Chairman's AGM Report 2015

Another year of successful activity across the age range with the Dorset Men's over 40's Racketball squad of Martin Greenslade, Paul Taylor, Nick Macey and Mark Hurd achieving runners up in the National Intercounties; the boys squad of Philip Sargeant, Liam Alldridge, Joe Cook, Charlie Hill, Charlie Sawyer and Ben Smith runners up in the National Intercounties under 17's, Maia Pannell 4th in the National under 13 Championships and James Campbell-Wynter 3rd in the National under 11's.

Whilst the men's team were in familiar territory and were expecting to win, the junior boys team entered completely new territory for the County with their superb results and Maia and James's achievements were the highest individual positions ever achieved by Dorset juniors.

Well done all players and Paul Alldridge for his excellent managing of the boy's team.

The winter and summer leagues continue to receive support throughout the county run so ably by Ian Chislett-Bruce who will be stepping down after next season and handing over to Tash Coker who has joined the committee.

The new website is now up and running and is receiving considerable praise for its ease of use and modern presentation - our website Manager Brian Barnes has done a wonderful job and the county owes him a big debt of thanks.

The newly formed junior committee headed up so professionally by Bev Vatcher meets regularly and the benefits to the youngsters is quite apparent in that England Squash have selected Dorset for funding to take squash to local schools introducing children to the game for the first time.

Facilities are also in place to develop the more talented youngsters and to encourage them on to greater things.

As an indication of the success of Bev and head coach Andy Corben's supervision and guidance, Dorset names appear some 46 times in the national Rankings top 150 for under 11's to 19's for both boys and girls

Mention here should be made of all of the county junior coaches, particularly Charlie and Sophie Campbell-Wynter, James Ryan, Simon Jennings, Keith Chambers and all team managers, who, without their constant help and dedication I wouldn't be able to report such good news.

During this year we were all delighted to learn that Janet Biles dedication to the youngsters in Dorset has been acknowledged nationally when she was presented with the England Squash junior "Special Recognition Award" at the national finals in Manchester, she was

very moved by grandeur of the occasion and enjoyed the hospitality of ES enormously - to my mind a fitting tribute to a special lady.

As can be seen by my comments above, progress of Dorset continues both locally and nationally with Nick Macey and Gary Boome's organisation skills being complimented with the county being entrusted with the South West Racketball Championships at the West Hants for the first time.

A massive thank you, on behalf of us all, to our generous sponsors and to Peter and Chris at the West Hants Club, and Martin and Julie at Bournemouth Squash Club, for allowing us excellent facilities for our various activities during the year.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all of our committee members who continue to work relentlessly, giving up much of their own time quite selflessly for the good of all players, their work is so appreciated but sometimes perhaps we forget to tell them just how much they are appreciated.

David Williams

Chairman

May 2015