

Minutes of AGM held 30th August 2012 at Fairways Lodge Prestwich.

Those in attendance: Bernie Gill, Cindy Gill, Peter Withington, Steve Withington, Steve Kaye, John Gibson, Frank Cygler, Glen Ragou, Susan Meadows, Jim Brown, Mark McKee

Apologies from: Barry King, Graham Horrex, Thomas Fairhurst, Julian Wilson, Ian Bradburn, Neil Rodda, Bob Houldsworth, Mike Farrington

The only matter arising from the previous minutes, was a report from the Chairman on the ESR AGM at which the changes to the Constitution were adopted. This change requires no current change to LSRA Constitution. The previous minutes were accepted as correct.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Susan Snarr on her retirement from her long service to the Juniors as Junior Treasurer.

The Chairman then reported on an average season in terms of individual and team performances. Particular mention was made of Laura Massaro maintaining her ranking in the Ladies game. Mention was made of the “new” website www.lancashiresquashandracketball.co.uk which was having teething problems since being taken over by SquashNet. An offer had been received from Paul Kelly of CXPro to run the website in order to promote his shop. The Chairman was please to report that outstanding commission had now been received from Paul but having spent money on the new website he was reluctant to recommend returning to the old one. Frank Cygler expressed strong reservations despite Steve Kaye commenting that he had seen an impressive presentation by Paul to Manchester Squash Development Group.

The County Closed was held at Fairways Lodge again without a sponsor. The Men’s event was a thoroughly entertaining match between rising junior star Bradley Smith & local hero Beano Withington. Beano having too much unorthodox flair for the Nationally ranked Bradley. In the Ladies final Amina Helal was too strong for Junior No.1 Lauren Tamila. Nigel Willis continued his dominance of the Over 35 men by beating Glen Ragou once again. In the Over 45’s local boys Roy Plant & Gary Caldiera fought hard with Roy coming out the eventual winner. There were insufficient entries to hold an over 50’s event, but in the over 55’s Phil Shacklady beat his Markland Hill team mate Bob Houldsworth. In the Over 60’s. Moussa Helal beat Dave Scurlock & then went on to beat Jack Gilchrist in the Men’s racketball. Peter Withington lost to Tom Clarke in the over 65’s. Judy Ragou beat Elaine Gilchrist in the Ladies racketball.

On behalf of the Treasurer, Graham Horrex, the Chairman reported that although income had increased so had expenditure mainly due to the costs of Inter County matches. NWCSL rebate was up following receipt of the final payment from the previous season. The accounts were formally accepted by the meeting.

Peter Withington (acting junior Chairman) accepted that the Juniors had suffered without the guidance of Sue Easton & the lack of volunteers. Despite the efforts of the Committee, the Girls struggled to fulfil their fixtures & will be relegated. The Boys

also struggled with the exception of the Under 13's & Under 15's. Thanks to those parents who ferried teams around the country & supported them. No teams were entered in the Northern Cup due to late notice of the event. Squad training only took place at Fairways Lodge & at St Annes but all enjoyed the experience & requested more. Unfortunately the Committee at St Annes appear to be anti Junior squash & have banned Julian Wilson from holding any more squads at the club. LSRA deplore this action & urge all clubs to support the juniors & realise that they are the future of the game & necessary for the survival of the clubs.

Frank Cygler suggested that a meeting should be urgently arranged with the junior parents to address the issues of most concern. The Chairman pointed out that anyone wishing to become a member of the Committee had to be a member of ESR. The point was also made regarding CRB checks for volunteers which Frank believed may have relaxed. The Chairman agreed to look into this.

Susan Meadows reported that the Ladies over 40's gained promotion to the Premier Division, but the over 50's struggled again due to injuries to key players.

Glen Ragou reported continuing difficulties with player availability but the arrival of Steve Withington would in some way compensate for the retirement of Nigel Willis.

Steve Kaye reported that after winning the first round it came as a shock playing at the next level. The Chairman reported that he had entered a team in the inaugural Over 40's Racketball which only required 3 players. Jim Brown & Beano both agreed to play in the Open Age event.

In the absence of any other volunteers Peter Withington was elected Junior Chairman & announced that he had contacted Peter Billson with a view to him being offered the post of County Coach. The meeting unanimously confirmed his appointment.

Lansca had not met during the last year due to the illness of the Chairman Mike Farrington & as such was currently dormant.

The Junior Closed will take place at Fairways Lodge on the 29th/30th September & The Senior Closed would take place one week later at the same venue.

The Andy Gill Memorial event is taking place at Rochdale LCS from Saturday next & referees are desperately needed for the first matches. Any one available should contact Bernie Gill.

The meeting closed at 2130, the Chairman thanked all for attending.

