



**Highlands and Islands Squash Association
Annual General Meeting Minutes
Saturday 5th September 2015**

Held at ITSC, Inverness 5.10pm

Present:

Dave Clem (Nairn + Inverness)	John Raine (Elgin)	Rory Fredriksson (Inverness)
David Taylor (Forres)	Ewan Hearn (Inverness)	Helen Clem (Nairn)
Scott Fraser (Inverness)	Mike Gregson (Inverness)	Malcolm McKay (Inverness)
Garry McKay (Inverness)	Dave Humpage (Inverness)	John Ramsbottom (Elgin)
Allan McKay (Inverness)	Alan Paton (Nairn)	Paul MacDonald (Nairn)
David Massey (Inverness)	Doug Walmsley (Inverness)	

ITEM

ACTION

(1) Apologies

Andy Farquhar, Sandra Farquhar, Alison Henderson and Stevie McClue.

(2) Minutes of Last Year's AGM on 06/09/14

The notes were accepted as a true account of the meeting; proposed by David Taylor and seconded by Garry McKay.

(3) Matters Arising

None.

(4) Chairman's Report

Dave Clem thanked everyone for attending and thanked Ailsa and Malcolm for putting on such a wonderful day of squash especially with regards to the numbers of ladies and juniors taking part.

Dave read out the following report:

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2014 TO 2015

Can I start by thanking everyone for attending this AGM of HISA for 2014 – 2015 and thank ITSC for the use of the club for the Festival of Squash and the meeting. We must not forget Dave Humpage for the catering!

I would like to thank the Committee of David Massey, Garry and Allan McKay, John Georgeson, Dave Taylor and Alan Paton. As you will all be aware our long time Treasurer, Chris Sedgwick, died suddenly in April after a short battle against cancer. He was a very close personal friend to me but more than that he was a great loss to the Association. He was a prominent and founder member of firstly the Moray Firth Squash Rackets Association and then HISA for over 40 years. He was a great competitor for his club, Inverness, in the early years of the Leagues and was still playing until a couple of months before his death. There is one consolation in that he has been awarded the Scottish Squash President's Award for lifetime service to squash. This is a well-deserved accolade for all the work he put in as Treasurer and Committee member.

Competitive Year

Alan Clyne, Greg Lobban and Jamie Henderson are competing well in the PSA, Alan is 28th, Greg 44th and Jamie 230th in the world rankings.

The HISA Closed was held at Buckpool Golf Club which hosted a very competitive and lively tournament. The town hosted the competitors to a riotous Saturday night, the alcohol from which fuelled Kyle Bruce to fight his way to the final against Garry McKay. Unfortunately the tank ran dry by the Sunday afternoon and Garry won 3-0. Thanks must go to Buckpool, Ian Fraser, Sandra and Andy Farquhar and the rest of the team for hosting and running an excellent weekend.

The HISA leagues were closely fought with the Premier Division being won by MacSigns, the First Division by Forres B and the Second Division by Nairn B.

Last year Garry said that Inverness were 'competitive' in the National League, when asked he said the same for this year. Inverness will have lost some of their better players for the coming season as people progress and move on to University, but that's not just an Inverness problem, it can be applied all over the region.

The Region's juniors continue to slowly grow and improve. Ross Henderson, Ally Prutt and Katie Gregson McLeod were selected to represent Scotland in their respective age groups. Ally Prutt is perhaps the most prodigious performer and traveller with visits to Prague, Switzerland, Italy etc and is presently ranked 5th in Europe in the Under 15's group. The number of junior players entering National Tournaments is beginning to creep back up, special mention must be made of the Thurso gang who seem to spend their whole Autumn, Winter and Spring on the A9, they get the 'Long Service and Good Conduct Medal' for the extra four hours of travel. It should also be remembered that credit has not only to go to the players but to the parents who provide the transport and time plus the money to make it all possible.

The Junior Inter Regional Team Tournaments were held at Colinton Castle. We fielded a full set of teams accompanied by a full set of Coaches and parents. It was a very sociable and enjoyable weekend, the stress level was maintained by Fraser Steven who continued to ensure that every one of his matches were five setters. The undoubted stars of the weekend were the Under 11 team, in the words of Scottish Squash:

"The only convincing win of the weekend came from Highlands and Islands in the Under 11 event. Their team of Ben Barron, Struan Donald, William Jack, Ross Donachie and Erin Jones walked away with the title without losing a match"

I have to add to that not only did they not lose one match but only lost one game in the whole of the tournament. A really impressive performance. In private conversation Stuart Crawford said that they were by far the best group of Under 11 players he has ever seen. In the other fixtures the results were:

4th in U19

4th in U17

3rd in U15, and

4th in U13

Again we have to thank the coaches in the region for their continuing work, Malcolm, Jim and John Georgeson, Alan and Garry McKay, Donald Durrand, John Kynoch, Alison Henderson, Ailsa and Helen, without them we wouldn't do as well as we do, but, we need more coaches and in more clubs. The other big elephant in the room is the lack of girls in the sport. We would achieve far better results at the Inter Regionals if we had more girls in the teams. In my own club I've tried everything and have now settled down to the tactic of theft, pinching them from tennis! It seems to be working but the secret seems to making it fun and not a serious, strenuous undertaking.

