

ISRC Squash Club
Minutes of Squash AGM
Held at ISRC Squash Club
27 September 2018

1. Present: K Hooton(chair), H McAndrew (treasurer), T Dean (minutes), N Miller, D Stewart, R Loveday, T Archer

2. Apologies: Geoff, J Briggs, A Heyman, K Waring

3. Minutes of the previous meeting:

3.1. Minutes from the previous meeting were read and accepted.

CARRIED

4. Business arising from the minutes:

4.1. Kayleigh will resume the cleaning of the courts on her return from Mat Leave, the courts will be swept and moped.

4.2. KH is to enquire about the club cleaner to clean the courts and to keep the changing rooms clean. It was noted that the showers require running and disinfecting to keep the smell of the drains away.

4.3. Court fans were raised again and the need to get them replaced KH is to look into the replacement of them.

4.4. Court heaters were serviced last year.

4.5. LED lights for the courts was discussed and the plan to replace the existing lights with new LED strips. It was decided that this was not an immediate job. TD to investigate and contact Mike C of Ickleford SC for a quote to replace.

4.6. Squash on the TVs to be checked again.

4.7. Signage - To attract non-squash players to play KH to put signs in Hitchin town square occasionally and in the Ickleford village newsletter, Hitchin sports shop.

4.8. League results to be published in the Comet (Who to action??)

4.9. DD payments won't work in our bank account.

5. Chairmans report:

5.1. This year has been another difficult year for the Squash Club. The number of squash members continues to fall and we are struggling financially. However, the overall

Club is doing much better and the bar has seen record takings this year. Unfortunately, this means that the Club has now had to register for VAT and repairs/maintenance costs are expensive, so the overall profit remains tight and we will probably more or less break even this year.

- 5.2.** The Club recognises that the Squash Section cannot continue to pay the same section rent as in previous years due to the falling number of members and associated drop in revenue. Consequently, the Club recently agreed to a reduction of just over £1500 for the coming season.
- 5.3.** Representatives from the Squash Club (myself, Kevin Waring and Neil Miller), recently met Mark Williams (England Squash) and Mick Todd (CEO of Pontefract Squash Club), during a Club Support Day organised by England Squash. Mark and Mick were shown around the Club and we discussed many of the difficulties that the Club now faces. They said that approximately 80% of the Clubs that they had visited were doing well, whilst around 20% were struggling. They placed us in the 20% category. We discussed an action plan to recover the situation – see handout – that we can discuss later.
- 5.4.** The light meter on Court 1 recently suffered an electrical failure and was out of action for several weeks. Fortunately, we are to source a direct replacement and also bought a 2nd spare unit at the same time. Both units have been modified in order to allow remote control from the computer for Club night sessions etc.
- 5.5.** We also had the floors on both courts sanded, the nic re-established and the floor lines re-painted.
- 5.6.** Last year I changed the ranking system in order to make it a little more scientifically based and it now takes account of league match scores as opposed to just the overall match result. The new system has in turn been used to set the starting points for handicap competitions and to give predicted results for league matches on the website. Overall, I would say that the changes have been very successful.
- 5.7.** This year, I'm hoping to replace the PC on the squash balcony with an equivalent net-book computer, such that the overall footprint will be much neater. I'm also considering updating the squash website to add functionality that allows players to pay for the squash lights to come on automatically, as an alternative to use of squash tokens. We can discuss whether this would be worthwhile as a topic under AOB.
- 5.8.** Last year, we developed a relationship with Princess Helena College in Preston whereby one of their teachers could bring students to Ickleford to learn squash as an after-school activity. There were only 2 or 3 students who took up the offer last year. This year, I took the Junior Squash Rebound Wall over to PHC and ran a squash taster session in an attempt to attract more interest this year. Around 10 girls attended the taster session and 5 or 6 of them are now attending the after-school training sessions of a Wednesday. I'm currently helping out with these sessions, in addition to the normal junior squash training sessions from 6pm to 7:30pm on a Wednesday.

- 5.9.** I've also been in touch with The Priory School on Old Hale Way. Two of their students have elected to take squash as one of their chosen sports for GCSE in PE. Two of the sports teachers came to the Club this Wednesday in order to perform an initial assessment of the students during the 6pm Junior Squash training session. The teachers (one of whom is a squash player at a different Club), were also interested in the idea of me taking the Junior Squash Rebound Wall into the school at some point in order to spark further interest. If there is sufficient interest, we will probably try to set up a similar after-school squash training for their school.
- 5.10.** I'm also considering contacting the Scouts again to see if they are interested in co-operating in some way.

