

Squash & Racketball Section – Annual Report for AGM 2018

Mark Neville – Former Chairman now Vice Chairman.

The Squash & Racketball section has seen a significant increase in members turning to racketball during the last 12 months, giving the section a new lease of life. Although squash remains the main game for team sport we have had a rise in members playing both games.

The section was 3% down on membership and court fee revenue from the previous year with £77,030 in 2018 opposed to £79,126 in 2017. This can be attributed to the aging population retiring from the sport and not renewing membership. It can and may also be attributed to players simply not playing the sport and turning to other pastimes. It is not a significant percentage to worry about, however, moves will be in place to increase membership during the coming year. The sections expenses were 12% less than 2017 at £10,808 compared to £12,222 and the court maintenance increased by 20% from £3,700 to £4,444.

As a section we have stopped supplying single use plastic cups to members and visitors for the water dispenser. This is due to our commitment to belong to an environmentally safe world and rid our oceans and planet of single use plastic. This has caused a stir with the members, however, by introducing hard plastic branded water bottles for a minimal purchase price, we have provided a suitable solution.

After two very generous donations of a projector and speakers, we have attempted to rig this up in Court 1 to be used as a training tool for Geoff and as a screen to show films or other events in a pay-per view scenario. This has been slightly difficult to master and the section will be looking to fully install the speakers during the Autumn.

Our teams in the winter league continued to be a huge success. Our 1st team won division one for the third time last year and came runners up in the cup final. Our 2nd team came runners up in the third division and got promoted to the 2nd div. They also won the cup final against Haileybury. Our other teams remained buoyant.

Under the coaching of Geoff Taylor our junior sessions have been good with an average of 25-30 attending weekly lessons.

Jake Huckstep has represented Herts Junior County team and now plays in the adult leagues. Harry Duphas also now plays in the adult leagues too and was promoted to a higher league after the first time of trying.

Our courts have taken more stress this year due to racketball with the larger ball and harder impact. This is being covered in a rise in peak time court fees from September 2018.

In summary the membership is steady and the player's wish only for improved changing facilities, a new design and refurb of Court 1 and the security tightened around the squash areas.

Mark Neville
Vice Chair