

# **TRING SQUASH RACKETS CLUB**

Pendley Sports Centre  
Cow Lane  
Tring  
Hertfordshire  
HP23 5NS

VAT Registration No. 209/4813/63

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## **DRAFT MINUTES OF TRING SQUASH CLUB AGM HELD AT THE CLUB ON THURSDAY 03 OCTOBER 2024 AT 7:30 PM**

The President opened the meeting and extended a warm welcome to all. There were 32 full adult members present.

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

Apologies were received from: Jo Preston, Tony Eaude, Sue Littler and Mike Griffiths

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

The minutes of the AGM held on the 27th of September 2023 had been circulated by e-mail and posted on the Club website in advance of the meeting and were taken as read. Approval was agreed unanimously.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

Energy and Solar Panels – whilst this is being considered by the committee other projects currently have a greater priority. The committee is still investigating the cost of the panels and the installation.

Radiant Heaters – the ongoing issue of heating the courts is concern for the club. After speaking with other clubs who have successfully installed radiant heater technology it was agreed that radiant heaters should be installed on Courts 2 and 4 in the first instance. The committee are in the process of looking at products and electrics.

Padel Tennis and Pickleball – the club has spoken to two other local clubs (Halton & Berkhamsted) and whilst the club would love to install a padel court in particular as it is a fast-growing sport, there is insufficient space within the current footprint of the club (Padel 21x11 metres, Pickleball 9.144 x 19.5 meters).

The club is exploring options for others to use the courts and the lounge area at quieter times. Tentative talks have been had with a yoga group but no firm bookings currently.

Development plan update is to be covered under AOB

President asked if there were any further question - No

## 4. OFFICERS' REPORTS

### 4.1 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Mark Bullard

MB thanked the committee for their help and support throughout the year. Thanks go to Keith Warman who has been the men's team captain for over 15 years and undertaken court maintenance and club development. MB also wished to thank Derek Beard and Benny Trueman for their continued work, and thanks to Matt Duncan for arranging the comedy night and Benny Trueman for the variety of social events that he continues to put on, the bar has been set very high and to Nigel Kerry as house manager who tries to meet the challenge of ever-changing regulations. Several members were standing down this year including Keith Warman, Matt Duncan, Charles Lefevre, Merrill Trueman and Kelly Gascoigne thanks go to all of them for their help and support over a number of years.

This year has been one of execution and the key achievements for the year were agreed by the committee and sign posted at last year's AGM. Positive feedback has been received but the most visible is the refurbishment of the lounge area, which has been well received by most of the members. The Ladies' changing room is also a great success.

The club has introduced a new electronic point of sale (EPOS) till payment system which is easy to use. Over 60 volunteer bar staff have had training, and thanks must go to Matt Duncan and Andy Booth for this. Bar key arrangements are now much simpler.

A new coffee facility is in place in the club's lounge and thanks for this must go to Anthony Palmer.

It's been a busy squash year with the Club Championships, handicap and racketball tournaments having been held and largely overseen by Charles LeFevre. A very successful Bronze event was held and second Bronze Master Event, is due to be held in November. It would be nice to see a few more club players participating in these events. Team squash has been very successful; team sponsorship is being repeated and the club are Champions and Herts Cup runners up.

Club Challenges for the coming year – to look at ways for the Lounge to be utilised as an all-day facility with coffee and Wi-Fi. This might enable the club to attract more members.

Court heating – with energy increases this is a concern for the club. The club has signed a new 3-year contract, but members must expect increased energy costs of up to 45%.

### **PSC**

Active year for car park hires. Looking at investment in the car park to reduce the frequency of car park repairs.

President thanked all of the committee for their commitment to the squash club and wished to thank those members who were standing down for all their help and support.

#### 4.2 SECRETARY'S REPORT – Jan Kerry.

The Committee met on 6 occasions during the year and all meetings were quorate. Minutes of the meetings are posted on the club's website.

