



ANNUAL REPORT 2013/2014

SUMMARY

Generally the Club remains in fairly good shape from both the financial and membership point of view. But the committee is not complacent, membership is the key to a healthy club and we have not arrested the gradual fall in membership over the last few years. Of particular concern is the age demographic of the club members, a good number are over 60, not enough are in the 20 to 60 year old age group, a drop in junior members and too few ladies.

We are conscious of the fact that new members are often travelling from outside the area and this will put more strain on already limited parking. This is one of the reasons why we are looking at relocating the clubs. As mentioned in the report a possible relocation to the old Sunlight laundry site is now no longer an option as the developer has decided to turn it into a housing development.

Despite the usual financial pressures on the club we have continued to invest in improvements for members and coaches. We now have a video camera and recorder on court 3 so that lounge members can watch PSL matches or other games on the TV. The coaches can also use the recorder to help in their lessons. We have also continued with the BT Sport package shown on the lounge TV, all at no extra charge to members.

Our Premier Squash team and our teams in the Derbyshire League continue to do well, as they have done year after year, which is a testimony to the fine standard of coaching and the reputation the club has enjoyed for attracting good players the club.

COMMITTEE

During the year there have been five meetings, all well attended. There have been few changes in the committee for the last twelve months. John Foster has taken on the role previously occupied by Brian Legg of looking after Court Maintenance. After the untimely death of our House Manager Keith Murcutt earlier in the year Brian has agreed to take on this role for both clubs.

MEMBERSHIP

The August figures were as follows (2013 in brackets), Full, 307 (304), Restricted, 128 (154), Junior, 56 (86), Student, 35 (21) and Social 72, (69), which gives a total membership of 598 (634).

Whilst you have to be careful when comparing membership, since it varies from month to month, and 598 is the lowest in recent years and the trend has shown a gradual fall over the last few years. Of more significance is the age demographic, we have fewer 20 to 59 year olds than years ago particular women, and a significant number at 60 plus. This together with fewer juniors/students is not good for the long-term health of the club. Gym membership has also fallen, as reported in a later section.

Although as reported last year we have had some success with applying for grants from Sportivate and Amber Valley, this has not resulted in the additional new members that was hoped for. A recent survey by Sport England showed that there are over 3000 people within 20 minutes drive of our club who would like to play squash. So there is interest out there and over the next few months we intend to market the club more and attract new members.

COURT USEAGE AND BOOKINGS.

Demand for court time between 4pm and 8pm on weekdays still remains good. The off-peak booking after 9:00pm, which was introduced nearly a year ago, is under review to see if it has increased court usage significantly. We still get the occasional problem of people using the courts and gym with out paying. Members also need to remember that if an adult plays a junior during the day the normal fee of £1.50 still applies, not the 50p junior fee. Adults also need to be reminded that juniors cannot play at peak times. One final point on etiquette, members are reminded not to come into the club wearing their court shoes, this leads to dirt on the changing room floors and damages the floor surface of the courts.

Use of courts during the day and weekends has improved. Tabitha Wright is again running a Yoga class at 1:00pm starting on Tuesday 16th September, which is open to non-members. Thanks to Lesley Sturgess we have also renewed our contract with Derby University with students coming to the club one or two afternoons in the week starting in October. Lesley also continues to coach pupils from Eccelsbourne School during off peak times. We are continuing to look at ways of filling the courts at weekends. Look at our website and find us on Facebook to get the latest information on events.

FINANCES

Annual report from our Treasurer, Roy Squires for the 2013/14 season.

Profit and Loss Account:

Income for the year decreased from £146,262 at 30th April 2013 to £140,811 at 30th April 2014, a 4% decrease. Subscriptions decreased by 10%. Booking fees using the on line booking system increased by 8% and the Bar income increased by 9%. Further more, during the year a separate account was initiated for the Premier Squash Team (PSL) and this accounts for 35% decrease in sponsorship for the club side.

Expenditure increased from £133,537 at 30th April 2013 to £141,257 at 30th April 2014, a 6% increase. Utility costs (electricity, gas and water) increased by 23%, (principally due to the bankruptcy of our water agent and also the very late payment of our solar rebate), and Bar purchases increased by 4%. Match fees reduced dramatically by 63% as a result of apportioning match costs to the PSL account. The cost of Repairs and Renewals to the squash courts, which were necessary to maintain the highest standard required, resulted in an increase of 105%.

Bar Account:

The profit on sales increased from 27.3% for the 12/13 year to 30.7% for the current year which reflects in the overall bar profit rising by 30%.

Balance sheet:

We made an operating deficit of £446 compared to a surplus of £12,725 the previous year 12/13. Thus, with the provision for depreciation added, there was a book deficit of £25,523 for the year and this is reflected in the Balance Sheet.

Squash and Tennis Social Account:

Four functions were held during the year ending 31/12/2013 and these resulted in a £91 surplus giving funds in the bank of £1294.

Premier Squash Team (PSL) account:

A surplus of £999 was accrued during the year on a turn over of £23557 and this will be of considerable help towards meeting the ever increasing costs of such a successful professional squash team.

