

English Racketlon 2012 AGM, – Racketlon World Championships

English Racketlon Association



The AGM took place on 29.11.2012

Attendees:

Judy Oliver, Alexander Oliver, Rakesh Gupta, Keith Lesser, Richard Middleton, Stuart Foster, Richard Whitehouse, Nigel D'Arcy, Diana Prades, Alistair Prades, Barbara Capper, Isabelle Tyrrell, Andy Dow, Steve Hall, Simon Iron, James Langworthy, Andrew Griffiths, David Ridout, Loic Cencig, Fabien Mauroy, Oliver Oxland, David Thomas, Jeremy Krzystyniak, Tom Whitehouse, Ray Jordan and Duncan Stahl.

Apologies: Julian Kashdan-Brown, Siraz Natha, Andrew Hopwood, Dominique Ford, Richard Lawrence, Stuart Hobden, Richard Boreham, Phil Todd, Chrissie Mariner, Dianne Baker, Peter Bridgeman and Duncan Marlow.

Minutes

1. Last year's minutes
2. International Racketlon Federation
3. English Racketlon Association CIC
4. Chairman Report
5. Treasurer Report & Sign off of Accounts
6. Tour Report & Discussion
7. England Captain Report
8. Rankings Report
9. Recognition
10. Articles of Association Approval & New policies
11. AOB

English Racketlon 2012 AGM2, Stockholm – Racketlon World Championships

1. Last year's minutes

Agreed and noted

2. International Racketlon Federation

a) Recognition

- i) International recognition being pursued with Sport Accord which has replaced GASIF as

the international body of recognised sports. Sport Accord are supportive and FIR President (Marcel Weigl) has met in Lausanne (Sport Accord head office) and they are supporting an application in February 2013. Their criteria is that racketlon is formalised in 40 countries which includes recognition from 10 countries national federations. Racketlon is close to this as 9 countries have recognition from national federations and 37 have the sport formalised (a body set-up but not yet necessarily recognised by the equivalent of Sport England). This is huge growth and good work by the FIR as one year ago, racketlon was only set-up in 29 countries. Racketlon is growing fast and FIR are confident will soon be formalised and recognised as an official sport internationally. FIR President Marcel Weigl works towards this goal in an office part time for 2 days a week and has achieved good results. English Racketlon is currently set-up as a Community Interest Company.

ii) England have 3 main projects to help this goal. This is to set-up racketlon in Wales, Malta and Ireland. Only Ireland and Malta count as an extra country because the UK counts as one. Scotland is already set-up. Keith Lesser will pursue Wales with Peter Bridgeman and Ireland with Judy Lambert and Duncan Stahl will pursue Malta.

iii) Other countries are being set-up imminently including but not exhausted to Brazil, Croatia, China, Japan, Iraq, Turkey and Norway.

b) World Tour changes

There will be no Italian Open next year otherwise the tour is similar, with 15 World Tour tournaments and further satellite events. This is then supported by national tours like Sweden which have 140 tournaments per year and others including but not exhausted to Switzerland and Austria who operate similar sized national tours to the UK. The World tour dates are launched and the UK Tour will follow and be built around this.

c) World Team Champs

There will be an O55 event in 2013 (Holland) with 4 men (2 mens singles, 1 mens doubles). The Ladies are to be added in 3 years when enough ladies exist in this category. Noted that England now has a world champion in this category and would be a strong team.

d) World Ranking System

English Racketlon 2012 AGM2, Stockholm – Racketlon World Championships
Due to increase in events since the start of the world ranking system, cap raised to 12 tournaments from 8 tournaments in a 24 month period. Breakdown now by category so best performance within 2 World Championships, 4 Super World Tour, 4 International World Tour and 2 Challenger events. The consensus was that this will encourage more entries to more tournaments.

e) Professional world championships magazine

FIR advised to use this with sponsorship meetings.

f) 2012 World Championships in Stockholm.

Biggest ever at 489 entries, a 20% increase on last year. 30 players have travelled from the UK. This is a great attendance.

g) TV

Racketlon was televised on Swedish national television for the first time (on a main TV channel).

h) Betting

Unibet.com provided odds on racketlon betting for the first time also.

i) Council

Phil Todd replaces Gary Tovey on FIR Council

j) Resultreporter

England to be part of an exclusive FIR trial in 2013 where ResultReporter will introduce payment functionality. This is an excellent result.

k) Player License

No player license challenger fees for racketlon developing countries (Scotland and Wales, etc). British Open will have challenger player license fees though as England is established.

3. English Racketlon Association CIC

English Racketlon 2012 AGM2, Stockholm – Racketlon World Championships

Gary Tovey no longer involved.

Isabelle Tyrrell elected as press officer and to help with contacting clubs to tell them what racketlon is and raise awareness in build-up to local tournaments.

John Garland still in touch but has moved to Asia for one year.

Fabien Mauroy and Dave Ridout elected as Sponsorship Officers replacing Stuart Foster and Rakesh Gupta.

Phil Todd is FIR Council rep.

