

# **TRING SQUASH RACKETS CLUB**

Pendley Sports Centre  
Cow Lane  
Tring  
Hertfordshire  
HP23 5NS

VAT Registration No. 209/4813/63

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## **MINUTES OF TRING SQUASH CLUB AGM HELD AT THE CLUB ON TUESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 7:30 PM**

The President opened the meeting. There were 37 full adult members present.

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

Apologies were received from: Keith Warman, Paul Armstrong, Nigel & Jan Kerry, Sue Brennan, Tony EAUDE, Vernon Hill, Chris Gee, James Taylor, Sean Walsh, Sue Littler, Simon Gilbert, Anthony Palmer, Rob Last

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

The minutes of the AGM held on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021 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 Mick Daines seconded by Paul Wilcock and agreed unanimously.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

None arising which wouldn't be discussed later in the meeting.

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

#### **4.1 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Mark Bullard**

We had had a full normal year this year as opposed to the lockdowns of the previous years.

MB thanked the committee for their work over the last year. MB particularly noted Jon Slade who had retired from the committee over the year and thanked him for his efforts. Additionally, MB thanked Cathy, Derek and Benny for their efforts over the year and all the volunteers who have contributed to the club over the year.

A couple of points MB wanted to highlight.

- Energy – 3 year deal signed in Aug 2021 and rates are still being honoured at the current time. The supplier does have the right to change but have not approached us to date. All utility usage is being monitored and thanks to Charles for his efforts to drive this forward.
- Asahi deal (previously fullers) – new 5-year deal resigned. They are about to undertake a complete refresh of pipes and taps.

- Bar Keys – An ongoing issue which has been looked at. We've decided on one route which would enable the keys to be kept in a safe location onsite and accessed through MMM fobs. Technology has recently been introduced at Aylesbury Squash Club and Mark has been to view it operating.
- PSC Update – TTJSC incorporated as Tornadoes Sports Education and Leisure (TSEL)
- TAFC has applied to install a 3G pitch – the club will get busier and we await to see what impact that will have on the parking facilities (no increase to numbers on match days however).

#### Squash Update

- The Club Championships, handicap and racketball tournaments have all taken place this year and back in its normal time of the year
- The Chiltern Silver junior tournament was co-hosted by Tring in early June - 2 hectic days, 144 matches – thanks to Katie Winterstein for the work she did to make it happen
- Team matches returned and the 1st team won the Herts Div 1 League which was a great achievement
- Allan Whittow – took part in the World Masters in Poland and was seeded in the top 16 in his age group which is a great achievement for him.
- Great weekend held last weekend at the club, including:
  - Squashathon- held from 8pm on the Friday night to 8am on the Saturday morning. Thanks go to the organiser by Will D'Arcy and created a great atmosphere
  - Guinness World Record attempt achieved - 40hrs 1min 59 sec, charity objective hit - £11,000 as of this morning. Well done to Alex and Michael and many thanks to Charles LeFevre who organised the referees and markers, including putting a number of members through the England Squash Level 1 course. Thanks to Matt/Andy for help on the technology side and all the many other helpers over the weekend.
  - 50th Anniversary Celebration party to finish the weekend.

Despite this great weekend, it was discussed at a recent committee meeting that the current club challenge is to increase club engagement, participation, and integration challenge. Leagues (both squash and racketball) still have low participation. MB noted that the challenge is to create the atmosphere we had last weekend on more occasions over the year. The club will be trying a number of events to increase participation including a Friday night club night, a junior club evening, reviving of the golf day which returns to the club in the evening. Return to play and junior sessions continue and we keep in touch with Tring school regarding the use of the club for their PE sessions.

The club pays for BT Sport and the TVC is currently hidden away so we're looking at getting a screen in the bar area.

Mark Bullard finished by reminding everyone that subs are now due.

Chris Langford questioned whether we advertise in the local papers / magazines and Mark Bullard confirmed it would be looked at. Brian Paske noted that the Bowls club have had a significant amount of new members as a result of local advertising.