I can't not mention the Masters. John Kynoch and Lazarus (Dave Taylor) were selected to represent their country, as I grow old Dave seems to grow young!

Forres Golf Club was the venue for the Annual Prize giving, it was an enjoyable and social event but I made two blunders on the night. The first was an ethnic minority reference in a joke, a slip of the tongue by an ancient person for which I apologise. The other was the medals given out to the teams. The medals which I ordered arrived the day before the Prize Giving and I admit that I did not check them, unfortunately, when we awarded them, they had a Badminton Logo. This was entirely my fault for which I also apologise, it won't happen again.

Special thanks have to go to the Golf Club and its staff for a friendly atmosphere and a large and sumptuous meal! On top of that we have to thank Isobel and Dave Taylor for making the arrangements and organising the event.

Coaching Year

HISA gave a grant of £1,000 to the *BePersonnel* Challenger in Inverness, to some this may seem to be extravagant but that donation helped to release a £10,000 grant from the Lottery Fund which was used during the year to fund junior, beginner coaching in conjunction with the Active Schools organisation in Highland and Moray Regions This was very successful and fully in line with our Objectives as a Charity to foster the playing of the sport of squash in the Highlands. Special thanks have to go to the coaches who put in so much effort, John Georgeson, JR, Dave Taylor, Alex Currie, Tony Loftus but, above all, to Malcolm and Ailsa who masterminded and organised the whole event.

The saga of a Regional Coach has finally been settled. With the departure of Roger Flynn as national Coach, Stuart Crawford has taken the bull by the horns and sorted out the mess. I am delighted to say that John Georgeson has been appointed Regional Coach for the Highlands. I, personally, cannot think of a more capable, qualified or apt candidate for the position and I would ask everyone to support him to the best of their ability. Stuart and John held selections in Inverness for the squads on the 16th August, the result being that we now have the following:

Performance Squad – Ally Prott, Ross Henderson, Katie Gregson MacLeod, Ross Mowat, Fraser Steven, Kyle Reid and Harry Barron.

Development Squad 1 – Euan Booker Millburn, Harry Jack, Lewis MacLennan, Mark Kynoch, Lewis Barnard and Katie Scott

Development Squad 2 – Ben Barron, Struan Donald, Angus Baker, Calum Scott, Ben Booker Millburn, Ross Donnachie, Will Jack, Erin Jones and Natalie Kynoch.

Training will be held in Inverness on Friday nights. This is the start of a much better relationship with the National Coaching system and I have to thank Stuart Crawford for his efforts. Some people have been critical of the time it has taken but we have to take into account that Stuart has been working under difficult conditions until the departure of the National Coach, once that happened action was taken in a timely and organised fashion.

The Fiscal Year

1. SSRL

As you all know, we had a meeting at Inverness last year with the then SSRL CEO. The result of that meeting was representation that I made, on your behalf and with your backing, to the Board, to raise concerns that HISA member clubs had over the management of SSRL. As you all know this resulted in a large upheaval within the National Body, We were not the cause but were more than likely a catalyst. The result has been a change of senior management and a sea-change in our relationship with SSRL. The credit for this must lie with Jim Hay, SSRL President, and David Massey our representative on the SSRL Board. It has been a difficult time which David has handled with energy, determination and consummate skill and kept us informed of developments, we have to be indebted to him. All I would like to say is that it is now over and we have a strong, amicable and friendly working relationship with the National Body.

2. Affiliation

I realise that there are a number of clubs and individuals who believe that the Affiliation system is not fair nor fit for purpose. Nothing has changed in the last year but there may be changes in the air at the next SSRL AGM this month. SSRL are aware of the disquiet, not only in the Highlands, but in other regions as well. We need a National Body to support the sport, and to support the National Body we need some form of Affiliation. In some ways, in our relationship with SSRL, we should take the example of Pericles's address to the Athenians where he said "Ask not what your country can do for you but, instead, ask what you can do for your country".

3. SportScotland

One of the benefits resulting from the SSRL meeting was the birth of a much closer and open relationship with SportScotland through the medium of their local representative, Alan Clark. Alan has been very supportive of both HISA and Squash and is keen to provide advice and assistance where he can to enable us and member clubs to gain access to funding. The Committee will pursue and continue the relationship.

