

TRING SQUASH CLUB

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15TH MARCH 2021 – Virtual meeting held due to lockdown

1. ATTENDED BY

Mark Bullard (MB), Joanne Preston (JP), Matt Duncan (MD), Keith Warman (KW), Katie Winterstein (KWi), Merril Trueman (MT), Jon Slade (JS), Jan Kerry (JK), Joni Duncan (JD), Peter Barham (PB), Paul Armstrong (PA), James Walton (JW),

The minutes of the previous were approved.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Chas Lefevre (CL).

3. MATTERS ARISING

None discussed

4. OFFICERS' REPORTS

A – CHAIRMAN

April 12 is the earliest date that internal leisure will open. Guidance will be received from 22 March at the earliest. MMM operates a 3 week booking system cycle. As we are expecting some restrictions, MB proposed waiting until guidance is issued before opening the court booking system as adjustments may need to be made. New risk assessment expected to be required. MB proposed that we keep following the guidance and need to wait to see the guidance is before opening the courts which committee agreed with.

Hospitality can also open outdoors from April 12th which could be considered by the club but MB was cautious on possibilities until we review the regulations to determine whether it would be cost effective to open.

Local government support continues throughout the current lockdown and it has been generous. We have a mapped out series of payments which takes the club through to the end March – in total over the lockdowns, the club has received c.£40k. Additionally we are continuing to get furlough payments for our employees and deferring other payments as possible to ensure costs continue to be minimised.

MB was approached by Sport Hertfordshire, representing Sport England re the Return to Play grant and they have encouraged us to apply. Money is available for specific activities, including coach run sessions and 'get ready to play' sessions. Potential to run group sessions outside if that is allowed before a return to sport.

Honours boards have arrived and have been fitted. Photos have been sent round on social media.

Beer return – refund potentially possible of surplus beer that we returned

Gardening contractor has retired. Benny has volunteered to keep the garden in shape.

PSC

Film crew used the car park in Feb for 4 days which was lucrative for PSC.
Another booking for Friday 4th June (main car park) – rugby club fields will also be used.

B – TREASURER

PB emailed the accounts for the 3 months to Dec just after the last meeting.
Highlights – small surplus, just over £1k, reduced deficit for the first 6 months of the financial year to £2k. Income is significantly down YOY.

£4k covid grants received in the financial year to the end of December (down from c.£25k in the previous financial year).

Reduction in costs has offset some of the loss of income – including no England Squash fees for the year.

PB calculated that Total overheads exc. depreciation £14.2k for 3 months, £4.7k per month to keep the club running.

The club has received £14.2k in Covid grants (excluding furlough payments) so far this quarter which matches our costs to keep the club running. Therefore the club is breakeven.

£152k in bank as of 15 March 2021 so continues to be healthy.

Next accounts will be ready c. end April and will be presented at the next meeting, or if timing doesn't suit then to committee over email.

C – MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Current membership numbers (March 2021): 290 members

46 lapsed since December 2020.

Adult: 187

Junior: 43

Student: 3

Social:25

Life: 26

Total: 290

New member enquiry received today!

D – SECRETARY

No report.

5. TEAM REPORTS:

Men's Captain –

No report

Ladies' Captain –

No report.

JP noted that she had received an email today confirming that all intercounty championships are cancelled for the season.

6. JUNIOR REPORT

Happy program: this is being organised by Herts Sports Partnership and is aiming to provide Holiday child care for children who qualify for school meals.

KWi has attended a few minutes about this to see if it is something that the club can be part of. They are looking for a range of organisation across the county each provider has to :-

- provide a minimum of 4 hours of care
- 'Fit, fed and read'. Include physical activity, hot meal, and an educational component.
- Starts in Easter Holidays with one week, Summer 4 weeks, Xmas 1 week.

At the moment Tring Squash Club are not set up to be able to do this but KWi is looking as to whether this may be a possibility in the future.

In the meantime KWi has signed up as a provider of ' Physical Activity element' for those organisations who need to add that to their program.(Coach goes there to venue)

More information on: <https://sportinherts.org.uk/happy/>

In the meantime, KWi has been in touch with Rob Dunford about organising Squash Holiday Camps over summer period.

Junior Assistant coaching role – mentioned at the last meeting, KWi had distributed a draft job spec ahead of the meeting.

- KWi had been approached by a few parents to see if juniors can help as a coach, assisting with events, helping with holiday programs.
- Would be a great help to the adult coaches
- Would be self funded through additional participants in the junior sessions. Potential for funding from the development fund if required
- Club would sponsor the person to get their Level 1 coaching qualification - costs would be C.£250 per person costs for the club for the Level 1, safeguarding etc.
- Interview and personal reference would be required.
- Committee were overall supportive of the proposal. Pay levels to be determined, KWi to look at minimum wage requirements, Level 1 coaching levels, and what would be reasonable payment between those levels bearing in mind the costs that the club would incur for each coach and the value they are getting from the club. The club has a precedent set as we have paid juniors who have coached previously.

- Discussion that the Assistants should help for a period before the Level 1 course is undertaken and paid for. KWi to confirm insurance coverage while Level 1 is being undertaken.
- KWi to enquire further and to return to committee with a proposal.

7. OTHER REPORTS –

House –

Upgrade to fire alarm system undertaken

Kitchen has been repainted

The boiler has been serviced

Social Report -

Private Party 25th September 2021

Systems/Operations –

Nothing to report.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Planning for reopening – light at end of the tunnel. Same approach as before:

- Follow guidance
- Sub-committee approach to review guidelines for 1) opening the courts, and 2) opening the bar.
- Club championships – MB proposed that the club championships are run later in the year when regulations allow. Committee agreed and MB to talk to Malcolm about it.

Honours boards – still need to decide what to do with the last ones. Committee were happy to give the previous winners first refusal to take the old boards.

Membership subs – PA enquired what we should do with membership renewal given we've been closed for another few lockdowns. MB proposed that a smaller group review the options available that the club could allow, was equitable for members that renewed (versus people that didn't renew) and that could be managed within the MMM system. MD noted that we should decide what we want to do and would be able to tweak MMM in some way to accommodate our requirements. Volunteer sub committee to look at this issue was decided to include – MB, JS, MD, JD

9. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting scheduled for Monday 17th May 2021.

The meeting closed at 21:14.

Joanne Preston

Tring Squash Club Secretary