#### 4.3 TREASURER'S REPORT AND CONSIDERATION OF THE ACCOUNTS – Peter Barham ("PB")

PB noted his thanks to Mark for his significant contribution to the club over the last year and thanks to all of the volunteers and to Benny for some magnificent events that he has put on over the last year.

Peter Barham presented a summary of the accounts over the last financial year to the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024. The accounts are unaudited, but they have been reviewed and approved by the external accountants.

Two major projects undertaken:

Lounge costs were £45K plus £15K for furniture

Ladies changing room £35k with a further £12K to go out in July.

However, the club still has cash in the bank at the end of June of £131K which is down on the previous year of £179K, but this can be used for future projects.

Grass Roots Squash Development reserve – relates to sponsorship money received and has been fully allocated against coaching costs.

Highlights noted by PB:

- Bar sales £63.6k vs £58.4k the prior year period.
- Subscription and entry fees – Up to £36k from £30.7k.
- Coaching down from £8,7k to £6.9k
- Maintenance and repairs down from £18.8k to £13.5k

Healthy overall surplus of £17.5k

Any questions:

Geoff Bray - is there any correlation between bar refurbishment and the bar profits?

A – we have no valid data

Paul Armstrong – is the roof reserve sufficient?

A – a roof survey was done by the supplier, and it was reported that there was no obvious deterioration. Other institutions have had similar roof for over 60 years. PB noted that prudently we should always have it, and perhaps we should increase it.

Simon Smith – Booking system costs are 2000 down on last year, why is this?

A – Sponsorship had been received for the first team, and the club were paying two better players.

Nigel Kerry noted that the card charges should come down with the new EPOS system in place.

The adoption of the accounts were approved unanimously by the meeting. Allan Whittow proposed, seconded by Anthony Palmer.

#### 4.4 MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Andy Booth

AGM – Membership Information as of September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Membership Summary Year on Year

Year on Year	2023/2024	2022/2023	2021/202	2020/2021	2019/2020
Adults	241	239	241	267	259
Jun/Student	74	68	55	47	78
Social	41	32	26	32	28
Life Members	30	29	28	26	28
Total	386	368	350	372	393

Membership Numbers for 2023/2024

2023/2024	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Adults	225	202	209	212	222	233	233	231	236	239	237	240
Adults (3 Years)	10	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Juniors	44	39	37	34	35	31	30	31	35	35	34	34
Family Juniors	26	25	25	27	33	36	35	33	33	31	28	28
Students	8	8	8	9	9	9	10	10	10	10	10	11
Social	34	38	39	39	41	41	41	42	44	43	43	43
Life Members	29	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Total	376	356	362	365	384	394	393	391	402	402	396	400
Lapsed Members	183	199	207	209	214	217	225	231	233	244	246	246

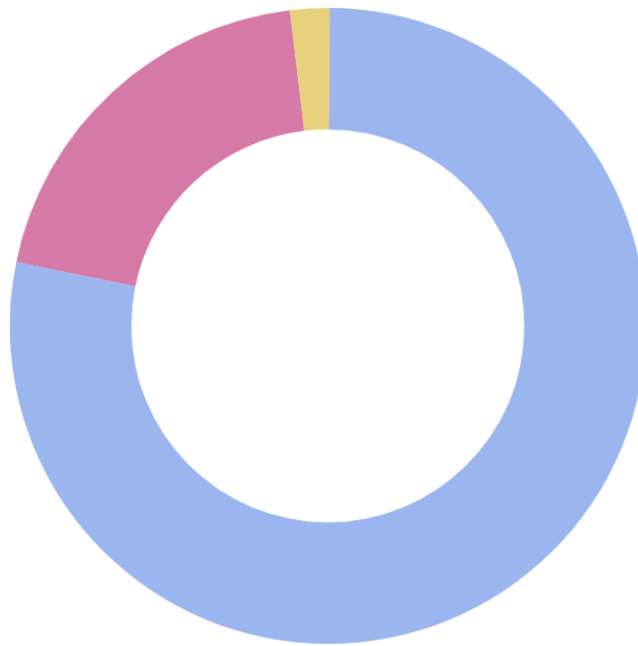
#### Summary Notes

- Club is holding steady on just under/just over 400 members annually
- Male to Female ratio is 80% to 20%
- Gaining more Junior and Student players 😊
- More and more members are taking up racket ball
- Gaining more social members

