

## **TRING SQUASH CLUB**

### **MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2022**

#### **1. ATTENDED BY**

Mark Bullard (MB), Joanne Preston (JP), Matt Duncan (MD), Merrill Trueman (MT), James Walton (JW), Peter Barham (PB), Keith Warman (KW), Jan Kerry (JK), Chas Lefevre (CL), Katie Winterstein (KWi).

The minutes of the previous were approved.

#### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Jon Slade (JS), Joni Duncan (JD)

#### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

Since the last meeting, the sub committee have met up to rethink the next steps, narrow down the choice and divide up the future tasks. We have been contacting alternative suppliers for the proposed plan. A question arose regarding the durability of any furniture purchased given the high use which the sub committee confirmed is being taken into account. The sub committee is lining up choices and prices to present back to the committee ahead of any purchases.

Court heating – further to the last meeting, the court heating has been adjusted (timings documented on the club website) to be warmer during the day. There is an issue with people turning the court heating off and NK wants to request to members to not turn the court heaters off so the ambient heating can be maintained for all members. Tony is looking to produce some covers so the heaters can't be turned off.

Heater in the ladies changing room is working but the timings aren't right so that will be sorted.

Loft insulation in the bar area – NK has contacted 2 companies but they're not interested in the job as its not a residential home.

JW enquired as to whether the club had considered under floor heating as Beaconsfield has switched to that. JW to enquire for further details.

JP commented that with regards to the court heating, we have a duty of care for members to play at a comfortable temperature but members also need to take personal responsibility and wear appropriate clothing for the temperature (as you would do exercising outside at different times of the year).

JK and MB met with the club cleaners to bring up the concerns that had been raised by members. A strong adhesive has been used on the bar door glass which is tricky to get off and the club will look at not using that adhesive. Blood stains on courts need to be wiped off when made – once it has dried its very hard to get off in-between the scheduled court cleaning. All other issues raised and noted in a formal letter. A rota has been provided but changes can be made as requested. CL noted that there is often litter left on the upstairs balcony and a bin should be provided upstairs.

Development plan – MB confirmed the concept was to try to pull together a number of the requested areas of the plan, including providing a new location for the ladies changing room, storage areas etc, to open up the area between the courts. The current option being looked at is to build it over the men's changing room. There are ongoing challenges and delays for the relevant parties to meet and the architect is contacting a builder (and potentially a quantity surveyor) to try to get a rough price for the building work. Planning restrictions are also potentially problematic down the line. MB is also taking into account the implications of running the club while any works are being done. Once determined, MB and Clive to present the favoured plan to the committee. MB acknowledges that the clock is ticking but they are honing in on the preferred option. MT questioned whether concerns would be addressed regarding tile movement on the first floor but comforted by a structural engineer being involved. KW questioned whether the foundations had been considered and whether they were strong enough for a first floor. MB to enquire with Sean. MD questioned whether we would need a lift for disabled access to any first floor changing rooms. MB to review regulations. MD questioned whether it was worth paying for an architect to speed the process over and MB confirmed that they have for some drawings but there is value to getting the expertise from the skilled members as they know how the club works and operates. MT questioned whether there was value in having glass backs with seating similar to Radlett. MB to present the preferred plan when decided.

#### **4. OFFICERS' REPORTS**

##### **A – CHAIRMAN**

A junior silver event to be hosted on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> June. To be co-hosted with Berkhamsted and Chesham Bois. It will take up most of the courts all weekend including the Friday night. The tournament is being organised by Tim Vail.

Handicap tournament – final on the 11<sup>th</sup> March. CL is away marking, we need to find a marker (since found). A discussion was held with regards to the handicapping and how difficult it is to handicap for a wide variety of players. Under consideration for next year would be to limit the draw to players below a certain standard, such as A2 league or below.

MB had emailed committee regarding a biometric safe for the bar rota employees. Previously this has been looked at but there wasn't a suitable product available to buy. MB has recently found a recent option which is reasonably priced and is a potential option. While there would be a lot of hassle to get everyone onboarded, it would provide a lot of benefits in the long term, not least having less keys being passed round on a weekly basis. KW questioned whether it was possible to have a safe which worked with the MMM fobs. MB confirmed that it was an interesting option but would be required to be built / designed. Committee confirmed that they were happy to proceed on that basis.

##### **B – TREASURER**

£174,576 cash in the bank as of this morning.

