

## Racketball AGM Report 2010

The last year has seen further development of Racketball in Hampshire.

### Finances

The main concern of last years AGM was that the Squash League teams should not subsidise racketball. This has been addressed this season by withdrawing the Inter County Racketball Team. There are now about 100 racketball players in Hampshire which actually generates about £80 rebate from ES&R. The only HSRA money spent on racketball in 2009/10 is £50 to Trojans for hosting the Hampshire Graded Racketball Tournament. An entry fee has been introduced for the racketball teams based on a similar cost per head as for squash. Currently this entry fee is treated like the Squash Summer League entry fee and is used to support the running of the league.

### Fixtures

The Racketball League wants to merge with the Squash League and use the same fixture generation and LMS. Unfortunately the divisions are currently too small and it would mean insufficient fixtures. It is felt that the time for the merger is when we have 10 teams in each division. Also the LMS can't cope with the playing format or points allocation and it is not worthwhile Hampshire paying for the LMS to be upgraded. Sussex are looking at including racketball on their LMS, so we are better off waiting for them to pay the main development costs.

### League Results

The 2 Player Singles League was won by: Wykeham

The 3 Player Mixed League was won by: David Lloyd, Southampton

The 4 Player Mixed League was won by: Bounty

### League Structure

Unfortunately the Singles League has failed this summer, due to other commitments and the ability range of the players being too great, but the Mixed Leagues are running very well.

### Hampshire Racketball Tournament

The end of the Spring League marked the time for the Hampshire Racketball Tournament. There were 25 entrants this year and some very long contested matches. The eventual winner was Ben Thornton who took the title from last year's winner, Stuart Summers.

### New Ball

The new yellow spot black ball has been launched by Price. It's about 15% faster than the old Price black ball, about 15% slower than the Price blue ball, but 30% slower than the Wilson blue ball. It has been well received by the better players and makes the migration from squash to racketball much easier. From next season it will be the default ball for the competitive Hampshire Leagues.

### Summary of Recommendations for Development.

Amend the constitution, so that the leagues can be merged when the Racketball League is large enough.

Before the merger, racketball leagues & development should continue as they are, but they must be self funding.

Re-vitalise the Singles League by splitting it into 2 smaller divisions, so that players get good matches.

Standardise the format for the Mixed League making it competitive, and create a Social League.

Try to ensure that clubs allocate a separate night for racketball so as to avoid fixture clashes.

### Next Season

The new Autumn Racketball League will be starting in early September - Entries need to be in by the end of July.

More entries are needed in the 2 Player Singles League so better game can be achieved by splitting it into 2 divisions.

I'd like to thank Stuart Ainsworth for volunteering to take on the position of Racketball Rep. on the Committee.

And Finally - Ladies Squash League – Maybe an alternative for the future?

As the number of ladies squash teams are steadily falling (2005 25 teams, 2009 19 teams), is it time to look at a system where smaller divisions could be used for ladies squash and play home & away twice in a season. The advantage is that smaller divisions mean players are of closer standards and therefore they get better games. This could come into operation as soon as the number of teams fall to 18 (3 divisions of 6 teams), and would mean 10 matches per half season. It would also be compatible with the existing racketball league structure. To achieve this, the existing fixture generation program would need to be modified.