



## Scottish Squash Limited (SSL) Board – February 2025

Regional Committee / Director update following SSL Board Meeting 17<sup>th</sup>  
February 2025

### 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, and it was later noted that this would be Paul's last as President & Chair of the Board [before commencing as CEO on 10<sup>th</sup> March](#).

### Strategy (inc. club & workforce 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 maximising 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.

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 and the recording can be accessed [here](#).

The appointment of Ewan McArthur as membership engagement officer and Ellie Jones as club development officer (women & girls) were noted and both were welcomed by the Board of SSL. For further details on their appointment, please click [here](#).

Coach education opportunities are continuing throughout 2025, and thanks to investment from **sportscotland**, there remains subsidy for women and girls, young people and coaches working in island and rural communities. This subsidy can cover up to 80% of the course fee for eligible individuals, reducing financial barriers to participation. Additionally, there are regional support measures in place to assist coaches in obtaining their Level 1 qualification, with subsidies and funding available in different regions.

In refereeing and officiating, work continues in collaboration with the World Squash Officiating (WSO) framework. A new [Refereeing Working Group](#), primarily composed of referees, has been



**TOGETHER FOR SQUASH IN SCOTLAND**

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established to recruit and retain officials There is a key focus on improving diversity, encouraging more young people and women and girls to take up refereeing.

The 'Calling the Shots' markers awareness course was recently trialled in the West region, receiving positive feedback. The course aims to increase confidence and knowledge around officiating, with the long-term goal of encouraging more individuals to progress into refereeing roles. Tutors are currently reviewing feedback to refine and improve future delivery ahead of a national rollout.

A popular and successful Scottish Junior Open took place in December 2024 and thanks were extended to the event title sponsor, JC Lindsay, for their support of the event. In amongst a notably strong international entry were a number of excellent Scottish performances, with Robyn McAlpine winning the girls under 19 title and three other Scottish players securing a podium finish.

On the PSA circuit, Scottish players continue to perform well. Greg Lobban remains in the world's top 20, while Georgia Adderley has climbed to 23. The top 50 rankings are highly competitive, but Scottish players are maintaining strong positions. Additionally, Lisa Aitken made her return to competition, playing alongside Georgia Adderley at the Tournament of Champions in New York.

## **Business & Governance**

### **President & Chair of the Board vacancy & General Meeting (30<sup>th</sup> April, 2025)**

Following Paul Macari's forthcoming resignation from the Board, an opportunity has arisen, for a positive, driven team player to join SSL as President and Chair of the Board. The successful individual will gain expertise of supporting and advising a small and dynamic Board. As the Chair of the Board, they will help to shape the future of the sport of squash in Scotland, particularly in relation to overseeing the next stage of the modernisation of the sport; continuing the positive culture that is being developed across the sport and further building of our positive partnerships as we build to the Olympic Games in Los Angeles 2028 and beyond.

For further information, including details on the application process, please download the Recruitment Pack accessible via the Vacancies page at the link below:

<https://www.scottishsquash.org/vacancies/#toggle-id-1>

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

It was noted that a small deficit is likely to be posted in 2024-25, mainly due to the higher costs associated with the new combined format (men's & women's) of the World Team Championships.

A special thanks was extended to all those, [including The Springfield Group as the title sponsor](#), who had come on board to sponsor/donate towards the World Team Championships. The men's and women's Scottish teams produced a strong performance to finish in 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> place respectively, and congratulations were expressed to all the squad.



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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 current 2024-25 series of National Championships.

[A new partnership with DYNAMIK, the UK's leading provider of sports flooring and walling solutions, has welcomed DYNAMIK as the Official Aftercare and Maintenance Supplier for Scottish Squash.](#) The agreement will support clubs in their efforts to maintain and modernise squash facilities to ensure a strong future for squash in Scotland. DYNAMIK will bring a knowledge and highly skilled in-house technical team to integrate leading aftercare and maintenance services to squash courts throughout Scotland – as well as across the UK. For more information, please contact [ewan.mcarthur@scottishsquash.org](mailto:ewan.mcarthur@scottishsquash.org)

### **Risk and Compliance Sub-Committee**

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

The immediate focus is on the recruitment of the President & Chair of the Board. Regional Directors are also considering their suitability to stand as Vice President (VP), with three VP's able to be appointed at the forthcoming General Meeting. Full details will be shared with member clubs in due course.

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### **Looking ahead..**

#### ➤ **Representative Season 2024-25**

As the 2024-25 season draws to a close, SSL would like to wish all the junior, senior and masters representative teams all the best across the various representative events. Congratulations to all those who have been selected to represent Scotland. Please stay tuned to the SSL media channels for updates on how the teams get on!

#### ➤ **Annual General Meeting**

A General Meeting will be held online on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April from 7.30pm, to elect a new President & Chair of the Board and to appoint any Regional Directors (up to three) who opt to stand as VP. 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..**



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

- March update: <https://mailchi.mp/387efaaaaf5d/v703s2bhmp-6745091?e=8d10effe7a>
- Newsletter sign-up: <https://www.scottishsquash.org/newsletter-sign-up/>

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**Next Meeting:** The next SSL Board meeting is on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2025.

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

If there is anything in this summary that is of particular interest, please contact [info@scottishsquash.org](mailto:info@scottishsquash.org) in the first instance.

Thanks

Paul Macari (Chair)



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