

TRING SQUASH CLUB

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 25th APRIL 2022

1. ATTENDED BY

Mark Bullard (MB), Joanne Preston (JP), Matt Duncan (MD), Merrill Trueman (MT), James Walton (JW), Jan Kerry (JK), Katie Winterstein (KWi), Jon Slade (JS),

The minutes of the previous were approved.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Peter Barham (PB), Keith Warman (KW), Joni Duncan (JD), Chas Lefevre (CL),

3. MATTERS ARISING

Development Plan Update:

- MB noted that there was a lot of information provided during the day / at the meeting to committee, the intention of which was to be a starting point for future discussions. MB introduced Clive Birch to the committee members who was attending the meeting. Clive has been working with MB on the plans, an experienced structural engineer who has been involved in all the past club developments.
- A number of options have been reviewed and there is one recommendation for the committee to review. MB noted that there was a lot of further steps to make before any development would be able to progress (planning, funding etc).
 - i. Option 1: Improving the ladies changing room in situ. Not recommended as its not possible to get a decent increase in space and it would be good to open the space out between the courts for future flexibility
 - ii. Options 2/3 – discounted as described in the document provided prior to the meeting.
 - iii. Option 4: Preferred and recommended option. Moving the ladies changing room to next to the men's, in the free space to the side and front of the existing club entrance. It's a cost efficient option with minimal disruption to the existing club use while building work is in progress. Option of having a second floor with a flexible use space above which could be used for a variety of reasons (table tennis / other sporting classes / physio usage etc). The second floor would be very cost efficient as the roof on the second floor would be cheaper than a roof required on a single storey building. It would also free up room for various options for disabled toilets, storage etc. Points discussed included:
 - 1. The entrance space – presence, security etc. needs to be considered. Current plans have a dog leg entrance.
 - 2. Bar space – to reduce the congestion in the tight entrance space. Ideas have been considered and remain viable in future phases
 - 3. Primary initial phase aims is to achieve the main issues raised by the members in the members survey.

4. Use of the space between courts which would be freed up by removing the ladies changing room – various options possible.
5. Would an additional fire escape be required?
6. Timing of phases to ensure that some of the key issues for different members are being met (i.e. not just the ladies changing room at once)
7. Ventilation of internal changing rooms
8. Ladies toilet – in the changing room but also for bar access
9. Disabled facilities
10. Environmentally friendly options to be considered – suggestions included in the document circulated to committee
11. Additional insulation so any new open spaces don't feel cold.

Guests / booking in single names – committee members have checked on some single bookings and the issue seems to be with courts only being booked in one name (or invites not being accepted) rather than an issue with numerous guests.

4. OFFICERS' REPORTS

A – CHAIRMAN

New court signage up to try to stop people marking courts with non appropriate equipment.

Biometric safe – MB investigated but administration would be difficult. KW had previously raised the question of whether there was a MMM solution. There is one available but reasonably expensive. The initial set up/ equipment required is expensive but its cheaper with the more handles required. Possible uses are the internal bar door, ladies changing room lock, cleaning cupboard. The solution has been installed at Aylesbury and MB will look at it in place. MD to look at the practical aspects of adding people on / removing them from groups. Committee was in favour of proceeding with the solution if the due diligence returns favourably.

Handicap tournament – CL is stepping down from running the tournament next year, committee is looking for someone to run the next tournament.

Leagues – MT provided feedback that she has received comments that the league period (month) is too quick and not enough time to get the games in. To discuss with CL.

B – TREASURER

PB wasn't present but provided an update prior to the meeting. The March quarter accounts aren't quite ready to present so PB noted that these would be emailed out as soon as ready in a couple of weeks or so.

Covid grant of £6,500 on 31/3 from Dacorum which was more than expected. This should ensure we end up in surplus for the end of the financial year on 30/6.

Finally, the bank balance is £179,853.41, of which £170k is help on Deposit.

C – MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Membership is continuing to stay steady, below are the figures as of the 25th April 2022:

Total – 387 (up 11 from the last meeting)

Adult - 256

Junior - 66

Student - 8

Life - 27

Social - 30

D – SECRETARY

No report.

5. TEAM REPORTS:

Men's Captain –

There will be one summer Herts squash team playing in division 1 on a Thursday, the team will be captained by Paul Warner with the season running from the beginning of May until early August.

We will also be running two racketball teams, one in Bucks division 1 on a Wednesday, captained by Steve Malduca and one in Bucks division 2 on a Tuesday, captained by Keith Warman. The season for both teams is from the beginning of May until early August.

Please contact any of the captains if you wish to be considered for any of the teams.

The squash team training will now be on a Thursday at 8pm.

