



Chairman's Report

1. Approaching my first year as chairman of Hants SRA, I didn't have any idea of what to expect. What I found was a fantastic core committee who work incredibly hard to provide the foundation for county squash and racketball in Hampshire that we all enjoy. This covers seniors, juniors, racketball, the various competitions including the county closed, county open, the inter-county teams both senior and junior, a PSA event and other various competitions. My thanks go to all of them for all their help throughout the year.

There have been several priorities this year that needed to be resolved, primarily:

- The HSRA financial accounting which has lapsed somewhat over the last 3 years.
- The development and growth of squash and racketball in Hampshire, and the subsequent employment of a County Development Officer (CDO)
- Financing future growth and development of squash in Hampshire:
 - o Qualifying for the "Enhanced England Squash Rebate"
 - o Applying a county levy to fund development
 - o Becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and therefore being able to apply for Gift Aid.

2. Financial Accounting.

HSRA have employed Lucy Hammond as treasurer. Lucy is currently employed by Trojans as their book keeper. Lucy had the enormous task of collating all the financial transactions of HSRA over the last 3 years, producing financial spreadsheets for these 3 years and balancing the accounts with the bank and building society statements. Lucy has done a fantastic job and we are now about to complete the audit of this year's accounts.

3. County Development Officer

The County Development Officer (CDO) role is being encouraged by England Squash (ES) and is a means to re-invigorate the growth of squash and racketball. It's a paid position that is funded by the county association. HSRA held interviews with several excellent candidates, but Dan Binns was finally chosen as the HSRA CDO. Details of Dan's progress during his 1st 6 months can be found in his report.

4. Financing the Development of Squash in Hampshire

- **Enhanced ES Rebate.** Current ES affiliation fees for clubs and members are £55 per court up to a maximum of 4 courts and £12.50 per member. The standard ES rebate for a county association is 12.5% of the court fees and £1/ES member. The enhanced rebate is 20% of the court fees and £3/member. This is likely to be worth an extra £1500 to £2000 per year for HSRA. In order to qualify for the Enhanced Rebate, HSRA **MUST** mandate that all members of the county leagues are current members of ES and HSRA **MUST** have a Safe-Guarding Officer and dedicated safe-guarding policies. The mandating system must be communicated from our League Management System (LMS) to the ES membership system. During this year Karl Manning has been resolving the software compatibility issues and the system will be functional for the coming season. Stuart Porter is the new HSRA Safe-Guarding Officer and our Safe-Guarding policies are near completion.
- **County Levy.** At last year's AGM it was voted that HSRA would impose a county levy of £2.50 per player. This levy is added to the ES member fee and is paid back to HSRA via the rebate system. However, for ES to apply the levy system, HSRA must be eligible for the enhanced rebate.
- **Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).** Once HSRA become a CIO we can apply for Gift Aid on all eligible income (25p/£1). This would be a significant increase of funding for squash development. There are lots of conditions which HSRA must satisfy to before we can apply to be a CIO, primarily having up to date, audited accounts. There will also need to be some minor changes to the constitution. The application will now be made this coming year.

5. ES Meeting

Linda Taylor and Paul Millman visited HSRA to discuss the future of squash, ES plans and goals and how ES can help HSRA. Amongst the various topics discussed, there were a couple worth mentioning here:

- The ES App: this a great resource for coaches and leaders who are delivering squash and racketball related programs, including Squash 101 for juniors and seniors, Squash 57, and Squash Girls Can. It allows ES to track the numbers of new participants and there are giveaways and benefits for coaches, clubs and associations, so it's in our interest to try using the app (link below).
<https://www.englandsquash.com/get-involved/play/ways-to-play/england-squash-app-everything-you-need-to-know>
- Pay and Play: ES are encouraging clubs to allow "Pay and Play" particularly in off peak periods, allowing non-members to try squash and racketball. Hants clubs could consider this option with the potential benefit of increasing membership.

6. World Squash Day: Saturday 12th October 2019

World Squash Day is another great opportunity for us to development squash in our county. The link below gives details of how ES can help and encourage squash related events on the day. The help includes the advertisement of your event on the ES website, there's free goodie bags that include rackets and the chance to apply for a £250 grant to cover costs. Please consider supporting this event at your club.

<https://www.englandsquash.com/worldsquashday?fbclid=IwAR05OI-VKj4X8-OaCaojY6NTJezCnNjwq6nMf5KQVQAYMTRREEhzTY6UUDtk>

7. Open Positions on the HSRA Committee

There's many things that HSRA could do to develop and grow squash, however we are limited by not only finances but also willing volunteers to be part of the committee. The majority of the committee freely give part of their spare time to run squash in Hampshire and there is a finite limit to this resource. More committee members would allow us to spread out the opportunities and lessen the burden on the few. It's also a wonderful opportunity to give something back to Hampshire Squash. Perhaps people who have been a club captain for many years (like me!) could hand over to someone else and join the HSRA committee.

There's several positions that we have open, and we would welcome anybody who's interested. Similarly we would welcome any new ideas for squash and racketball in Hampshire that would develop our sport.

Open Positions:

- League Secretary
- Racketball Officer
- IT Officer (website maintenance, posting events/news etc)
- Ladies squash representative

Paul Roux