Chair Report – Julie Peachey – 23.07.2018

Welcome and thank you all for coming.

I’d like to start by thanking the team I have up here with me, this year we have made massive improvements both visible and behind the scenes and I couldn’t have done it without them.

I want to take this opportunity to update you on these improvements:

1. Social media and website

Those of you who have been on the website may (hopefully) have noticed that we are updating this! It is happening slowly as I am not a website wizard but we are getting there! We now have linked social media to it as well so even if you are not on Facebook/twitter etc you will still be able to see a live feed (bottom of the homepage). I am slightly better at social media and have Chloe’s help so this gets updated more regularly.

On the social media front, we have Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Is everyone that has it following us? If not, do so now! We are on the look out for a social media manager if anyone is interested? But at the moment people send things to myself of Chloe and we post them. Didcot have been especially good at sending regular match reports and Brookes have got on Board with some photos too but we need MORE! So if anyone has any information or fun items like caption this photo, old photos from years ago or videos of lets/strokes, anything, please send it in!

We currently have 92 followers on Facebook and 40 followers on Instagram.

1. Squash levels - <https://www.squashlevels.com/players.php?home>

OSRA have agreed to pay for membership to Squash Levels so that all results can be shown on here. Its great fun and shows Player of the Month at your Club and Player of the Month in the county! As well as displaying all results and giving you an overall world ranking.

To get full access to the site you have to register and in order to register you have to be an active member of England squash and have an ES number. Anyone that plays intercounties has to be an ES member but most other people were members through their clubs. So you will need to check with your club to see whether they are affiliated with ES or not.

1. New Kit - <https://305squash.com/collections/oxfordshire-squash>

This leads me onto the new County Kit. Every year it seems we have new kit for one team or another then you move age group or change team and they have different kit so you end up with 9 variations of the same thing and inevitably people don’t wear it because they don’t like the colour or the shape etc. In order to combat this Chloe has managed to organise us clothing deal with 305 Squash, she has worked closely with them to design not just men’s and ladies’ t-shirts but also shorts, skirts, hoodies and trackie bottoms in either navy or white.

As you can understand the constant buying of kit has been very expensive for OSRA over the years and inevitably we have been left with odd sizes along the way. Going forward we ask that you buy your own kit, it is very reasonably priced and you can choose a size that fits! Although not compulsory we are hoping you will all get on Board with this because a) its looks really smart and b) having the same kit through all the categories I believe will help with continuity when people change up.

If you have any suggestions on other items you might like to see branded for Oxfordshire then please let us know!

All can be bought on the 305 websites – see me or Chloe for more info.

1. Head Coach

We have had Chloe in place for a year and while she will give you an overview of what she’s done and future plans in her Coaches Report to follow I wanted to recognise the extra work that she may not mention. Chloe has been doing a lot towards building relationships with neighbouring counties, England Squash, Sport England, West Oxfordshire District Council, local clubs and schools etc. She has attended meetings for the County Association Network (CAN) and has also been a great help in keeping our social media pages up to date. We are really excited by the structure and pathways she is putting in place as well as bringing us into the 21st century! These will hopefully guide players through from junior to senior to masters levels and with this added support we wont lose as many along the way.

1. County Closed

Last year we held the first County Closed event for a few years. It was a great success but it was on a weekend that clashed with other tournaments so entry wasn’t as high as it could have been. This year’s event will be held in line with the England Squash suggested date for County Closed events and so we are hoping that this year will be an even bigger success.

1. Information sharing around the County

Team Captains, this falls to you! We are concerned that not all information shared with Club contacts or Team Managers actually gets to the players themselves. With the new GDPR regulations it has made everything a bit more difficult and we now only have team captains and club contact email addresses and no one else. Please pass any and all information on, through any means you can! Emails, posters at your club, social media. Or if you have any alternative solutions/suggestions we welcome those too! Don’t worry, we don’t want to spam you with a bazillion emails, its more to keep people up to date on events, changes that may affect them etc.

1. Committee

We are on the lookout for a few more committee members; I know a lot of people have the fear that getting involved will lead to hours of commitment but we are happy with whatever people can offer. We meet every 3 months and you can make the roles as big or as small as you like.