

## **Hampshire Junior squash report for AGM July 2020**

Members of junior committee:

Chair: Andrew Flett

Schools and regional representative: Trevor Leahy

Safeguarding: Stuart Porter

Sponsorship: Sam Wheldon

County teams: Julie Keefe

Leagues: Scott Griffiths

Website: Scott Griffiths

Secretary and social media: George Yeates

Treasurer: Vacant

Events officer: Vacant

### **Report prepared by Andrew Flett (thank you for contributions from Trevor and Scott)**

The season has been curtailed by the Coronavirus which has affected all aspects of junior activity. We plan to restart activities as the government restrictions allow.

I will be stepping down as junior county chair when a new volunteer is found. I will continue to perform in the role until a new chair volunteers and I hope to build on our successes in the coming months and not to lose any more momentum than have been necessary due to coronavirus sanctions.

SG and Dan Binns attended the county program course with ES this year and have established our vision:

***To give every child in Hampshire the opportunity to play squash and go on to fulfill their potential in the sport***

Our mission and objectives can be found on the new look website

**Website (SG) Please see [www.hampshiresquash.co.uk/juniors](http://www.hampshiresquash.co.uk/juniors):**

SG, PR,AF,TL attended a web workshop led by Allan Hawkey. The website has since had a refresh. There is a dedicated junior site now that is more or less up to date. It is more modern, with more photos and is much easier to navigate. Junior Leagues has also been transitioned across and the aim is for the website to be the focal point of all things junior squash. If a news article is published this should be linked to FB so that parents are always directed to the website. If a parent needs info on county training, Leagues, development, tournaments this should all be available on the website.

The next task is to update the Where to Play page, but I didn't have any replies to my email about what to include about each club, before getting Allan to create a new web page for us. So this is on hold currently.

Part of this development process has highlighted some deficiency in our contact database. Plans to refresh this year and have a fully up to date GDPR compliant system.

**Leagues (SG):** Junior Leagues were cut short after 4 fixtures due to Covid 19. I have an idea to use the left over funds to run a couple of free events to encourage kids back into squash when tournaments are allowed again. If this is approved I will put a news article on the website and FB.

**Hampshire Squash Stars (SG and AF):** New initiative this year in partnership with our sponsor Titan Sports. Racket, bag, ball, goggles and shirt with 6 lessons for £25. Endorsed by ES. HS contributes £10 to the club per player as a subsidy. Participating clubs (Whitchurch, avenue, Petersfield, Trojans, Bounty, LOST and WRFC). Minimal investment in advertising led to 51 new children trying the sport for the first time. This was in just a few months before lockdown. It clearly works for introducing children to the game. COVID makes it difficult to know how many of those players become squash players in the longer term. Plans to continue with this when restrictions ease and squads recommence. See <https://www.hampshiresquash.co.uk/juniors/squash-stars/>

**County teams (JK):** Very successful year for the county with excellent performances. 7 Hampshire teams qualified for this years finals in Nottingham and 5 brought home medals, including 3 Golds and the honour of being National Inter-County Champions!!

GU11 GOLD  
BU11 SILVER  
BU13 8th  
BU15 4th  
GU15 GOLD  
GU17 BRONZE  
BU19 GOLD

Major issue this year was Tim Vail needing to leave Hampshire – lead coach for county and Aspire squads. We are reassured that he will continue in those roles with us from his new base in Sussex.

Congratulations to all our juniors and coaches, this is an incredible achievement and cements Hampshire's place as one of the top counties for junior squash.

### **The Schools Programme (TL)**

The Hampshire Squash Schools programme was epitomised in January 2020 by the Year 3/4 Racket skills Festival at Totton which was driven by the Coaching Development Officer Dan Binns. The sheer joy of attending that event and watching the vibrancy of all the squash courts packed out with school children was second to none. It was a delight to observe once again just how appealing squash can be to the children. These events demonstrate how squash could with the right guidance, collaboration and nurture become much more successful. The year showed great promise PRE COVID as Dan worked to build his coaching team around him. With the accounts now in a strong position from a clarity and shared understanding perspective and with the Coaching Development Officer CDO established, the school's programme continues to extend its reach across the county into areas, not in traditional strongholds.

With Dan now taking on the responsibility for the detailed school delivery programmes, it has been possible to reach out to develop new relationships with third-party providers. Third party service providers can help build the workforce and on-line promotional infrastructure inside the schools. Time has been spent evaluating this infrastructure with a mind to promoting squash in school sporting forums. These new, additional infrastructures should help improve squash in schools at scale. There is a target to be working in 50 schools, shortly and far more over the next five years.

School programme plans have been complemented by adjacent work from Andrew and Scott who have innovated with the great squash stars programme in clubs. The creation of new pathways will boost schools to work with the clubs.

### **Regional Squash (TL)**

Working on the regional group has made it quite clear to me what good health Junior squash is within Hampshire. Many years of exceptional leadership through successive top-performing chairman has set Hampshire apart amongst the southern counties. Coaching leadership will continue to be pivotal to keeping the growth and development in participation and performance of juniors. The 5 point plan for the CDO is a) Mentoring and growing the number of coaches b) Understanding the data (clubs, coaches, facilities) c) Producing a development plan d) measuring and monitoring success using key performance indicators and instituting e) necessary governance. The 5 point plan is a national model acquired from the south-east, and this is now being extended right across the Southern region. The full Hampshire Committee has been fully supportive of the need for the CDO and the need for a culture of collaboration, cooperation and sharing. Successive full Hampshire squash committee chairman have been pivotal in providing their vital support to the CDO and they should be proud of their leadership.

Dan and Scott have led on the development plan attending the county management programme working hard to produce a culture, purpose, mission, vision and goals for the future. This work has inspired others, and all the remaining counties are now booked onto the next counties management programme. The Southern region has also produced an aligned strategic impact plan which is being passed up to England squash in an attempt to positively "change the story".

The future aims are to maximise the generation of revenue through schools programmes and other means so that plough back investment into coaches and coaching can be maximised. This will allow a growing number of squash coaches to make a decent living whilst ensuring that the county remains profit neutral. Rather than fighting over the slice of the pie, the new goals are to increase the size of the pie from which all coaches will feed and ensure that it is growth that becomes the self- fulfilling prophecy.

**Sponsors (SW):** Potential for coronavirus to affect our sponsors. We will need to reconfirm with TITAN and TEMPURA our position.

**Safeguarding (SP):** Stuart has completed all the necessary courses

**County and regional closed 2020: In Jeopardy due to restrictions.** Awaiting further guidance and dates from ES

**Social media (George Yeates):** setting up an instagram account linked to Facebook

Next meeting being scheduled for mid august