



Scottish Squash Limited (SSL) Board – August 2023

Regional Committee / Director update following SSL Board Meeting 14th August 2023

Purpose

This is a note to the Board Directors and for sharing with key contacts / Regional Committee members aimed at keeping the squash community in Scotland up to date with key issues being discussed at National level. It is meant to be both 'standalone' and a 'prompt' to SSL Board members to provide a briefing for the Regional Committees and mentions those issues which are considered disclosable (e.g. excludes, for example, discipline, selection appeals).

Introductions

The Chair, Paul Macari, welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting that it's the final regular Board meeting ahead of the SSL Annual General Meeting (AGM) which will take place on Saturday 23rd September (12:30) alongside the Springfield Scottish Squash Open.

Governance

Finance & Commercial Sub Committee

Finance

Following an independent examination, the year end accounts for 2022-23 – showing a break-even year position as had been targeted – were approved by Directors who agreed for them to be shared with member clubs at the forthcoming AGM.

It was confirmed that the year-end position supported the company reserves to remain within the reserves policy range. The annual reserves policy review is due to take place in Q3.

The Q1 budget report was presented and it was confirmed that there were no significant variances to note and that the 2023-24 financial year was on budget.

Commercial

The Commercial Working Group have [finalised a new commercial structure to support the growth of squash in Scotland](#). There are various [partnership opportunities](#) aligned to three key strands: elite performance; events; and community development. The major events strand and particularly the forthcoming [2023 Springfield Scottish Squash Open \(20th-24th September at Inverness Tennis & Squash Club\)](#) provides an immediate opportunity to engage potential new sponsors and re-engage sponsors from the 2022 event.



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In light of the current financial landscape, it was noted that - despite all existing partners and sponsors remaining committed to SSL – the overall projected commercial income for 2023-24 was down on previous years and that this may result in SSL not being able to take up all of the opportunities that it has managed in recent years. Entry in to the 2023 Men's World Team Championship remains in doubt, however, various funding avenues are continuing to be pursued.

The [success of a fundraising campaign, led by a parent group, for the World Junior Championships](#) and the positive impact it had on galvanising the squash in Scotland community was noted.

Risk and Compliance Sub Committee

Developing a more robust succession plan for the recruitment of key Board roles remains a priority. Growing the new membership offer, its benefits packages and ultimately the overall income to invest back into the sport continues to be a key focus, and the Membership Working Group has been re-established to support this.

Strategy (inc. club development & performance pathways)

A new Regional Association Working Group, bringing together the six regional associations on a quarterly basis, to improve the flow of communication from Board/national to region/club/local level and to facilitate inter regional conversations and the sharing of best practice is to be formed.

A vacancy remains as Equality Champion on the Board. A revised Equality Action Plan (EAP), to align to the 2023-27 strategic cycle, is being developed and the external diversity and inclusion working group has been re-established and is due to have its first meeting in Q3. A range of individuals, with experience and expertise across the diversity and inclusion sector, have been recruited to advise, check and challenge on the progress of the EAP.

Club membership had remained static across the last quarter with 86 member clubs. Club membership renewals were issued in Q2 and everyone is encouraged to positively support their club to complete and submit their annual membership return.

A rebranded Performance Pathway Programme (PPP) has been established to support players on the national pathway. The PPP consists of three squads. The newly formed Development Squad and the Under 23 Academy feature revised criteria and structure, replacing and revamping elements of the former Junior Excellence Programme. These two squads will aim to support young players to develop all areas of their game and to assist the transition from the junior to senior game. An Elite Performance Squad, which has welcomed 13 players for the 2023-24 season, will support athletes who are either training as full time professional players or those who are aspiring to become full time in the near future.

[Annual Awards Ceremony, Glasgow University](#) – tickets remain on sale!

The Annual Awards Ceremony will return on Saturday 7th October (from 7pm until late). Tickets remain on sale and more information can be seen via the link: [here](#).



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2023 AGM

The 2023 AGM will align with the Springfield Scottish Squash Open (SSSO) in Inverness on Saturday 23rd September. All member clubs, via their listed main club contact(s), have been invited, and a hybrid option will be delivered for those not able to make it to the SSSO.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is on 13th November 2023.

For Regional Committees/Clubs

If there is anything in this summary that is of particular interest, please contact your Regional Director/Nominee, Maggie Still (Chief Executive), or Paul Macari (Chair) – please contact info@scottishsquash.org if you require individual contact details.

Thanks

Paul Macari (Chair)



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