

## **TRING SQUASH CLUB**

### **MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> MAY 2023**

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

Mark Bullard (MB), Joanne Preston (JP), Matt Duncan (MD), Merrill Trueman (MT), James Walton (JW), Katie Winterstein (KWi), Peter Barham (PB), Keith Warman (KW),

The minutes of the previous were approved.

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

Joni Duncan (JD), Kelly Gascoine (KG), Chas Lefevre (CL), Anthony Palmer (AP), Jan Kerry (JK)

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

Epos – ongoing discussions with MMM. Card processing costs are going up again as of July 2023 therefore there is more incentive to find alternative payment means which reduce transaction costs. Details regarding the practical application of the solution are being discussed.

Bar keys lock – awaiting information from MMM (being chased)

8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> September – Tring Bronze Masters event.

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

##### **A – CHAIRMAN**

In addition to looking for a new Secretary, the club requires a new Membership Secretary from September. It could be done by the same person. Whoever takes on the Membership Secretary role would need to be able to use software. Please let Mark know if you know anyone suitable.

Thanks goes to Joni for doing the Membership Secretary role over the last ~14 years and having done a fantastic job over the time.

Club championships – many thanks to Charles for running another fantastic club championships and to Barbara for providing food on finals night. Finals night was another great event with some good matches and a great atmosphere.

Junior Squashathon being held on the 15<sup>th</sup> July from 6am to 6pm – please sponsor, the chosen charity is Whizz Kids. MB questioned whether we should put on a BBQ to bring people into the club (i.e. a club open day). KWi to speak to Alex and Joni. Food for the players and organisers already being supported. There is an exhibition match being organised. JW questioned who it was open to and KWi confirmed that it was open to all local juniors and would contact Wendover and Chesham Bois.

Communications – MB noted that he has received notice that not everyone is happy to get information from MMM and some people don't read his emails. MB to explore

using a video screen in the hallway/bar entrance to make announcements etc. and pull information out of MMM (tournament draws, leagues etc).

Cleaning – MB is looking for a cleaner for 4 weeks cover in June/July. The usual cover isn't available. KW questioned whether Roxanne was available. MB to enquire.

Pendley – pot holes in the car park are starting to be fixed. Other work to be done, waiting for a suitable timeslot.

## **B – TREASURER**

PB presented the 3 month accounts to the 31 March 2023 (Q3 for the financial year).

- Lost £2k for the period, compared to £4k profit for the same period last year
- Financial YTD (9 months to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023) flat, compared to £7.5k at this point last year. Excluding £6.5k covid grants in last year's period then the numbers are comparable.
- Bar sales up £10k YOY to £50k YTD vs £40k for the same period last year
- Court bookings and tournament fees slightly down from £18k to £17k YTD
- Subscription and entry fees up £10k to £27k YTD (due to the discount provided for the 2022 subs)
- Social event surplus £930 YTD
- Junior coaching up from £5k to £7k YTD
- Sponsorship (asahi) £1.2k – received again this year after a break over the COVID affected years.
- Total income £104k YTD, versus £87 last year
- Margin similar as cost of bar sales increases in line with the bar sales increase
- Junior coaching costs up, in line with the sales increase, but margin improved YOY
- Overheads £15k up YOY, predominantly due to the £8.5k YOY increase in repairs and maintenance (always variable dependent on when in the year the maintenance happens)
- Booking system increase is due to the hardware purchases for the new bar locks, new court clocks etc.
- Repairs and maintenance for the Q included new signs outside, plumbing repairs, court floor repairs, and a reimbursement from the hotel for the roof repairs.

Cash in bank c. £172k

Full year numbers expected to be just about break even. PB noted that he strongly believed that the club needs to be run and operated properly and therefore that the P&L each year should support the operational costs each year which are now just about break even (which have increased and are continuing to increase substantially). The money in the bank has been built up over the years and should be used for capital improvements to the club (investments). MB noted that given this, they have held initial conversations that the fees (subs, court fees, bar costs) should be increased to cover the increased costs. KW noted that wages should also be reviewed in line with any increases.

A discussion ensued regarding what the appropriate increase to the costs are. 10% all round was suggested but this was going to be reviewed by PB and MB. Committee agreed with the principle that the club should be running at a small

surplus each year rather than a loss and that prices needed to increase to reflect the increased costs that the club was incurring.

