

TRING SQUASH CLUB

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2024

1. ATTENDED BY

Mark Bullard (MB), Jan Kerry (JK), Merril Trueman (MT), Katie Winterstein (KWi), Andy Booth (AB), James Walton (JW), Steve Malduka (SM) Peter Barham (PB), Joanna Preston (JP), Anthony Palmer (AP).

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Kelly Gascoigne, (KG) Matt Duncan (MD) & Keith Warman (KW)

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Ruth Proudfoot (RP) was co-opted onto the committee.

3. MATTERS ARISING

EPOS – programming the system is now taking place.

Chair reported that there had been another increase in Bar prices. Committee agreed prices needed to go up and club could not wait until the EPOS system was up and running.

MMM Screen – move needs to be arranged and the screen needs to be secure.

Agreed for the Handicap Finals to be on Semi Finals night and club will monitor and review how this works.

4. OFFICERS' REPORTS

A – CHAIRMAN

Chairman advised that the Mike Harris Raquet Ball Exhibition event had been very good but could have done with a bit more support from members.

Bronze Junior Event was a great success and thanks goes to all of those who helped support this event.

Club Championships- Entries open on 17 March 2024 and close on 10 April 2024. The draw will be on 11 April 2024 with finals night on 3 May 2024.

There had been some interest from Tring School to use the clubs squash courts during the school day. Dates were still to be agreed but it was noted that Wednesdays was a busy day at the club.

Energy contract is due for renewal in August, agreed that it might be prudent to renew before the contract expires if it means the club gets a better deal on energy costs. MB wanted the committee to be aware that the increase in heating costs would impact significantly on the club.

Court floor markings – a reminder to everyone to wear appropriate footwear when on court.

Pendley Committee now has new banking arrangements and all club loans have been paid.

Chairman expressed some concerns for the club during the Chilfest weekend. Club will be open but there was the potential for large numbers of people to be using the club over the weekend, particularly if the weather is bad.

B – TREASURER

No report for this quarter

C – MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY (Andy Booth)

Membership numbers as of March 2024 (Mar 6th)

	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
Adult	233	227	203	210	213	223	234	232
Adult (3 years)	10	10	14	14	14	14	14	14
Family Junior	25	26	25	25	27	33	36	35
Junior	43	44	37	37	34	35	33	32
Life	29	30	31	31	31	31	31	31
Social	34	35	36	40	40	41	41	41
Student	8	8	8	8	9	9	9	9
Total	388	387	355	375	378	399	411	407
Lapsed	183	193	214	216	216	218	218	218

Comments

- Multiple renewals ongoing
 - OCT: 5 new Adults (2 x 1st Team players) and 5 new Junior, 2 new linked
 - NOV: 9 new adults, 2 new Juniors, 1 re-join, and 1 new Social, 8 new linked
 - DEC: 6 new adults, 3 new juniors, 1 re-join, 4 new linked
 - JAN: 6 new adults, 5 new juniors, 2 re-joins, 19 new linked
 - FEB: 12 new adults, 4 new juniors, 1 re-join, 25 new linked
 - MAR: (so far): 2 new adults, 5 new linked
- We/I **still** need to add 5 Life members into MMM; they were missing records/members
 - Found after research with Chris prior to the TSRC Bar 40 years anniversary Party
- Move replacement FOBs
- Move requests for “Guest/Trial” access (at least 3 in JAN & 3 in FEB)
- Overall, we are seeing many new members linking and joining the Club, replacing many members who are not renewing.

D – SECRETARY

No report.

5 TEAM REPORTS:

Men's Captain (Keith Warman)

The Herts 1st team suffered their first loss of the season after eleven straight wins, hopefully they are enough points clear to make it very difficult to be caught at the top of the division. They have also progressed in the Herts Senior Cup after a very close victory over Berkhamsted. In complete contrast the Herts 2nd team will probably be relegated from division 2 having only won three matches with just one match to play. The Bucks team will finish mid-table in division 1 as their early promise was short lived. We do not expect to enter any teams in the Herts squash summer leagues; however, we are entering a minimum of two teams in the Bucks racquetball league, at least one of these teams will be in division 1.

The club is currently running the Handicap squash knock-out competition that has reached the quarter-final stage. The exact date of both the Plate and main draw finals are still to be determined, even though the Committee agreed that the competition deserves a higher status and therefore the finals will be during the couple of weeks of the club championship.

