

2020 SquashPEI AGM

June 29, 2020

6:00pm

129 Georgetown Road

In Attendance: Jo Spencer, Lester Jinks, Brian Ashby, JF Vincent-Rocan, Ken Sampson

Via telephone: Andrew Avery, Zach Stephens, Seana Evans-Renaud, Chris MacIntyre

6:10pm – Meeting called to order by Jo Spencer

Jo Spencer provides a brief overview of Squash NB's COVID-19 rules, and the rules for playing squash at the SPA Total Fitness Centre when the courts open.

Adoption of 2020 AGM Agenda

Jo Spencer moves to adopt the Agenda for the 2020 AGM and Seana Evans-Renaud seconds. All are in favour and agenda is adopted.

Roll Call

Roll call is taken for members in attendance, both on the phone and in-person.

Adoption of 2019 AGM Minutes

Brian Ashby moves to adopt last year's minutes, and Lester Jinks seconds. All are in favour and motion is adopted.

6:15 - President's Report

Jo Spencer presents the President's Report, which is attached as an addendum to these minutes. Jo provides a summary of our year and its major events, including the PSA tournament in the early part of the season, the well-attended Mill River Open, junior initiatives and coaching.

Special thanks to the volunteer executive committee.

Brian Ashby moves to adopt the President's Report, and Lester Jinks seconds. All are in favour, and the President's Report is adopted.

6:25 – Treasurer's Report

Chris MacIntyre presents the Treasurer's report:

- Expenses and income balanced this year with a net income of +\$56
- This is where we want to be as a non-profit organization

- Because SquashPEI changed the dates of its fiscal year, the overall income and expenses will not be directly comparable to previous years.
- The cyclical nature of the sport means we had lower numbers for tournaments, league and lessons. COVID-19 is partially to blame as we missed the PEI Open, our final tournament of the season.
- Funding:
 - o Received \$1800 in grants from Sport PEI, however we will not be spending it all, and we received about 80% of the possible amount.
- Tournaments were profitable for the most part.
- League was profitable as it has very little overhead.
- Moving forward SquashPEI has about \$38,000 in the bank, which puts us in a comfortable position. All of that money is un-restricted.

Ken Sampson asks if our tournament processing fees from Club Locker are in-line with expectations and Chris confirms that they are.

Ken Sampson moves to adopt the Treasurer's Report and Jean-Francois Vincent-Rocan seconds. All are in favour and the Treasurer's Report is adopted.

6:40 – Amendments to the Bylaws

Jo Spencer outlines some amendments to the SquashPEI bylaws that should be made during the upcoming season:

- There are more policies from Squash Canada that should be included. A list will be provided at a later date upon review. Many of Squash Canada's bylaws can be modified to be suitable to SquashPEI's needs.
- We would like to ensure all policies are on the website for easy access.
- Andrew Avery spoke to SportPEI and tele-meetings (i.e. Zoom) can be part of the norm for executing meetings, however this would need to be added as part of SquashPEI's bylaws and/or general policies.
- SquashPEI needs to have an amendment and review every 2 years moving forward

6:50 – Election of Directors

President: Jo Spencer will remain for her second year as President

VP Male: Currently at large, but Ken Samson nominates Jean-Francois Vincent-Rocan, and he accepts the nomination

VP Female: Seana Evans-Renaud agrees to the role of VP Female

Treasurer: Chris MacIntyre agrees to remain in role as Treasurer

Tournament Director: Ken Sampson agrees to remain in role as Tournament Director

Secretary: Brian Ashby agrees to remain in role as Secretary

Board Member: Zach Stephens agrees to remain as a voting board member

Sub-Committees: Andrew Avery agrees to help with various sub-committees, but uncertain of his time commitment at the moment

Brian Ashby moves to adopt the Squash PEI board of directors and Seana Evans-Renaud seconds. All are in favour and the Board is adopted.

7:00 – New Business

2020 Aspin Cup PSA Tournament

Lester Jinks suggests that we ask Aspin Kemp about deferring funding for the 2020 PSA event until the following year and have the two remaining tournaments they have agreed to sponsor in 2021 and 2022.

There is simply too much uncertainty with respect to COVID-19 and travel restrictions to be able to properly plan for such a tournament in 2020.

All vote in favour of making a request for the deferral. Lester will enquire.

Funding

Jo Spencer: even with current uncertainty, we should still write up funding proposals, in particular core funding based on last year's top priorities:

- Junior development
- Women's participation
- Rural development
- High-performing athletes
- Coaching and refereeing development

It is agreed that SquashPEI should be promoting its High-Performance athletes. To be discussed in a future meeting.

Upcoming Season

Discussed lower tournament numbers. Out-of-province travel and accommodations are both cited as a reason. Ken Sampson suggests 1-day events which may encourage more players. The quality of the courts may also have some effect.

Maritime Tournament Agreement

This is a potential agreement between PEI, NB and NS to standardize the rankings and formats of tournaments to use Club Locker's rankings, rather than the traditional ABCD ranking system.

PEI and NB have already agreed to this format, no word from NS as of yet.

This format is much easier to use for setting up tournaments, reduces subjectivity in player rankings, and should result in more equitable tournament draws.

Policies

A number of policies are required by Squash Canada, including Code of Conduct, Discipline, Harassment and Abuse, Conflict of Interest, and Screening Policies for staff and executive members. Many of these are in place, however it is agreed that we will ensure all required policies are included, up-to-date, and available on the website.

SportPEI wants the following policies in place and should be ready for September's potential start of the season: Concussion, Financial Management, Membership Policies, Coaching and Team Selection policies. These will be discussed in detail at a future meeting.

