



# **Firesport UK**

## **Firesquash UK Section**

***Annual General Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2020***

### ***Chairman's report***

We find ourselves in unprecedented times and whereas normally this report would have been presented during our national championships after a full day and a half of competition, instead it is being circulated electronically and presented via a virtual Annual General Meeting. Nobody knows whether we will be able to hold the Nationals this year at all, or compete in the Quadrangle, but rest assured the committee will be doing all it can to salvage as much of the years activities as possible.

However, this report is for last year when Corona was still a beer from Mexico or, if you are as old as me, a soft drink from South Wales.

Firstly, and most importantly I would like to thank the members of the committee for their hard work and commitment to the section during 2019. The previous AGM had decided to stick with the bank holiday weekend at the beginning of May for the nationals as it had produced an increase in participants in 2018 and that appears to have been a sound decision with numbers up again and less last-minute drop outs as a result of crewing level shortages. The venue also remained as 'The Park', it will have to be a significantly better venue on so many levels to drag us away from Nottingham.

### **Nationals**

So, we all gathered at the Park on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May for the national championships and what a great tournament it was, an increased attendance, a new champion and whole load of new stories to tell in the years to come. As usual the event was played with impeccable behaviour and whilst every match was battled to the last point the overall sportsmanship was a credit to all the participants. I can't of course vouch for the elsewhere in Nottingham.

Congratulations to Stuart Perret on becoming the new Champion on his first visit to the nationals and we look forward to seeing him defend his title in due course. The other champions were Over 35; Ross Bingham, Over 45; Darren Baker, Over 50; Archie Swann. Ady Proctor won the racket ball

## **Quadrangle**

I was able to support the squad in the 2019 Quadrangle tournament again at the Park and versus the Police, Combined Armed Forces and the Civil Service. It was a nail-biting affair which we would have won were it not for a professional player joining the Police as a custody officer at Enfield just a few weeks before the event. I have known Jo Green, a Hertfordshire lad, since my son Louis used to play him and with him as a junior. I have to say when I met him on the stairs on the first day my heart sank when he explained why he was there. That said, we were also a strong squad, although missing Pete we had Fi and Stuart joining the squad of Glyn, Stuart Ian, Ady and Simon and we battled on and only just got pipped at the post by our old adversaries. A brilliant effort by the team with some excellent squash.

## **Fire Sport UK**

On a national level, I attended the AGM in Scotland which didn't turn out to be quite as I had anticipated. It was supposed to be our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary AGM and a celebration, however after the long journey I was informed neither the Chairman nor the Treasurer would be attending so after some discussions with the secretary it was decided I would chair the meeting and we would carry on regardless. The premeeting dinner was abandoned and I had chicken nuggets.

The meeting went off as well as it could under the circumstances and we were able to achieve some business despite the obvious absences, in fact considering the location the attendance from sections and services was actually very good.

We were able to deal with grant applications and you will be glad to hear ours was approved and has subsequently been paid to our account.

As I finish this report, I am social distancing at home, I haven't been on a squash court for nearly three weeks and everything is rather surreal.

However, the sun is shining and so can I take this opportunity to wish you all good health and a speedy return to normality.



Paul Drakes Vice Chairman  
On behalf of the Chairman