

TRING SQUASH CLUB

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2020

– 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.

MB welcomed Jan Kerry to the committee. Jan has taken on the role of Welfare Officer as well as a committee member. MB also thanked Anthony for his contributions to the committee and for his continuing role as licensee for the current time.

MB also thanked Paul for his efforts as Membership Secretary, which has been passed back to Joni and Matt Duncan, but will remain on the committee. Many of the membership questions are now MMM based and therefore it makes sense for Joni (with Matt's assistance) to take on this role again.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Chas Lefevre (CL)

3. MATTERS ARISING

Honours boards – MB thanked Jon for his work to get the pricing and mock-ups prepared. MB is in favour of the design which has previously been shared with the committee members. The current design has capacity to 2044. Mens championship is now the open championship and MB would like the word Champion to be included. CL has previously suggested that the Handicap tournament should be included, and as there is space for it, MB was in agreement. A discussion was held around the boards and committee was in favour of proceeding with the new boards.

Joining fee – A discussion was held during the last meeting around the joining fee but was postponed until the current meeting as the figures weren't available. Typically we have c.30-50 joining fees per year. All existing members have paid it when they first joined and therefore MB thought it should be kept, but any returning members do not have to pay. MMM does not charge if members rejoin within a year. Outside of that time period, JD is happy to make an adjustment to the members balance when relevant.

Bar keys - MB looking into options of reducing the number of bar keys given out to members which then need to be passed around within the volunteer groups. The current option is to keep the bar keys safely on site with access through MMM fobs through a separately identified group in MMM. Nigel Kerry looking into whether keeping the bar keys on site would invalidate our insurance. Other ideas welcome.

Reopening from the 2nd lockdown – MMM has been adjusted so that more courts are available. Downtime between all courts is now 20 minutes. Courts are available

to be booked in December from now. If lockdown is extended then the court bookings will be automatically cancelled and no charges will be made to members.

4. OFFICERS' REPORTS

A – CHAIRMAN

MB thanked Katie for the work she did during Women's Squash Week, alongside Grace Gear, current England player, and other events she has arranged to get ladies to return to squash.

The AGM was held in the end of September and was quorate. There wasn't a lot of questions raised in AOB. Solar panels was one question raised and MB confirmed that it was something the committee was looking at, with an energy meter installed. Another point raised was whether we needed a backup card reader when the club opens again, particularly if we were staying with a cashless bar. Finally, there was a request for instructions behind the bar as to how to change the till roll and use the card reader.

Squash bubble rules – anyone wanting to play within squash bubbles need to agree to the rule, which have evolved by England Squash and may evolve again. This is now being done on MMM, and members will be required to confirm adherence to the rules on the MMM site before they are able to book a court.

Changing room rules – originally kit was requested to be taken out of the changing rooms and on to the courts so that cleaning can be done effectively and kit is not in the way of other users. A request has been made to allow members to use the hooks in the changing rooms for wet coats etc now we are in the winter season

Pendley meeting – meeting held last Monday. Flooding issues in the car park has been raised, damp is apparent in the corner of court 2 where rain water drains. The squash club needs to increase its gullies there, the hedge at the bottom of the car park will also be cleared which helps with the drainage.

Dacorum local plan – the current proposed local plan is for Tring to get 55% more housing than is currently built. There has been a discussion at the Pendley committee about what the sports clubs need to do to meet the additional demand of the additional residents. MB will input into the process and wants to consider where the squash club would put up additional courts if required. Given this is likely to be in the car park area, MB will also feed in that car parking availability (which is already stretched) needs to be increased. MB to circulate thoughts to the committee to get a combined view.

B – TREASURER

- PB provided the quarterly accounts to the end of 30 September 2020.
- Club made a loss of £3k for the period
 - o Repairs and maintenance c£6k due to improvements to the club
 - Building maintenance
 - Yerrell flooring cost
 - Simon Bell charges
 - o Additionally extra cleaning requirements are c. £1.5k per month.
 - o Rest of cost are in line with what we would have expected.

- Income lines:
 - Bar sales £8.6k (34% margin – similar YOY)
 - Court bookings of £3.2k
 - Some subscription fees included for those who rejoined before the end of September - £9.9k
 - Coaching income of c.£2k – some from MMM, some from Tring School
- 2019 comparable period – no subscription income was included as it wasn't available at that time and therefore a £8k loss was shown for the comparable period. MMM provide the breakdown so it has been included for the current accounts.
- £155k in the bank, still healthy.
- Additional furlough money has been requested for the November lockdown period

JD commented that England Squash invoice has not been received yet, potentially there may be some changes or postponement of payments due given the current circumstances. Any changes have not yet been clarified by England Squash.

MB commented that the extra cleaning requirements were quite costly. Given the court usage, some of the extra cleaning was cancelled. If usage goes up then this may be required again.

C – MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Current membership numbers (November 2020): 317 members

Adult: 207
 Junior – 52
 Life – 26
 Social – 26
 Student - 6

MD provided a YOY comparison to the committee members. Social and life members have been quite static. We've lost c.20 junior members over the renewal period, but overall we're comparable to where we were in November 2019, slightly up 2% in a YOY comparison. In a typical year, we use 30-40 members over the course of a year, but we actually gained more in the membership year to Oct 2020.

MB commented that on the MMM system, social membership needs to be kept an eye on that people don't misuse the membership type as its historically been for ex full members or close friends, and not a way for new members to join cheaply.

D – SECRETARY

No report.

5. TEAM REPORTS:

Men's Captain –
 No report

Ladies' Captain –

No report

6. JUNIOR REPORT

Junior coaching was up and running before lockdown with classes well attended. Currently paused until allowed again.

The junior questionnaire was sent out. KWi will provide a summary of the results at the next meeting.

7. OTHER REPORTS –

House –

The door handles have been fitted.

Energy usage continues to be monitored with efficiencies being gained where possible.

Social –

The Fire pit evenings are proving to be popular.

Systems/Operations –

Issue with the door entry system just before lockdown for a few hours. It was reported on the Sunday evening, resolved on the Monday morning by 9:15am. If it happens again then there is a plan to resolve. It's not known to have happened before.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Some members want to know why the balcony remained closed. Some want to watch some squash. When the first lockdown was lifted and the sub committee was considering the regulations there were a number of factors to take into consideration:

1. ES guidance states that players should arrive 5 minutes before their game, and warm up prior to arriving. The balcony was used as a warm up area and closing it prevents this.
2. ES also recommended that clubs 'Identify and close non-essential social/communal areas'.
3. The balcony is an area where people could gather and not social distance. ES guidance said that club policies should prevent this where possible.
4. The court area needs a recovery time between bookings, so closing the balcony helps meet this requirement.
5. We don't want children to use the balcony unsupervised.
6. Closing the balcony means one less area to clean.

Club organised and supervised events are subject to different rules. For junior coaching, parents have been encouraged to not enter the club, except for the parents of young children who need to stay and are allowed on the balcony area.

Committee discussed the issue around consistency of applying the rule and doing our best to reducing the risk of transmission. In conclusion, committee decided to follow the England Squash and government guidelines with regards to the balcony,

people shouldn't be going to areas where they don't need to and therefore its clearer and simpler to keep it closed, except for specific reasons for supervised events.

Elvis has been rebooked for December 2021.

KW was at the club during a heavy rainfall and there was water coming through the light fitting in the entrance area. MB confirmed that the gullies are cleaned at least once a year. He will discuss with Nigel to get the issue looked at.

9. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting scheduled for Monday 18th January 2021.

The meeting closed at 21:04.

Joanne Preston

Tring Squash Club Secretary