

2017 SquashPEI AGM

June 27, 2017

6:00pm

Hill's Sports Bar (SPA Total Fitness Centre)

In Attendance: Kelly MacWilliams, Kady Bruce, Steve Bruce, Jo Spencer, BJ McLean, Brian Ashby, Lester Jinks, Ken Sampson, Zach Stephens, John Power

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:10pm by Kelly MacWilliams

1. Approval of Agenda for the 2017 AGM. Moved to adopt by Kady Bruce and Brian Ashby seconds.
2. Approval of the 2016 AGM minutes. Moved to adopt by Steve Bruce and Jo Spencer seconds.
3. **Presidents Report:** Kelly MacWilliams
 - a. Squash Canada requires a submission of a report with number of players. Membership was less than 100 in the 2016-2017 season. This is down from previous years.
 - b. There were 6 tournaments in the season. The close proximity of clubs in the Maritimes allows a circuit, however it has been noted that the circuit has gotten smaller, and with less off-island players coming to tournaments.
 - c. **Leagues:** In addition to the house league at the SPA in Charlottetown, Fit-Stop in Summerside has been hosting a league, as well as Linden Oulton having had one running in Mill River.

Thanks to Ken Sampson for running the Charlottetown league.

A discussion was had regarding whether 1 league is preferable to 2 leagues. Logistically it is better to have 1 league in terms of collecting fees and organizing the teams. Lester suggests a shorter league as we don't want to take away from tournament numbers. However, it is still an important to cross-over players from the league to tournaments. No specific decision was reached pending future discussion.

Steve Bruce suggests we add a discussion on overall tournament numbers. Kelly MacWilliams confirms adding tournaments numbers under New Business.

- d. **Initiatives:** There were a number of initiatives to introduce people, particularly kids, to the sport. Thanks to Logan Andersen and Kady Bruce for participating at the Bluefield Sports Fair, which was a great way to introduce kids to the sport.

SportsPEI has a multi-sport program and the squash component was facilitated by Andy Gallant. The program was comprised of 12 sports, each sport gets 3-4 weeks and 2 sessions per week. Andy reported that overall it went over really well.

In Summerside, Dana Betts was working at the Boys and Girls Club and started an initiative with Andy Gallant/Karakal Atlantic. The had about 12 youth out. Many thanks to Dana and Andy.

Squash in Schools initiative is still being developed. Andy Gallant has been working on a resource module for PE teachers. Kelly MacWilliams and Steve Bruce participated in an event for PE teachers in fall 2016 and had a good learning experiences.

- e. **Player Achievements:** Islanders have had a very successful season. Liam Jinks, Emma Jinks, Olivia Philips, and Mitch Chaisson and Nathan Philips attended the Canadians. Thanks to Lester Jinks for helping make that happen.

Our young players in particular Emma and Liam Jinks continue to do exceptionally well. Emma made the Canadian Junior team and is off to New Zealand for the World Championships. Shout out to Quincy Beck who continues to excel at Brown University.

- f. **Volunteers:** Kelly greatly appreciates the help of volunteers who make the SquashPEI program possible. In particular John Power, Lester Jinks, Andy Gallant for coaching. Thanks to Kady and Steve for the help with tournaments. Thanks for Ken Sampson for the league and his role as treasurer.
- g. Kelly MacWilliams thanks everyone for her support in role as President of SquashPEI. Thanks to the exec for the recognition at the Squash Banquet. Resignation is respectfully submitted.

4. **Treasurer's Report:** Ken Sampson

- a. **Finances:** Ken provided a bank report for those in attendance. Expenses in the year were lower. Revenues were generally neutral, which is the goal with tournaments. SquashPEI received a grant of \$9,600 from the government, \$4,000 of which is earmarked for performance plan (which replaces the Canada Games funding model).

Numbers provided are estimates based on outstanding cheques. Discussed some of the outstanding cheques and those who still need to be paid, and that funds will be

dispersed to those who are going to national tournaments. John Power will also be compensated for travel to the Squash Canada AGM.

- b. Ken suggests that the first tournament of the year be free, but requires membership to be paid. This would be an easy and effective way to collect memberships, and boost the numbers of people getting back into the court.

Brian Ashby moves to adopt and Kady Bruce seconds.

5. **Review of Training Programs:** Kelly MacWilliams

- a. **Coaching:** Andy Gallant coached 5 beginner juniors at the SPA. Derek Lawther coached 7-8 intermediate juniors at the SPA. John Power coached the advanced Juniors in the first semester, and Derek and Lester coached in the second semester. With the 2019 Canada Games approaching, we need to be developing juniors and scouting possible players.
- b. **Rewards System:** Kelly provides an overview of Derek Lawther's rewards system. This system fits well with Squash Canada program and seems to be working well with the intermediate juniors. Derek developed this incentive program with Andy Gallant/Karakal Atlantic.

6. **Election of New Executive**

- a. Returning executive:
 - i. Treasurer: Ken Samson
 - ii. Secretary: Brian Ashby
- b. Vacancies:
 - i. President: Kelly MacWilliams nominates Lester Jinks
 - ii. Vice-President Female: Jo Spencer
 - iii. Vice-President Male: Zach Stephens

Kelly MacWilliams motions to confirm Ken and Brian. All vote in favour.

Lester graciously thanks Kelly for her role as President. Will discuss if we need a dedicated tournament role in the future.

7. **New Business**

- a. **Squash Canada AGM:** John Power attended. Lester thanks John for going and says that it worked out well with Squash Canada as they said they appreciate his input.

General Comments from John Power:

There were representatives from all provinces and NWT. There seems to be more coming together of the provinces where in the past there may have been some disagreements. However, they are all prepared to move forward and make compromises. John was pleased with discussion surrounding websites, software, etc.

Discussed the ranking software and how it's currently disorganized. All organizations agree to the importance of a consensus on website and tournament software.

Regarding refereeing, John discussed some new systems Squash Canada may start using. More technical based. John stresses importance for Squash PEI to have qualified referees and not to get behind in officiating.

8. Tournaments

- a. Hosted 6 tournaments in the season
 - Fall Fiesta
 - Aspen Cup
 - UPEI Open
 - Junior Fundraiser
 - Mill River
 - PEI Open

Lester discusses upcoming season and that he's sent a tentative schedule to other provinces to get a circuit going. Helps to spread out and plan in advance with other provinces. Questions were brought up about Mill River's future with their renovations. It was agreed to keep in touch with them and book as soon as possible.

- b. Tournament Numbers: Discussion around lower numbers: some ideas included the aforementioned free tournament to collect membership fees; recruitment incentives; newcomer's associations.
- c. Tournament Director: Last year Michael Berrigan was the one tournament director – should we continue with one person, or have a committee? Lester will reach out to Andrew Avery.
- d. Tournament Software: Other Atlantic provinces are using SportyHQ, we will arrange to get a demo from Squash NB.
- e. It was agreed to have a more thorough tournament discussion at next executive meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50pm