Male/Female distribution

Male/Female distribution

Sex  
● male  
● female  
● unspecified

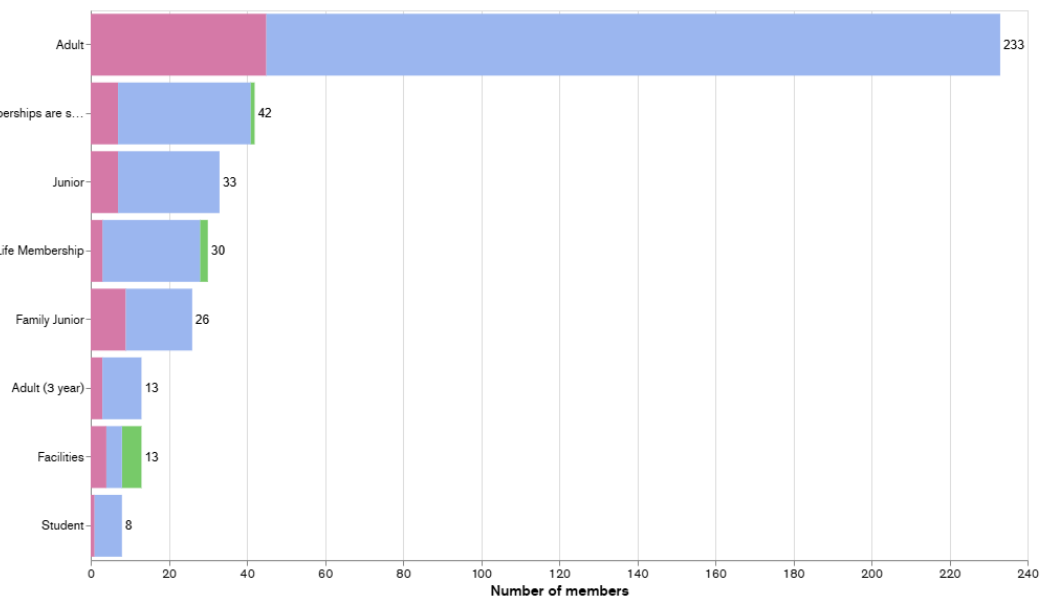


