

## **TRING SQUASH CLUB**

### **MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 JULY 2023**

#### **1. ATTENDED BY**

Mark Bullard (MB), Joanne Preston (JP), Matt Duncan (MD), Keith Warman (KW), Chas Lefevre (CL), Anthony Palmer (AP), Jan Kerry (JK), Kelly Gascoine (KG), James Walton (JW)

The minutes of the previous were approved.

#### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Joni Duncan (JD), Merril Trueman (MT), Peter Barham (PB), Katie Winterstein (KWi),

#### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

Epos – MB looked at proposed system and savings would be c.£200/month. PB has reviewed the numbers and has agreed. MB proposes that we go ahead with the new system due to the savings and other benefits. Details regarding the practical application of the solution are still being worked through, including PB reviewing the contract for the existing card machines to determine the length remaining on the contract. MD noted that implementation details need to be agreed with all parties.

Bar keys lock – Plan in place and change underway. MB to confirm with MMM & the electrician what door the new handle should go on.

8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> September – Tring Bronze Masters event. On England Squash website. Need 50 to run. 7 entrants to date. Please support & promote.

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

##### **A – CHAIRMAN**

JK has agreed to take on the role of Club Secretary and Andy Booth has agreed to take on the Membership Secretary role. Thank you to both of them.

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2023 is the date of the junior squashathon being held at the club. BBQ will be running from 12 noon. Please sponsor, support & purchase raffle tickets.

Pepper Event – club has been asked to support the event for £170 full page ad. Committee agreed

Improved communication channels – back up to MMM and Newsletters- video screen. Ongoing work

PSC update:

- Last car park hire underway.
- Further work to the surface will be undertaken

Fees/bar prices:

Prior to the meeting, MB has distributed his thoughts regarding the increase in fees for committee members to think about ahead of the meeting.

It was noted that this year the early indication is that the club will have a surplus (circa £1,500 TBC). For the year ending 30/6/22 the club had a deficit of £1,796. Overall for the last two years the club looks to be operating at just the wrong side of breaking even.

Additionally, overall inflation is circa 10% and the club is seeing many of its costs going up.

There was a strong feeling as has been discussed before that the club should be aiming to run at a small surplus each year, with the capital in the bank being used and allocated for improvements to the club, not basic operational expenditures.

### **Membership fees:**

MD noted that the England Squash subs change to each individual changing had been pushed back to the end of 2024 so the club would still need to pay for ES fees in Jan 2024 (contrary to the previous understanding that these wouldn't be charged).

Therefore the proposed adult fee was £120, a 15% increase rounded up. Committee were happy, and for other similar memberships to have a similar uplift. The proposed social membership increase was £40 to £45 and Life membership increase to £1250. It was proposed that the life membership had a bigger increase than the other membership levels as the club did not want too many life members and therefore it would discourage that. Even with the proposed increase, it was only 6x the annual membership and therefore still an excellent price for anyone planning to play at the club for a number of years.

### **Court Fees:**

MB noted that the court fees were last raised in 2018 (and 2011 !! prior to that). The proposed changes were:

1 Hour Peak £5.60 to £6.00  
1 Hour off peak £3.60 to £4.00  
40 Mins Peak £3.80 to £4.25  
40 mins off peak £2.50 to £3.00

MD noted that the court fees needed to be rounded to an even number, so they could be split by the system when 2 players share the price of a court.

CL proposed that there was the same minute rate for a 40 & 60 min peak court, and likewise for off-peak courts. Committee were in favour of this suggestion and MB would review the numbers.

### **Bar prices:**

While committee acknowledged that there were different costs for different beers, and there had been differential prices in the past, it was felt that it was easier to keep all beers prices the same for ease of the bar volunteers. However, costs had

increased and therefore it was agreed that all beers should be priced at £3.50/pint. When the epos system is introduced, it was discussed that we could introduce differential pricing for the premium beers. It was agreed that Other drinks prices will be similarly reviewed.

Proposed AGM date – Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

## **B – TREASURER**

No Treasurer's report but it was noted that there was approx. £175k in the bank.

Being only 10 days after the Club's June 30th financial year end the accounts are currently in the process of being completed.

This year Benny and PB performed a bar stocktake on July 2nd.

It was also noted that PB had given MB the bank statements for his review, covering Jan 1st to June 30th 2023 – this is the new internal control that we introduced as PB is the only person that initiates payments through the Club's HSBC banking system. It means that every payment, and receipt, that goes through the bank can also be seen by MB.

