

Extracts from Irish Squash Board Meeting of 16th January 2016

3. Coaching Report

SB reported that work is continuing to try and standardise squash coaching qualifications in Ireland. A system of CPD (Continual Profession Development) will be put in place which will ensure ongoing development of all coaches at every level.

A Club Coach course will be held in Mt Pleasant in February. DOF, ED and SB are working on a coach development plan.

Fees for junior membership of IS need to be reviewed and tied in with our marketing strategy. MMCI to discuss this with SB.

GH welcomed Hadrian Stiff, National Head Coach (based in Bristol), who joined the meeting. GH asked HS about the challenges in his role - HS identified communication as a key area that needs attention, especially between HS and the coaches based in Ireland. He also stated the importance of creating a common framework (technical, physical and tactical) for all the coaches to use which would provide consistent delivery of quality coaching.

GH asked how the board can best assist HS in his role - by facilitating communication and providing funding for coaches to attend Bristol for further training.

HS suggested running a coaching seminar twice in each season (held over 2 days, sessions to last 3 hours, focusing on 1 topic/day)

GH asked for advice on how to fill the gaps in domestic playing talent at U19 to senior level given the departure of top players for squash scholarships in USA. Need to identify universities in Ireland and UK where top class scholarships are available and promote this option to our players. GH thanked HS for his work and contribution to the meeting.

4. Strategic Plan priorities:

GH reminded the board that Marketing/Communication, good financial management and player participation/coaching are ongoing priorities.

Communication framework about coaching at national, regional and local level needs to be developed.

GH advised that he had been approached by the owner of Club Manager software, a system that can support online court booking, drive participation and help build a database of active players nationwide. They had suggested that they may support some sponsorship of IS. RB and PN will follow up with Club Manager.

Policy re endorsing products by IS needs to be established.