

NSRA Meeting

Tuesday 20/2/2018

Meeting Start: 06:35pm

Apologies: Todd Noon, Jeremy Ryan

Present: Melody Francis, Tanya Bailey, Trish Medioli, Sally Moody, Paul Faulkner

Treasurers Report: Sally asked if letter had gone out warning clubs that the constitution will be enforced for late payments? It hasn't gone out between seasons but will go out with round 4 as a reminder. Invoices to be prepared this weekend based on registered players. Accounts will be sent off to Graeme in the next few weeks.

Squash Matrix will be gone by next season apparently. Currently not a lot of detail on why and if there will be anything to replace it. Melody will find out more information from NSW Squash. We will need to revisit options we had on table when leaving the matrix was proposed initially. We had some issues with Xpoint when we trialled that with Ladies A1. Investigate sporting options and developing our own rating systems. Melody to Investigate sporty HQ. Paul to find out scope of the work to get a database designed. Trish to Investigate what else is around. Ultimately we need it to have a rating system, draw, produce reports. Would be great to plug into our current website.

Juniors Report:

Junior pennants term 1 has begun. A few players dropped out last minute. Got someone to fill in. Started with doubles. Kids paying with active kids voucher which is great to see. Melody to work out how we claim the money for it.

Registrations opening again in March for active kids rebate. Would like to see all squash centres apply.

Hunter junior circuit is officially no more. Can we step into the void of running tournaments. Melody to see viability of having this happen.

Trish proposed we need to have policies on website for including children in activities Melody agreed and has done some work on this recently so will follow up.

Coaching course this weekend. Good responses so far. Peter Groth would like to participate as well but just waiting to get his official contact.

Scholarship form to be looked at and added to the website so we can support Juniors financially with both promising squash skills and also hardship issues.

Men's Pennants: Basically business as usual. New season is under way. Melody indicated there is a complaint coming regarding bullying. Paul was aware of the rumour of this but has had no official complaint from the complainant and will need to investigate appropriately once the complaint has been made in writing. Trish suggested that we need to find and update the old Code of conduct that players used to be required to abide by. Paul commented that many people would not read this document. Council decided unanimously that it was necessary in spite of this and we should also back it up with maybe bite size reminders throughout the season to encourage a better culture. No place for bullying behaviour in our sport. Paul was concerned that the complaint seemed to

potentially be the third complaint from the same 'team' in 3 years. Was pointed out that individual team members had changed so not sure what is causing the issues.

Melody also mentioned the need for a Referees course as there seems to be a problem with understanding of the rules across all grades. Paul and Tanya agreed. Trish brought up a few problems with the referees course presented last time. Namely that it was pitched too high for our pennants competition with a lot of video refereeing referred to and sadly leaning away from the rules that are entirely about safety and really necessary in a local competition environment. Melody will get prices and also find a more appropriate presenter.

Melody also suggested bringing supersquash down to 11 not 15 points. This needs to be raised as a motion for the AGM.

Paul to look at numbers and court availability for making all 3 man teams in future seasons.

Women's Pennants:

Ladies Div 1 back on the matrix. Brought up a reserving issue as they had come back in line with other grade. Decided to have the looser reserving rules due to not wanting to disadvantage individual teams and felt the handicaps should help to even things out. To be disseminated to all the players in next communication. At discretion of Pennants committee is something that can be used if people are found to be abusing this and using number ones to play as 3's etc

Administration:

Fair Trading Lodgement has been completed.

Player Registration has begun, we have had about a third of the comp register already. Form seems to be easy to fill in but needs to be more prominent on the website. Trish to change. Also in future needs to include grade.

Started the season without registrar. Entering teams etc on the matrix was pretty straight forward. Pennants Booklet interesting as it takes 3 times as long as putting matrix together. Look into having a report which is the book or creating a cheat sheet with the things that change each season and keeping rules etc online.

Promotions Report:

NSRA Shirts for volunteers from Raymond Terrace. Would cost us 8-10 shirts all up. Tanya thought it would be a much higher number than this and wouldn't like to miss anyone out. Sally indicated she felt it wasn't appropriate after the event. Tanya suggested we pre order a stash of shirts in various sizes to be used and given to volunteers at the time as this gets us more promotion than simply a gift afterwards. Tanya suggested Hi Vis style vests instead which could be available and reused. Trish to price that. Melody suggested caps. Trish to also price.

There will be no more big blow up court displays for a while – volunteers have done plenty and have been amazing. In future we might need to look at single day events as they will be much easier to staff. Hundreds of kids through on weekend, approx. 30 new leads for squash.

We have the ongoing issue with the blow up court that if we have it we need to include the price of testing and tagged into organisation before each event.

Phil mentioned help for tournament later this year – is there any Lake Macquarie Open this year? Bit of problems with the date for the event so it is on the 30th June – 1st July. Expressions of interest came out it was put in and got no notification. No notification of calendar came out. Lake Macquarie open wasn't on it. Chose another date. Tanya willing to help with this as she has quite a bit of experience. Council very happy to help Phil get whatever he needs off the ground.

Tanya suggested having some fliers on the centres made up for future promotional events.

Presidents Report:

Prizes - we discussed email suggestion of restaurant vouchers. Seemed to be a bit of an issue even though a lovely idea. Some teams are less likely to socialise outside of squash and could be difficult as we don't know who will win. Wyong would have trouble using a local Newcastle voucher.

We will be organising prizes very early this season as the later run means not everything is available and drives up costs. Several options were discussed. To get prizes on Wetpack or little towels for runners up. Towels, Umbrella, Glassware or camp chair for winners. Will go back to just having the logo as these prizes can also be used for junior pennants.

Peter Bartlett approached the council about an in schools program for racket sports that he will be getting off the ground. Focuses on both Tennis and Squash. Seems like a really exciting opportunity for squash and the council is happy to provide support in any way that we can.

Meeting Closed: 08:11pm