

## **TRING SQUASH CLUB**

### **MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14 JANUARY AT 7.30PM**

Attendees: Mark Bullard (MB) Pete Barham (PB) Steve Malduca (SM) Katie Winterstein (KW) Ruth Proudfoot (RP) James Walton (JW) Andy Booth (AB) Nigel Kerry (NK) Jan Kerry (JK) joined at 8.45pm

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

Jo Preston and Anthony Palmer

#### **2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

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

**Alternative ways of paying subscription:** AB & MB had a robust discussion about the merits of 1 month or 3 month payment schemes. Most of the committee were unaware that the current annual payment could be paid in monthly instalments. MB has done some preliminary calculations which he felt would be best discussed in isolation with AB.

**Action:** It was agreed that AB & MB would return to the committee with a clear proposal.

**Joint Tennis & Squash membership:** This became a discussion about the benefits of paddle tennis. A general conversation followed about how other tennis clubs were building courts and how many people were now playing and how it would increase membership. However, PB and NK couldn't understand how that was going to help a squash club. It was clear that unless TSC had some land it would be unable to benefit from rapid rise in this sport.

**Action:** MB was going to do some blue sky thinking but, in the meantime, further discussion would be held with Tring Tennis Club about joint junior membership.

#### **Additional Signage:**

**Action:** NK to install a fire escape route sign above lounge entrance doors on lounge side.

**Graphic Designer:** No names were forthcoming. Committee to keep looking.

**Bar Improvements:** MB working on it and making some progress. Will need to talk to Martin Harding about feasibility of some of the ideas. Ongoing

**Court Heating:** MB advised that he hoped to have the heating installed mid-February. Installer now back from illness and MB will arrange a date for work and advise committee. Courts 2 & 4 will need to be out of action which will briefly affect team matches. SM indicated this wouldn't be a problem.

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

##### **A- CHAIRMAN**

**IT issues:** MB started by thanking AB for all the time and effort he had put in to correct a problem with the system running the till and various other items, most important of which was the lock to the cupboard holding the bar keys. Therefore, followed a brief discussion about the possibility of using an external supplier to manage the system, including installing new hardware. AB also expressed a concern that he was pretty much the only person who knew how to fix these problems and how to manage the system (Matt Duncan is the other person). If he was run over by a bus, the Club's laptop was lost or a lorry knocked over the green BT box outside the carpark what would we do. SM felt that if all 3 happened at the same time we definitely would be in trouble.

**Cleaning 1:** Social functions cause a mess. MB has arranged for Emma Greenall to clean the toilets and give the lounge a general clean after each function. Currently this applies only to Benny's big functions but will be rolled out to all private functions with a cost of £50 to be paid in advance. Probably at the time of booking.

**Action:** MB to confirm £50 will be an appropriate amount.

**Ladies Changing Room:** MB told the committee that the builder was due to return and investigate laying non-slip tiles directly over the existing tiles. TSC to bear the cost of this.

**Training/coaching:** KW indicated that the Paul Carter sessions were going well with Sean Slade helping. There was a slight problem with payment in that some weren't prepared to commit to the full programme, so KW had agreed a pay as you play fee. The free sessions for beginners were full, with a waiting list. Predominately ladies. RP indicated this was down to "mum's WA groups", It had been posted on FB once. MB indicated there may well be grants available for more of this type of initiative. RP offered to do the applications.

**Club Competitions:** MB told the meeting that Charles Lefevre had asked for the club Championship to take place from 9<sup>th</sup> April – 25<sup>th</sup> April. KW said this was during the Easter school holidays so would cause a problem.

Committee proposed 5<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May. MB to revert to Charles. Handicap competition was discussed. Charles not prepared to do it this year due to complaint from competitor last year.

**Action:** NK to talk to Charles but only after MB had spoken to him about the Championship.

**Cleaning 2:** MB brought up the situation about the ongoing issues with the cleaning. RP indicated that Ross had spoken to DB and he thought he'd be letting the club down if he stopped. MB has subsequently spoken to DB and got a more positive response in terms

of stopping but nothing definite. NK indicated we have a duty of care to DB. MB has discussed this with JK.