Ladies' Captain (Joanne Preston)

In the Herts division, the 1st team are well positioned to retain their league title this year. Despite injuries, we are currently sitting top of the division with 1 game in hand and a couple of games to go. It's been a tougher journey in the Bucks 1st division where we are in the opposite position and sitting bottom of the table with 1 match to go.

The 2nd team have performed much better in the Buck's league and are mid-table, currently 3rd out of 8 having played a couple more games than the teams around them.

As previously reported by KWi, the ladies free coaching sessions were heavily oversubscribed and went well. They have now finished and KWi is following up with the keener players, some of whom have since joined the club. Welcome to the new ladies. KWi is looking to hold the next ladies evening on Monday 15th April.

6. JUNIOR REPORT

Bronze Event went well with 67 applicants. Tring entered 4 juniors, with a win at under 11 for George Hughes and Runner Up at under 19 for Sean Slade.

Thank you to all who helped – Charles Lefevre for organising, Rob Dunford, Becky Spencer, Georgia Greenall and most of all Barbara Lefevre for putting on food.

7. OTHER REPORTS

House Manager

Report 05 March 2024

- Heating - Now on at 15* from 09:00 to 15:00 Should be changed as this is just to accommodate a very small number of players. The committee needs to set out exactly what it wants done with regards timings and temperature of the courts and publish this so everyone knows the best time to play. This could include an early morning slot.
- A meeting has been held between, Alex, Brad(plumber) and Daren (electrician) to see if it's possible to heat just the court that is being used. This appears to be far more complicated than originally thought. I have had an estimate for this. Mark has

been looking at other options for the court heating in general, so rather than keep bombarding everyone with different ideas I think the committee should set up a small group to gather all the ideas in one place. There are a couple of members who have passed on useful information to Mark, and I would suggest that they may be worth getting involved.

- Roof - Tiles being damaged by falling branches - George the Roofer has been and couldn't believe how many branches were on the roof, some quite substantial. Mark has contacted Pendley, but could we ask for them to raise the crown of the trees so there's less foliage to drop on to the roof.
- Leaks causing damage to ceiling in men's toilets. Will repaint now that George has repaired roof.
- Shower ceiling being painted. There's a small problem on the exit from the shower area with the outer walls. It looks like damp is getting through from the showers. I'll look at it in due course.
- Extractor fan in men's changing room due to be serviced. First time in 8 years so might be expensive. The company turned up to give me a quote only to find the fans weren't working. That's now been sorted but no idea how long they've been off. Waiting for quote
- Carpet cleaning in lounge and crt3 stairs done. Crt3 looks good.
- Lock on door to 1983 cupboard needs over-ride lock. Apparently, this is booked in with Simon Bell. I locked my keys in there the other day so would appreciate it if this could be expedited.
- Painting of stairs and other areas around court 3 being quoted for.
- Heater in ladies changing room still causing a problem. Frankly I've given up with it and will wait until the changing room is revamped.
- I was asked to find out if it was possible to instal motion sensor-controlled lighting in toilets and changing rooms. See quote attached. It will be slightly less as I assume when the ladies are updated this will be included.
- The thermostat in lounge area is waiting to be repositioned. I'm trying to get a version that can be controlled remotely but there will need to be some new wiring done to accommodate that. I'll report back when done.
- Insulation has been moved around in the loft to make it easier to carry out some of the rewiring. Can someone let me know when all this has been completed so I can put the insulation back.
- There is an ongoing problem with the cooker and how it is used. If it isn't cleaned properly after use, the next time it just chucks out loads of smoke. Please can we encourage team captains and casual users to be more careful. I would like to install an extractor fan above the cooker. I've never used one so no idea what the best options are, but do you want me to investigate? I'm guessing the cost will be c£1500 to buy and install.
- Now that the new ceiling has been installed in the lounge, with all the new lights, please can someone tell me what to do with the lights etc that are still in situ in the "old" ceiling.

The club is currently carrying out some major refurbishments, which is great, but I think we need to be aware of the continuing problem of water running off the car park and flooding our garden and causing damage to court 2. Nothing sexy about this but it needs to be dealt with. I understand that Pendley isn't interested in helping with the costs, so we need to make an allowance for this cost somewhere.