Memberships by category

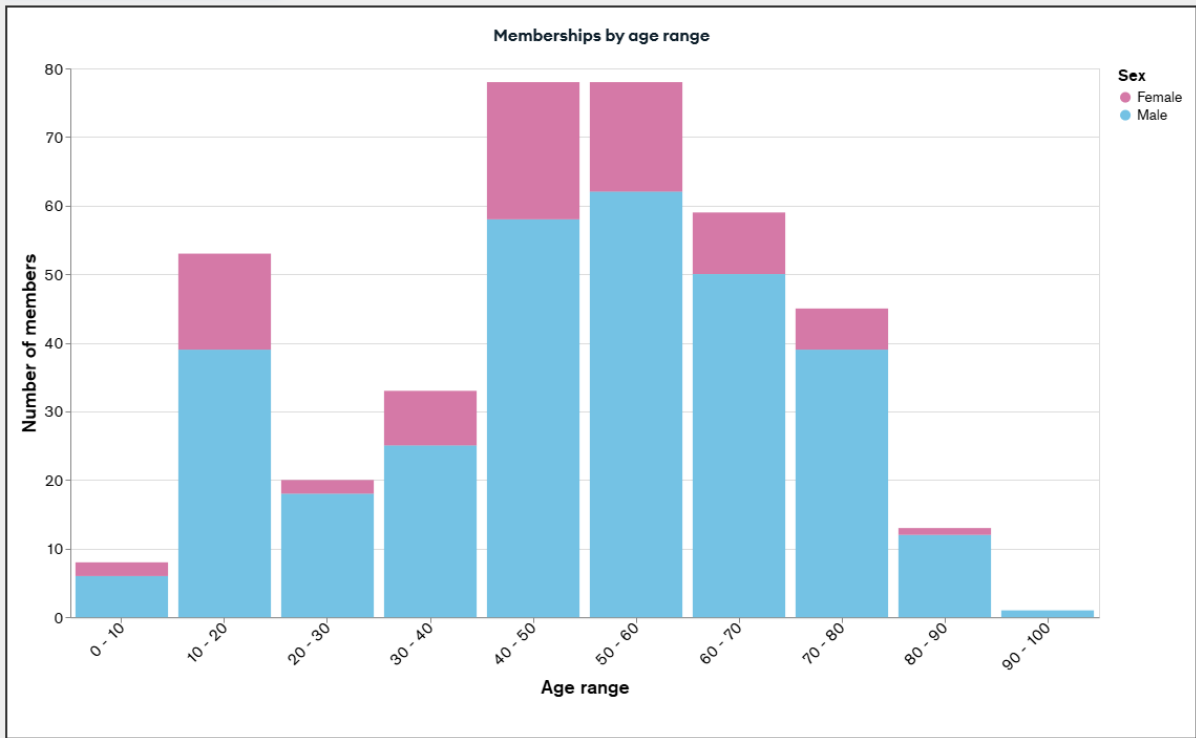
Membership by category

Sex  
● female  
● male  
● unspecified