## **C – MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

Below are the figures as of the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023:

**Total – 376 (down from 378 last meeting)**

Adult – 241 (down 1 from last meeting)

Junior – 73 (down 1 from last meeting) – inc students

Life – 29 (same as last meeting)

Social – 33 (same as last meeting)

The club has had 13 new joiners since May.

## **D – SECRETARY**

No report.

### **5. TEAM REPORTS:**

#### **Men's Captain –**

The Bucks racketball leagues are drawing to a close. The 1st team are sitting very nicely in mid-table in the first division with four matches remaining and the 2nd team are top of division 2 with one match remaining.

The squash situation for the upcoming winter season is an agenda item.....

#### **Ladies' Captain –**

No report.

## 6. JUNIOR REPORT

No report.

## 7. OTHER REPORTS –

House (from Nigel Kerry)–

Dishwasher is being fixed & ice machine replacement is in hand.

Social Report (club events in green)-

15<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – Junior squashathon

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023 (12-4) – private party

11<sup>th</sup> August 2023 – private party

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 – private party

4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – maintenance courts 1&2

8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> September – Tring Masters Bronze Event

16<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – 40 year bar celebration

27<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – Proposed AGM date

14<sup>th</sup> October 2023 – band night

28<sup>th</sup> October 2023 – private party

4<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – private party

15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – charity morning 10:30-13:00

18<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – private party

25<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – private party

16<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – Elvis Tribute

24<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – band night

18<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – band night

28<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – private party

19<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – band night

14<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – band night

Systems/Operations –

MD has new clocks to put up for courts 4 & 1.

## 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bar refurbishment – Natalie was bust with other projects and therefore we have reached out to a member who is an interior designer. Have talked her through what we already have. She has comes back with her proposal which includes various phases. However it was noted that we need to nail down the scope of work and request an end to end vision from the designer. MD proposed to meet with her to discuss next steps and MB noted that we could get a quote from a tradesman for the proposed plastering and ceiling work if needed.

Ladies changing room – Not a lot of movement. KW has received updated prices from 1 company. Still trying to get quotes from another company. Proposed timeline May 2023. KW proposed that the men's changing room refurb follows on from the ladies changing room. JP noted that we would need to confirm funds available after the ladies changing room refurb and the bar work. AP questioned the ventilation in the men's changing room. KW noted that it works on a movement sensor near the shower area and he believes that it should work all time (rather than on the sensor). It was questioned whether a refurb of the men's changing room would require cubicles etc as being discussed in the ladies changing room.

Men's winter team squash for upcoming season – current club members are not of the standard that regular team watchers want to come and see. Last season the Herts 1<sup>st</sup> team struggled in the Herts division. A discussion followed as to how the club could attract players who could play in the first team or whether we should just focus on one county league. The consensus was that the club does not have players internally who are strong enough to play at the top level in Herts and therefore if we wanted that level of squash at the club (which has been requested of committee members) then we would need to bring players in. Committee were on the whole supportive of trialling out a season to sponsor a couple of players at the top of the Herts team. MB noted that the club also has a development fund which could be used for this purpose.

New players- Men's. MT had noted prior to the meeting that she had recently met a couple of members who had done the beginners course a year ago but had only ever played each other and had just ventured into the bar for the first time. Committee acknowledged that there was a gap between people doing the course and 'what next'. Potential to add 'buddy names' to the letter that is given out to all players when they finish the beginners course so they can reach out when joining the club. MB to speak to potential buddies to see if they are happy for their names to go on the letter.

Level 1 coaching – prior to the meeting Kwi had noted that one of her junior coaches could not continue in September and she had another ex junior in mind that she wanted to bring into the coaching team and had requested that the club covers the Level 1 coaching cost for. The committee were happy with the request for KWi.

Tring squash Club Golf day – currently not too many members signed up for the golf day which is 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at Stocks Golf Club. KW requested to promote.

JP noted that there was a increasing requirement for social media / marketing of the club (particularly of the matches if we were going to sponsor players but also of other club events). MD noted that in addition to this it would be useful overall to look at the roles of the committee members so that we could come up with a list of what roles are needed as we look to attract new volunteers. Item was added to be discussed at the next meeting.

## **9. NEXT MEETING**

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

The meeting closed at 21:04.

Joanne Preston

Tring Squash Club Secretary