congratulations to **Maja Leese** on winning all her matches.

**Winter 2020/21 1<sup>st</sup> Team**, captain **Jo Robinson**, Division 2 – finished 2<sup>nd</sup> of 7

No 2<sup>nd</sup> Team in either competition due to lack of numbers, but it is hoped Shauna Brown may return to squash after her travels, and if 1 or 2 top players can be encouraged to join we could field two ladies teams moving forward.

## Veterans Squash Teams

**1<sup>st</sup> Team**, stayed in Division 2

**2<sup>nd</sup> Team**, was relegated from Div 4 to 5, but actually ended up in Div 4 for 2022/23

**3<sup>rd</sup> Team**, stayed in Division 5

## Vintage Squash Teams

**1<sup>st</sup> Team**, relegated from Division 1

No **2<sup>nd</sup> Team**

## Racketball Teams: Winston Heppolette

Summer 2022, both Racketball teams in the Social Divisions; 1<sup>st</sup> team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> of four, 2<sup>nd</sup> team 1<sup>st</sup> of four.

Both now playing in Social Division 2 for Winter 2022/23

## 4. Competitions and Leagues Reports: presented by Damian Smith

### Squash Championships: Damian Smith

Numbers down after the two year hiatus. Due to the reduced numbers it was decided to run the Handicap as a Mixed entry. This year Championship T-Shirts were awarded instead of trophies to reduce environmental impacts, but unfortunately problems with supply are still ongoing.

The Mens Open was won by **Alex Coonan**

The Ladies Open by **Maja Leese**

And the Committee was delighted to award **Paul Steward** the Cherian Mathews Award 2022 for the fantastic work he has been doing with the Junior section. This is awarded each year to the person who the Squash Committee think has contributed most to squash during the year.

Note from the Committee, a huge thank you to **Damian Smith** for once again running an excellent Squash Championships and for doing so brilliantly every year since 2015.

Damian is now stepping down from the Director's role so if you are interested in taking it on please contact us!

## Squash Leagues: Damian Smith

League numbers are down from 52 in Sept 2019 to 34 in Sept 2022, although this also reflects the reduction in overall membership numbers.

The club has now moved to a new MyCourts IT system for league management and bookings.

## Racketball Championships: Dave Riches

Returned after a 2-year Covid gap, with numbers down to 16 players.

Competition is still running at time of AGM, finals 7/8 Oct [provide update!].

The Committee's thanks go to **Dave Riches** for running the tournament, with **Paul Mewett** to take over for 2023.

## Racketball Leagues: Winston Heppolette

24 players, a similar number to pre-pandemic. All are veteran+. It would be good to have more ladies and younger players participating, please contact Winston to do so.

A discussion took place around encouraging more participation in the leagues & championships:

- Net Points Tournament, teams of 4

- Richard Skinner - Have the Open as free to enter

- Philip Pereira - offer new league joiners their first league free

- Dan Coffin – a barrier to Championship entry may be match clashes

## 5. Events

### Juniors: Paul Steward

Juniors have now shifted from being fully volunteer run to having a paid head coach and junior helpers. Cost per session now at £5 for weekly 1.5 hour coaching and playing, which is still exceptionally good value compared to other Surrey clubs.

The Autumn Term 2022 lists 11 beginners & improvers, and 16 advanced juniors.

Many congratulations to **Maja Leese** (age 13) on winning the Ebbisham 2022 Ladies Championship and gaining an England Girls Under 15 national ranking of 10!

### Racketball Open Tournament, March 2022: Jo Robinson

**Jo Robinson** ran a superb event along with volunteers **Sam Beak** and **James Neill**! We had 30 singles entries and 7 doubles pairs from Cheam, Ashted, RAC, Woking, Woodford Wells, Lee-on-Solent and Ebbisham! A friendly but competitive tournament for all levels!.

## Neil Desai Junior Squash Open Tournament

23rd June 2022, Rajeeva Indiketiya

Lots of round-robin games culminating in competitive finals. Special thanks to the Ebbisham volunteer markers and office/bar staff who helped make the event run so smoothly!

Another successful and enjoyable tournament for everyone.

**Paul Steward** will be organising 2023

## Court Lighting

**Paul Carrell**, along with **Adam Brewer** and **Dominic Walsh**, co-ordinated the supply and installation of the new on-court lighting system with LED bulbs and PIR detectors. These have significantly improved brightness to 900 lux per court, and will be cheaper to run.

## 6. Chairman's Reports

### Damian Smith

As most of you all know I stood down in January 2022 as chairman of the Squash and Racketball Section due to differences I had with the management committee that were not reconcilable at the time, but I am informed that any issues present at that time have since been addressed.

I served more than 2 years as chairman and have served as a committee member since 2009. It has been an honour to be part of a great team that volunteers their free time to support our squash and racketball members. I hope the club and its members have benefited from my efforts and I will continue to serve the club and its members but leave way for others who would like to volunteer and join the committee. I have agreed with the committee to continue to manage the leagues, but I am standing down as the Tournament Director for Squash, so for 2023, a new Tournament Director is needed. To allow ample time to prepare, this position needs to be filled ASAP and no later than mid-November 2022 to ensure a smooth handover and ample time for planning.

I would like to thank the staff we have at Ebbisham that make it all look so easy when in reality it is far from it. I want to particularly mention **Emma** who has made a real difference to the club and especially the Squash and Racketball Section.

I also have to thank **Lorna** for ensuring we survived as a club during the pandemic through 2020 and 2021. Lorna is the glue that holds our club together.

**Rajeeva Indiketiya** is passionate about squash and even more passionate about Ebbisham so please provide him all the support and assistance, as I will continue to do, but now as just a member. I wish him as chairman and the other committee members the greatest success in taking forward the Squash and Racketball section.

**Damian Smith, Chairman of Ebbisham Squash and Racketball (April 2019-January 2022)**

## Rajeeva Indiketiya

[full report to be inserted here]

Firstly, my thanks go to Damian for holding the club together especially during Covid, and for all he's done on the committee for the past 13 years!

Looking forward, our recent move to MyCourts should improve booking and management, and our Junior Section is in a very strong place.

But we do need more volunteers to get involved in events. All members are welcome so get involved and indeed join the Committee!

### 7. Questions

Ken gave a background to the old and MyCourt replacement IT systems.

### 8. Election of Committee

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

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

Damian will be leaving the Committee in Dec 2022

Please contact Rejeeva if you would like to join us.

### 9. Any Other Business:

**Dan Coffin**, clocks on court are not synchronised – to be referred to the Management Committee

**Gillian Mead**, advised the meeting that 15<sup>th</sup> Oct will be World Squash Day

**Damian Smith**, can a squash ball serving machine be considered

**Winston**, asked if squashballs and racketballs for competitions are provided by the club. Yes they are, and should be returned for use in club nights.

**Robert Wellard**, competition score cards should be provided. Yes, they are behind the bar.

**Rob**, how to help juniors integrate/play as young adults?

**Paul Steward** replied that best juniors are encouraged to join league and club nights.

**Richard Skinner**, suggested a University Club Night and Young Adult Sessions.

The meeting was closed at 9.30pm.

## Appendices

- Team Reports
- Championships and Leagues Report
- Events Report
- Chairman's Report