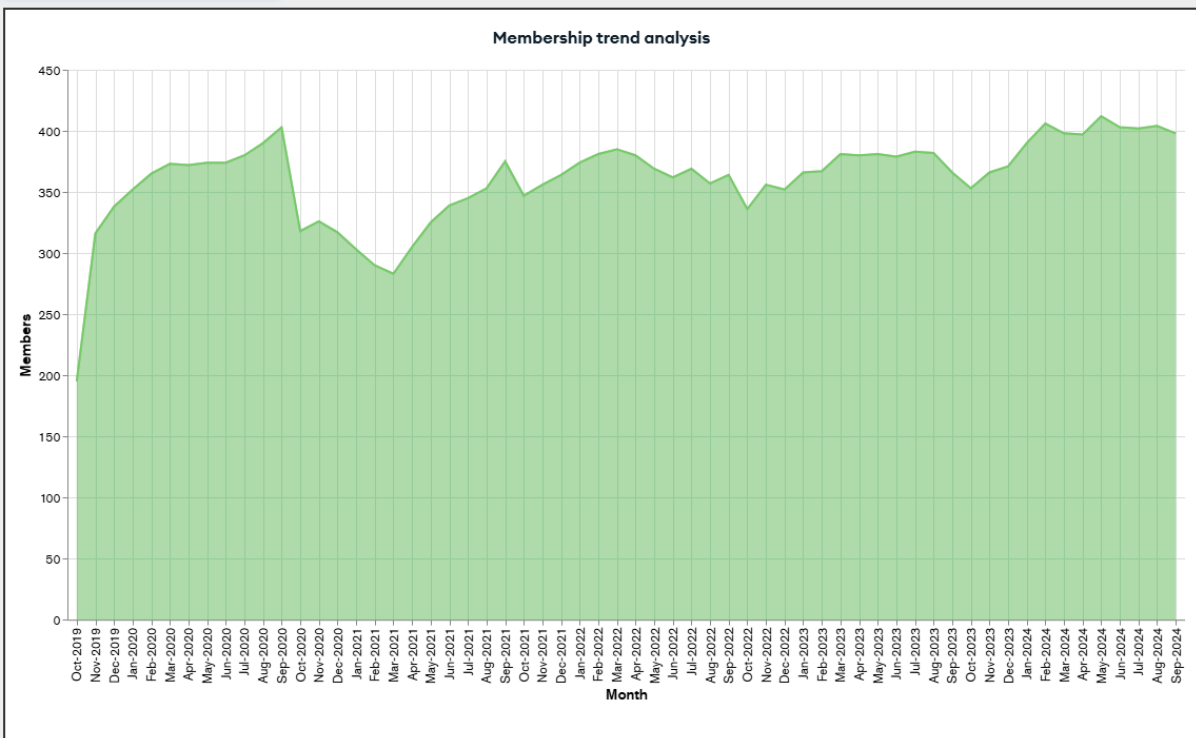
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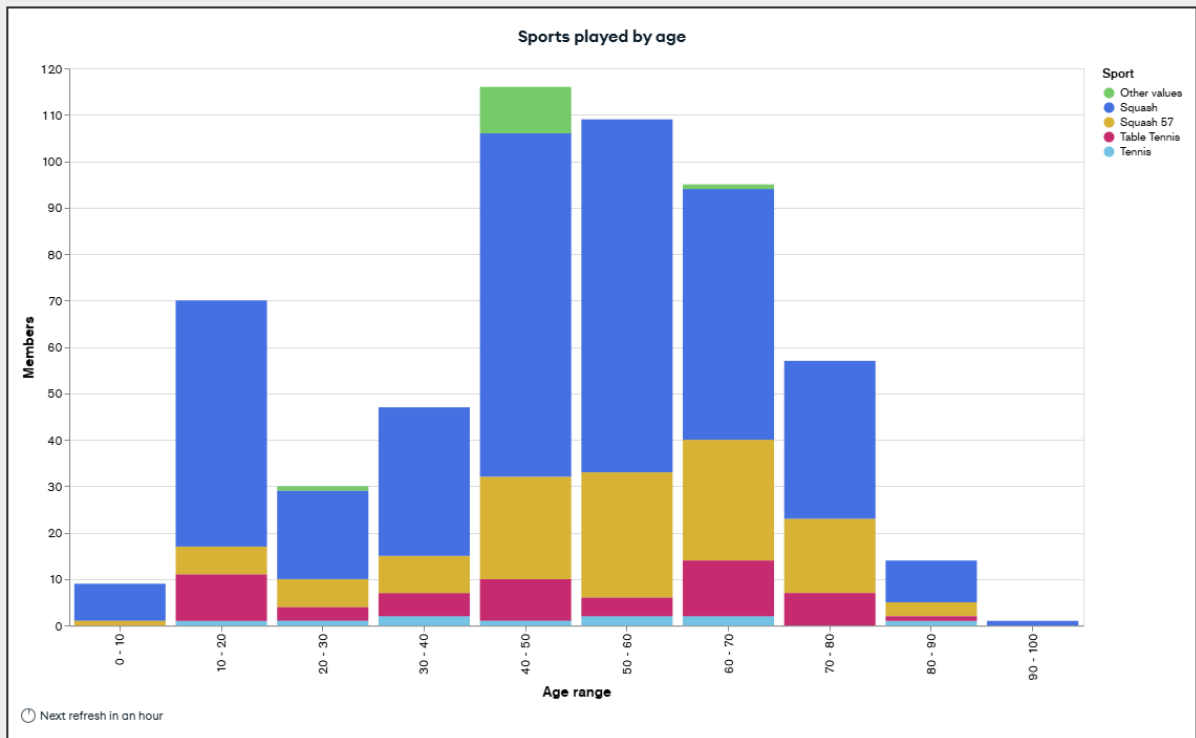
Memberships by age range