#### 4.2 SECRETARY'S REPORT – Joanne Preston.

The Committee met on 6 occasions during the year and 5 of these meetings were quorate, with 1 meeting under-attended and therefore decisions were not taken at the meeting, but confirmed by committee over email post the meeting. We hope this issue will be addressed with new members coming onto the committee. Minutes of the meetings are posted on the website and kept there. A copy of the minutes of the most recent meetings are also posted on the club notice board.

**Membership:** Joanne Preston reported the membership numbers as follows:

	2021/2022	2020/2021	2019/2020
Adult	241	267	259
Juniors / Students	55	47	78
Social	26	32	28
Life Members	28	26	26
Total	350	372	391

It was noted that there is a downward trend in membership numbers affecting both adults and juniors which was of a slight concern, although it was over a difficult period which had been affected by the covid outbreak and enforced shutdowns and restrictions affecting our ability to use the club facilities.

Mick Daines noted that the Squash Player magazine had written an article that post covid there was a 25% reduction in people returning to squash after covid.

#### 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.

Peter thanked Mark Bullard for all his efforts over the past year as Chairman. Peter also thanked David Horne who does all the bookkeeping for the club and is invaluable to the club. PB noted that we use an external firm of auditors prepare an accountants report each year to sign off. They merged over the year and changed their name on 1 April 2022 from ECL Howard Watson Smith to Ad Valorem Group Limited.

Accounts were to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

Balance sheet shows a healthy financial position with £173k in bank, as of today £176k.

Income and expenditure account shows a small deficit during the past year of £1.8k, compared to an income of £12.7k the previous year which was artificially high due to the covid grants received. These have dropped substantially YOY resulting in the difference to the income.

- Total bar sales of £53k versus £21k the year before, during which much of the year the club was closed

- Subscriptions and entry fees of £21.4k was in line YOY (reductions applied to fees each year)
- Court fees of £23k, up from £10k the year before
- Coaching up YOY to £6k from £3k, also coaching costs increase
- Government grants of £6.5k down from £34.8k year before

Subscriptions and entry fees flat YOY

Expenditure is pretty similar to last year as many of the costs are fixed. Heating a lighting up £4k to £9k as the club was shut for many months during the previous year.

The adoption of the accounts were approved unanimously by the meeting. Proposed by Paul Wilcock, seconded by Andy Booth.

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

It's been great to see so many ladies back on court over the last season. The 2021/22 winter season saw the team matches return. The 1st team came 3rd out of 7 in the Hertfordshire ladies division and the 2nd team had their best result in the Buckinghamshire Ladies 2nd division, coming 2nd out of 7. Many thanks to all the ladies who took part in team squash over the last season.

The 2022/23 season kicks off on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022. The Tring ladies 1<sup>st</sup> team is entered into the Herts 1st division and will also go back into the Bucks 1<sup>st</sup> division again for the coming season. The Tring ladies 2nd team is entered into the Bucks 2<sup>nd</sup> division.

The ladies home matches are mostly held on a Monday evening, with a few matches in the Bucks' league for the 1<sup>st</sup> team to be played on a Wednesday night when there are no men's matches. I will put a fixtures list up on the club boards when the fixtures are finalised, please come down and support the teams.

Thanks to Kelly Gascoine for continuing to run the Ladies 2<sup>nd</sup> team for the upcoming season. Please contact Jo Preston or Kelly Gascoine if there are any ladies interested in playing in the ladies teams next season and not currently in the squads.

Away from the team matches, we have a number of our Tring ladies playing at a county level. During the last season the Bucks Ladies team won the Senior 1<sup>st</sup> Division title, winning promotion to the Premier division, and the Herts Ladies O40s team were runners up in the Masters Inter County Championships O40s. We had representation from Tring in both teams and congratulations to those involved.

Thanks again go to Katie Winterstein who continues to organise events to encourage ladies squash at Tring, including the Ladies event held on Monday 28th March which had 16 ladies attend and the regular ladies club night sessions. We have our next planned sessions next Monday evening for Women's Squash Week which is currently running.

#### 4.5 MEN'S CAPTAIN'S REPORT – by Keith Warman (presented by Joanne Preston in Keith's absence)

This winter we tried to get back to normal even though we split our three teams between Herts and Bucks.

