

Minutes of AGM held 3rd August 2016 at Markland Hill Bolton.

Those in attendance: Bernie Gill, Cindy Gill, Rob Allen, Chris Dawson, Peter Withington, John Gibson, Mike Farrington, Bob Houldsworth, Barry King, Chris Fell, Paul Lane, David Whittles, Stephen Withington, Dave Scurlock, Paul Brady, Allen Barwise, Neil Rodda, Thomas Fairhurst, Stephen Cooper, Andrew Coop, Steve Kaye, Andy Parton.

Apologies from: Graham Horrex, Julian Wilson, Shelly Walsh, Tori Peter, Steve Jones, Ian Bradburn, Ron Darlington, Darren Vescovi, Andy Jagger, Alan Percival, Chris Morrison, Liz Edge, Jamie Maddox, John Valentine, Barry Stringer, Andy Light, Gary Wood, Frank Cygler, Brian Grimshaw, Nigel Young, Amanda Maddox, Helen Rawcliffe, Matt Walsh, Steve Johnson, Mike Hutson, Nigel Willis, Andrew Heller, Alan Edge, Andy Taylor, Stuart Wardle, Stephen Spedding, Gary Caldeira, Ann Stallard, Eddie Hamilton, Amir Manouchehri, Derek Mills, Dave Young, Gino Pani, Mark McKee, Simon Holland, Steve Hollinrake, Sam Dawson, Jon Dawson, Orelle Gibson, Stephen Cummings, Mike Alexander, Mark Kerridge, Darren Ogden, Helen Montgomery, Simon Rushton, John Groves, Jonathan Wrigley, Chris Hoyle, Richard Stansfield, Karl Brown, Ross Brown, Nick Karpyn & Jamie Karpyn.

The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending & invited all to join in a minutes reflection on the loss of Glen Ragou & Tony Parker.

The minutes of the previous AGM which had been circulated after the last AGM, amended & displayed on the County website for the last 12 months were approved by the meeting. There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

The Chairman then reported on the season's successes & failures. Drawing the meeting's attention to the Senior Closed held at Rochdale LCS in October for the squash & January for the Glen Ragou Memorial Racketball Closed. The results are all on the LSRA website. He also reported on the changes at England Squash including the election of a new Board following the intervention of Sport England. The positive outcome was the election of a Lancashire member to the Board in Andy Light. He also mentioned the new England Squash website which had only recently been launched. Previously only 15% of the membership had activated their accounts, the new system seeks to address this issue by requesting players to email the \membership section, which will then trigger an invite to submit their full contact details. Obviously ES cannot communicate directly unless they have personal information & it is a fact that clubs do not provide sufficient details even to their members.

The Chairman then presented the accounts to the meeting in the absence of the Treasurer Graham Horrex who is retiring. It was proposed that the meeting elected him as a Vice President in recognition of his dedication as a referee & treasurer to the County. Questions were asked on the apparent reduction of expenditure on Juniors from the previous accounts. The Chairman pointed out that £833 had been paid directly into the Junior account & £500 had been deducted from the North West Regional Forum grant to the Seniors to pay for a Regional Junior event. This actually represented an increase to the Juniors. Peter Withington then queried an item on

LANSCA accounts, which was not appropriate to the meeting. The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Mike Farrington & seconded by Andy Parton.

Despite requesting copies of the Junior accounts only a verbal report was given by PW. who stated that the finances were healthy having raised £500 at an event & £914 giving a balance of over £1800. He also stated that the juniors had participated in the Northern Cup & other Regional events with some success. The Chairman thanked him for his efforts & congratulated the Juniors on their results.

The Chairman then reported that the Men's Over 35's & the Women's 1st had both failed to fulfil their fixtures. The women due to injuries & lack of younger players, the Over 35's due to the failure of the team captain to find sufficient players resulting in a last minute withdrawal. A discussion ensued during which it was stated that the responsibility rested with the team captains not the Chairman. The Over 45's Men came top of their group, winning all matches, but an appeal had been lodged against the final table. The Men's Over 50's travelled all the way to Bucks with a team scabbled together by Barry Stringer of Tame Valley at very short notice & were well beaten due to injuries sustained by the Number 1 & 2 players. Thanks must be recorded to Barry & his Tame Valley colleagues. Allen Barwise reported on behalf of the Over 55's that they had unexpectedly won the competition. Bob Houldsworth reported that the Over 60's had gained promotion to the Premier Division. Barry King reported that the Over 65's 1st team lead by Alan Edge had retained the Premier Division status & the 2nd team came 2nd to Yorkshire 2 in their section. The Women's Over 40's lost their title & the Over 50's also lost due to injuries to key players. Dave Scurlock asked why £2700 had been spent on Senior Inter Counties. The Chairman replied that between 10 teams playing over 2 weekends that on average it was a small sum. Raising enough players prepared to give up their weekends was difficult without expecting them to pay for the privilege. The President commented that team captains had a difficult job in organising enough players to play without worrying about finances.

Before announcing the result of the ballot for the new Chairman, the President Barry King paid tribute to the work performed by Bernie & Cindy Gill in their roles as Chairman & Secretary. He proposed that Bernie Gill be made a Life Vice President of the Association. The votes for Chairman were as follows: Rob Allen, 59; Dave Scurlock, 23. As Paul Lane was unopposed as Treasurer he was also duly elected. Liz Edge withdrew before the election so Cindy Gill offered to carry on until a new Secretary came forward. Rob Allen proposed & Andy Parton seconded the election of Cindy Gill to the post of Secretary and it was carried on a show of hands..

The retiring Chairman reported that the AGM of LANSCA would be held later this summer. Rob Allen asked what was the purpose of LANSCA & Mike Farrington the Chairman, replied that it was set up many years ago by Eric Burey to bring together the coaches in the county. It successfully delivered the Grassroots Development programme for England Squash & currently held the matched funding for the NW Regional Forum. Cindy explained that ES had split the country in to eight regions consisting of four or five counties. ES were expecting the Regional Forums to take on more work, which had previously been undertaken by ES, due to downsizing from sixty eight staff to thirty and had ongoing problems with the website information due to an ex staff member wiping a database.

Senior teams have been entered into the Inter County Competition from Open age to Over 65 Men & Over 40 & Over 50 Women, a total of 10 teams.

As previously announced by the Junior Chairman the Junior County Closed would be held at the National Squash Centre on 24/25th September. The Senior County Closed would be held the following weekend at Rochdale. The Racketball CC would be held in early January 2017.

The 33rd Andy Gill Memorial Competition will take place at Rochdale from 27th August until Sunday 4th September.

Allen Barwise requested the Association to take up with England Squash the matter of scoring in the Masters events. Bernie Gill replied that it had been raised at Council meetings on numerous occasions but the England Squash Masters committee were against PAR scoring. He promised to raise the matter again.

Bob Houldsworth raised the subject of the value of England Squash membership as it affected clubs. A discussion took place at which it was suggested that the County should consider breaking away from ES. It was pointed out that juniors would not be able to obtain National rankings & teams would not be eligible to enter competitions. Steve Kaye advised that Cheetham Hill had received a sizable grant towards refurbishment from ES, so there were benefits if clubs applied for them.

The retiring Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions & wished all a safe journey home, closing the meeting at 2200.

