

TRING SQUASH CLUB

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2022

1. ATTENDED BY

Mark Bullard (MB), Joanne Preston (JP), Matt Duncan (MD), James Walton (JW), Keith Warman (KW), Peter Barham (PB), Merril Trueman (MT), Katie Winterstein (KW_i), Joni Duncan (JD)

The minutes of the previous were approved.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Chas Lefevre (CL), Jan Kerry (JK)

3. MATTERS ARISING

The notice board at the entrance to the club has been put back up. MB has become aware that some members do not read the newsletters therefore it is important to advertise events / other notices elsewhere too.

The development plan drawing and document has been circulated to the members in the AGM notice, with the drawing currently up on the notice board. It will be introduced to members at the upcoming AGM with the idea to set up an EGM approximately 2 months after the AGM to vote on the proposals. The constitution requires a simple majority to approve or decline the proposal. There will be an indicative cost (for the first stage of the development) available for the AGM and the funding routes potentially available are cash in the bank, fundraising efforts, grants, and potential funding options.

Hog roast – ticket sales are poor (10 family tickets, 20 adult tickets). Mark has now provided the option to pay on the door. Wristbands brought to identify those who have purchased tickets. Hog roast to be served at 6pm, disco from 8:30pm.

Guinness World Record / squashathon – all planning details on track. To be held over the weekend of the 16th / 17th September 2022.

Key lock solution – MB has been over to Aylesbury and seen the door locks in action. It requires new format fobs though which we don't have so MB has asked for a quote for those fobs.

Agenda for the AGM includes a proposal for the changes to the constitution (checked with Ken Longhurst who wrote the constitution and also MMM regarding the operational mechanics). Additional point to be mentioned at the AGM is the bar furniture which will be replaced as soon as we can source the required items at a suitable price.

4. OFFICERS' REPORTS

A – CHAIRMAN

Thanks to committee for their time, efforts and support over the past year and particular thanks to Jon Slade for his time on the committee.

JD provided MB with information regarding defibrillator grants. The battery in the current defibrillator is due for replacement soon. MB to ask Anthony Palmer for his view on whether we stick with the current defibrillator or refresh to a newer model.

Dacorum have been chasing up on a hygiene questionnaire which MB has completed today.

Next Pendley meeting is tomorrow. Nothing particular to report.

MB to raise at the AGM but he has noticed that the club has less participation by the majority of members in the leagues, number of people coming into the bar etc. MB would like to encourage everyone to reach out to new faces, encourage people into the bar after games etc. to increase overall engagement at the club. Jamie Hough has shown interest in holding a club night (in addition to Friday) which MB has encouraged as the courts are generally free on Friday nights. Additionally, MB suggested that further thought is put into having a second screen in the bar. MT noted that we should make the bar area welcome as a priority before the other development plan. MB would be interested in any ideas to increase engagement.

B – TREASURER

Cash in the bank as of the 12th September 2022 was £173k.

Year end accounts to the end June 2022 have been reviewed by the accountants.

- Small deficit of £1.8k versus £12.6k profit year before, mainly due to a reduction in covid grants
- 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
- Government grants of £6.5k down from £34.8k year before

2022/2023 financial year should be a more normal picture, with no unusual shutdowns and no government grants available.

JW noted that there seemed to be a drop off across all areas of the club so its key to get people back on court and provide a personal touch to get people involved, particularly with the development plans being considered. KWi noted that a buddy system for new members may be a way to introduce them to the club.

KWi mentioned that its World Squash Day on the 15th October so we could hold something on that day during the day, with the band night in the evening.

C – MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Below are the figures as of the 8th September 2022:

Total – 350 (down from 356 last meeting)

Adult – 241 (down from 248 last meeting)

Junior – 55 (up from 52 last meeting)

Life - 28

Social – 26 (down from 28 last meeting)

JD noted that there is an ongoing issue with regards to expired members being able to use credit to be added to a court (they get blocked from the door and can't book their own courts but can get added to another court). MD to speak to MMM to look for a solution.

Subsequent to the meeting, MD reported to committee that following discussions with MMM they had suggested that a visitor fee was introduced at a level of £5 to ensure that expired members who were playing were at least paying to do so. This has now been implemented.

D – SECRETARY

No report

5. TEAM REPORTS:

Men's Captain –

Both the racketball and squash summer seasons are now over, we look forward to the new winter season. We are going to run three teams, one in Herts division 1 (Thursday nights, Steve Malduca captain), one in Herts division 3 (Wednesday nights, James Taylor captain) and one in Bucks division 1 (Wednesday nights, Alex Preston captain). Details of captains and what evenings the teams play to follow.

There will be a number of matches on Wednesday nights (men's Bucks team and Herts 3rd div, ladies 1st team bucks matches). JP to provide Keith with a list of finalised Bucks fixtures to inform Herts to avoid clashes on those nights in their fixtures.

Ladies' Captain –

We've confirmed that the 1st team will go back into the Bucks league in addition to the Herts league in the upcoming winter leagues. Most of the Bucks ladies matches will be played on a Wednesday night, when there are no other team matches on those evenings (Bucks has coordinated so there are no clashing matches with the men's team).

The Ladies Herts matches and the second team Bucks matches will continue to be played on a Monday night at home.

6. JUNIOR REPORT

Coaching starts on Wednesday which are really full. Sat sessions has moved to the afternoon with some interest, to be reviewed at Christmas.

KWi suggested whether we could hold junior get togethers on Friday nights. To be worked around the suggested Friday club night and on courts which are available.

7. OTHER REPORTS –

House –

- External drainage gully clearance.

Social Report -

16/17th September – Guinness World Challenge

16/17th September – Squash-a-thon

17th September – 50th Anniversary Celebration

15th October – Dung Beatles

17th December – Xmas Party – Abba Tribute

18th February – Private Party

15th April – Private Party

3rd June – Dolly Parton Tribute

Systems/Operations –

No report

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Renewal reminders – MB flagged in the last newsletter that renewals are due. MD noted that he's automated a message in MMM he will look to reactivate. JP to put a poster on the front door / noticeboard.

KW noted that a returnable deposit from the hirer of the club for all events is required to ensure that the club is left as we would wish to find it. MD to review whether its possible to take a deposit over MMM. MB also noted that there has previously been an issue with non-members being left and has emailed all the clubs that have used the club in the past to ask them to finish meetings by 9:30pm as we have volunteer bar staff. JP noted that she was now sending round the club calendar by email on a monthly basis to the bar rota organisers to distribute to their teams as necessary.

KWi commented that we're running beginner squash coaching on Tuesday nights which is well attended with 10 people signed up. Women's Squash Week

Sign on the front of the club has out of date contact details – MB to look at new signage.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 1st November 2022. EGM for the development plan discussion to be held on the 15th November 2022.

The meeting closed at 21:30.

Joanne Preston

Tring Squash Club Secretary