



Highlands and Islands Squash Association Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 9th November 2015

Held at Covenanters, Aulderm – 7.00 pm

Present:

David Clem (Nairn/Inverness)
Alan Paton (Nairn)

Garry McKay (Inverness/Nairn)
David Massey (Inverness)

John Georgeson (Gordonstoun)

ITEM

ACTION

(1) Apologies

David Taylor and Paul MacDonald.

(2) Draft Notes of Committee Meeting on 03/08/15

The notes were accepted as a true account of the meeting.

(3) Matters Arising

SportsScotland - Direct Club Investment

Dave Clem mentioned that he had spoken to Alan Clark (Sports Scotland) and has been told that every Club mentioned in our application needs to write to SportsScotland indicating (i) that they are in support of the application and (ii) an estimate of the number of additional members that they would hope to gain by undertaking the coaching initiative.

The sponsorship from PDG Helicopters (£950) together with Nessgro (£500) gives us a fund of £1,450 which has the potential to be doubled to £2,900 if our application is successful.

Dave Clem agreed to write a draft letter for the Clubs for their consideration/adaptation and to encourage them to write to SportsScotland.

Junior Coaching Invoices

Dave Taylor submitted an invoice but it was too late to be claimed.

Action: Dave Clem re: SportsScotland letter for Clubs.

Also - see action under Item (4) Level 1 Coaching Course re: redrafting SportsMatch application.

Schools Competition

The SSRL School Tournament for 2014/15 has been a complete failure. John agreed to contact SSRL to see if the Gordonstoun could host it over a weekend next year.

Action: John Georgeson re: Schools Competition.

Moray Sports Centre Fundraising

Dave Clem mentioned that he had contacted the organisers of the Moray Sports Centre about potential fundraising to support the consideration of Squash in the venture. The response was unenthusiastic and their view is that the amount of money that is likely to be generated is very little compared to the cost of the project. The Committee agreed not to take this matter any further.

League Cup Competition

The Committee discussed Allan McKay's idea for a league Cup competition and agreed the need for some clarity on how such a competition might be organised. One idea is to attract say 8 teams and run the competition in a *Monrad* format whereby each team plays three matches over the course of Jan to Apr; with final places defined from 1 to 8. It was suggested that nominal dates could be set for these matches but the team captains would have flexibility (say two weeks either side of these dates) to rearrange. The Committee particularly welcomed the positive response from the non-league playing Clubs such as Thurso, Wick, Oban, Western Isles and Orkney.

Garry agreed to put together a poster advertising the competition and asking for notes of interest to be returned this side of Christmas.

Action: Garry McKay re: HISA League Cup poster on HISA website.

HISA Open in Thurso

Garry mentioned that arrangements are progressing very well for this weekend's HISA Open in Thurso; 48 entrants (6 leagues of 8 players). Garry will send out a notification to all entrants pointing them to the website where they can view the draw.

Action: Dave Clem

Festival of Squash

The Committee reflected on how well the regular Festival of Squash events have gone down (whereby each month one of our member Clubs open their doors for a day and run round-robin matches for any players that turn up on the day). So far, Inverness, Forres and Nairn have all hosted.

John Georgeson mentioned that Gordonstoun will be hosting the next *Festival of Squash* on Sunday 29th November 10am to 4pm.

Action: All squash players to note next Festival of Squash date: G/S on Sun 29th Nov 10am to 4pm. Contact John Georgeson prior if possible.

HISA Website

David Massey agreed to produce a place on the HISA website for publication of Committee announcements, posters, minutes etc. It was agreed that our contacts should be directed via our website so that everyone gets used to knowing where to go for information.

Action: David Massey re: HISA website location for Minutes etc.

(4) Level 1 Coaching Course

Dave Clem mentioned that he had spoken to Norman at SSRL about running another Level One Coaching Course in the New Year. John mentioned that one or two staff and senior pupils at Gordonstoun may be interested.

Garry suggested that HISA might think to subsidise the cost of the Course for any Clubs who want to engage with the initiative. This was agreed and Dave Clem offered to redraft our Sports Match funding application. An offer could then go out to all our Clubs to get involved and undertake the course. Having qualified coaches in our Clubs has to be the way forward to promote the Sport.

Action: All Clubs to note that a Level 1 Coaching Course is likely early in the New Year. Contact Alan or Dave Clem.

(5) HISA Committee: Co-Opt

The Committee considered that the notes of the HISA AGM were a fair reflection of proceedings and did not propose any changes prior to being presented at next year's AGM.

The Committee reflected that Garry McKay had not been nominated on the Committee at the AGM and Dave Clem asked Garry if he was happy to be co-opted. He agreed and Dave Clem's proposal was seconded by Alan Paton.

(6) OSCR Return

Dave Clem mentioned that he had finalised our annual return to OSCR and that this has been accepted. The Committee thanked Dave for his efforts.

(7) Highland Junior Open

The Committee discussed the forthcoming Highland Junior open and Dave Clem agreed to offer an invite to Lisa McKenna (new CEO of SSRL).

ITSC has asked HISA to organise and run the event and have suggested a payment of £108 to cover the cost of the courts. The Committee agreed that this was bit lower than we would expect and Dave Clem offered to discuss with Ailsa.

The Committee thanked Paul MacDonald for his efforts in securing sponsorship with DW Sports for the event. It was agreed that prizes for the event would be gift vouchers to a total of around £400.

The Committee further agreed that a nominal amount of say £100 would be a reasonable amount to thank the tournament organiser for running the event.

Action: Dave Clem re: payment ITSC for hosting Highland Junior Open.

(8) League Update

The Committee reflected on how well SportyHQ has gone down amongst the players. As well as helping team captains organise their matches the extra competition introduced by the ranking system has been very popular.

(9) Finance Update

Dave Clem mentioned that the bank balance is exactly the same as reported at the AGM with no further incoming or outgoings. He mentioned that he would be issuing subscription invoices to all the HISA Clubs shortly.

Action: Dave Clem re: HISA subs.

(10) AOB

Challenge with Dundee and District Squash

Garry mentioned that Dave Williams had suggested that HISA and Dundee and District could get together for a squash challenge; ten of the best against each other. Garry's agreed to this and asked Dave to come back with some suggestions of where and when.

Action: Garry McKay re: challenge with Dundee and District.

SSRL Board Meeting

David Massey mentioned that the SSRL Board were meeting shortly and asked if there was anything that the Committee wished to raise. No suggestions were forthcoming other than that we are looking forward to meeting Lisa McKenna (CEO, SSRL).

Meeting ends: 8.30pm

Next Meeting: Monday 7th December, 7pm, Covenanters (Auldern).