Ladies' Captain –

Its been great to see so many ladies back on court over the last season. In the team matches, the 1st team came 3rd out of 7 in the Hertfordshire ladies division and the 2nd team had their best result in the Buckinghamshire Ladies 2nd division, coming 2nd out of 7. Many thanks to all the ladies who took part in team squash over the last season. Please contact Jo Preston if there are any other ladies who would like to play in the teams next season.

Ladies event held on Monday 28th March which had 16 ladies attend and went well.

6. JUNIOR REPORT

GCSE Squash (course ran Jan- Mar): this was a new initiative with Tring School to support the students who chose squash as an option for GCSE PE. This was run by KWi. Went well with good feedback. The school would like to continue with

this next year. The students have also expressed an interest to continue with this session in June.

Squash Stars: England Squash initiative to get more kids on court. Running in conjunction with Common Wealth Games. Tring is involved.

Aimed at 5-11 year olds, 6 week course in starting in June (time frame fixed by ES). Sessions will be Wed at the same time as current sessions. Coach KWi and Sam Hawkins. Other juniors will also be helping. ES are launching a media campaign which we will use as well.

Inter club Results:

U 11 div 2 – 5th place
U 13 div 2 – 5 the place
U 19 div 1 – 3rd place
U19 div 2 – 5th Place

Unfortunately not a great back to squash season with not much interest from Tring to participate therefore unable to field teams for a lot of the matches.

KWi commented that she needs another court for the Wednesday junior session on a temporary basis after the tournament as she had keen interest for the O11s. She would look at rejigging the sessions in September if there was still the same interest. Committee were supportive.

7. OTHER REPORTS –

House –

Water leak - ongoing.

Glass Washer - An engineer has been called to repair the glass washer. The stand for the glass washer needs replacing.

Social Report -

15/5/22 – Private party
21/5/22 – Waggle Taggle Ceilidh Band
28/5/22 – Private Party
18/6/22 – Private party
02/7/22 – Private Party
10/7/22 – Private party
23/7/22 – Private party
30/7/22 – Private Party
03/9/22 – Private Party
10/9/22 – Private Party
16/9/22 – 18/9/22 - Guinness World Record Challenge
15/10/22 – Dung Beatles
17/12/22 – Xmas party – Abba Tribute

Systems/Operations –

No report

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Pendley Update – Rugby events upcoming which will cause pressure on the car parking during the events.

Chilfest 1st & 2nd July

All using rugby club grounds but the squash club would retain access to the car park.

Tring Squash Open – MB received a comment questioning whether we would hold another one. MB would like to hold one, to discuss with previous sponsors.

50th celebration. Date needs to be agreed. Perhaps have an exhibition and a summer BBQ or something linked to the world record attempt.

JW has spoken to Beaconsfield SC regarding the underfloor heating. They have 5 courts in a row, and the end courts were previously cold. Underfloor heating has now been fitted on the end courts 2 years ago. There's two types – electric and water. Beaconsfield have installed the electric option with the coils insulated. Capacity needs to be ensured. There is a thermostat which is controlled. Cost to install was about £3k per court. However, Beaconsfield installed new flooring too – total cost c. £9k-£10k per court. 10 year guarantee – installed by Court Craft who are experienced. These courts are now the preferred courts at Beaconsfield and are used for other activities too due to the ambient temperature.

KWi commented that at the ladies event held in March it was discussed that they wanted to set up the ladies round robins again. The Saturday mornings aren't a good time and a poll of the ladies showed that the favourite time would be a Wednesday evening. It would be a club night format so the ladies would pay £2 per session to attend. KWi commented that it wouldn't be possible during the peak season when team matches were running. JP noted that there would be racketball matches during the summer season in the Bucks league. KWi to go back to the ladies and see if there is a suitable time that works for all.

JP provided a update on the bar furniture replacement. The sub-committee had found a supplier and the estimated cost for a full replacement of the bar furniture was £15k to £25k. The next step was to visit the supplier and get samples. JP questioned whether the budget was in line with what committee would approve and whether the sub committee should commit the time at this stage to visit the supplier. Given the impending draft costs to be received from builders for the development plans, committee wanted to see what those costs would be before committing to £15k-£25k for furniture. The following was also noted:

- Clive Birch has contacts with suppliers through his company and therefore the sub committee should reach out to him at the appropriate time to see whether we could achieve discounts going through his supplier.
- Clive Birch noted that the bar area would be significantly improved through better lighting and lighter coloured beams.
- If there was a further delay to replacing the furniture then the existing furniture should be steam cleaned

9. NEXT MEETING

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday 13th June 2022.

The meeting closed at 22:06.

Joane Preston

Tring Squash Club Secretary