The website should be updated to reflect these changes.

4. Chairman report

Ray Jordan (English Racketlon Chairman) commented that he would like to be more active in the future and took a slight backseat this year due to injury and other commitments. He thanked Keith Lesser, Richard Lawrence and Dominique Ford for carrying out the majority of the work throughout the year. He outlined his major contribution which was in helping to organise the English Open and that he looked forward to next season.

6. Treasurer report & sign off of accounts.

Accounts signed off after a thorough briefing.

Sales slightly down as the English Open date moved to October (from August) so did not take place in financial year.

Intent to increase sponsorship.

Tom Whitehouse England kit sponsorship offer. Squad of 15. Also offered to set-up an

English Racketlon trading account with Reydon Sports and suggested that this is progressed between Tom and Richard Lawrence.

Nigel D'Arcy sponsorship ideas mentioned and will be discussed further.

7. Tour report/discussion

Rakesh Gupta - English Championships in March went well. 3 events took place at Virgin Active Croydon (The British Open, The English Championships and the Surrey Open). Entries from abroad anticipated but no shows from Italy impacted entries. The venue have removed badminton courts and table tennis tables. This may not be a permanent move but a change of ownership means this is not a viable venue in the short term venue but in future could comeback. Could put tape down on tennis courts and bring table tennis in. Also looking at other venues of which there are many alternatives. Emphasised we are not short of venues. English Racketlon 2012 AGM2, Stockholm – Racketlon World Championships

Dave Thomas - good tournament in Manchester. Big club, lots of history. Richard and Rachel Lawrence were absolutely brilliant. Next year, hold the British open in August which will be an International event. Probably no license fees for challengers next year. Other events took place in Letchworth, Limpsfield, Sussex, Cambridge, Nottingham and South London.

Acknowledgement that England is one of the most advanced countries in racketlon with a proper tour unlike many other countries. Only Austria, Sweden and Switzerland are of a similar size.

Dave Thomas emphasised how easy an affiliate event was to run. It should be presented as a simple offering that it isn't a lot of work to run a tournament with English Racketlon support.

Key part is booking venue and getting local entries. Current tournament proposal document is too long. People need to understand it is an easy way to make money and help the sport.

Rakesh Gupta contributed that later start sometimes helps (11am or later). The Car share initiative is to be re-launched. Fabien Mauroy was particularly keen. People are put off by low entries on published list when tournaments are in their early stages (a few months before). Tournament organisers should push events and get people to enter as other options involve too much admin which the Treasurer is unwilling to accommodate.

Other possible events: Stuart Farrar in Wimbledon. Welsh Open should be a challenger next year. Jon Moore and Kevin Lawlor are keen to organise a Glasgow open. The English Championships will be at Hertford.

Isabelle offered to find new Midlands venue. Dave Ridout is to run Bristol tournament. There was a consensus that prize money for events would be a good idea. The basic format would include £100 for National Championships and £50 for regional events.

8. England Captain Report (Duncan Stahl)

Open team of Jeremy Krzystyniak, Dave Thomas, Jason Granville, Duncan Stahl and Isabelle Tyrrell. Beat Switzerland first round, through to quarter final for first time in a few years. Lost to Germany very close who were eventual runners up. Jason took Thorsten Deck (top 5

in world) close. Jeremy did well against Zeoli (world ranked 11). Duncan and Dave won doubles and Isabelle close in Ladies against world number one. Won 2, lost 2, losing to Denmark and beating Turkey. This was a very enjoyable experience in Sofia. There was great weather.

Junior team got bronze. The team did exceptionally well.

English Racketlon 2012 AGM2, Stockholm – Racketlon World Championships

Vets room for improvement. If Lazarus, Gupta, Middleton and Capper all attend the team will be very strong. Richard Whitehouse was also mentioned.

The 2013 tournament is in Holland. There should be a strong team with a minibus potentially to take whole squad.

Strength of squad discussed and Duncan Stahl (England Captain) has offered to co-ordinate. Welsh team also relevant.

8. Rankings report

New system better, but not updated regularly enough and missing tournaments.

Tour race should be included and have a prize or prize money for 2013.

Stuart Hobden, Richard Lawrence, Richard Boreham, Dominique Ford, Keith Lesser and Ray Jordan to discuss.

9. Recognition.

Application with Sport England to be progressed as soon as possible by Julian Kashdan-Brown and Keith Lesser.

10. Articles of Association

Proposed changes to the articles where presented and approved.

11. AoB

a) Fabien suggested a player profile page and is happy to help out with this.

This would include interviews with top players and the best players at each sport.

b) Ray asked if we own any stock. We own some barriers but no nets. View that we should buy a net from Reydon Sports or Topspin TT. Table tennis table Nigel D'Arcy has which can be used for tournaments.

c) Agreed that a standard tag line for racketlon will be used on all tour marketing.

Who is the best racket sports player in the country?

d) The following policies were approved at the AGM:

- Complaints policy
- Grievance policy
- Safeguarding and protecting young people
- Conflict of interest
- Equality and Diversity