### **C – MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

Below are the figures as of the 15th May 2023:

#### **Total – 378 (up from 374 last meeting)**

Adult – 242 (up 4 from last meeting)

Junior – 74 (up 1 from last meeting) – inc students

Life – 29 (same as last meeting)

Social – 33 (down 1 from last meeting – Brian Paskel!)

Solo bookings now at a minimum as everyone reacted to Marks email.

### **D – SECRETARY**

No report

## **5. TEAM REPORTS:**

### **Men's Captain –**

We have not entered any squash teams into the Herts Summer League, however we do have a team in each of the two Bucks racketball divisions. The 1st team is captained by Steve Malduca and the 2nd team by Keith Warman. Both teams have got off to a winning start.

### **Ladies' Captain –**

No report.

## **6. JUNIOR REPORT**

No report.

MB questioned whether KWi had found cover from September, KWi confirmed that its still being looked into.

## **7. OTHER REPORTS –**

### **House** (from Nigel Kerry)–

Main heating off on courts. Auxiliary heating was put back on after pressure however as discussed at the last meeting, there is little benefit to having them on in terms of the overall court temperature. To be turned off and reviewed ahead of September. KW noted that we offer courts from 5:30am to 12 midnight and if we are offering at those times then the courts needed to be fit to play on. Short term options discussed are changing the court availability times or reducing the cost of the courts when the heating isn't on. Longer term, underfloor heating could be considered (potentially just on 1 court), screens to retain heat on a court. KW requested that this is considered before it gets cold again (so there is a solution in place for the winter) and will make initial enquiries.

Heating in Lounge to go off on 1st June.

There are still 2 shower controls that need replacing in mens shower. c£500 to do. Committee confirmed they were happy for NK to go ahead if needed to be done.

**Social Report** (club events in green)-

3rd June 2023 – Dolly Parton Tribute

10<sup>th</sup> June 2023 – private party (x2)

19<sup>th</sup> June 2023 – private party (afternoon)

1<sup>st</sup> July 2023 – private party

15<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – Junior squashathon

11<sup>th</sup> August 2023 – private party

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 – private party

4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – maintenance courts 1&2

8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> September – Tring Masters Bronze Event

16<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – 40 year bar celebration

14<sup>th</sup> October 2023 – band night

4<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – private party

18<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – private party

25<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – private party

16<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – Elvis Tribute

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2024 – band night

18<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – band night

28<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – private party

19<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – band night

14<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – band night

**Systems/Operations** –

No report

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Bar refurbishment – progressing, there was meant to be a meeting on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023 with the interior designer which has recently been cancelled and will be rescheduled asap.

Ladies changing room – KW has created a scope of work after conversations with MB, JP and MT. KW has enquired for quotes from 3 businesses. KW noted that the best time to do the work would be over the summer months when there was no team squash. This summer is tight with limited availability from the businesses and therefore its looking like it would be next year. Initial quotes are in the ballpark of £50k + VAT. Committee agreed that KW should continue to get additional quotes for ~May 2024 timeframe.

KWi questioned whether we had looked into a disabled toilet for the club. While one had been planned in the proposed redevelopment, now that wasn't happening then it wasn't currently an option. MB noted that the cleaners cupboard could be changed to offer a facility. Committee questioned what the legal requirement was and while not known, it was believed that it would only be legally required with a redevelopment. KWi also questioned whether you could have baby change facilities. MB to check footprint required. JW noted that he could not remember seeing such facilities at other such clubs.

England Squash subs – from next season, will be need to be paid by the individual. MB to communicate to members.

Herts Squash SRA – MD noted that he had heard, unofficially, that new volunteers had been identified to join the Committee so the threat to close has hopefully been negated.

KWi noted that she has been asked if she could do a kids 'squash party'. Committee did not have an issue as long as it was properly supervised and suggested that courts 1 and 2 were used prior to the court maintenance that was being done on them (and they weren't the team match courts).

MD noted that there have been a few instances of filled dog poo bags being left outside the club front door and on window sills. Its not known who is leaving them but in the first instance, MB to mention in the next newsletter.

PB commented that he was happy and thankful to Benny for the social events that he was organised and 3 / 4 a year was around the right number of club social events per year.

JP questioned whether we had looked at PIR lights for the hallways etc. Committee confirmed that it should be added to the list of efficiencies / improvements that the club can make over time.

## **9. NEXT MEETING**

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

The meeting closed at 21:27.

Joanne Preston

Tring Squash Club Secretary