

# **TRING SQUASH RACKETS CLUB**

Pendley Sports Centre  
Cow Lane  
Tring  
Hertfordshire  
HP23 5NS

VAT Registration No. 209/4813/63

---

## **MINUTES OF TRING SQUASH CLUB AGM HELD AT THE CLUB ON TUESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7:30 PM**

The President opened the meeting. There were 34 full adult members present.

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from: Shelley and Mike Sheridan, Paul Armstrong, James Taylor, James Cooper, Jenny Overton, Ian Bottrill, Russell Peplow, Tony Eaude, Sue Brennan, Mike Walsham, Anthony Palmer, Allan Whittow, John Markwell

### **2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM**

The minutes of the AGM held on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020 had been circulated by e-mail and posted on the Club notice board in advance of the meeting and were taken as read. Approval was proposed by Jon Slade seconded by Charles LeFevre and agreed unanimously.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

None – development plan update covered in the Chairman's report.

### **4. OFFICERS' REPORTS**

#### **4.1 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

We had a strange AGM meeting last year, half in person and half online. This has been followed by another strange Covid affected year with the club closed for a number of months. The club reopened around the firepit in the garden in the cold months and it was a welcome return.

MB expressed his thanks to the committee for their commitment to the club, and continuing support. Thanks were also noted for Allan Whittow's kind email of thanks to the committee.

Its been good to see squash coming back to the club since opening on the 17<sup>th</sup> May:

- Leagues/Club night resumed – May 17th onward
- Return to play program – thanks to Katie for organising the activities, covering all club members who wanted to get involved.
- Club Championships – in the middle of with the semi finals and finals this week. Thanks to Charles, Matt and Alex for helping to run, organise and set up the tournament.

- Racquetball Championship also to come before the end of 2021 with entries open currently
- Junior Squash is back on
- World squash day on the 9<sup>th</sup> October.
- Tring School will not be offering squash as a PE option
- Herts / Bucks Leagues are starting with Men's and Ladies teams competing.

Thanks to the members who have continued to be members and supported the club throughout the past few years. This year the committee is proposing for subs to receive a 50% reduction for continuing members. No ES affiliation fees included as the club was given a holiday last year. MMM has been changed to reflect the proposed fees.

Renewed energy supply for a 3 year deal and the club is starting to see cost reductions from the LED lighting. Other areas have been identified to reduce costs through work by Charles and Nigel.

New Honours Boards were put up earlier in 2021 which provide a more modern feel and thanks to Jon for organising those.

Thanks to Jan Kerry for joining the committee and taking on the role of Welfare Officer – luckily its been a quiet year.

The 50th Anniversary of the club at Cow Lane is coming up. The committee are looking at ways to celebrate the anniversary.

Development plan – MB noted that he understands why people are wondering about a lack of progress. There is work going on in the background with Clive Birch – looking to develop a scheme which will address all the areas raised in the development plan and how to best use other areas of the club. There is no simple and obvious solution which is why it is taking some time. MB noted that within 3-6 months there will be a plan to consider, firstly by the committee and then by the wider club members. Next steps will potentially involve getting planning permission and/or approval from the Pendley committee.

MB understands concern about the lack of visible progress. However, there is activity. Want to avoid speaking about ideas being considered, before a degree due diligence is undertaken to ensure the ideas are both feasible and deliver the required facility. The scope is to deliver the main requested improvements, while making best use of the space available in the club, and to look to take improving the existing facilities.

The red chairs have been removed. Committee have noted that the furniture needs to be replaced. There is a sub group of the committee which is working on a plan to replace the bar furniture.

On other fronts, work has been done to tidy and brighten up the club generally.

Pendley – Mark Bullard and Merrill Trueman are the clubs representatives on that committee, nothing of note to raise at this AGM.

A question was asked about the scope of the development plan, noting that the 2<sup>nd</sup> glass back court was a key requirement. MB acknowledged that it was part of the plan, along with the

ladies changing rooms, other areas raised in the survey. They are also looking at storage (existing spaces plus better storage for table tennis tables for instance). MB noted that he hopes the plan that they put out will cover all the key points raised plus some other efficiencies. Details to be provided within 6 months.

