

Aylesbury Squash and Racketball Club

Squash Section Committee meeting 7.30–9.00pm 23rd November 2023

Present : JM, DF, MM, DE, DR, OF, DT, JF, DK

Apologies : BD, FM, AT

1. a) Minutes of Committee meeting 31st August
 - *Passed*
- b) Availability of all minutes to squash members **DF**
 - *Minutes should be made available to all members. DF to provide .pdf copies to BD / JM for storage. Link to then be made available via email (Chairman's Update?)***DF/JM/BD**
2. Actions brought forward from Committee meeting 31st August (subordinated to responsibility areas below – prefixed BF)
3. **Structure**
 - a) Constitution feedback **JM**
 - *Sports Club's requests for changes and clarification have now been made, the constitution resubmitted, and approved via email by RW. **Complete***
 - b) Squash Club bank account progress **DF**
 - *DF provided update on bank account; needs to email Barclays with list of questions. DE has offered to speak to contact at Metro in the meantime, due to response times from Barclays, and DF will contact Tennis **DF/DE***
 - c) B/F – BD to email membership quarterly accounts to 30th June. **C/Fwd BD**
4. **Committee**
 - a) New member strategy **OF**
 - *OF asked about the club's strategy for new members over the next year – is there one? Would be beneficial to have one so everyone's clear on goals and to align everyone's activities - do we focus on juniors, ladies? In JM's view with current court availability a limiting factor does it make sense to push for large number of new members? Other focus areas suggested are (MM) mens coaching, (JF) older / retirees sessions during the day and (DF) pushing racketball amongst current squash players. DR suggested putting it to members, although there's a risk this looks like we don't have a direction. **What was the final action here?***
 - b) Replacement Secretary **JM**
 - *Committee members to ask round for volunteers. To be mentioned on next Chariman's update? **ALL***
5. **Facilities**
 - a) B/F - Committee to submit any court works that need doing to JM **ALL**
 - *DE walked the building and compiled a list of jobs that need to done. Passed to JM/MM but also suggested that for smaller jobs committee members deal with it themselves. Noted that Paul is used as handyman for these smaller jobs as well. See point **(e)** for action*
 - b) B/F – Paul to install lock to men's changing rooms door – **Complete**

- c) B/F – Shelves outside courts would be useful – **AT/DK**
 - *Shelves would protrude too far from the walls and present a risk, so not pursued.*

Complete
- d) B/F – Fans on 3 and 4 not working. MM to pass comment onto ST **MM**
 - *To be covered within point (e)*
- e) Identify who be responsible for resolving court maintenance issues, and agree process for reporting issues and resolving them **JM**
 - *MM coordinates reporting of jobs, small jobs to PR and larger works to ST. JM can pick up court maintenance and contact Melior but needs support. JM to speak to ST to gauge his position on helping going forward, also to suggest revised reporting process whereby MM notifies ST of necessary works and waits X weeks; if nothing's been done by then, we'll contract the work ourselves. **JM***

7. Teams

- a) B/F – DR to review wording and target group for Sunday morning training sessions **DR**
 - *Not needed during teams season. **Complete***
- b) Sponsorship update **JM**
 - *Bee's Knees Pest Control have kindly paid for 55 team shirts, facilitated by Ben Eales. **Complete***
 - *OF also asked about possibility of sourcing junior shirts as well, since it's really motivational for them. To be considered once details of funds are settled **C/F in Juniors section***
- c) Team progress **DR**
 - *Mens 1st Team are currently first but have played two games more; 2nd and 3rd Teams are second and fourth respectively although 3rd Team have a game in hand. 4th Team are currently fourth but have a nice mix of younger and more experienced players. Ladies 1st Team are currently second but do have three games in hand. 2nd Team is third out of four, but based on only one result so far.*
 - ***Was there a comment on the junior team here too?***

8. Leagues

- a) B/F - DF to finalise first issue of New Member Pack incorporating suggested changes received by Nov 23rd **DF**
 - *Accepted by committee. DF to send final version to MM who will then issue to new members. **Complete***
- b) B/F - League rules – refresh and reissue / display - **DF** to draft including withdrawing to avoid relegation then applying to rejoin a higher league **C/Fwd DF**
- c) Update on league numbers **JM**
 - *Mixed league is averaging just under 120 members over last three months; Racketball around 30, and Ladies has dropped to under 20, although offset by a growing number of ladies playing in the mixed league. **Complete***
- d) Christmas leagues – anything different required given availability will be challenging? **JM**
 - *Agreed to leave as is. **Complete***

- e) PAR 11/15 – expand down the leagues? Make it players’ choice? **JM**
 - *PAR to be extended to league 3 in December, otherwise no change. Complete*
- f) Ball dot recommendations – review of posters (in line with league growth). What happens when players don’t agree on the ball?
 - *Vote taken – in the event of players not agreeing on the ball to be used for a league game, the bouncier ball is to be used. To be mentioned in the next league email, and also added to the league notes DF*
- g) No show policy needed for leagues **JM**
 - *No shows are still happening, with one particular member being a persistent member. JM has spoken to him and will remove him from the leagues for one month. The policy has been sent out previously, and will be incorporated within the league rules. DF/JM*