I'm waiting for an estimate to re-tile the single-storey part of the building with more robust tiles than currently in place. The current tiles have been in place for over 30 years, and I'm being advised they are past their working life. (quoted c£10K)

A risk assessment. I asked in my last report whether the committee wanted me to arrange for a risk assessment to be carried out. I didn't get an answer one way or 'tother. I must reiterate

that you are responsible for how the club works. If there's an accident ignorance will not be accepted as an excuse. Please let me know what you want me to do.

Social Report (club events in green)-

19 April private charity event
04 May private party
11 May private party
17 May Oasis Tribute
12-13 July Junior Squashathon
13 July Games Night
26 July Golf Day
07 September – private party
28 September 2024 – private party
26 October 2024 – SKAmungas
16 November private party
30 November private party
14 December Club Xmas Party Abba Tribute
2025
22 February – Back to 80's Tribute band
17 May – Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band
18 October – Elton John Experience
20 December – Elvis Impersonator

Systems/Operations –

Issue with Clock on court 3 resolved with software update.

New bar point of Sale has been loaded with bar product data and we now have all the hardware (card readers, etc) (Thanks Andy so. Much for doing this). Andy, Alex and I are to meet to run through use cases and to run tests on usability, etc. Once this has been completed, we will agree a roll out plan, training etc – but this is a 'not to be rushed' change.

New comms cabinet will be installed in the loft above the bar, with a network switch to feed the new till.

New bar sound system is being well used and provides a much simpler and better sounding system for members.

Moving the kiosk is on the list but dependent on a new power supply – will be looked at in due course to see if we can reuse an existing supply.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Lounge Refurbishment – there has been very good feedback from members. The bulk of the furniture arrives on 14 March. Some items will arrive a little later. Thanks again to MD and KW for all of the work they put in to make it happen.

Bar Refurbishment – the lounge improvements have made it obvious to the committee that some work needs to be done to bring the bar up to standard, sooner rather than later. This work will be undertaken as soon as possible.

Ladies Changing Rooms – KW reported that an agreement as to the design and scope of work for the Ladies Changing Room with Jones & Farrow (Sean McNulty) can hopefully be achieved within the original quote of £45260+VAT. A layout of the work was provided, and a start date agreed of 20 May for this 6 – 8 week project.

KW reported that there are a few issues to note apart from what was stated on the original quote.

JP reported that during the time the project is underway, the ladies would not need an external shower as the changing room will be completely closed and the ladies were aware that there would not be any showers during this time.

MT & JP have started the process of choosing the fixtures and fittings arranging the fixtures and fittings.

Court Heating – MB had already circulated information to committee members Radiated Heat v Warm Air Heating.

MB reported that following the court heating discussion at the last meeting he had asked in the newsletter if any member had any knowledge in the area heating, ventilation, etc. Two members contacted him with relevant and interesting information.

Some positives about radiated heat are:-

1. Reduced waste of heat as the temperature gradient is much less than with a hot air system, the energy reaches where it is needed.
2. Courts are heated much quicker than with a hot air system.
3. The heat targets the court in use and less escapes to the surrounding area.
4. The approach is better suited to managing energy usage during periods of infrequent bookings.
5. Easy to integrate into the MMM booking controlled light system.
6. Low cost and minimally disruptive installation.
7. Centrally controlled by MMM and thermostat

Other considerations- The energy source is electricity, and the club's current heating fuel is gas which is a lower cost energy source. It was agreed that a working group should be set up to investigate this further.

Venting Process – look at possibly putting grills on vents and monitor how they work. MB to work with the House Manager

Kwi reported that there were 2 Raquet ball teams in the summer leagues. There was to be another Junior Squashathon on Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 July for 24 hours. Help and support will be needed from parents and club members to make this a success.

MT raised the issue of lights being left on when bar staff do not turn up. If bar staff do not turn up (this does on occasions happen) could the last person leaving the bar pull down the shutters and turn off the lights. MB to raise in newsletter.

AP raised a suggestion of the club having tea and coffee making facilities which had been asked for by club members. AP to take a lead to investigate how this might work best for the club.

JW – raised bar price increases and it was agreed an initial increase from 1 April. Club also to look at possibly increasing the cost of subscriptions and courts. Agreed to consider this at the May/July meeting ahead of the AGM in September.

JK reported that a welfare issue had been raised and this was being dealt with by the club.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 14 May at 7.30with the subsequent meeting scheduled for Tuesday 16 July at 7.30
The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Jan Kerry

Tring Squash Club Secretary