Nigel Kerry raised a question about ongoing discussions with Pendley regarding the car parking issues, specifically the run off water heading towards the club. MB noted that it had been raised at the Pendley committee and the committee had not yet discussed the financial aspects.

#### 4.2 SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Committee met on six occasions during the year and all of these meetings were quorate. Some of the meetings were required to be held virtually last year due to the government guidelines at the time. Minutes are posted on the website and kept there. A copy of the minutes of the most recent meeting is posted on the club notice board.

Paul Armstrong has announced his decision to step down from the committee at this AGM, and we thank him for his work and contribution to the club over his time on the committee, particularly in his role as Membership Secretary.

We'd like to thank Joni Duncan for rejoining the committee over the last year to take on the role of Membership Secretary once again.

**Membership:** Joanne Preston reported the membership numbers as follows noting that we now have 2 years worth of figures from the MMM system:

	2020/2021	2019/2020	2018/2019	2017/2018
Adult	267	259	286	276
Juniors / Students	47	78	98	99
Social	32	28	33	37
Life Members	26	26	32	28
Total	372	391	449	440

#### 4.3 TREASURER'S REPORT AND CONSIDERATION OF THE ACCOUNTS – Peter Barham

Peter Barham presented a summary of the accounts over the last financial year.

Firstly, PB thanked David Horne who is the club bookkeeper and does a lot of the financial work for the club.

Thanks to Mark Bullard for his leadership of the club over the last year, there has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes even while the club has been closed.

Last year Pete thanked Betty and Ken for the cash, but we have since made the transition to a cashless bar which will be continued and therefore this role is not required anymore.

This year, PB and Benny Trueman did a full stock check at the end of the financial year (missed in 2020 due to social distancing measures in place at the time).

The club remains in a strong financial position

- £170k in the bank
- £12.5k surplus during the year (versus a £3.5k deficit during the previous financial year, partly due to the substantial repairs during the previous year versus a normal year this year)
- Bar sales £21k – c. 45% of previous year's sales
- Court bookings – again, c. 45% of previous year's sales
- Subs – down £6.5k YOY due to less members
- To mitigate the revenues losses, the club received £35k COVID grants including furlough payments (£63k received over the past 2 years)
- The surplus will be effectively distributed back to members through the discount on current year's subscriptions.

Thanks to Nigel for the maintenance.

Holiday from ES for the subscriptions – zero in the accounts this year.

Lights and power down YOY. Thanks to Charles for looking at energy costs to reduce these where possible.

Bar gross margin remains healthy.

PB noted that we use an external firm of auditors prepare an accountants report each year to sign off.

The adoption of the accounts were approved unanimously by the meeting. Proposed by Peter, seconded by Joni Duncan.

#### 4.4 LADIES CAPTAIN'S REPORT – presented by Joanne Preston

There has been no ladies matches over the last winter season but the 2021/22 season kicks off on the 4<sup>th</sup> October. The Tring ladies 1<sup>st</sup> team is entered into the Herts 1st division, and the Tring ladies 2nd team is entered into the Bucks 2<sup>nd</sup> division. We've taken the decision not to enter the Tring ladies 1<sup>st</sup> team into the Bucks 1st division this year as the number of fixtures would mean a very congested season for the 1<sup>st</sup> team (with multiple weeks with more than one match) and a slightly smaller (but strong) squad as some of our previous team members have stepped away from team squash for this season.

The ladies home matches are held on a Monday evening, I will put a fixtures list up at the club when it is finalised, please come down and support.

Thanks to Kelly Gascoine for taking over the running of the Ladies 2<sup>nd</sup> team for the upcoming season as Becky Hawkins retired from her duties at the end of the last season that ran.

Away from the team matches, thanks again go to Katie Winterstein who continues to organise events for encouraging ladies squash at Tring, including the return to play sessions held in early summer.

#### 4.5 MEN'S CAPTAIN'S REPORT –presented by Keith Warman

There were no team matches in either the winter or summer seasons, however the winter season will start from next week.