(5) Finance Report

Dave Clem described the slight change to the format of the accounts and reminded the meeting that HISA Committee members have responsibilities that come through being trustees of the organisation.

The association made a net loss of £851 at year end, principally because of a payment of £1,000 towards sponsoring the *Be Personnel Loch Ness Challenger* - PSA event last year. This donation secured a ten-fold coaching stream which the association has been drawing down extensively throughout the year. The closing bank balance as at 30th June 2015 was £4,859.

The financial accounts were proposed and seconded by David Massey and Mike Gregson respectively.

(6) League Setup For 2015/16 and Tournament Calendar

League Setup

Allan McKay and David Massey described the new *SportyHQ* website that HISA is planning to use this year. All results can be entered on this system; league results, national competitions, HISA championships, local box matches and friendlies. The system automatically calculates a ranking position for all registered players and this will greatly assist tournament organisers ensuring that draws/schedules are competitive.

SportyHQ replaces the old *Matrix* system and David Massey is proposing to SSRL that this system could be adopted across all regions in Scotland. This has the potential to allow player registration (and insurance) and the collection of affiliation subs to be generated much more efficiently.

It was suggested that once we're up and running for a few months HISA might want to consider whether playing order in league fixtures should be associated with the players' rankings.

Action: HISA Committee to consider whether playing order in HISA league matches should be associated with players' rankings.

Tournament Calendar

The meeting discussed that the only regular tournament being run is the HISA Closed Championships; this year we're planning for Thurso/Wick to host this in mid-November.

Dave Taylor proposed that each Club take it in turn to run an all day tournament/session. Matches would be organised to ensure they are competitive and could be run as team tournaments or as graded events. This idea was well received

Action: All Clubs re: run a one-day tournament e.g. team or graded event.

and Dave offered to host the first event on Saturday 26th September.

John Georgeson also mentioned that Gordonstoun is keen to run such an event and a date will be forthcoming in the coming weeks.

**Action: John
Georgeson re:
Gordonstoun
tournament/
competition.**

(7) Election of Committee

Dave Clem summarised that all of the current Committee are willing to stand for re-election with the exception of David Massey (League Secretary). He thanked David for his extensive work managing and running the leagues over a number of years. Although David is standing down from this role he is willing to continue his important role as HISA representative on the Board of SSRL.

Dave Clem then ran through each of the HISA Committee positions and asked if there was anyone else willing to stand. All positions were elected without opposition and proposed and seconded as indicated:

The New Committee is as follows:

President: Dave Clem; Proposed by Alan Paton and seconded by Dave Taylor.

Honorary President: Dave Taylor; Proposed by Dave Clem and seconded by Alan Paton.

Secretary: Alan Paton; Proposed by Dave Taylor and seconded by Dave Humpage.

Treasurer: Dave Clem; Proposed by Alan Paton and seconded by David Massey.

Tournament Secretary: AllanMcKay; Proposed by Dave Clem and seconded by Dave Taylor.

League Secretary: Allan McKay; Proposed by Dave Taylor and seconded by Dave Humpage.

Junior Convener (North): Alison Henderson; Proposed by David Massey and seconded by Allan McKay.

Junior Convener (South): John Georgeson; Proposed by Dave Clem and seconded by Dave Taylor.

Scottish Squash Representative: Dave Massey; Proposed by Dave Clem and seconded by Alan Paton.

Co-opted: Paul MacDonald; Proposed by Dave Taylor and seconded by Euan Hearn.

(8) AOB

SSRL AGM

David Massey mentioned the forthcoming SSRL AGM on Sun 27th Sept.

Subscriptions

It was agreed to keep the HISA subscriptions unchanged.

For Clubs with league team(s): £70 for 1st Team + £15/additional team

For Clubs without league teams: £40.

Sports Match Funding

Dave Clem mentioned that the Association needs to be quicker off the mark this year to apply for SportsMatch funding through SportsScotland. However, they require each Club to write to SportsScotland indicating how the money will help attract more participation and to indicate how many more members they would expect to get. Dave Clem agreed that the new Committee would take forward an action to prepare a standard letter template for each Club.

Action: HISA Committee re: Sports Match Funding - Letter Template

Website

Allan McKay gave a demo of the new Highland Squash website:

<http://www.highlandsquash.org>

Level 1 Coaching Course

There is the potential for SSRL to run another Level 1 coaching course. The minimum number for the event is about 6. It is understood that 2 people have already expressed an interest.

Action: All Clubs re: anyone interested in Level 1 Coaching Course should contact the HISA Committee.

Close of Meeting

There being no other business Dave Clem thanked Inverness for hosting the Social Squash event in the afternoon, Dave Humpage for the curries and for all those who had attended the meeting. The meeting was closed at 18:10.