6. Treasurer's report:

- 6.1.** Breakdown of annual costs are attached at the end of this report.
- 6.2.** In summary revenue is down by 10% and expenditure is up by 5%. The club made a loss of £810 this FY, money in bank ~£4,000.
- 6.3.** It was discussed how we could increase our revenue and the options were to increase the cost for lights and court bookings, pay for off peak courts. The main reason for the drop in revenue is the drop in members, not the cost per member.
- 6.4.** A small group is to be assembled to investigate proposals to increase the revenue of the club and produce a plan. Waiting for volunteers.

7. Members report:

- 7.1.** Squash membership for last year finished at 54 members, down approximately 10% on the previous year. This continues the downward trend that we have seen in the last few years (see separate handout), although we have had a bit of clear out relating to free membership for several Bowman's employees.
- 7.2.** Membership breakdown:-
- 54 squash members
 - 48 Male
 - 6 Female
 - 3 Junior/Student
- 7.3.** This year (at the time of the AGM) we have seen:-
- 35 members who have renewed
 - 8 members definitely not renewing
 - 2 members who will probably renew when fit again

- 9 members who haven't responded
- 6 new members (which is excellent)

8. League and Competition report:

- 8.1.** There are only 6 leagues currently, which is low for this time of year, but is probably reflective of the drop in overall membership. There are currently 5 ladies playing in the leagues, which is excellent.
- 8.2.** Diana Stewart won the American 15pt Handicap tournament earlier in the year. This is the first time that a high-handicap player has won a handicapped tournament, and is testament to the success of the new ranking system.
- 8.3.** Tom Archer won the Club Championship for the 3rd year running. The honours board above the door in the bar has now been updated to add Tom's name.
- 8.4.** The American 25pt Handicap tournament is due to be held in the next month or so. It would be great to get some more high-handicapped entries this year to build on Diana's success.

9. Secretary's report:

- 9.1.** Nothing to report.

10. Team report:

- 10.1.** The team finished 4th in the summer league and will remain in Herts div 4. In the winter league the team finished 8th however on request they will remain in Herts div 4 for the next season.
- 10.2.** It is the aspiration of the club to enter 2 teams into the summer league next year with the second team playing in div 5.
- 10.3.** It was suggested that the team results would be updated on the club website and in the Comet.
- 10.4.** The junior team played in the county leagues for the first time in div 3 in the U19 league and finished a credible 2nd. It is planned to enter a team in the 18/19 season.

11. Election of officers:

- 11.1.** Chairman. Keith Hooton
- 11.2.** Secretary. Kevin Waring
- 11.3.** Treasurer. Helen McAndrew
- 11.4.** Members Secretary. TBC
- 11.5.** Club Captain. Kevin Waring

11.6. Committer members. Neil Miller, Rick Lovejoy, Tom Archer

11.7. Bank signatories. Keith Hooton and Helen McAndrew

12. AOB:

12.1. Neil Stevenson asked due to the installation of the court heaters is it still a requirement to use a single spot in the winter or can the use of s double spot still be used. Majority decision was to leave the option open to the two players on the court, with the default option being a single spot.

12.2. The suggestions from the England squash meeting will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

12.3. Main issues is around the ageing membership and the decline in numbers, it was noted that KH is pivotal in the drive for numbers. It was agreed that a 3 year plan should be produced. To outline the plan to increase the number of juniors, females, members and to share the work load amongst the committee members.

12.4. It was agreed that we must have external signage on the club and contacts are to be displayed at the front door.

12.5. It was discussed that there should be more of a social foot print and interaction online. We need to determine what social media skills are within the club that could be useful with the focus on revenue generation and to increase numbers.

13. Next Meeting

13.1. Next meeting is to be held on 24 Oct 2018 @ 1930.

Financial Breakdown 2018

	2016-17	2017-18	% change
Income			
Membership subs	£5,746.23	£5,376.90	-7%
Squash account	£1,611.44	£1,568.70	-3%
Tokens	£2,345.00	£2,035.50	-15%
Donations (SynteractHCR)	£244.00	£0.00	
T-Shirt sales		£30.00	
Court rental		£67.08	
Total	£9,946.67	£9,078.18	-10%
Expenditure			
Court heaters	£0.00	£552.00	
Rent to main club	£8,216.00	£8,216.00	0%
England squash membership	£222.50	£230.00	3%
Tournament expenses	£49.35	£49.98	1%
Other expenses	£228.93	£484.28	53%
Website	£81.09	£55.71	-46%
Court refurbishment	£5.84	£0.00	
Juniors	£25.61	£81.41	69%
Team	£70.00	£105.00	33%
Training	£0.00	£16.92	
Keys	£0.00	£97.30	
Court cleaning	£346.64	£0.00	
Loans written off (main Club)	£100.00	£0.00	
Total	£9,345.96	£9,888.60	5%
Profit/Loss	£600.71	-£810.42	