

10 August 2018

Dear Colleague

It is now four years, I think, since Nick Rider left England Squash 'by mutual agreement'. Keir Worth was appointed as CEO in his place, and I proposed to him that the County Associations were best placed to promote and sustain the game of squash, with appropriate support from England Squash

England Squash has never taken this on board, leading one member of the CAN Executive Committee to comment recently that 'ES is like an old fashioned company making the same old thing, blindly stumbling down a dead end alley despite many large warning notices being waved in its face.' Those of you who don't know the history of our attempts to persuade ES to change direction, should go on the CAN website www.countysquashassociations.co.uk and read the various reports under the section headed About Us, particularly the CAN First Annual Report and Hitting the Nick

You will be aware of the attitude of the Chair and Board to CAN from the email and notes from our Chair, Alan Batchelor, which I circulated recently. As a further example, I attach an email I sent to the Affiliation and Membership Working Party on 3 July relating to the recently issued Club Membership Pack. As yet, I have had no answers from ES to the 11 questions I ask. One member of the CAN Executive Committee commented 'A good set of questions, and a sad indictment of the process followed and/or willingness to listen'

Two things concern me. One is that, while CAN has been recognised by England Squash as a body representing the majority of the County Associations, there are still a small number of CA Chairs who have never engaged with it, and presumably think that England Squash is heading in the right direction. We need to know if this is still the case, and why this is

The other is that there are a number of County Associations who lack the resources both of volunteers and cash, to do much more than seek to survive, and who may find it difficult to participate fully in any concerted promotional programme. Do they share my view as expressed in the first paragraph above?

There will be opportunity to discuss all of these matters at the CAN Conference on 8 September. In essence, there are three main items on our agenda –

(a) our future strategy, with options ranging from establishing a county based Affiliation and Membership system, to accepting that ES will never change, at least under its present stewardship, and CAN becoming just a vehicle for the sharing of information and best practice

(b) the role of the County Associations in promoting the major areas of activity – participation, coaching, refereeing etc.

(c) our views on the format and agenda for the Council meeting due to take place later in the autumn

All of which makes attendance at our Conference pretty crucial – we appreciate that decisions made then cannot be binding on those CAs not represented, and this is the time we need to stand together and move forward as one body. Please let me know who is coming asap

With all good wishes, united in our love for and concern for the future of squash

Mike C