**Action:** MB to address

**Pendley:** MB reported that each club had put forward their plans for the Dacorum development plan.

## **B - TREASURER**

PB wanted it minuted that he had handed over 2024 bank statements to MB. He briefly explained that he has the only access to the bank account and thus all the funds in it. Only unusual transaction would be payment for dinner for PB and David Horne as a thank you for their work. Committee thought Crockers was a bit OTT.

**Events:** PB now reconciles every event with Benny so that all the cash transactions are now accounted for. Discussed the value of these events in terms of profit for the club. Very important.

**Accounts:** PB presented the accounts for the period. Gave an overview with the excellent news that the club had made a good profit. PB went through the figures explaining various anomalies.

There was then a general discussion about how best we should use the funds held in the bank which PB indicated were c£120k. It was felt that the emphasis should be on squash related spending for example RP wanted more free coaching. SM asked about another glass back. MB reminded the committee about the last attempt to carry out a major structural change.

**Action:** It was agreed that the members would go away and think up a wish list of ideas that would benefit players rather than just drinkers.  
MB thanked PB for his work.

## **C MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

AB had provided a report in advance.

Membership numbers as of end of December 2024 (January 10<sup>th</sup> 2025)

	JAN	FEB	MAR	AP R	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Adult	223	234	233	231	236	239	237	240	240	227	225	223
Adult 3yrs	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	13	13	11	11
Family Jnr	33	36	35	33	33	31	28	28	27	28	27	27
Junior	35	33	32	32	36	36	34	34	37	35	33	32
Life	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	31	31
Social	41	41	41	42	44	43	43	43	42	37	28	31
Student	9	10	10	10	10	10	11	11	10	9	9	9
Total	399	411	405	403	416	416	409	413	412	392	377	377

## Comments

- Multiple renewals ongoing
  - NOV: 2 new adults, 2 new linked, 2 more lost FOBs
  - DEC: 1 new adult, 1 new junior
  - JAN (so far): 6 new linked, 3 adult & 3 junior renewals, 4 more lost FOBs

Overall, membership numbers dropped a little as renewals slow down. However, numbers were now climbing slowly again. There was then a long discussion about the benefit or otherwise of the value of the joining fee. It seems that it can be a barrier to some people joining. AB tried to explain that if we were to look at his proposals in (3 -1) he would probably be able to cover the joining fee in regular payments. PB felt that it should be scrapped if it was stopping the club from benefitting from a new member. KW suggested that if they do a coaching course then join there should be no joining fee. MB told the meeting that the plan was to use the current beginners group as a trial for (3-1) and this could be included in this trial.

**Action:** MB and AB to revert to committee after further discussions

## **D – SECRETARY**

No report

## **5 TEAM REPORTS**

**Men's Captain** – Steve Malduca

### **Men's 1<sup>st</sup> Team – Herts Div 1**

Halfway through season the 1<sup>st</sup> team currently are 8th. More home matches and Ben's regular return will hopefully see us continue to move up the table.

Squad: Ben Hedger, Harry Wyld, Charlie Yerrell, Alex Preston, Steve Malduca, Simon De Coninck, Callum Egan, Nick Lavery, Ed Bottrill and Chris Davey

## Division 1: Winter League 2024/25

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	Team		P	W	L	D	F	A	Pen	Total
1	<a href="#">Stortford 1</a>	!	9	8	1	0	149	58	0	149
2	<a href="#">Berkhamsted 1</a>	!	8	5	3	0	105	83	0	105
3	<a href="#">Biggleswade 1</a>	!	9	4	5	0	98	117	0	98
4	<a href="#">Radlett 1</a>	!	7	5	2	0	97	59	0	97
5	<a href="#">Stortford 2</a>	!	8	5	3	0	96	90	0	96
6	<a href="#">Nuffield 1</a>	!	8	4	4	0	93	95	0	93
7	<a href="#">Harpenden 1</a>	!	8	2	6	0	79	110	0	79
8	<a href="#">Tring 1</a>	★	8	1	7	0	63	123	0	63
9	<a href="#">Harpenden 2</a>	!	7	2	5	0	61	106	0	61

### Men's 2<sup>nd</sup> Team – Herts Div 2

The 2nd team (captained by Iain Digby and James Taylor) remain top of Div 2 at the halfway point.