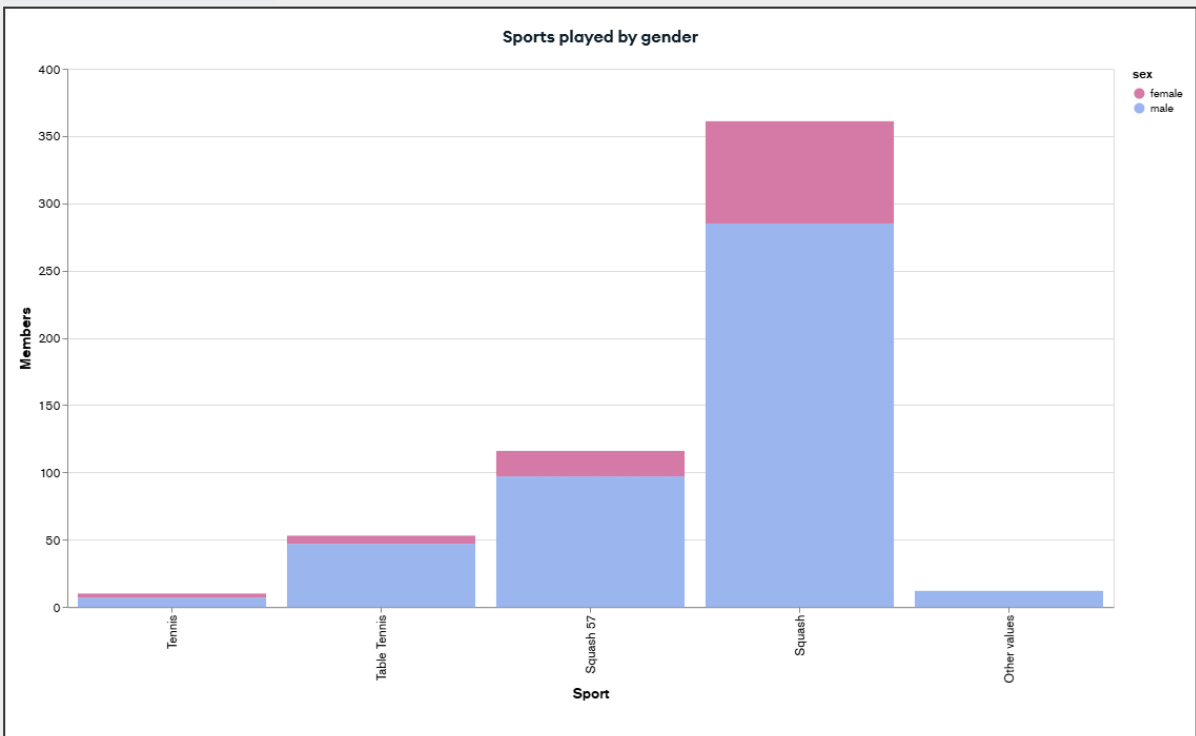
Membership historical trend analy



Sports played by age



Sports played by gender



Simon Smith – that's good positive news do we know why there is an increase?  
A. A variety of reasons; Katie's coaching sessions, Katie also put on a squashaton, also picked up new lady members and Rob Dunford coaching.

Simon Smith – is there a limit on the number of social members the club can have  
A – Yes 50

#### 4.5 LADIES CAPTAIN'S REPORT – presented by Keith Warman in Jo Preston's absence

##### Ladies Captains Report 2024 Jo Preston

The ladies continued their good run with another great season. The ladies first team defended their Herts league title, winning for a second consecutive season - well done to everyone who played. We didn't have quite as strong a performance in the Bucks league, finishing last with some competition from other teams.

The 2nd team had a good season finishing a respectable 5 out of 8 teams in the Buck's second division.

Well done to both teams and thank you to Ruth Proudfoot and Maddy Hughes for taking over the running of the second team. Thank you also to all the players in both squads who have contributed. To any new players, please let me know if you are interested in team squash for the upcoming season.

