

Scottish Squash Limited (SSL) Board – May 2026

Regional Committee / Director update following SSL Board Meeting 25th May
2026

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, Hakim Din, welcomed everyone to the meeting held online and attended by ten Directors three SSL Executive members and a sportscotland partnership manager. Two directors sent their apologies.

Strategy

Leadership Team

- Attended the European Squash Forum and AGM in late April; a motion from Germany Squash to reduce the number of girls playing in the European Team Championships did not pass. Relations with European Squash continue to improve following a period of disengagement several years ago.
- Legal Director recruitment: three candidates identified (including one late application); CVs to be reviewed with the Chair and ST, followed by informal conversations and a formal interview process.
- Representative events: eight tournaments held over the past six weeks, including a well-received Home Internationals hosted by Aberdeen. A more consistent communications approach (preview, in-event updates, review) has been well received.
- The team has been engaging with local authorities following the facilities mapping project (see Development report, item 9).
- Regional associations: discussions ongoing with Central (potential to establish a senior regional association, with Chris Tirluk offering to act as president) and with clubs in the South West/Dumfries area regarding a possible new regional association; both aimed to progress ahead of the AGM.
- H//T Squash: recruitment held for committee members (a chair and two committee roles); three candidates identified from seven interviewed.
- A performance strategy consultant's report has been completed and submitted to UK Sport, with feedback awaited.
- Club engagement: approximately 80–90% of clubs have now been contacted directly as part of the ongoing 2027 strategy consultation, working towards contacting all clubs.
- Recruitment: a new part-time temporary Projects Coordinator has been appointed, starting in June, within budget (details to remain confidential pending formal announcement).

Development

- A Club Support Forum was held with Girls Play Squash, attended by 14 clubs, providing a positive opportunity for clubs to share good practice; further similar sessions are planned.
- A Masters women & girls project group has launched a survey to gather feedback on barriers to participation and preferences, to inform new formats and competition styles for next season.
- A further 24 Squash Leaders were trained during the quarter.
- The Heriot-Watt facilities project has concluded, producing a detailed report and map of squash court distribution across Scotland; this will inform ongoing engagement with local authorities and can be shared with regions once finalised.
- Regional lead referee contacts have been established for each region, and a new referee code of conduct has been introduced, including a requirement for child wellbeing/protection training and self-declaration forms for referees officiating at events involving junior players.
- Local authority engagement is progressing well, with active projects and positive early conversations in Stirling (Active Stirling), Renfrewshire, the Borders, and with Edinburgh Leisure, including potential to embed squash within existing coaching programmes and share participation data.
- The Women & Girls Coaching Network has launched regional in-person gatherings (following weaker engagement with an earlier online format), starting in Edinburgh with Highland to follow.

Performance Pathway

- Junior teams (U19, U17, U15 and U13) competed recently, with mixed results; the U13 and U15 teams both finished 4th in the Five Nations. A review is underway with coaches, players and parents to gather feedback, alongside broader discussion on aligning expectations and defining what success should look like going forward.
- The senior women's team had a strong week at the European Championships, finishing 4th after a close 3rd/4th playoff against Belgium, with standout performances from Georgia Adderley and Robyn McAlpine.
- PB noted, for the Board's awareness, that Greg Lobban has announced an intention to represent Australia going forward, with Olympic aspirations; the Board had not formally discussed this since the announcement, and PB offered to take questions.
- Rory Stewart is expected to step back from PSA competition from the summer, and Alison Thompson is reducing her competitive commitments – both significant losses of experienced senior players, with a transition period ahead as younger players step up.
- Georgia Adderley remains the only SSL player on GB Squash's Olympic shortlist following Greg's departure from that list; selection will be determined by world ranking.
- In response to a question from DM on the reduced strength in depth on the men's PSA side, PB noted this will require a shift in narrative and strategy, with a focus on supporting current players to progress and on developing players earlier and younger through the pathway, building on previous success stories.
- Demand for the PPP pathway programme continues to exceed capacity. The sportscotland Pathway Fund application (due for submission on Friday) is seen as a potentially transformational opportunity to extend support to club-based pathway players.

Business & Governance

Finance

- A draft surplus before tax of approximately £10,700 is expected, compared to a deficit of £20,000 in the prior year. Adjusting for two exceptional items totalling £27,000 in 2024/25 (relating to more rigorous accounting treatment of membership income received in advance), the comparable prior-year surplus was £7,000 – this year's result is therefore a modest improvement.
- The balance sheet position has strengthened considerably. Cash at bank as at 31st March 2026 was £232,000, compared with £206,000 the previous year, despite repayment of £28,000 in grants and £19,500 in loans (£47,000 combined) during the year. The cash position grew by £26,000 overall.
- A deposit account opened part-way through last year is expected to generate £10,000–£11,000 in interest this year.

Commercial

- Dynamik has renewed its sponsorship of the senior and pathway team shirts for a third year (the wider partnership runs to the LA Olympics); this does not currently cover the World Team Championships, for which a shirt sponsor is still being sought.
- The current commercial focus is on securing a partner for the Senior World Team Championships in South Korea in December.

Risk and Compliance Sub-Committee

- No cases of fraud to report (standing item).
- Child protection risk is expected to reduce further once a new Legal Director is appointed, as that role will sit on the Risk & Compliance Committee; ST continues to support in the interim.
- The SportyHQ replacement remains an open item, linked to the wider digital platform investment discussed under item 6.
- Staff/home-working risk has reduced, reflecting a positive hybrid working model and improved cloud infrastructure.
- No outstanding safeguarding issues; recent cases and complaints have been resolved satisfactorily.
- Guidance on the transgender inclusion policy remains pending further external advice before renewal.

In case you missed it..

Check out the monthly squash in Scotland newsletter (on the SSL website) and sign up to receive the news direct to your email via the links below:

- Newsletter sign-up: <https://www.scottishsquash.org/newsletter-sign-up/>
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