PB presented the accounts for the 3 months to the 31 Dec 2021. From a comparison perspective., in previous years we'd received covid grants which we've not received this year. For the current period, we've made a deficit of £964, but YTD we've made a profit of £3.4k.

Income:

- Bar sales - £13.1k for the Q, £24.6k YTD, versus £5k the prior year quarter
- Court bookings and tournament fees - £5.8k for the Q, £11.1k YTD, versus £3k the prior year quarter
- Subscription and entry fees - £4.7k for the Q, £14.9k YTD, versus £7k the prior year quarter
- Junior coaching - £1.9k for the Q, £3.8k YTD, versus £0.7k the prior year quarter

Comparatively YTD, we've made a surplus of £3.4k versus a deficit of £2k last year. However last year we subsequently received a covid grant.

Costs

- Cleaning wages down this year YTD due to the extra cleaning last year

PB noted that given the lack of covid grants this year we would likely be looking at a deficit for the full year.

## **C – MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

Membership figures as of the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022:

**Total – 376 (up 18 from last meeting)**

Adult – 247

Junior/student – 71

Social – 31

Life – 27

## **D – SECRETARY**

No report.

## **5. TEAM REPORTS:**

### **Men's Captain** –

The first team are in a very encouraging position in Herts division 1. With three matches remaining they sit 3rd, 25 points behind the leader with two games in hand on both teams above them. However the 2nd team sit bottom of the same division without a win to their name!

Our Bucks team are struggling to hang on to their division 1 status, as of last week they had three matches remaining and they possibly need to win them all to survive.

### **Ladies' Captain** –

The ladies 1<sup>st</sup> team is currently sitting top of the Ladies Herts league having played 2 more games than the teams in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. We have 1 more match to play and anticipate we will finish 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 7 when all the results are in.

The ladies 2<sup>nd</sup> team are enjoying a good season, and are currently sitting mid table in the Bucks ladies 2<sup>nd</sup> division with 3 games to play in March.

Jo Preston and Katie Winterstien had been asked to play for the Herts Ladies O40s team, which was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> March. The Herts team came second so waiting to see if we've progressed to the finals weekend.

## **6. JUNIOR REPORT**

No report.

## **7. OTHER REPORTS –**

### **House –**

MB to provide

### **Social Report -**

23/4/22 – Private party  
15/5/22 – Private party  
21/5/22 – Waggle Taggle Ceilidh Band  
28/5/22 – Private Party  
18/6/22 – Private party  
10/7/22 – Private party  
23/7/22 – Private party  
17/12/22 – Xmas party – Abba Tribute

### **Systems/Operations –**

No report

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Guest bookings – MB had previously sent an email to the committee regarding guest bookings in MMM and whether we wanted to allow for other MMM players (non Tring members) to be able to play. A discussion ensued regarding the potential features and policing misuse and the resulting points were:

- In principle the committee would be happy to entertain the idea of having guests from other MMM clubs.
- Full understanding of the controls / features.
- Booking window- members get priority (non prime times or guests being allowed to book on the day only)
- Number of times a guest can play as a guest
- Solo court use – knowing who is playing
- Easily identifiable (colour coding etc) of the different type of booking
- Other issue discussed was having control over cutting off expired members (being allowed to block access to the door once a membership has expired)

Tournament dates – MB is keen to return the tournament to the normal time period 18<sup>th</sup> April – 6<sup>th</sup> May. Only slight concern was that one of the week's overlaps with the tournament with Berkhamsted but it didn't affect many members. Committee were happy with the dates.

KW noted that there was a large group of noisy kids in the bar on Saturday which isn't an isolated incident, including equipment being tampered with. MB to put an email out to members.

KWi noted that the ladies sessions had finished and went well with a number of ladies stating interest to join. The men's sessions are ongoing with 8 signed up. The ladies Saturday morning sessions (8:40-9:40 has been restarted). JW questioned whether we had a leaflet to drop into the new estate in Tring to see if there were any new residents interested in joining the club.

CL noted that when the team bookings are done on MMM, he would like the bookings to be in the name of the team (i.e Men's 1<sup>st</sup> team, Ladies 2<sup>nd</sup> team etc).

New members – liaison. MT offered to meet new members.

## **9. NEXT MEETING**

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

The meeting closed at 22:04.

Joanne Preston

Tring Squash Club Secretary