

TRING SQUASH CLUB

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5TH JANUARY 2022

1. ATTENDED BY

Mark Bullard (MB), Joanne Preston (JP), Matt Duncan (MD), Merrill Trueman (MT), James Walton (JW), Peter Barham (PB), Joni Duncan (JD) – attended virtually.

The minutes of the previous were approved.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Keith Warman (KW), Jan Kerry (JK), Chas Lefevre (CL), Katie Winterstein (KW_i), Jon Slade (JS),

3. MATTERS ARISING

Jenny Hill passed away on Monday 3rd January 2022. She was a long standing member of the club who was a driving force behind club activities for many years. Jenny worked tirelessly to promote junior squash at the club, from which many current and past members have benefited. So many of the club's social and charity events, kids parties happened as result of Jenny's efforts. Jenny had the club's best interests at heart, and the activities into which she put so much energy continue today. Our thoughts and condolences go out to Vernon, Danny and the Hill family. The wake is being planned and will be held at the club towards the end of January.

Greg Alder, another long standing member of the club, is also not well currently. The committee send their best wishes to Greg and his family. MB to speak to Glenn Currie who knows Greg to pass on our thoughts.

Development plan update – MB is scheduling meetings with Clive Birch and Sean Walsh (structural, design professionals helping the club out with the proposed project). The initial meeting has now happened with a follow up meeting to be held.

Bar chairs update – MD, JS and JP met with regards to what was required with a plan being formed. MD, JS and JD met with a supplier in Pitstone before Christmas. The products on offer were not ideal to what we are looking for the club. The sub committee is looking into other furniture suppliers which will meet the clubs needs.

4. OFFICERS' REPORTS

A – CHAIRMAN

The racketball championship was completed with an excellent final, with Steve Malduca winning 3-1 in the final against Alex Preston. The committee expressed their gratitude to Paul Hobday and Charles LeFevre for running it.

The handicap tournament is now underway.

Advert went out in the Living Magazine for the free coaching sessions. Currently 5 very keen ladies signed up for the women's session which starts on Saturday 8th January 2022.

MB and PB have reviewed the pay rates for staff for employees. The club are awarding a 5% pay rise for employees, effective 1 January 2022. New cleaning rate is towards the higher end of a sole contractor for cleaners. PB noted that he still needs to get MB on the bank mandate for the squash club.

MT questioned about the gardening work as the previous gardener has retired due to ill health. MB to speak to Benny regarding the gardening work as he has been maintaining the garden in the meantime.

B – TREASURER

PB presented the 3 month accounts to the 30th September 2021, covering the first 3 months of the club's financial year. PB noted that the December accounts would be available sooner.

3 months to 30 Sept:

- Net income of £20.9K versus £18k the previous financial year.
- Bar sales of £11.5k
- Subs £10k, comparable YOY
- Junior coaching £1.9k, again comparable YOY
- Higher cost of sales this year due to the bar being open
- Overheads £16.5K this year versus £20.k the previous year
 - o Increased wages last year due to additional cleaning required for covid requirements
 - o Repairs £3k versus £6.5k last year
 - This year includes the screens in the ladies changing rooms, roofing works and the new bar fridge
- £7.5k YOY improvement in Net profit
- Balance sheet – no substantial changes
- As of 5/1/2022 the club's bank balance was £170k

A question arose regarding the bank charges which are due to the card machine.

England Squash fees have been charged to the club with a 50% discount for Covid - £2k for the year from 1 Jan 2022. Will be spread over the year on a quarterly basis.

C – MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Membership figures as of the 4th January 2022:

Total – 358 (up 16 from last meeting)

Adult – 234

Junior/student – 68

Social – 30

Life – 26

D – SECRETARY

No report.

5. TEAM REPORTS:

Men's Captain –

No matches since the last meeting.

Ladies' Captain –

The ladies 1st team has enjoyed a good first half of the season, having played 6 matches and winning 4 of them. We currently sit top of the table in the Herts Ladies division but have a couple of games in hand.