2023 Canada Games Venue

There is uncertainty surrounding potential 2023 Canada Games venues for Squash on PEI. COVID-19 has put a halt on most discussions regarding potential new venues. It is noted that Squash is not the only sport facing such uncertainties. Temporary courts may be the only option.

7:20 – Meeting Adjourned

ADDENDUM

President's Report

It has been a very interesting year for Squash PEI but for the most part successful.

We jumped in with both feet with our PSA Event and Rust Remover last September. What a kick off with such a huge event that showcases talent from both men and women around the world sponsored by Aspin and Kemp. We had our own squash players, Mitch Chaisson, Liam Jinks, and Nathan Philips who can now put PSA Event on their resume. It was exciting to watch Auguste Dussourt from France and Marina Stefanoni from USA take first place in their respective divisions. An event like this is a huge undertaking: from being a liaison between Squash PEI and the PSA promoters, to finding accommodations for all participants from around the world, to sponsorship and ticket sales, and arranging times on court of practice and competition. We had two volunteers who took it all on and did an amazing job; a big thank you to John Power and Susie Greene. We are so honored to carry on John Aspin's dream with his family to create such an event on PEI.

October 12th was World Squash Day. Special thank you to Andrew Avery for taking on this event. A few people came out to try the sport of squash, had some cake, and worked with some of our own lovely A players, Mitch Chaisson, Samantha Lawther, Liam Jinks, and Nathan Philips. Thank you to our instructors for volunteering their time with this event. It's important to celebrate our sport and continue to do so by encouraging others to play.

Unfortunately, our Squash for Mental Health Tournament with CeeJay was canceled due to weather. Those with 4 wheel drive and lived closed to town still managed to get some squash in at the Spa. Ceejay is so passionate about making a positive impact on our Island community and I hope Squash PEI continues to work with him and this tradition in the future.

The 30th Annual Mill River Open had a FULL REGISTRATION!

It's been many years since we had a tournament sell completely out. This is always a fun event that draws many from off Island and those from West Prince who normally would not participate in tournaments in Charlottetown. Competition on the courts were fierce and no one walked away with a dry shirt. For some of the Jrs. this was their first tournament and for some adults, their first tournament on PEI. We had such a good time and there are many people to thank for that. Andrew Avery for promoting the event with Facebook posts, press releases, and working with Tylan and Geoff at Mill River Resort to ensure we had everything we needed. We had a lovely surprise of chocolate milk and cheese from Luke MacKinnon and ADL, so thank you. I felt like that this was a very special tournament for many. I was happy to be a part of it and proud of our volunteers who made it happen.

Our Ladies Clinic hosted by Janet MacLeod was very fun and informative. Although we all left exhausted, we had such a good time trying new skills and encouraged each other to push harder and try again. Our female participant age range was from 13 to late 50s. Some of the women later took these drills learned at the clinic to Ladies Night to continue training. Janet's coaching style and attitude made us want to try again for another clinic very soon. She has a passion for the sport that is very addictive.

Other highlights include a couple of "Try It Events" in Mill River that had a small turn out but I feel to offer this again with our new Squash To Go bag and some more advertising, we can expect a bigger turn out next time.

We also launched our new website this year! Big shout out to Brian Ashby for putting in a lot of hours creating a fun site to find out more about Squash PEI.

In terms of tournaments, Squash PEI is getting consistent players from NS and NB coming to our Island to play. Although, we are unable to create an atmosphere like other venues, our attitude and friendliness keeps them coming back.

I was also pleased with how well our programming went for our Jrs., Ladies, and League.

BJ Maclean has done such great work with the Jr. Programming for Squash PEI over the last couple of years. The number of participants has grown, the kids are advancing and now competing in tournaments. He had dedicated a lot of his own time with these Kids and we want to thank him for that. In January, due time restraints, BJ had to take an 8 week leave which created a unique opportunity for our Jrs by breaking up into Beginners, Intermediate, and Advance so that they can receive the coaching suited for their levels. John Power stepped in for the intermediate and advance while Thomas Cheeseman, a former Canada Games kid and student of John's, looked after the beginner lessons.

Ladies Night, although still a small group, also grew in number of participants while Seana and I hosted on Thursday Nights. We played a lot of 40 Up and challenged each other to some difficult games. Once we moved back to Monday nights to allow a second evening for Jr training, our numbers reduce due to scheduling conflicts but we have consistent women showing up and I feel it's important, even just for them play that night a week, to continue to play.

Wednesday Night League was a hit once again! We had some new faces and familiar faces play this year. For some who do not play in tournaments anymore, league is very important to them as their only other form of competition outside their regular group. I found that there were less "no shows" and conflicts this year and many are still enjoying this night of programming.

And just as we were gearing up for the PEI Open, a pandemic hit.

Unfortunately, this put a halt on everything Squash PEI had to offer.

We move forward into 2020/2021 with hopes that we can still offer this addictive sport to our current and new squash players and sell out every tournament we host in the future!

I would like to also take this opportunity as we reflect over the last squash season to thank our executive committee: Ken Sampson, Lester Jinks, JF Vincent-Rocan, Brian Ashby, Zach Stephens, Seana Evans-Renaud and Chris MacIntyre.

You are all volunteers with this sport organization who dedicate time away from their families and daily lives, put in long hours at events, come to meetings, encourage others to play, and work at creating and building a sport for all Islanders. You don't do this for monetary means, you do this because you know how much sport can mean to someone and how much it means to you.

Thank you all for your support for not only me personally but for all members and lovers of the sport of Squash.

Jo Spencer
President, Squash PEI