

County Association Network

Inaugural Meeting 11-11-17 at 10.00 am

Winterbourne House, University of Birmingham

MINUTES

1. Introduction (Mike Clemson): The County Association Network has been formed with a view to promoting the game of squash in England, in partnership with England Squash and other entities.
2. Those present: representatives of the following County Associations – Avon, Beds, Cheshire, Cornwall, Derbyshire, Devon, Essex, Gloucs, Hampshire, Lancashire, Leics, Merseyside, Middlesex, Northants, Northumbria, Notts, Shropshire, Suffolk, Warks, Wiltshire, Worcs and Yorkshire. Also present: Nick Donald (ES Board) and Louise Perry (ES staff)
3. Apologies received from Berks, Cambs, Dorset, Herts and Oxfordshire
4. Name of the CAN/ACA to be retained as “County Association Network.”
5. Status and Governance: The paper setting out the proposed Aims and Activities of CAN was adopted unanimously. It was confirmed that CAN is now a Voluntary Association of County Squash Associations in England
6. Members elected to the Executive Committee of CAN:
 - a. Alan Batchelor (Chair)
 - b. Mike Clemson (Secretary/Co-ordinator)
 - c. Colin McNestrie (Website Manager)
 - d. Committee members: Mike Batte, Mike Blasdale, Mike Broadbent, Richard Bickers, Vicki Prow
 - e. The Committee can co-opt anyone interested in being involved
7. Paul Main (Beds) gave a vote of thanks to: Mike Clemson, the Interim Executive Committee of CAN, and anyone else who has assisted in promoting the organisation over the last three years.
8. Aims of the County Association Network:
 - a. CAN has the potential to be “The Google of the grass roots of squash in England”
 - b. To set up as a consultancy with member representatives who have expertise in a variety of subjects – such as junior coaching, marketing, tournament management, IT, etc.
 - c. It is recognised that the number of topics and issues that CAN and its members need to keep track of is significant.
9. How CAN fits in with the role of the National Forum and the Regional Forums:

- a. The CAN exec committee sees the association as complementary to the role of the National Forum, with no desire to take over its operations or mandate.
10. Paul Main update on the role of the National Forum
 - a. To support the Regional Forums.
 - b. To help in dealing with specific areas of concern (such as Intercounty funding).
 - c. To concentrate on delivery rather than consultancy – which dovetails with CAN’s ambition of being a consultancy.
 - d. To encourage more sharing of the load throughout the county associations.
 - e. Richard Bickers has produced a very useful flowchart which depicts how the various networks fit within the game in England, and how information should flow between them (attached).
 11. Paul Main gave a vote of thanks to Paul Trott and his working party which, over the summer of 2017, gave great impetus to the behaviour change and increased communication levels from England Squash; wholeheartedly endorsed by all present.
 12. One of CAN’s aims is to effectively plan how meetings should be scheduled – would a two-day conference for the ES AGM and Council be more effective? Mention of using technology to better effect (Skype meetings etc) met with general approval.
 13. One of the first tasks to be undertaken by CAN is to create the list of most pressing topics and consultants who can help with them. The proposed PS and JD for Consultants drawn from and through the County Associations was endorsed by the meeting
 14. None of the above is confidential and will be published on the CAN website.

The meeting then closed at 10.40 am