



SQUASH EASTERN INCORPORATED

Minutes of Board Meeting held on Monday 13th February 2017 at Hawke's Bay Lawn Tennis & Squash Club

PRESENT: Mike Willis (Chair), Cathy White, Scott Fergusson, Jeff Silvester, Trevor Walker

IN ATTENDANCE: Daniel McGuire (President HBSRC), Rick Nichol (Immediate Past President, HBSRC)

1. Apologies

No apologies received

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held at Havelock North Squash Club on Monday 10th October and Hastings Tennis & Squash Club on Tuesday 29th November 2016 were tabled at the meeting. They were passed as a true and accurate record of the matters discussed at the meeting. JS raised the date of the Hastings meeting; MW & Jacquie confirmed that this had been changed

Moved: Scott Fergusson

Seconded: Cathy White

Carried

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

4. Board Meeting Co-option

MW explained that, under the terms of the Constitution, the Board was empowered to co-opt members to join them during the Financial Year. Trevor Walker of HBSRC would like to join the Board of Squash Eastern. It was, therefore, moved that the Board co-opt Trevor Walker as a bone fide member of the Squash Eastern Board

Moved: Jeff Silvester

Seconded: Cathy White

5. Correspondence

Inwards:

- 7 December: Email from Kent Darlington confirming that he has stood down from his position at Central
- 15 December: Email from Grassroots Trust declining our application for funding for squash balls
- 12 December: Email from SNZ re Drug Free Sport
- 21 December: Email from Sam Crawford re F/J Grade Superchamps
- 21 December: Email from Sam Crawford re Draft National Event Rules
- 12 January: Hurford Parker re annual insurance
- 20 January: Email from NZCT confirming grant of \$9,000 awarded for Admin Contract
- 31 January: Email from Murray re coaching skills programme – *this was discussed by the Board (see copy email attached as an addendum). Jacquie to asked Murray re "licensing" for this. Can it be used for more than one person. Murray confirmed that this is a "one person" only tool as it would need to be used on the user's own computer and password protected.*

Outwards:

- 17 January: Email to Wayne Kempton asking him if he is still willing to carry out the draws for the G&H Pot, Eliminations and Interclub (replied in the affirmative the same day)
- 17 January: Email to Geoff Goodchild asking if G&H are still willing to be the sponsors of the annual "Pot" challenge
- 28 January: Email to club regarding 2017 Interclub

Various emails regarding the 2017 Secondary Schools competition

Various emails to and from Infinity Foundation re Grant for Squash Balls

Various emails from the Districts and SNZ regarding the SNZ AGM and Forum

Various emails regarding Junior one-day challenge v Central

Various emails regarding

Various emails regarding the 2017 Senior Nationals, including:

- SNZ organization
- Quiz Nights
 - Moved:** Jeff Silvester
 - Seconded:** Cathy White
 - Carried

6. **Senior Nationals Social**

MW welcomed Daniel McGuire and Rick Nichol of HBSRC to present their views on the venue and handling of the Senior Nationals' Social.

Daniel read a letter prepared by the HBSRC Board – as follows:

To: Eastern Squash Board, Squash NZ

We are writing this letter after discussions and email dialogue with the Chairman of Eastern Squash Mike Willis, to express our concerns and disappointments regarding the upcoming NZ Champs teams event hosted by ourselves and HB Lawn Tennis and squash.

On the 18th January 2017 I received a email via Jeff Silvester from Jacqui Sutherland, Tournament Director, 2017 Senior Nationals. The email stipulated a number of conditions and pre-determined decisions that we were not expecting which the committee and some of our members would like me to raise.

1. At no time during the organization of this event have we been consulted or asked for input. As the host club, for the teams, we have been given no say in how the event could or should be run. Hawkes Bay Squash Rackets Club (HBSRC) prides itself on delivering a highly efficient and professional tournament for squash.
2. We are frustrated that it took 6 weeks from the time the tournament directors meeting with Squash New Zealand advising of the significant changes and an email to HBSRC advising us that further stipulations had been made for the running of this tournament. Yet within that time another off site venue had been arranged and a band had been booked.
3. One of the reasons given for us not to be given the opportunity to host the function dinner was the thought that we may have a financial benefit from doing so. Instead that financial benefit is now going to the Sailing Club. This kind of thinking will be the ruin of Squash in New Zealand. Surely it is better for the money to stay in the squash community than to give it to an outside host or at least to sponsors of our great game within the clubs who are hosting.
4. We cannot understand the rationale behind the change from the traditional Saturday or Sunday function following the individual competition. One of the main reasons we understand for splitting the event was to allow the top players to be involved. Surely it makes more sense to hold the major function while there are 150 – 170 competitors, including the marquee players, rather than at the end of the much smaller teams event which will not have these top players present.