Tring will have two teams in Herts division 1, they will be led by Alex Preston and Steve Malduca playing on a Thursday. There will not be a 3rd team in the Herts division 3 for this coming season although we are going to have a team in Bucks division 1, led by Mike Pearce playing on a Wednesday. This switch will allow the cross-over of players between Herts and Bucks teams.

I'd like to thank Malcolm Newton for all the court booking issues I throw at him and of course for all those years of running the club championship. I would also like to thank Charles Lefevre for running all the club championships this year and for his efforts in utilising MMM!

Hopefully this summer the Bucks racketball league will resume. The racketball club championship entrants will close on MMM on 7th October with the draw on the 8th leading to the final scheduled for 17th December. There will also be a plate tournament.

Please try to support our teams on a Wednesday and Thursday evening.

#### 4.6 JUNIOR REPORT – presented by Katie Winterstein

During Covid, did what we could with sporadic junior group coaching running as and when allowed. The club received junior grants for back to squash junior events which were held early summer.

The number of junior members at the club has taken a hit over the lock downs and KW is looking at ways to encourage juniors to come back.

Coaching – Wednesday coaching sessions have resumed and Saturdays will resume shortly.

This year for the first time the club held summer camps – 3 mornings a week. Sessions averaged between 6-8 kids led by Rob Dunford. Thanks to Rob. A few new junior members have come from this.

World squash day – 9<sup>th</sup> October. Parents or grandparents versus juniors event to be held followed by a BBQ.

### 5. OTHER REPORTS

#### 5.1 House Management – Nigel Kerry

NK provided an overview of the work that is being done at the club:-

- New alarm system installed
- Guttering cleared and single story roof cleared of moss. Thanks to Steve Arnold for facilitating this work. There is an ongoing problem with water getting into foyer and lounge ceilings when it rains heavily. It is not clear whether the roof is leaking or if the water backs up from overflowing guttering. The club has been advised that the roof tiles are past their life span and will need replacing soon.
- The flat roof above the courts appears in good condition and I have been advised by the manufacturers of the roofing product that 40 years is a very comfortable life expectancy for it.
- Kitchen cleaned and painted thanks to Keith Warman
- Honours boards replaced – we still have the old panels if they want them. First refusal will go to the people with the most names on the boards.
- Looking to install extractor fan above cooker in the kitchen.
- Kitchen available to use for cooking but please make sure the oven is cleaned when you finish.
- New privacy panels to be installed in Ladies showers
- Looking to replace extractor fan in ladies changing room with upgraded version to reduce condensation.
- Installing a timer to regulate the heating in men’s changing room as its currently on constantly when its switched on.
- We are installing a smart meter to monitor power usage more closely. However it appears that the change to LED lights on courts has reduced the electric usage significantly. Thanks to CL for supplying info.
- Court heating is on and is set to ES advised temperature. Please leave heaters on court alone as turning off affects other courts and also next people onto your court.
- Don’t forget to wear correct Non-Marking shoes on court. If you see someone wearing incorrect footwear please advise me and I’ll contact them. In particular new members who may not be aware of the need. Particularly looking to stop people playing on trainers they’ve worn from car-park to court.
- Water fountain has been cleaned and a new filter installed. I would suggest that you use the “swan neck” part to refill your water bottle rather than using it as a drinking fountain. Not sure that sticking your mouth over the supply is an ideal thing to do in current circumstances.
- Kit hangers will be put on wall outside courts 1,2 & 4 shortly.
- First aid box is in the kitchen and gets looked at annually. If used, please put it back as found
- Functions – NK has a lot of single use equipment (cutlery etc) so please let Nigel know if you would like to use.
- MMM – issue are not a house management issue. Issues can be identified to MMM through the MMM website or application, or Matt Duncan is happy to triage.

The building is starting to show its age and this means there is a steady stream of maintenance and repairs needed. Please let NK know politely of any issues identified and they will be added to the to do list.

Thanks to Peter Barham for paying the invoices in a timely manner, it makes Nigel’s jobs much easier.

