

County Squash and Racketball Associations Network (CAN)

www.countysquashassociations.co.uk

Chair: [Alan Batchelor](#)



Report from the Chairman

March 2018

The CAN Executive Committee braved the snowy elements to meet in mid March in Coventry.

We are pleased to tell you that Richard Antcliff and Paul Main have joined the Committee. Richard is able to keep us informed in many areas and Paul, as a key member of the National Forum will be an important link to another element of the overall squash scene, especially with the Regional Forums.

Relationship with England Squash

Our relationship with England Squash is, in the main channelled through Linda Taylor and Louise Perry, with whom Mike and I have met in Manchester in February. We are still in the earliest phase of our co-operation and have yet to convince England Squash that we can be genuine partners and not a sub-committee of England Squash. While we are happy to assist ES in the delivery of their programmes, we are not yet at a stage where we are actively consulted in early discussion on proposed changes and new activities. Mike and I will be having further meetings as we work on practical areas of co-operation.

As part of England Squash's presentation to Sport England, the executive had been given sight of a document entitled "Enhancing Squash", which made no mention of the County Association Network. This document was prepared late last year and we accept that it was a simple omission or oversight, when the Board had not fully taken on board the part that CAN could play as a serious partner to the executive. rather than a deliberate slight to CAN

We intend to seek a meeting with the Non-Executive Board members to ensure they are informed and aware of the grass roots perception of the situation, following up from the report of the Paul Trott Working Party.

CAN Consultants

We continue to complete and extend the list of Consultants in the various squash activities and we will circulate the list to CAN and its partners. The list will also be on the CAN website. If you have views on specific topics we would ask you to forward them to the relevant consultant. The Consultants will be asked to draw up a brief summary of responses to date, and to discuss them with the appropriate member of staff at England Squash, before making a summary report available for discussion at the CAN meeting on 17 May. If we are able to do so we will circulate these summaries before the meeting.

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IT

Richard Bickers has given a detailed update on the Club Locker situation, and will prepare a summary for distribution to CAN after meeting with Keir Worth. As you are aware England Squash has teamed up with the American software company to be the major player in its activities. I have to say that CAN is sceptical, as Club Locker, as far as the UK is concerned, is still being developed. We need to be assured and convinced that Club Locker meets all the requirements of the UK situation and at a cost that is easily bearable. We shall ask that the County Associations be given the opportunity to air their views at the Council meeting on 17 May.

It is clear that throughout the country a variety of league and tournament software is currently in use. In the coming months CAN wishes to put together a pack of information outlining the software options available so that clubs and counties can be aware of the possibilities. Software providers will be invited to submit content for the information pack. If your county or club uses a software package that you find good to use and you want it to be included in the pack, please let me have the details. CAN itself will not make any specific recommendation.

CAN WEBSITE

The CAN website serves a number of useful purposes –

- Information about CAN itself – history, Terms of Reference, Committee, meeting records etc.
- Sharing examples of good practice by County Associations, possibly using the same list of activities or areas of interest covered by the CAN Consultants
- Information about the National Forum and Regional Forums – membership, records of meetings etc.
- Links to County Association websites

On your behalf I would like to thank Colin McNestrie for all the work he has, and continues to put into it. We will continue to develop it, so that you will be able to find most of the information that you need.

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REGIONAL AND NATIONAL FORUMS

We have some concerns about the Regional and National Forums as some regions are functioning well and some less well, if at all. The NF and RFs have key roles to play in the co-ordination and delivery of activities promoting squash, and it will be an important item for discussion, when we next meet with England Squash. We will call for it to be on the agenda at the Council meeting in May

REVIEW OF COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS

Linda Taylor (Strategic Partnerships) on behalf of England Squash has asked CAN to undertake a review of squash activities performed by County Associations. While it is good to know what is going on and who is actively engaged, we are happy to assist, but we need to know first what information England Squash already has. Besides, we feel that a more organic approach to seeking information from the County Associations, based on the activities covered by the CAN Consultants, would be more appropriate, and more likely to attract a good level of response. Work in progress

CAN NEWSLETTER

Many discussions on squash matters take place by email and sometimes the “thread” can be quite long. From time to time we hope to keep you informed via the website by extracting and publishing the salient points, without, of course, naming the senders. One of the recent topics has been about membership of ES. You will have been informed by England Squash that they need to know your position on receiving the enhanced rebate by 31st March. I am sure that this is an important decision for most counties, who depend on the rebate for their activities. Please impress on your members the value of membership, which offers club insurance, individual insurance and membership of Squashlevels among the benefits. It is value for money, but each player needs to activate his membership for it to be effective.

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ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

For the time being we have a “Terms of Reference” as we work together. Should there come a time for a more formal structural document, we have a draft constitution, which I can send you on request. It has not been adopted and is merely a draft.

You may be aware also that changes to data protection come into force in May. We will seek to find out how it will affect the County Associations and what we need to do in order to comply. Work in progress again.

CAN MEETING 17 MAY

On the morning of the ES Council meeting in May we will be having a County Association meeting to last about an hour. This is our opportunity to meet and discuss all the issues of relevance. The main aim of the meeting will be to report on progress in developing the partnership with England Squash, to confirm the level of commitment from the County Associations for the aims and activities of CAN, to discuss the situation as regards the National and Regional Forums, and to use the reports from the CAN Consultants to identify priorities for action and get views on specific areas of concern. I hope that as many of you as possible will make the effort to come. A good attendance from the counties will send a clear and positive signal to the Board and Executive of England Squash that we are a body with commitment, knowledge, expertise and passion for our sport and have much to offer.

Alan Batchelor

alanbatchelor@hotmail.co.uk