Squad: Simon De Coninck, Callum Egan, Tim Delderfield, Nick Lavery, Martin Harding, Iain Digby, Matt Doody, Keith Warman, James Taylor, Matt Duncan

## Division 2: Winter League 2024/25

[Home](#) | [Division List](#)

	Team		P	W	L	D	F	A	Pen	Total
1	<a href="#">Tring 2</a>	★	7	6	1	0	110	56	0	110
2	<a href="#">Nuffield 2</a>	★	6	5	1	0	98	41	0	98
3	<a href="#">Berkhamsted 2</a>	★	8	4	4	0	97	95	0	97
4	<a href="#">Haileybury 1</a>	★	6	3	3	0	71	69	0	71
5	<a href="#">Harpenden 3</a>	★	5	3	2	0	59	60	0	59
6	<a href="#">Letchworth 1</a>	★	5	1	4	0	47	65	0	47
7	<a href="#">Gosling 1</a>	★	7	0	7	0	30	126	0	30

### Men's Bucks Team – Bucks Div 1

The Bucks Team (captained by Mike Pearce) are mid-table after with 4 wins and 4 losses.

Squad: Katie Maliff, Ethan Duncan, Alex Preston, Steve Malduca, Simon De Coninck, Callum Egan, Richard Carr, Ed Bottrill, Mike Pearce, Chris Davey

## Division 1

Standings								P-W-L-D: Fixtures
R	Team	Points	P	W	L	D	Recent	
1	Wycombe Squash & Racketball Club: First	120	8	6	2	0		
2	Beaconsfield Squash: Lions	112	8	6	2	0		
3	Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis & Squash Rackets Club: First	109	8	5	3	0		
4	Holmer Green SRC: First	101	9	4	5	0		
5	Tring: Men's 1st Team	78	8	4	4	0		
6	CBLTSC squash: Hawks	74	7	3	4	0		
7	Aylesbury Tennis & Squash Club: First	71	7	2	5	0		
8	Gerrards Cross Squash: First	62	6	2	4	0		
9	Beaconsfield Squash: Trojans	61	7	2	5	0		

### **Ladies' Captain – Joanne Preston**

No report from the ladies for this meeting, there have only been a couple of matches since the last meeting. However, RP wanted it noted that the Ladies 2<sup>nd</sup> team were top of their league.

### **6 JUNIOR REPORT**

No report

### **7 OTHER REPORTS**

**House** – NK indicated he would submit a full report for next meeting.

### **Social Report** (club events in green)

01 February – private event

22 February – Back to 80's Tribute band

28 February – Charity Quiz Night

01 March – private party

22 March – private party

17 May – Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band

05 July – private party

06 September – private party

18 October – Elton John Experience

20 December – Elvis Impersonator

**System/Operations** – See Chairman's report item 1

### **8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Future Committee Dates** – these were agreed for the next three meetings. 11 March, 24 April and 03 June for a 7.30 start.

**Safeguarding** – JK indicated there didn't appear to be anything in the new information supplied by Squash England that wasn't already covered by the Club. JK and AP to look at the clubs safeguarding policy.

JK asked about coaches DBS – all coaches have a current DBS. KW said that the coaches had to pay. NK was surprised at this as they are volunteer coaches. If correct the Club should pay these fees as well as any costs involved with coaching courses NK asked – do coaches have their own insurance.

AB asked if the old telephone number could be taken off the website and this was agreed.

KW asked who was in charge of the first aid kit in the kitchen as many items were out of date – JK to ask AP if he could check the contents.

First Aid Courses – are these all on line now or is it possible to get a trainer in and if so what would the cost be. JK to ask AP

## **9 NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 11 March at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 21.32pm

Jan Kerry  
Tring Squash Club Secretary