The Bucks team in division 1, possibly a division too high, was run by Mike Pearce. The team struggled for players at the lower end of the order and consequently had a difficult season. We are entering a team again this winter season with Alex Preston taking on the captaincy, with a expectation of being more competitive.

The two Herts teams were in division 1, where the team run by Steve Malduca was always under pressure as most of the clubs top talent played for Alex Preston's team helping to ensure that they won the division! Huge congratulations to them.

This winter we expect to run a Herts division 1 team, captained by Steve Malduca and a division 3 team run by James Taylor.

The summer squash was again a challenge for new captain Paul Warner. Not only was he injured for most of the season, he struggled to find enough quality players to meet the division 1 standard. This was not helped by Tring entering two racketball teams in the Bucks league, Steve Malduca ran the first team in division 1, where the racketball standard was particularly high, his team struggled at the lower end of the division despite gaining some excellent individual victories.

Keith Warman ran the racketball 2nd team winning division 2 with three new players to racketball in his squad. Again congratulations to them.

More players at the club have seen the benefits of playing racketball, hopefully this will inspire other players to play too as it is a great help to aid court mobility.

I'd like to thank the team captains for their efforts this past year and I would also like to thank Charles Lefevre for running all the tournaments, a great job.

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

Last year for the juniors like most sports has been a recovery year trying to get juniors to return to the court post COVID. The junior coaching programs resumed Sept 2021 and by the end of the summer term were reaching pre COVID numbers. The addition to the program has been that of Assistant Junior Coach Role. The role is to provide coaching assistance as well as an opportunity for older juniors to develop their squash and leadership skills, hopefully keeping them interested in the sport at an age where interest may drop off. The club supporting the development with funding for Level 1 England Squash Coaching Certificate. Sam Hawkins was successful in this post and it is evident that he is a good role model and the kids enjoy his coaching. Having seen the success this role will continue with the addition of Ethan Duncan. Also thanks to Owen Davidson who volunteered as part of his D of E and Josh Bond.

Tring School years 10/11 Monday sessions resumed and were fully subscribed coached by Darren Withey. New to the club was a Tring School GCSE squash session. This has been started to provide specific lessons for the Tring School GCSE PE students who select squash as one of their sports. Working with the school and the assessment standards sessions included theory, technical training, analysis, squash strategy as well as videoing.

Squash Stars ran in June 2022, an initiative of England Squash tying in with the Commonwealth Games. The course was full within a week and 50 % of the kids have returned to this season.

Also in June we hosted a Junior England Squash Silver event alongside Berkhamsted and Chesham Bois clubs. This was a busy but successful weekend. Unfortunately, we did not do well in the Inter Club this year with a general lack of interest in older age groups in participating, it was difficult to field teams.

Final results :

U 11 div 2 : 5 th / 5

U 13 div 2 5 th / 5

U 19 Div 1 : 3 rd / 5

U 19 Div 2 : 5 th / 5

Summer Holiday Camps ran again this year (second year) with Rob Dunford leading. The attendance varies but the numbers are able to cover costs and provides a chance for kids to play over long the summer holiday. Overall the year started slow and ended very busy, there were some positives and there are some areas left to work on for 2023.

## 5. OTHER REPORTS

5.1 House Management – by Nigel Kerry. Summary presented by Mark Bullard in Nigel's absence

It's been a pretty quiet year in my world with considerably less spent than 20/21. I have tried though.

A few things that have been done:

A new water main was installed. Charles le Favre in his role as meter monitor discovered we had been leaking water at an alarming rate. After some searching it appeared the leak was under the mens changing room floor. To avoid digging up the floor a new supply was brought in through the mens changing room and then via the loft connected to the existing internal pipe work. The old water softener was replaced and all seems to be working OK.

It's worth noting that the data that Charles is collecting is going to prove very valuable as the increases in fuel costs continue.

Steve Arnold has cleared the guttering twice. Last autumn and this Spring. During the work done in the Spring, Steve noted that several tiles had been damaged by branches falling from adjacent trees. I'm hoping to have these replaced shortly.

Something for the committee to ponder is whether the owner of the property where the trees grow should be liable for the repair of the roof rather than the club.

