

## Chairman's AGM Report

Another busy year for all involved in squash and racketball in Dorset, bucking the trend in many parts of the UK where squash is diminishing and racketball slow to take off.

Dorset's leagues are actively managed by Martin and Tash at Bournemouth Squash Club with great help from the excellent Sportenza computerised results system developed for us by Russell Young.

County competitions continue to be relatively well attended, special thanks to Janet Biles and Annabel Whaley at Dorchester for running the Closed Squash Championships so efficiently, to say nothing of Annabel's gourmet catering.

Also to Nick Macey and Andy Metcalfe, for the Closed Racketball Championships at West Hants with a the record attendance of 64, happily attracting a good contingent travelling over from Jersey, always good to see our friends from the islands.

Here I must congratulate all new County Squash Champions, Clive Ewins, so many times I've lost count but I'm sure he remembers, and Gemma Barber in the Ladies event, good to see Gemma back and playing so well.

Also congratulations to Gary Biles for his first win in the over 55's.

Andy Corben won the County Closed Racketball Championship for the 5<sup>th</sup> time, and Bev retrieved her title that she previously won in 2016. Ian Furness won the over 40's, Mark Hurd the over 50's, and Clive Hickford the over 60's – well done all of you, with the number of entries no title was a "given".

On a national level Matthew Theodoris showed his consistent class by winning the UK Racketball Over 50's title, well done Matthew.

The team titles are too many to cover in my report but I offer my congratulations to the hard work and team spirit shown in the League and Cup competitions, the finals always providing a "festival" atmosphere of a united county.

Following the England Squash national drive to introduce children of all ages to squash Bev Vatcher and her hard working band of devoted coaches have continued in the last 12 months to run introduction sessions, lunchtime and after class sessions in many schools in the area. Some 1500 children have been involved, many of which have moved on to become regular players at their local clubs.

Well done Bev and Andy at West Hants, Samara Stewart at Bournemouth Squash, Sophie and Charlie Campbell – Wynter at Two Riversmeet, James Ryan at Canford, Richard Davies at Ferndown, Neil Chambers at Dorchester, and Francesca Whyte with the under 13 girls.

On an individual basis it is encouraging to witness the results of attention and funding devoted to our youngsters over the past few years and here I must make mention of the achievements of Amy Campbell – Wynter for being selected to represent England in the 5 Nations in France as the result of her national ranking 2 under 13. She has the talent to

achieve whatever goals she sets herself combined with a good attitude and sensible preparation and application. Well done Amy we are all very proud of you.

One of the delightful aspects of the junior squash scene is witnessing the genuine closeness they all have for each other, they enjoy their time on the court, respect each other, and are appreciative of the help they are given. This produces the camaraderie that we see when the teams of all ages, represent the county, they are good ambassadors for Dorset, long may this continue. The team managers must also take credit for encouraging this attitude too.

None of all of this would of course be possible without the help of the generous support we receive from our sponsors; Slades Estate Agents, Snowtrax Activity Centre, I Can Be printing, Cycleworks Bournemouth, MDH Groundworks, Helen Hardy and the continued sponsorship of the juniors from Clive Warren.

Finally, a massive thank you to my wonderful committee most of which I have already mentioned Bev, Martin, Tash, and in addition Ian Chislett – Bruce for his wise counsel, Gary Boome and Mo Lahda for keeping the books tidy in the accountancy division, Brian Barnes for our eye catching website, Andy Corben our Head Coach and Keith Chambers for his work with the University players.

And lastly but in no way the least, to our special County Secretary, Jane Smith, who is untiring in her efforts for all and graciously keeps the committee in order!

Let us all continue to “keep our eye on the ball”.

David Williams

Chairman

June 2018