The ladies 2nd team have played 6 matches so far, winning 3 of them and are currently 4th out of 7 in the Bucks Women's Division 2.

6. JUNIOR REPORT

No report

7. OTHER REPORTS –

House –

Improving the loft Insulation above the lounge is being investigated. It is not straightforward.

Water Fountain – Should be fixed w/c 10/1/22

Court Hooks – will be re-installed.

JP noted that it had been reported that ladies changing room heating is not working. MB has spoken to Nigel about that who believed it was working but MB will speak to Nigel again and possibly turn the heating up.

Social Report -

15/1/22 - Children's Party

22/1/22 - Children's Party

12/2/22 - Skamungas

21/5/22 – Waggle Taggle Ceilidh Band

28/5/22 – Simon Bell Party

Systems/Operations –

No report

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Dogs in the bar area:

- There have been a number of reports about dogs having relieved themselves in the bar area. The committee noted that the club was a family club and wants to be a welcoming space. Dogs have always been welcome in the past and the majority of committee felt that it was happy for dogs to be in the bar area. However it was noted that we should make a request for the owners to keep a closer eye and note that there have been complaints. PB noted that in addition to dogs,

there are times when young kids need to have a closer parental guidance too.

- Club heating
 - MB noted that pre Christmas there was a problem with thermostats (batteries) which has been fixed. This had led to a conversation about general heating in the club. As a result, NK had published the heating times for the club. As detailed in the house report, Nigel is already looking at the insulation in the bar area which will help improve the bar comfort.
 - KW wasn't able to attend but sent the following message: 'I'm sorry that I will not be able to attend although I would like the minutes to record that I have asked the House Manager for longer heating hours on the courts. My view as Mens captain is that the courts need to be a safe environment to play, where injuries can so easily happen because the courts are not at decent temperature.
If we offer courts all day and all evening then the temperature needs to be maintained no matter how cold it is outside. I understand that here needs to be a little bit of give, so that is why I have suggested that the heating should be on from at least midday until 9pm Monday to Thursday, to cover team matches, then midday to 7pm on Friday, at the weekend the heating would need to be on from 7am until 6pm. We should be trying to achieve 18degC with a frost setting set at no lower than 15degC.
I know there are supplementary heaters but in my opinion they are not that effective, as they are under powered and are being asked to heat an enormous area from the ceiling first!'
 - A discussion was held whether one court could be heated, but there is a thermostat which covers all 4 courts. With the smart heaters now available, MB to discuss with Nigel and Charles whether we could baseline the costs on the existing heating and then increase the heating for a week to cover the less popular times and get an estimate for the increased costs which could then be evaluated further.

- Balcony noise issues
 - It had been raised that the balcony noise levels are quite high. Nigel Kerry had looked into the issue and there are a number of potential solutions, including replacement floor tiles. A quote had been received for £2.900
 - Committee considered the option but felt that while the noise levels were noticeable it wasn't an urgent requirement and therefore felt that the expenses should be incorporated into the wider club development plan and considered in that context

- Baby changing unit
 - It had been requested that a baby change unit was installed in the club. Again, this was decided that it should feature in the new development plan and a suitable space should be included.

- World record squash match attempt at Tring
 - JP noted that there had been a request from Michael Pearce and Alex Preston to attempt the World record for the longest squash match.

Details still to be finalised but committee are supportive of this event being held at Tring in principle.

- Cleaning
 - There have been an increase in comments regarding the quality of cleaning at the club. Currently 12 hours per week are done.
 - Prior to the meeting, MB had circulated a proposed agenda for a cleaning rota which had been reviewed by committee members.
 - MB recognised that there was an issue with regards to quality control but the rota was to aid a discussion around expectation setting.
 - Committee agreed with the importance of cleanliness at the club at all times, and under the current environment in particular. MB to speak to the current cleaning team to discuss the issues that has been raised to him.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday 28th February 2022.

The meeting closed at 21:05.

Joanne Preston

Tring Squash Club Secretary