Courts 3 & 4 were cleaned last month and courts 1 & 2 will be cleaned at the same time next year. My thanks to Keith Warman for organising this.

I recently watched a member, new to me, walk from the car park straight onto the newly cleaned court 4 without changing his shoes. Incredibly frustrating but not sure what the answer is.

All the lights in the lounge and games room have been replaced with LED equivalents. Beside making the lounge lighter there will be a saving in electricity used. My thanks to that bright

spark Benny for arranging this. The club is now all LED which will help in trying to keep our costs down.

The oven has been cleaned and I would ask that our Michelin starred chefs try and keep it that way. Hopefully that will stop the fire alarm from being set off.

I have produced a simple procedure form should the alarm be set off unintentionally. This is in the kitchen and by the control panel. There is a set procedure for when the alarm goes off which involves the monitoring company. I'm happy to bore everyone with it if required but suffice to say that there are lots of telephone calls made to prevent the fire brigade turning up.

I'm sure there are other things that have been done but can't remember them.

Things on my to do list:

Now the development plan has been published and I can see there are no plans to do anything with single story part of the clubhouse so I will look again at how to insulate the loft area. This isn't an easy task and if anyone has an idea as to how best to do it please don't hesitate to contact me.

The heating will be coming on at the end of the month, later if outside temperature remains high. The court temperature will be set to the recommended 18%. I will soon be starting my annual battle with those who insist on turning off the heaters on their court. All this does is make the heaters on the other courts work harder to ensure the overall temperature of 18% is maintained. Leave everything alone and accept squash is a hot game. You're meant to get sweaty. Obviously that doesn't apply to the wiff waff players.

I'll be leaving it as long as possible before turning on the heating in mens changing room. It is hugely inefficient and expensive. Just get changed quicker.

Ladies I'm sorry but the heater in your changing rooms continues to baffle. I will get a child to try and help me sort it. At least you got new pull cords for your hairdryers.

I will be trying to harness the hot air generated early evening in the bar to delay turning on the heating in that area. They're all old enough to know they should be wearing a vest.

I have mentioned before that the tiles on the single story part of the building are going to need replacing. This information was supplied by a roofing company! There is a leak from the roof into the lounge and another in the foyer. I can find no obvious route through for the water so am assuming some of the tiles must be failing.

The new pipes in the mens changing will be boxed in.

The booster heater on court 4 will reconnected shortly

The gulley running alongside the outside of court 2 has been cleared of weeds just need to get rid of all the leaves before it rains.

The carpet on seating above court 3 has become really dirty with loads of drink spills. Will look into getting it cleaned.

Lots more to do but if you do come across something that is broken or should be changed don't hesitate to let me know. I won't ignore it but it may take time.

5.2 Social – Mark Bullard

Two good band nights over the past year held over the last year and a Kaleigh.

There are a number of club events coming up:

15<sup>th</sup> October – Dung Beatles

17<sup>th</sup> December – Xmas Party – Abba Tribute

3rd June 2023 – Dolly Parton Tribute

Please buy your tickets!

#### 6.0 Amendment to the club constitution

In the agenda there was a proposal to amend the club constitution. CL noted that the amendments were fully detailed in the AGM agenda which weren't read out at the meeting but are noted below. Unanimous approval was granted for the changes.

#### **Amendment of the club constitution:**

Section 3a of the club constitution currently contains the words '*The normal membership season shall run from 1st October and close on the following 30th September*'. This is now only valid for the subscription fees period, whereby the fees for the year are set at the AGM each year and are valid for anyone joining during that year. However an individual's membership year runs annually from the day they join under MMM. The committee proposes that the constitution is amended to the following to clarify the difference: '*The normal subscription period shall run from 1st October to the 30th September the following year. An individual's membership period will be annually from the 1st October for members joining on or before 30th September 2019 and annually from their date of joining the club for members joining after 1st October 2019*'.

Section 3b of the club constitution currently contains the words '*Any member who is one month or more in arrears with his/her annual subscription shall cease to be a member unless prior explanation has been given to the Committee in writing*'. Again, having adopted the MMM system for membership renewals then this has changed. Under MMM, the membership renewal is automated and therefore once someone's membership has gone past its end date with no renewal, it automatically blocks access to the club. Therefore the committee proposes that the constitution is amended to the following: '*Any member who is in arrears with his/her annual subscription shall cease to be a member unless prior explanation has been given to the Committee in writing*'.