There are no summer leagues for the ladies' divisions so we have been looking forward to the 2024/25 season which has recently kicked off. As we have done for a few years now, the Tring ladies 1<sup>st</sup> team is entered into the Herts 1st division and the Bucks 1<sup>st</sup> division. The Tring ladies 2nd team is entered into the Bucks 2<sup>nd</sup> division. team this season. Matches are played either on Monday or Wednesday nights.

Away from the team matches, we have a number of our Tring ladies playing at a county level During the last season the Herts Ladies O40s team successfully defended their national title, well done ladies!

Thanks again go to Katie Winterstein who continues to organise events to encourage ladies' squash at Tring. Thanks also to Rob Dunford for his coaching of the beginner ladies event earlier in the year and previous ladies team training sessions - we wish you well in your new job.

#### 4.6 MEN'S CAPTAIN'S REPORT – by Keith Warman

This winter season we again split our three teams between Herts and Bucks. The Bucks team in division 1 was run by Alex Preston, they had a much better season than last, finishing a credible third.

We had two Herts teams, one in division 1 and one in division 2. Steve Malduca captained the 1st team and congratulations to them as they won the division, as we



recruited new talent to the club with the help of sponsorship from some of the clubs long standing members.

The 2nd team, run by Iain Digby & James Taylor struggled, in my view down to prioritising players to play in our Bucks team over the Herts team, they finished just above the relegation zone.

This winter we expect to run in a very similar vein as last season.

Again, we did not enter a team into the Herts summer squash league. However, we did enter two teams in the Bucks racketball league. The 1st team in division 1 captained by Steve Malduca had a much stronger team than in previous seasons and managed to finish second. We also entered a 2nd team in division 1 too, captained by Paul Hobday. Despite a difficult start they did manage to win a few matches and ended up one off the foot of the table. Congratulations to both teams.

Even more players at the club have seen the benefits of playing racketball, where the number of players seems to grow year on year.

I'd like to thank the team captains again for their efforts this past year and I would also like to thank Charles Lefevre for running many of the tournaments, the squash and racketball internal leagues, as well as a Three Counties squash tournament, a great job.

The event will be run again in November by Chas, let's hope that many more Tring squash players enter than last year.

I am standing down this year after many years of service. I'm handing the reigns over to Steve Malduca, I just hope you all give him the same support that you gave me.

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

KW reported another successful year for the juniors. 23/24 was the first year of the junior community voice for squash U.K. which is designed to involve and empower young players. Numbers continued to be good with Wednesday training well supported. KW wanted to thank Ethan Duncan, Sean Slade and Robert Dunford for all their hard work. KW noted that Robert Dunford was also available to coach. KW also wished to thank Charles Lefevre for all of his hard work and support throughout the year.

### 5 OTHER REPORTS

#### 5.1 House Management – by Nigel Kerry. Summary presented at the meeting.

Few leaks in the roof again. These appear to have been fixed but it will only be a short while before another large branch does more damage.

The guttering around the single storey is due to be cleared over the next few days but will need doing again once the leaves have all fallen.

The roof above the courts will need clearing of leaves in a few weeks' time. A couple of volunteers with a head for heights would be handy

A new security light has been fitted at top of the entrance corridor. Hopefully its been set so that it lights up before you get to the steps.

The extractor system in men's changing room has been repaired. A side effect of this was lots of debris being blown out onto the ceiling. To be cleaned.

Flooding of garden. During the summer a conversation was started with a local company who handle soak-aways. There was no conclusion as far as I'm aware so will have another go at this over the next few weeks. This is important to solve as the flooding is causing a problem of damp at the front of court 2

The lounge heating system seemed to work well during the winter. I'm keen to instal a remote system so that it easily turn it off, or on, for functions

There were the usual complaints about the court heating. Too hot or too cold usually applying to the same court. As heard a new system is being planned for courts 2 & 4.

