



## Scottish Squash Limited (SSL) Board – May 2024

Regional Committee / Director update following SSL Board Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024

### Purpose

This is a note to the Board Directors and for sharing with key contacts / Regional Committee members aimed at keeping the squash community in Scotland up to date with key issues being discussed at National level. It is meant to be both 'standalone' and a 'prompt' to SSL Board members to provide a briefing for the Regional Committees and mentions those issues which are considered disclosable (e.g. excludes, for example, discipline, selection appeals).

### Introductions

The Chair, Paul Macari, welcomed everyone to the meeting, [extending a welcome to two new Directors](#); Alison Bell (Non-Executive Director – Performance Pathway) and Ian Ross (Director, Regional Nominee from the East of Scotland Squash Association).

### Strategy (inc. club development & performance pathway)

In light of the [inclusion of squash in the Olympics from LA2028](#), SSL are engaged with the other Home Nations and sports councils with a view towards securing investment from UK Sport for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic cycle. SSL are keen to engage, seek and hear the views from key stakeholder groups on the vision and opportunities that the sport wishes to capitalise on pre and post LA28, and to ensure that national and local opportunities can be best connected.

The Regional Association Working Group, bringing together the six regional associations on a quarterly basis, to improve the flow of communication from Board/national to region/club/local level and to facilitate inter regional conversations and the sharing of best practice continues to be established.

Club membership remained more or less the same across the last quarter with 87 member clubs. The Club Forum continues to host an online forum call every quarter to share best practice and provide an informal calendar of CPD opportunities. Details of the quarterly calls are shared with all club main contacts are the recording can be accessed [here](#).

SSL are aware of a number of challenges relating to specific local authority based squash clubs and are working to connect national and local partners where appropriate. Member clubs are encouraged to keep SSL abreast of any local challenges or positive news stories as early as possible and via your regular/direct link to the SSL team.

As the 2023-24 season draws to a close, a review of the rebranded Performance Pathway Programme (PPP) will be carried out to inform the planning for season 2024-25. This will include a review of the selection criteria and a group of parents/carers are supporting this piece of work. A



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blueprint, outlining a player development framework, is being developed and it is hoped that this will offer guiding principles as work continues to review, implement and embed a stronger national>regional>local connected performance pathway.

Congratulations were extended to the [women's National team who secured a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish in division 1 and to the men's team who won division 2 at the recent European Team Championships](#). The success of the junior representative teams across all of the age groups at the European Team Championships was also noted, as well as the 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish for both junior teams at the 5 Nations.

The representative season also took in the [2024 Masters Home Internationals](#) in Q1 and the strength and togetherness of the masters community was evident across the age group events. Thanks were extended to Edinburgh Sports Club for hosting the Scotland edition of the series and well done to all of the players selected.

The development of the [competition calendar for season 2024-25](#) is ongoing, and thank you to the regional associations for engaging with the recent consultation phase. Clubs are encouraged to continue to liaise with their regional point of contact for competitions/tournament planning etc. to support with the regional to national approach being adopted across squash in Scotland.

#### ➤ New for season 2024-25 – [Squash Levels](#)

Scottish Squash have entered a new partnership with Squash Levels and the collaboration will allow squash players in Scotland to find their place in the Squash Levels global rating system, giving players the chance to see how their game compares to players across the country and throughout the World. Results from all sanctioned competitions and leagues entered on SportyHQ will automatically flow to Squash Levels, allowing players to track their progress over time. For more details, please click [here](#).

## **Business & Governance**

### **Finance & Commercial Sub-Committee**

It was confirmed that the draft year end accounts for 2023-24 had come in approx. £8.5k ahead of budget and showed a small deficit (~£2.5k). It is expected that this position will be confirmed following an independent examination, and the final accounts will be presented at the 2024 AGM.

The operating budget for 2024-25 had been confirmed by the sub-committee and included an increase, the first in four years, of 13% on member (clubs) and subscriber (individuals) fees. [Full details of the fee structure for 2024-25](#) is due to be communicated to clubs and individuals across Q2.

The Commercial Working Group continue to drive forward the commercial strategy in a bid to secure new and additional investment for squash in Scotland. [Various partnership opportunities](#), aligned to the three key strands (elite performance; events; & community development), exist and the current focus is on the [opportunities that exist for sponsorship](#) to support the National team [towards the World Team Championships in Hong Kong, China in December 2024](#).



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## Risk and Compliance Sub-Committee

Developing a more robust succession plan for the recruitment of key SSL Board roles remains a priority.

A new online training/refresher module to support local club child wellbeing and protection officers has been developed and is currently being rolled out across squash in Scotland.

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## Looking ahead..

### ➤ Annual Awards 2023-24

[Nominations are now open for the Scottish Squash Annual Awards 2024.](#)

Do you know a player, coach, referee or club worthy of recognition? Would you like to celebrate someone for their contribution to squash in the last year – or over a lifetime?

Categories up for nomination are:

- Senior Player of the Year
- Junior Player of the Year
- Masters Player of the Year
- Coach of the Year
- Referee of the Year
- Club of the Year
- Services to Squash Award

Nominations can be submitted by using this [form](#).

Further information, including criteria can be viewed [here](#).

### ➤ Annual General Meeting

The Scottish Squash 2024 AGM will be held online on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September from 7.30pm. Further details will be shared with all member clubs, via their main club contact, in due course.

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## In case you missed it..

Check out the May squash in Scotland newsletter and update and sign up to receive the news direct to your email via the links below:



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- May update: <https://mailchi.mp/4e6598441924/v703s2bhmp-6726816?e=8d10effe7a>, including:
    - [Lobban and Adderley Crowned 2024 National Champions at Newlands Lawn Tennis & Squash Club](#)
  - Newsletter sign-up: <https://www.scottishsquash.org/newsletter-sign-up/>
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**Next Meeting:** The next SSL Board meeting is on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2024.

### **For Regional Committees/Clubs**

If there is anything in this summary that is of particular interest, please contact your Regional Director/Nominee – please contact [info@scottishsquash.org](mailto:info@scottishsquash.org) if you require individual contact details.

Thanks

Paul Macari (Chair)



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