SQUASH & SOCIAL COMMITTEE.

The chairman of the committee John Shoemsmith has now stood down as he planned to do after two years leading the team. We thank him for his all his efforts, Pete Mayes has now taken over as chairman and we wish him well and hope members respond by showing their support for the events which the committee arranges.

PREMIER LEAGUE SQUASH (PSL).

Another outstanding year for the PSL team, managed by Felix Frixou. The team was again lead by World Champion Nick Mathews and as last season reached the final, again against Surrey Heath, who triumphed over us in 2013. Unfortunately the result was the same as last year and we lost 3-2. Felix has put together a strong team again this year, lead by Nick and Laura Massaro so hopefully our luck will change this time around. Congratulations to our own Millie Tomlinson has been selected to joined the PSL squad for this season, which is a great achievement in it's own right, but to top it all Millie has just won the University World Championship in India.

BAR

Ably run as in previous year by Pete Jennings and his volunteers. Bar sales continue to be a significant earner for the club and this year on a turn over of £46,285 showed a profit of £14,210 (30.7%) compared with 2012/13 of £11,561 (27.3%). Members who are interested in helping with the bar, can contact Pete Jennings on 01332 840005 or email Barmanager@duffieldsquashclub.co.uk. As in previous years the Club grants free membership for the following year in recognition of the contribution volunteers' make. For taxation reasons this cannot be offered in advance of carrying out bar duties, as we are advised that HMRC would regard this as a taxable benefit.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

As stated in the last Annual Report a small sub-committee has been looking at future developments for the club. Two emails have been sent to members this year to inform them of progress on this issue. As stated in the emails we have been looking at a possible move of the clubs as the only way we could generate sufficient funds to carry out further major improvements. The key to any possible move is the value of our existing site, which we are still trying to ascertain. Early in the year we were made aware of the Sunlight Laundry site on the A6, which was coming onto the market. This is larger than our existing site and some preliminary work suggested it could suit our purposes. But without a firm idea of the value of our existing site we were not in the position to put a proposal together that we could bring to members for approval. The situation now is that the developer can no long wait for us to make a move and the site is highly likely to be used for a housing development. In the meantime we understand that a decision from

Amber Valley on how we could develop our existing site is not far away and depending on the outcome we may put a proposal together for consideration by the members.

GYMNASIUM

Russell Moore with the help of the gym sub committee continued to oversee the gym throughout 2013/14. As reported last year gym usage started to reduce in 2013 and was down by 14% compared with 2012. So far in 2014, usage is almost 30% lower than in 2013, but the rate of decline has leveled out. The price increase for gym usage implemented in September 2012 has offset to a large extent the financial impact of this reduction in bookings. We have been unable to identify the reasons for the reduction in gym usage. Initially it was thought that it was due to the opening of the gym at Ecclesbourne School, but a visit to their gym showed that not to be the case. Gym inductions during the year were also lower – 60 in 2013 compared to 96 in 2012. One piece of feedback received from parents of juniors using the gym was that juniors were finding it expensive to use. Hence the decision was made to reduce the rate for juniors back to £1, and the online booking system amended to allow this to be implemented.

Towards the end of 2013 there was increasing reports from gym users of people using the gym without booking. We now have the technology to check such reports, and an analysis of people entering the gym during December 2013 and January 2014 identified the main offenders. They were contacted, and agreed to book in future, and pay for sessions not previously booked. Once again members are requested to abide by the gym bye laws, which require gym users to book sessions before entering the gym.

There was one meeting of the gym sub-committee during 2013, and the meeting notes were circulated to all gym users, and posted on the gym notice board. There was one resignation from the sub-committee, Toby Garner, who was the junior representative, and he has been replaced by Cameron Wells. During the year Nick Sargent, to whom our thanks are due, fitted a panic alarm for us. So far we have not had to use it, but if it does go off it will sound in the bar. You will hear a sound and see flashing lights on the unit, which is located near the clock by the double doors leading into the pool table. If it goes off please go and investigate incase someone is in urgent need of help. A faulty door lock has also been replaced and so far has been ok. Should the lock become faulty again there is now a spare set of patio door keys in the gym for use in an emergency.

Unfortunately we have had two reports of theft from the gym. One the tv remote, and the other an ankle strap from the new multigym. Both have now been replaced, but this is an unwelcome development.

One good bit of news is that core fitness sessions have improved from 342 in 2012 to 394 in 2013. Unfortunately, Anna Mulrennan, has had to step down as leader of the group but thanks to Rikki Shepherd the group has continued to meet. Nick Reynolds was engaged on a trial bases and although the initial signs were encouraging it does not look as if it will work in the longer term.

HOUSE MATTERS.

After the untimely death of Keith Murcutt, our House manager, earlier this year we have been fortunate in having Brian Legg step forward and once again serve the club in a new role for him of House Manager. Brian will being ably supported by Mike Robinson, Peter Dyson, John Redfern and John Foster.