#### 7.0 Subscriptions and court fees

No change to existing fees are proposed for the 2022/2023 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 2022/2023.

		<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
	(Husband, Wife and any children under 19 who are in full time -education)			
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 2022/2023.

Proposed by committee seconded by Alan Whittow. There was unanimous approval for the proposed fees for 2022/2023.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2022/2023

Prior to the meeting Jon Slade had announced his decision to step down from the committee.

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, Chas Lefevre, Katie Winterstein, James Walton, Merril Trueman, Jan Kerry and Joni Duncan.

Anthony Palmer was voted onto the committee, having been proposed and seconded by Matt Duncan and Mick Daines.

## **Auditors**

The re-appointment of Ad Valorem Group Limited (previously know as ECL Howard Watson Smith) as the Club's auditors, was unanimously approved by the meeting. Proposed by Charles LeFevre, seconded by Simon Smith.

## 9. PRESENTATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S TROPHY

CL introduced the president's trophy which is given to someone in the club who has contributed something special to the club. CL noted that he always has a few names on the list of who should achieve the award each year. It doesn't have to be a committee member, just someone doing something in the background. This year the award is presented to someone who organises the junior events, the ladies sessions, the junior tournament over the year amongst many other items. This year the trophy was awarded to Katie Winterstein.

## 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

CL introduced the Development Plan update and noted that the plan was to discuss the plans tonight, but to hold an EGM on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to make a decision as to whether the club should proceed with the plans or not. At that time the decision will be made by a simple majority vote so Chris Langford noted that if you wanted a say, it was important to turn up and vote.

Mark Bullard noted that a document and development plans had been distributed to all members prior to the meeting. The intention wasn't to go through them at the meeting but to cover the key decision points and have a discussion to answer questions that members present at the meeting had.

The membership survey produced a wish list of things members wanted to see improved at the club. Some have been addressed already as not all the requests needed a large development. However there were a few items which would need serious development which included a new ladies changing room and a new glassback court. Other areas included bar improvements, warm-up / warm-down area etc. These were the areas which the proposed plans are looking to address. MB noted his thanks to club members Clive Birch and Sean Walsh who are experienced in this area and have been supporting Mark with this work.

- Exploration and assessment of options
  - Focus on options that enabled or at least did not prevent future developments
  - How each option met the development plan objectives
- Recommended option (building out at the front with a potential two storey extension) was chosen as:
  - Meets membership survey result
  - Minimises disruption to the ongoing club usage.
  - Contains development phases and options

- Does not prevent future developments that members may want to do down the line.
- Exhaustive study was done to enhance the bar area – the proposed solution would not prevent this development in the future but it was determined that improving the sporting facilities should come first.

Steve Arnold asked a question as to what is wrong with the current ladies changing room as they were heavily mentioned in the options. Mark Bullard noted that they were too small and in the wrong place. There were many benefits of moving the ladies changing rooms including opening the centre of the club up which could have better usage. Chris Langford noted that the plans were aiming to look forward to future proof the club.

Mark Bullard noted that the committee was conscious of potential green/carbon reduction wins and these would be looked at throughout any development process so the club could take advantage of them if it made sense at the time.

The membership court survey had also raised the consideration of a potential court 5 which would be hard to put near the existing sports facilities. The additional room in the second storey of the proposed plans could however be used for table tennis and relieve the pressure on courts at certain times,. However, it would be built as a multi purpose room and therefore could be used as a gym, for fitness classes etc as demand needed.

Clive Birch reinforced that one of the main drivers of these plans was to ensure that future developments weren't prevented by anything that was done at the current time.

Lounge Furniture is also being looked at as the committee are aware that the lounge furniture needs replacing. Jon Slade/Matt Duncan/Joanne Preston have plans in place for furniture replacement and is being looked at independent of the proposed development.