Request that heating in men's changing room is not turned on without asking house manager first as the programmer needs to be updated so the heating comes on during the day rather than the middle of the night.

Waiting for decorator to give quote for painting the areas around court 3. Its 4 years since they were last done and as an area of high use. The carpet on court 3 seats was cleaned and looks much better.

The oven has just had its 6-month clean. If using the oven please clean it properly afterwards.

Finally, if you're approached by a member with a complaint, or a comment about the state of the Club, you refer them to me. It is important to me that I'm able to talk to the person with the complaint. This means I will get a better idea of what they actually want, rather than a third person's interpretation of the problem. I'm happy for my mobile number and the House Manager email address to be shown in a future information email if that helps.

## 5.2 Social – Mark Bullard

The club is very active with numerous members parties held over the last year or booked in. Thanks to Kelly Gascoine for managing bar staff for all the various events.

Thanks to Benny for organising a number of club events – Abba, Skarmungers and also Elvis at Christmas. All entertaining evenings. Thanks also to Matt Duncan who

ran a successful comedy evening. Chillfest was also a great success again this year.

## 6.0 Subscriptions and court fees

MB proposed no increase to the subs and court prices. The committee were aware that England Squash intend to change the payment method of membership fees from the club to the individual. Fees are currently £12.50 for adults and £10.00 for juniors.

		<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	£120.00	£120.00
	3 year	£325.00	£325.00
2.	Husband & Wife Annual	£230.00	£230.00
	3 year	£625.00	£625.00
3.	Junior Annual only (Under 19 at time of joining)	£ 20.00	£20.00
4.	Student Annual only (In full time education)	£35.00	£35.00
5.	Family Annual only (Husband, Wife and any children under 19 who are in full time -education)	£230.00+ £10 for each child	£230.00+ £10 for each child
6.	Playing Life Membership	£1250.00+ £12.50 p.a.*	£1250.00+ £12.50 p.a. *
7.	Social Membership Annual Only	£45.00	£45.00

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

### (c) Court Fees

The committee proposes not to change the court fees for the year 2024/2025.

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Off peak 1 hour	£4.50	£4.50

Off peak 40 minutes	£3.00	£3.00
Peak 1 hour	£6.00	£6.00
Peak 40 minutes	£4.00	£4.00

Proposed by committee seconded by Simon Smith. There was unanimous approval for the proposed fees for 2024/2025.

## 7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2024/2025

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

### **Officers**

President	Chris Langford
Chairman	Mark Bullard
Secretary	Jan Kerry
Treasurer	Peter Barham
Men's Captain	Steve Malduca – Keith Warman standing down
Ladies' Captain	Joanne Preston

### **Committee Members**

Katie Winterstein, James Walton, Anthony Palmer, Andy Booth, Ruth Proudfoot.

There are places currently available for additional members as a result of 5 members resigning from the committee, (Matt Duncan, Charles Lefevre, Merrill Trueman and Kelly Gascoigne) so if anyone is interested please contact a member of the committee for a chat.

The meeting approved unanimously with the proposed committee for 2024/2025.

### **Auditors**

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

## 8. PRESENTATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S TROPHY

Chris Langford introduced the president's trophy which is given to someone in the club who has contributed something special to the club. This person has been mentioned several times this evening with over 15 years of service to the club; men's captain and project manager, the award goes to Keith Warman.

## 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### **9.1 – Development Plan Update – Men's Changing Room**

A few things have been identified including privacy features. The club is looking to install a private showering area. The heating in the men's shower has also been identified as an area to look at to see if efficiencies could be made. Redecoration also to be considered.

## 9.2 Development Plan Update – Behind the Bar Refurbishment

MB reported that visuals have been presented and agreed by the committee just need to arrange for the work to be done.

Simon Smith raised concerns about the bar glass washer

A – A new machine has just been purchased and put in.

Chris Langford thanked everyone for their time and input and closed the meeting at 20.44pm.