9. Ladies

- a) B/F – JF to agree plans for Womens Squash Week with ladies steering group **JF**
 - *Now held, including hosting a match against Wendover Ladies. Complete*
- b) Update on Ladies membership numbers and attendance at training **JF**
 - *Now up to 52 female members, with training going well and being well attended. Complete*

10. Juniors and Coaching

- a) B/F – OF to agree internal policy for U14s **OF**
 - **Complete**
- b) Internal policy on U14s to be passed **ALL**
 - *Shared on Committee Whatsapp. Passed. Complete*
- c) Coaching update – number of registered coaches, any concerns, opportunities to put anyone through coaching? **OF**
 - *Currently have four valid coaches OF, SD, SF, RF. IV has also now committed to do Level 1 course. Some coaches never actually coach, maybe time to remove them from the board.*
- d) Marking course for members? Externally / internally hosted session on strokes / lets and how to mark **JM**
 - *Idea was well received and DE will organise a session. DE*
- e) OF raised the question of what would happen to coaching in the event of him stepping down. Suggestions were asking Trish to cover, following the tennis model and employing coaches, or use a professional coach? Suggest separate succession planning meeting **ALL**

11. Safeguarding

- a) New safeguarding officer **JF**
 - *Two members have expressed an interest, neither currently have DBS or safeguarding clearance. JF to arrange meeting between JM, JF, JG, and KK. JF*

12. Social Media / Comms

- a) Repository for and communication of minutes / policies **DF**
 - **C/F DF to liaise with JM**

- b) Social Media accounts and website as we move forward with split **C/F JM**

13. Events / Social

- a) B/F – All committee should now book events in events calendar. If unsure speak to DT/FM on how to access **ALL**
- *Calendar now being used to varying degrees by Committee. Anyone who isn't sure about how to enter events into it should speak to DT/FM. **Complete***
- b) B/F - Can the monitor in the bar be used display events calendar? To be revisited when events calendar is prepared. **DT, AT, DK, FM**
- *Yes it can. The bar also has a spare machine which might be able to run squashtv as well. Monitor to be set up for listing events by Dec 31st, along with confirmation of screening squashtv. **C/F DT, AT, DK, FM***
- c) Group tickets to future tournaments e.g. British Open **DF**
- *Agreed that it could be a good idea to organise group tickets for future events – discounts are available. Would need to check VAT implications of buying tickets and selling them onto members. To be revisited **No action***
- d) Chairmans Cup – progress report. Any issues? **DT, AT, DK, FM**
- *6 matches played so far, 15 still to play. Good turn out and fun evenings **C/F DT, AT, DK, FM***
- e) Clubnight – vote on making it officially free and advertise it as a member perk (retention and acquisition) **JM**
- *Passed. Is now mentioned in the new member infopack. **Complete***
- f) DK suggested event in January e.g wooden racket tournament. Would need about 6 rackets per court to allow for breakages / strings etc. Email to be out asking if anyone can donate rackets **DK/AT**
- g) DT mentioned that next Quiz Night is arranged for 27th Jan, and the one after that pencilled in for 20th April. **No action**

14. AOB

- a) B/F – MM to look into typical times Pay and Play courts are being booked and feedback – ongoing **MM**
- *In Q3 75 P&P courts were booked, bringing in £750. Breakdown is 7 during the day, 12 between 5-7pm, 11 between 7-8pm, and 27 after 8pm. A further 18 were booked at weekends. Four of those people booking P&P have now become members. **Ongoing***
- b) B/F - Guests playing at the club **MM**
- *The policy is 2 times, but this is still being exploited and MM recognizes the same non members playing regularly. Suggestion is that a discreet conversation / email is had between JM and members concerned, reminding of the policy and advising of possible sanctions. **JM***
- c) Relaunch of racketball clubnight was suggested. Used to be on a Friday early evening but court availability could now be an issue. Maybe Saturday evening before squash clubnight? DE to have a think. **DE**

- d) JF mentioned that in the constitution, safeguarding is detailed within the Complaints / Disputes section. **What was the outcome of this ?**
- e) JF mentioned that according to the constitution, 15 members are required for a quorum, whereas tennis require only 10. Response was that squash section has proportionately more members, and there is confidence that future AGMs / EGMs will be well attended enough to meet that number. **No action**
- f) DE asked about the pace of the club split. Originally proposed as September, but with hindsight this was going to be unrealistic given the challenges of timeframes in getting the constitution written and agreed by the Sports Club, the process of setting up a new bank account (requiring the constitution) and difficulty in getting the Sports Club members to agree on meetings. **Ongoing**

15. Date of next meeting

TBC

16. Close