Clive Birch asked for comments on the plans before costs were discussed. Ken Longhurst noted about using the redundant space as add on space which hasn't been considered before and therefore the plans are imaginative. He also noted that the arguments for freeing up the area in-between the courts is a great idea and was supportive of the plans.

Steve Arnold asked about the possibility of moving the ladies changing room upstairs above the bar. Clive Birch noted that the cost of replacing the roof structure over the bar was considered too much and it would require a closure of the bar area so would be very disruptive so they had looked at alternative options.

Paul Brennan noted about the leaking roof in the bar area which needed to be addressed before a large development.

Paul Wilcock asked whether a sauna or a steam room could be included in the club development plans. MB noted that it was an idea and there is spare space in the development proposals for rooms which don't necessarily have a fixed purpose for.

Steve Jones noted that he thought the movement of the ladies changing room was a great idea. He requested that full consideration was given into what the space above that was used for so it didn't become a wasted space.

Chris Langford asked the meeting whether the general feel was that the plans as proposed made sense and took into consideration the requirements of the members survey.

Martin Bowness questioned whether the plans would ever stop a 5<sup>th</sup> court. Clive Birch noted that the issue around the 5<sup>th</sup> court was that the club would have to grow outwards and there was unlikely ever to be the room to build a 5<sup>th</sup> court. MB noted that the only real space that a 5<sup>th</sup> court could go is in the garden and it would be expensive to build there. A discussion ensued regarding the 5<sup>th</sup> court possibilities. Ken Longhurst noted that the England Squash active members per court was previously 90-95 members so the membership and court utilisation would have to increase substantially before a 5<sup>th</sup> court would be required. Peter Barham noted that there is a possibility of a large increase in housing in Tring which might lead to an increase in members so there is a possibility of an increase in demand but we are limited in space on the current site.

Brian Paske noted that increasing the floor space was a good idea. Simon Smith commented that the provision of another space for table tennis (off the squash courts) would relieve pressure on the squash courts and is a good idea.

A question arose about the next steps before the EGM. Chris Langford asked for a shortened summary proposal to be distributed to members showing just the proposed development plan plus any thoughts from AGM so it was clear.

Betty Langford noted that she was enormously proud of the squash club and it was important to note that it was a squash club and it was key for the focus remain on providing squash facilities. Mark Bullard noted that the busy previous weekend was driven by the squash activities. Chris Langford noted that with declining numbers of people playing squash, it was important to consider whether to provide other facilities to ensure that there was money available to keep the squash facilities of a good condition.

Tim Delderfield asked if any additional room would be chargeable and Mark Bullard confirmed it would.

Clive Birch noted that discussions with the planners were still to be had on the proposals.

Mark Bullard noted that they have had discussions with the builder who built court 3 to get a quote for the cost and Clive noted he has provided an all inclusive budget. The cost is £350k, about £2,200/sq metre which is comparable to other similar developments in Clive's experience. This is for the new building work (not for removing the ladies changing room).

Merril Trueman questioned whether there was the appetite in the club to raise the funds required and Paul Wilcock questioned how we would raise the funds. Mark Bullard noted that the funding options included:

- Fund Raising activities
- Grants – the club has never previously needed to take advantage of them so could be looked at carefully. The plans will provide credibility to any support grant application.
- Loans

Peter Barham noted that we would need to retain some cash in the club for the working capital and fund-raising activities would raise limited funds so it's a question as to what we

can provide and whether the club and the members have the appetite to look at other options to raise funds, including loans.

Lizzie Wennell questioned whether the declining membership was squash specific and Mark Bullard noted that the local Pendley clubs are all experiencing the same issues. Emma Greenall noted that activities around the club improved the social atmosphere.

Ken Longhurst noted that the opening of the new astroturf at the cow Roast Hockey club has raised a significant amount of money and it would be worth asking for suggestions as to how they raised the money.

Steve Smith – noted that Tring Living, Pitstone Living etc. magazines and social media for new club members are a huge opportunity that we should take advantage of.

EGM planned for the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to make a decision on the subject, before the World Cup. Prior to this further discussion will take place and members are encouraged to seek out Mark or Clive to make any constructive views known.

Chris thanked members for attending and declared the meeting closed at 21:43 p.m.

DRAFT