

TRING SQUASH CLUB

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2020

1. ATTENDED BY

Mark Bullard (MB), Joanne Preston (JP), Matt Duncan (MD), Keith Warman (KW), Katie Winterstein (KW_i), Chas Lefevre (CL), Merril Trueman (MT), James Walton (JW) – via phone, Jon Slade (JS) – via phone.

The minutes of the previous were approved.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Peter Barham (PB), Paul Armstrong (PA), Anthony Palmer (AP)

3. MATTERS ARISING

Anthony is resigning from the committee at the AGM. The club will need a new licensee and a new Welfare Officer. MB is making enquiries among members to fill the roles. All other members of the committee plan to remain on the committee for the next year.

4. OFFICERS' REPORTS

A – CHAIRMAN

MB is publishing regular updates so that the members are aware of the current changes and guidelines. MB is receiving complaints regarding inappropriate actions in the club given the Covid guidelines in place. MB is regularly reminding members to follow the guidelines and committee requests that all members adhere to the guidelines while they are using club facilities.

Early bar opening – previously (before the lockdown) the bar was opened with flexible running, with members able to serve themselves until the barperson arrived. This cannot happen under the current guidelines. There needs to be one person doing the bar at any one time, although that person can switch during the evening, as long as the bar is sanitised between bar people and it is clear who is running the bar at all times.

Cash register – committee enquired whether the cash register was needed at the current time. To enquire with PB and Benny.

Bar rota – needs more volunteers for the bar rota for all evenings. Email sent out to members.

Feedback on the price increase for the Side pocket was not well received due to the 2 step increase. Committee noted the complaints.

AGM – Given that it's a business meeting, the committee concurred that we can continue to hold the AGM in the bar area on Thursday 24th September. JP will request for members to confirm if they will be attending in person so we can limit

attendance. Anyone attending to be requested to wear masks. The meeting will also be held virtually for those not wanting to attend in person, details to be sent out to all members.

Bubbles – MB requested that each Bubble leader for any Bubbles which have been created to complete the forms as previously requested.

An advert has been prepared for the adult taster sessions in the New Year. Committee were happy for this to proceed, subject to the guidelines in place at the time including limiting numbers as required.

Financially the cost of the Covid lockdown and additionally requirements is impacting the club. Ongoing increased costs include the additional cleaning costs and hand sanitiser etc.

Heating – KW raised that the courts are getting cold and therefore the heating needs to kick in. MB to discuss with NK.

CL noted that the costs for Court 2 have not increased despite the increased court time to 1 hour. MD to review.

Honours Boards – full mock up plus associated costs being worked on. 3 alcoves will be sufficient for existing names plus room for future years.

B – TREASURER

- No report received. PB is awaiting the final accounts which will be presented at the AGM next week.

C – MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Total current membership: 391, including:

Adult: 259

Junior – 71

Life – 26

Social – 28

Student - 7

D – SECRETARY

No report.

5. TEAM REPORTS:

Men's Captain –
No report

Ladies' Captain –
No report

6. JUNIOR REPORT

KWi has been discussing with Tim Delderfield regarding getting the junior coaching back. It will be achievable but with lower numbers in each session. Looking to start at the end of September. Apart from the minis (under 7s) KW will request that parents drop the children off and leave. The balcony will need to be used but KWi will mark out areas for the children to go. MB proposed that due to the decreased numbers, any shortfall in the coaching sessions would be funded through the development fund which the committee concurred with.

Other ideas for use of the development fund could include sponsoring a local player, in return for something in return (such as playing for the first team when matches return). Other ideas welcome. JS requested that committee have a full discussion regarding the fund so that others can present any ideas they may have.

7. OTHER REPORTS –

House –

Sponsors name plates will be replaced on court 3.

MB is keeping an eye out on the soak away which is affecting court 2 with dampness.

Door handles still to be fitted.

Social –

No report

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Deferring membership renewal date – committee acknowledge that the club has had an enforced shutdown with limited play when the club was allowed to open. Committee discussed a number of options regarding the membership renewal. There is an external issue which affects the renewal date in that the club needs to pay the England Squash fees onto England Squash at the end of December.

Committee agreed for subscriptions to stay as is but for members renewing within 1 month of their renewal date that they will receive a 25% discount on their Tring Squash club fee (England squash fees remain as is and the discount doesn't apply to them). For those that do not have a 1 October 2020 renewal but a different date then they will be rebated the difference into their club accounts when they rejoin.

Joining fee for rejoining members – MMM charges the joining fee again if someone's membership lapses for more than a year. PA requested that this be removed for any rejoining member, no matter when they were previously a member. Committee decided that we should use the automation within MMM as much as possible (rather than manually adjusting) but noted that historically we haven't charged members for rejoining. Committee determined that they wanted to understand the financial implications of the proposal so we could take an informed decision. As the membership secretary and the Treasurer were not at the meeting, this decision was deferred to when this information was available.

Bar opening times – MB has sent out an email recently regarding the bar opening in the evenings again. Rotas still need some more volunteers please.

Bar keys – MD noted that we have a second lock which would work with the membership fobs so we could have a unit within the club which is opened with the key fobs with the bar keys locked behind (rather than having a number of key sets split out through the membership).

Balcony usage - Committee were happy for the balcony to be opened for specific use for coaching sessions. Areas to be marked out to ensure that the bannisters etc aren't being touched.

Available courts – committee discussed whether we could make more courts available, or reduce the gaps. Committee decided to discuss with MMM what functionality there is because it is a lot of work to adjust as we have been.

Women's Squash Week – 21st-27th September 2020

KWi presented ideas for how we could support Women's Squash week with some coaching led sessions which are allowed within current guidelines. Committee were happy with the proposals for members only, with the coaching costs (c.£150) to be paid for out of the development fund.

Return to Squash sessions – In a way of encouraging players to return to squash, KWi presented the idea of some coach led sessions (potential weekday morning and one evening per week) to encourage players to return, focussed on the newer or lower level players. Committee acknowledged that with the lack of team squash, there is good availability of courts at the moment in the evenings and we need to encourage players back. Committee were happy for this sessions to be held.

Showers – KW commented that he'd had a cold shower and thought the pressure may have reduced. MB to speak to NK.

9. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting scheduled for Monday 16th November 2020. AGM scheduled for Thursday 24th September 2020.

The meeting closed at 22:34.

Joanne Preston

Tring Squash Club Secretary