## 5.2 Social

Social activities are returning to the club with the bar getting busier and more people returning. Thanks to the bar team leaders and their teams for getting the teams back up. We do need more volunteers if any regular bar users could consider joining one of the teams.

A number of private parties being arranged and two band nights are planned for club members: -

Skamungas – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Elvis Tribute – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021

A question was asked about outside groups using the committee room for meetings etc. and how we make sure that the bar is staffed while outsiders are using the club. CL also noted that its important for the person on the bar that evening to know if there was an event on. MB commented that at the last committee meeting it was discussed how to let people know if events were on. All events are noted on the club calendar and its been acknowledged that there is a challenge getting that information passed on in the correct way and to ensure that potential issues with non members being in the club when no members are around are thought about and covered. MB agreed to discuss with the committee to propose a solution.

#### 6.0 Subscriptions and court fees

No change to existing fees are proposed for the 2021/2022 season.

The subscription includes the compulsory England Squash (ESRA) membership fees which are currently £12.50 per adult and £10.00 per junior. It is proposed to keep the subscription fees at the same level for 2021/2022.

RENEWALS ONLY - In light of the enforced shutdowns of the club over the previous year, the Committee proposed that members renewing within 1 month of their renewal date will receive a 50% discount on their Tring Squash club fee for 2021/2022. The club has also removed the England Squash fees for renewing members only. For any members on multi year subscriptions or different renewal dates (very few) then please speak to the Membership Secretary who will ensure equivalent adjustments are made.

MMM is reflective of the discount fees for the current renewal period.

		<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
(a) <u>Entry Fees</u>	Adult	£50.00	£50.00
	Junior/Student	£12.00	£12.00
	Family/Husband & Wife	£50.00	£50.00
(b) <u>Subscriptions</u>			
1.	Single Adult Annual	£102.50	£102.50
	3 year	£275.00	£275.00
2.	Husband & Wife Annual	£190.00	£190.00
	3 year	£510.00	£510.00
3.	Junior Annual only	£20.00	£20.00

(Under 19 on 01.10.21)

4.	Student	Annual only	£35.00	£35.00
	(In full time education)			
5.	Family	Annual only	£ 200.00+ £10 for each child	£200.00+ £10 for each child
	<i>(Husband, Wife and any children under 19 who are in full time -education)</i>			
6.	Playing Life Membership		£750.00+ £12.50 p.a.*	£750.00+ £12.50 p.a. *
7.	Social Membership	Annual Only	£40.00	£40.00

\* This will always be equivalent to the ESRA Adult membership fee each year.

(c) Court Fees

The court fees will remain unchanged for the year 2021/2022.

There was unanimous approval for the proposed fees for 2021/2022.

**7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2021/2022**

Prior to the meeting Paul Armstrong had announced his decision to step down from the committee. Joni was co-opted onto the committee during the last year.

The election of the following Officers and Committee members were unanimously approved by the meeting:

**Officers**

President	Chris Langford
Chairman	Mark Bullard
Secretary	Joanne Preston
Treasurer	Peter Barham
Men's Captain	Keith Warman
Ladies' Captain	Joanne Preston

**Committee Members**

Matt Duncan, Jon Slade, Chas Lefevre, Katie Winterstein, James Walton, Merrill Trueman, Jan Kerry and Joni Duncan.

**Auditors**

The re-appointment of ECL Howard Watson Smith as the Club's auditors, was unanimously approved by the meeting. Proposed by Peter Barham, seconded by Simon Smith.

**8. PRESENTATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S TROPHY**



CL introduced the president's trophy which is given to someone in the club who has done something for

This year, its given to someone who is always around the club, introduces new members, helps us out on Sunday nights, helps Benny out in the bar when he is away and sometimes even goes out and gets fish and chips for everyone in the bar.

The trophy this year goes to Ray Uren.

#### 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Paul Wilcock noted the often there were lights left on and wondered whether there was an option to have a kill switch for all the lights in the building. NK noted that the electricians in the building currently wouldn't allow. Motion lights have been considered and NK is looking into this.

Chris thanked members for attending and declared the meeting closed at 20:44 p.m.