

## Minutes of AGM held 24th July 2013 at Fairways Lodge Prestwich.

Those in attendance: Bernie Gill, Cindy Gill, Peter Withington, Steve Kaye, John Gibson, Mike Farrington & Dave Scurlock

Apologies from: Barry King, Graham Horrex, Julian Wilson, Ian Bradburn, Neil Rodda, Bob Houldsworth, Daniel Turner, Stuart Wardle & Henricus Hirusha

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes which were accepted as correct.

The Chairman then reported on an above average season in terms of individual and team performances. Particular mention was made of Laura Massaro winning the Allam British Open & her outstanding performances on the International circuit. Congratulations were also recorded to Mandy Warren on winning the Womens over 45 event in the Allam British Open. Mention was made of the successes of Sarah Taylor retaining her Womens over 35 Racketball title & also Dave Scurlock winning the Mens over 65 Racketball at his first attempt.

The best result in the Inter County Championships was by the Men's over 45 team winning their age group.

Both the Junior & Senior County Closed were held at Fairways Lodge, the Junior event sponsored by Climax Pro. The Men's event was a closely contested affair, Daniel Turner eventually coming out on top in an exciting final against Tom Dwyer. Amina Helal retained the Womens title being too strong Jenny Wright. Steve (Beano) Withington moved up to the over 35's & entertained the crowd with his unorthodox play. In the Over 45's Steve Hollinrake proved too fit for a strong entry beating Bury's Gary Wood in the final There were again insufficient entries to hold an over 50's event, but in the over 55's team captain Neil Rodda triumphed. Bob Houldsworth failed to repeat the captain's dominance in the Over 60's, Moussa Helal retaining the title & then again went on to beat Steve Kaye in the Men's Racketball. Tom Clarke won the over 65's beating County President Barry King. Elaine Gilchrist gained her revenge & justified her No.8 National ranking in the Ladies racketball by beating Judy Ragou. The Womens over 35 was won by Sarah Taylor who beat Kaye Fallows.

The Chairman then went on to report that he succeeded in persuading the NWCSL to part with some of its reserves to support junior development. ESR have also announced a Grassroots Development Fund which requires counties to match the funding of successful bids. The Chairman & John Gibson are working on the bid. The final piece of good news is that the Chairman is on the brink of signing a 12 month deal with Dunlop Slazenger International to sponsor the NWCSL.

The Chairman also reported that ESR had changed the dates for **Junior ICC qualification to 24.1.14** & had decided that players could only compete in one age group.

The other significant change was that all age groups would play on the same weekend.

On behalf of the Treasurer, Graham Horrex, the Chairman presented the accounts to the meeting. Income had risen slightly but rebates from ESR have reduced. Expenditure was slightly reduced, but costs of Inter County matches had substantially increased, a considerable factor being fines due to teams being withdrawn at the last minute. A brief debate followed on how to address this problem without any real solutions being decided. The accounts were formally accepted by the meeting.

Peter Withington, Junior Chairman, briefly outlined the problems encountered during the season caused by a splinter group of parents refusing to allow their children to play for the county teams. Despite the efforts of the Committee, no Girls teams were entered this season & none will be entered next as there are only 9 players from under 13 to under 19! The Boys also struggled with the exception of the Under 11's who came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Under 11 Festival. 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 but was extremely successful & more is planned. Following a discussion about team selection, it was decided that each team would be picked by a coach in consultation with a team manager. Mike Farrington volunteered to be responsible for the under 19's & Peter Withington volunteered to run the under 13's with Beano. Rosh Henricus & Julian Tomlinson would be approached to help with the U.15 & U.17.

Steve Kaye reported that the Over 40's Racketball which only required 3 players proved to be a much higher standard than expected. The Chairman reported that the Open age event played on the same weekend resulted in a scratch team of only 4 players turning out on a cold court in Shrewsbury & suffering a heavy defeat.

No members of the Committee had resigned or retired so all were confirmed again.

LANSCA had not formally met during the last year but a number of informal meetings had taken place with discussions with Cheshire & Merseyside coaches on taking forward the junior development funded by NWCSL. Membership is open to all coaches in Lancashire. A fee of £10 is due on 1<sup>st</sup> July annually.

John Gibson reported that he & Dave Scurlock had successfully introduced Racketball to a number of girl's schools in the Leyland area following successful funding bids. A similar scheme will be set up at Haslingden Squash Club . A suggestion was discussed to set up a county Racketball League comprising mixed teams. Agreement was reached to play a number of friendly matches at Fairways Lodge on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

The Junior Closed will take place at Fairways Lodge on the 28/ 29<sup>th</sup> September & the Senior Closed would take place one week later, 4-6<sup>th</sup> October, at the same venue.

The 30<sup>th</sup> Andy Gill Memorial event is taking place at Rochdale LCS from Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August & referees are desperately needed for the first matches. Any one available should contact Bernie Gill. The finals will take place the following Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September & will include an exhibition match featuring Nick Matthew.

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