As reported last year decoration of the lounge/staircase/hallway and changing rooms was over due. Les Wall completed this work earlier in the year, and it looks a big improvement on what was there before. We have also had nearly two years use of the solar panels, and these are producing the level of savings, which were promised when they were installed.

DUFFIELD SQUASH CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS - 2013/14

Finals Night was held on Friday 4th April 2014. The results were as follows:

SENIOR COMPETITION RESULTS		
SQUASH	Winner	Runner Up
Mens Open	John Slater	Chris Alcock
Ladies Open	Lesley Sturgess	Sue Smith
Ladies Over 40	Lesley Sturgess	Sue Smith
Mens Over 35	Phil Bond	Felix Frixou
Mens Over 45	Phil Bond	Felix Frixou
Mens Over 55	Rich Whitfield	Mike Dyer
RACKETBALL	Winner	Runner Up
Mens Open	Chris Alcock	James Russell
Mens Over 40	James Foulk	Steve Milward
Mens Over 50	Neil Shorrocks	John Cunningham
Mens Over 60	Adrian Sheppard	Stuart MacLean
Ladies Open Handicap	Jen Knibbs	Wendy Lowe
Mixed Handicap	Dougie Rowland	Pete Martin
JUNIOR COMPETITION RESULTS		
SQUASH	Winner	Runner Up
Boys Under 17	Oliver Lowe	Henry Jacobs
Boys Under 15	Oliver Lowe	Henry Jacobs
Boys Under 13	Oliver Johnston	Harry Salisbury
Mixed Under 11	George Salisbury	Gabriel Wiseman

Honours Boards.

The old wooden Honours Boards have been put away in the loft above the pool table and thanks to Gill Ford we now have some smart, contemporary boards on the wall behind court 3 to take their place.

LEAGUES.

The internal squash and racketball leagues were run as usual throughout the year for evening and summer players. We encourage all our members to join the leagues, especially new members to the Club. Our thanks to Pascal Smith for running the squash leagues and Dougie Rowland and Nigel Stone for running the racketball leagues.

DERBYSHIRE LEAGUES AND NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

2013/14 Winter Derbyshire Leagues.

Mens Squash.

- 1st team finished as champions in the Premier League.
- 2nd team also finished as champions in division 1.
- 3rd team was 2nd in division 2.
- 4th team was 3rd in division 3.
- 5th team finished champions in division 4.
- 6th team was bottom in division 4.
- 7th team was runners up in division 5.
- 8th team was 4th in division 5.

Congratulations to the 1st, 2nd and 5th teams on becoming champions of their leagues and to all the team members for their efforts over the last year and the support of Richard Grindrod as team captain. This and the PSL team success all help in sustaining the fine reputation our club has held over the years for top squash players.

Ladies Squash.

Finished 3rd in the Premier league.

A great effort considering how few lady club members the team has to call on these days.

Men's Racketball.

The team finished bottom in division 2.

SPONSORSHIP AND ADVERTISING.

The Club benefits from a significant amount of sponsorship and advertising displayed on the courts or in the Premier Squash League programmes. The Club remains grateful to everyone, Felix Frixou and his company in particular, for the money and effort that is put in to help the Club. Without this extra funding we would struggle to fund our PSL team of World Class players.

MARKETING & WEBSITE.

The website has now been up and running for over a year and judging by the number of hits it is proving popular. For those who are not aware it is viewable when you log onto the MyCourts booking system. As with all websites it is important to keep it up-to-date and feeding it with useful information. Earlier in the year we also decided to make our presence known on Facebook, another social media site that needs constant feeding. Luckily with Sara Ellis managing the website and Martin Donaldson managing our Facebook page plus contributions from Ben Slater our web designer, Gill Ford and Lesley Sturgess, we have a good team working for us. But we would love to hear more from you, our members, on any issues and what you think of the sites themselves.

COACHING & JUNIORS.

This is still an important part of the club's activities and strategy to bring on young players, and players of all ages and abilities as well. Lesley Sturgess continues as our only level 3 Development Coach as in previous years and with the loss of Josh Taylor to pastures new we have been lucky enough to acquire Curtis Tomlinson as our new Performance Coach. Curtis has moved from his coaching position at Ilkeston Manor and comes highly recommended.

We tried a number of initiatives last year to bring both young and older people into the club but with mixed results. Finding funding was one hurdle to overcome, but then you have

another hurdle of getting people to come when courts are available, which is not necessarily when people themselves want to or can play.

There have been some bright spots; thanks to Lesley Sturgess we have renewed the contract we had with Derby University where students join the club as student restricted members and play one or two afternoons of the week to play and receive coaching. We also still have close links with Ecclesbourne School and their students are regular visitors. Also Tabitha Wright has been run Yoga classes on a Tuesday afternoon, and these will start again on the 16th September at 1:00pm for one hour. Tournaments and Championships are run as and when we can, which not only involves the coaches but also numerous volunteers, who give up their spare time to help run these events.

We need to do more, however, and we are working on a coaching strategy to introduce over the next few months, which will involve Leasley and Curtis.

Bob Allen, Club Secretary. 07/09/2014.