

TRING SQUASH CLUB

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

1. ATTENDED BY

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

The minutes of the previous were approved.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Honours boards have been ordered – delivery date tbc. Ahead of the new boards being fitted, Keith and Caroline have been redecorating the alcoves and the kitchen area.

Committee discussed what to do with the old boards which are now redundant as the names will be fully transferred to the new boards. Ideas of whether there is interest in giving them to people will be looked at.

4. OFFICERS' REPORTS

A – CHAIRMAN

Club Lockdown:-

- Heating reduced.
- Reducing overheads where possible, e.g. PRS/PPL
- Staff Furloughed.

Lock down support grants. £2,000 for lock down 2 which has been received (on top of the £25k previously received for lock down 1). Application for support payments for lock down 3 has been submitted. For this application, the club will be entitled to money on a 2 week rolling basis.

PSC

Dacorum Local Plan

- PSC common themes will be emphasised by each club, improved walking and cycling access to facilities, contiguous playing space, additional car parking.
- MB to share the 9 question response to committee for comment before responding.

Feb 19th Car Park Booking – club is likely to still be in lockdown so won't be affected

B – TREASURER

Last quarter accounts (to end Dec 20) not yet available and will be distributed to the committee when available.

£146k cash available in the bank, £140k in the deposit account.

JS enquired as to what the monthly running costs are during the lockdown period. PB to provide a ballpark figure to committee.

C – MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Current membership numbers (January 2021): 317 members

Adult: 202

Junior – 53

Life – 26

Social – 26

Quite a few members haven't rejoined due to restrictions being in place.

D – SECRETARY

No report.

5. TEAM REPORTS:

Men's Captain –

No report

Ladies' Captain –

No report

6. JUNIOR REPORT

Data taken from:

1. MMM membership data Dec 2020
2. Junior Survey Sept – Nov 2020. Sent to members and junior contact list (includes non members who attend for coaching)

Membership

Overall steady numbers (taken from MMM Dec 2020)

Age years	Number
U 11	14
U15	18
U 19	10
Unknown *	11
	53

* no data on MMM/ not in coaching / not known to coaches/ not active in club?

- Female: male ratio is low (as per nationally)
 - 33 % junior membership are female
 - only 2 juniors have attended Squash Girls can sessions
 - one played for Junior teams (2019/2020)
 - last season one progressed to playing for ladies team

COACHING:

Note: prior to COVID – juniors did not have to be members to attend coaching programs.

Coaching figures for Sept – Dec 2020

	Wed	Sat	Girls	Boys	Total
U 11	10	5	2	13	15
U 15	9	8	6	11	17
U 19	0	3	0	3	3
			8	27	35

- 66 % of junior members attend Wed/Sat coaching (MMM Data)
- overall good feedback about coaching from questionnaire.
- 20 % go to Berko for coaching (questionnaire)

Participation

- Clear from the questionnaire that figures for participation in events is low.
- 61.5 % report having friends to play with: yet this does not seem to be happening with 88.5 % playing none or once a week with family/friends.

“Question 17. Has your child participated in any of the following:”

Tring Junior Squash Leagues 12.5%

Tring Junior Team 14.3%

Tring Junior Team Training 10.7%

Tring Junior Club Championships 5.4%

Squash Girls Can Sessions 3.6%

Herts County Training 8.9%

Herts County Team 7.1%

Herts Closed Competition 8.9%

Radlett Events 14.3%

Tring Adult Leagues 3.6%

Tring Adult Team 3.6%

England Squash Sanctioned Event [Bronze / Copper / Silver / Gold / Plat] 7.1%

Open Sessions: mixed feedback. Re- think needed.

TRING SCHOOL:

- part of the school PE curriculum for year groups 7-9
- 16 sessions over two week period.

- Club funds the courts, school pays Tricia Maliff coach (attends 1/3 sessions)
- Well attended. At times 8 kids per court.
- Approx 100 + kids over two week period. Runs in the winter.
- Very popular and school requested after school club which was started on Mondays (1 session with Darren Withey)

* review integration of kids from the school sessions into the club when the coaching re starts.

SUMMARY:

- have a friendly club with a good junior base but low participation outside of coaching, both within the club events and outside of the club.
- Have a drop in numbers in 15- 19 year old age group.
- Gap in coaching higher level mentioned – linked to juniors attending Berko
- Kids are keen but lack confidence competing and playing outside of club.
- Tring school – aim of this program?