In closing we would like the following points addressed:

- A. We request a written explanation as to why it took six weeks to notify us of Squash New Zealand's decision to change the function requirements and yet booking a venue and a band was priority.
- B. As per point 4 above we would like written feed-back from SNZ as to the reasoning behind this change, especially as the events have been split.
- C. If this is the future of tournaments being run in the regions how does Squash Eastern and Squash New Zealand intend to support the clubs and players based on this model and what is the direction SNZ hopes to achieve with this type of tournament format. As this would assist us with some of the decisions that have been made here.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the board with these concerns. We all want a successful tournament and hope to work with the Board to help this happen.

The Committee
HB Squash Rackets Club
Niven Street
Onekawa

There was lengthy discussion about various points in the letter but, in short, it was agreed that Jacquie would forward this to Sam Crawford at SNZ for their comments which would be received before the end of the week – direct to HBSRC and copied to Squash Eastern.

In short, MW explained that this event was a SNZ owned event being hosted by the District and, as such, SNZ had the right to make all final decisions and all day-to-day organization was the responsibility of SE. As far as communication timing was concerned, Jacquie explained that Christmas followed hot on the heels of the AGM and Sam Crawford was away for a number of weeks. As the event is not until August, there was not immediate urgency. A band and venue (or two venues) had been tentatively booked, pending any SNZ decision.

7. Finance

- The current surplus in the bank stand at \$44k after taking into consideration the funding monies on deposit for specific uses. As SE may have to write a sizeable cheque to hold the Nationals, this was a healthy position

It was moved that the accounts for payment be passed and the GST Return be filed.

Moved: Scott Fergusson

Seconded: Jeff Silvester

Carried

Funding applications.

- It was moved that funding be prepared and submitted for:
 - Senior Nationals - tba
 - Junior Nationals - Youthtown
 - National Masters - tba
 - Apparel – First Light Community Foundation
 - Junior Academy – Pub Charity (should this be required prior to the next Board meeting)

Moved: Jeff Silvester

Seconded: Cathy White

Carried

8. Junior Academy Report

- Cathy tabled her report at the meeting, as follows:

Since my last report tabled at our December 2016 meeting little has happened both on and off the court.

Most coaches and juniors took a well-earned break over the Christmas holidays, as did the Academy Sub-Committee.

In January the Sub-Committee put together a Junior Academy Handbook 2017. It is still in the draft stage with the final draft to be completed this month. The handbook is designed to give the parents, juniors and coaches a “one-place document” where they can find the basic information about the academy, including:

- Squads
- Junior Members
- Costs
- Budget
- Coaches details
- Sub-Committee details
- An introduction on how the Academy began
- Mission Statement
- Development
- Objectives
- Etc

The more in-depth information will be contained within our policies and procedures which are currently being drafted.

The main hold up in the progress has been my unavailability during December and early January 2017, but I am now back on board and rearing to go. The next step get some communication out to the parents / juniors and then get the coaches together for some brain-storming and ideas surrounding policies and procedures.

We will shortly be applying for a new round of funding as we are steadily running low on our current funds.

Moved: Scott Fergusson

Seconded: Mike Willis

Carried

9. General Business

9.1 Awards and EOY Night

Jacque explained that every year SNZ ask if we have any nominations to put forward for their annual awards – Coaches, Administrators, Clubs, etc. Wellington District had started an end of year get-together and presentation night, held at a different club each year. They put an amount of money behind the bar and honour those who have achieved. It is suggested that SE could hold something similar.

It was agreed that Jacque should email the clubs for them to present the idea to their respective Committees and get a view on the suggestion before making an concrete plans

9.2 Club Unification and tournament Support

- SF brought up a question on how we can get our Eastern clubs to support each others' tournaments.
- Jacque said that many players choose to go to tournament outside the District so they get the opportunity to play someone new
- It was agreed that players make their own decisions where they want to play
- Jacque to send an email to the clubs asking them to forward this to their database asking them to get behind their sister clubs at SE

9.3 **2017 Senior Nationals**

- The poster was tabled at the meeting and approved. JS asked if reference to the Teams should be put on the poster, but Jacquie confirmed that separate notification would be sent to the Districts.

9.4 **Interclub**

- This would be organized on the same basis as last year
- Divisional split would depend on teams entering
- Interclub to start on 18th April

9.5 **G&H Pot**

- Geoff Goodchild has agreed to continue sponsorship of this event
- Poster to go out this week with entry forms

9.6 **Superchamps**

- MW offered the main hosting of the Superchamps Eliminations to HBSRC with HBLT taking the F/J grade only. JS gratefully accepted this opportunity
- Poster and entry forms to be sent out this week

The meeting closed at 7:03pm

The next meeting will be on Monday 10th April 2017 at Hastings Tennis & Squash Club

Signed as a true and accurate record

Mike Willis

President, Squash Eastern Incorporated

Signed:

Dated: 15th February 2017