Suggestions:

(note: awaiting input from Herts Squash, these are ideas that I think we can start with)

1. Communication improvement
 - new junior member details passed from membership secretary to Katie who will contact directly. With MMM direct sign up – new juniors can be missed.
 - Junior email set up (done)
 - Update regularly web page
 - Continue to pass on info about events and encourage participation
2. Encourage participation from young age to participate.
 - Family Squash Sessions (kids and adults). E.g Start with something on World Squash Day (Oct).
 - Joint fun/event days with Berko.
 - Host of England Squash Sanctioned Events
 - Targeted girls only sessions (? link with other Herts clubs)
 - Themed training/ skill sessions
3. Coaching
 - Numbers per lesson max 6 (this reduced during CoVID and has been much better for coaching quality. I suggest that this continues. This has cost implications *
 - It has been discussed in the past updating coaching skills for Herts coaches. This has not progressed as yet.
 - I suggest that Tring Squash Club has a high level coach attend junior coaching sessions regularly throughout the year. This works to motivate the kids as well as improve the skill base of current coaches, and the coaching program delivered. **

Other considerations:

- Berko: is a high performance centre for squash and I think that we can make positive use of the programs run there. By working together with

Berko I think we can both benefit. Speaking to Adam Fuller, he is also keen to increase Junior participation at Berko and we have briefly discussed running joint mini event days for the two clubs.

- Junior Club session: is this a success? Any other thoughts? Maybe age specific or ability specific sessions?
- Juniors Leagues: maybe start a box at the bottom of the adult leagues for the 11-19 year olds? They can then start to filter into the adult leagues.
- Levels: for the Under 11's have some basic skill levels for them to achieve and get a reward eg certificate or wrist band.
- Player of the month with a reward – free 1:1 coaching session (paid for by club – cost of £210 over year). Player put up on board at the club.
- Coaching assistant roles by some of the older juniors (min 16 years old) – level 1 coaching sponsorship would be required.

* max 6 juniors per lesson, the current cost for participants only covers coach cost not the court fees.

** Level four coach to attend twice a term over a year approx. £1620
This could be added to current charge for coaching at cost of £1.50 per session per child. Or could be subsidised/ funded by sports development program.

Committee discussed that there are still a number of children who (normally) attend on a fortnightly basis from Tring School who don't yet become members after their lessons.

Another possibility is more organised activities to supplement the existing coaching so that parent's don't have to organise individual matches. KWi to look into the possibility of holiday camps and whether we would have the coaches available to run these events. KWi to also see if Adam from Berko / another coach would be interested in running sessions at Tring.

3. OTHER REPORTS –

House –

1. Gutter/Gully clearance has been arranged
2. Roof - investigation of small leak is being arranged.
3. Minor electrical maintenance
4. Kitchen has been painted.
5. Bar walls have been painted in readiness for installation of the new honours boards.
6. Routine Gas service/inspection is due shortly
7. Minor plumbing maintenance

Social Report -

Nothing to report.

Systems/Operations –

Nothing to report.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

PA had enquired as to the costs being incurred while we were in lockdown and whether we were happy with the level of those costs. PB to confirm the running overheads. MB acknowledged that there were ongoing running costs and losses being incurred but happy to keep things going as is for now. He remains hopeful that by the summer the club will be running in some form.

For our current staff, its costing ~£300/month in total to keep the staff on furlough. Given the loyalty of our staff, the flexibility they've shown over the lockdown and their contributions to the club then committee were happy for the costs to continue for the current time.

JD raised the question as to what do regarding the membership fees for members who renewed in Oct / didn't renew or have joined since. Committee discussed that the intention of the discount was to incentivise members to renew at their renewal date, not to benefit people who choose not to renew at their renewal date. MB proposed that the missed playing days due to lockdown 2 and 3 can potentially be covered through a further discount in next year's membership fees.

It was clarified that returning ex-members, whose membership had lapsed for more than one year would have their joining fee refunded by the club (it is charged automatically by the system).

KW mentioned that the fridge in the kitchen needed replacing. MB confirmed that that was ok to pass to Nigel.

5. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting scheduled for Monday 15th March 2021.

The meeting closed at 20:52.

Joanne Preston

Tring Squash Club Secretary