

Aylesbury Squash Club

Minutes of Committee Meeting Thursday 7th January 2025, 7pm Aylesbury Squash and Tennis Club.

Attendees		
Oliver Field	Chair	OF
Elaine Sidhu	Secretary	ES
Darren Franklin	Treasurer	DF
David Evans	Racketball/Sponsorship	DE
Juila Foster	Ladies Squash	JF
Daniel Robinson	Team events	DR
Catherine Forward	Safeguarding	CF
Maxine Gilmartin	Admin and member secretary	MG
Isabella Vasilescu	Deputy Treasurer	IV

Ref	Item	Action
1.	<p>Welcome OF thanked everyone for attending. He reminded all to stick to committee rules and stated the meeting will be efficient as possible. Grouped updates will be undertaken together rather than in separate sections.</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies Keith Cottenden Aidan Turnball</p> <p>Declaration of interests (in the agenda) OF junior coaching DE coaching</p>	
3.	<p>Approve Minutes of Last Meetings Small adjustments to spelling of names were made but otherwise minutes were approved and signed by Chair</p>	
4.	<p>Actions arising from last meeting All actions completed. Update on actions required from KC will be given at the next meeting.</p>	

<p>5. General Club Update to include, membership, ladies, team</p> <p>General update Thanks were formally recorded to John Gilmore for his years as safeguarding lead within the Club. A welcome was given to Catherine as the new safeguarding lead. Introductions were made.</p> <p>Ladies update given by Julia F The 1st team were promoted to the 1st division this year, and are currently sitting 5th out of 7 teams, having won 2 out of 6 matches. Caroline is the leading player in the first division, having won 5 out of 5 matches. The 2nd team plays in the 2nd division and are currently 2nd out of 7 teams! They have won 5 out of 6 matches. Adele is the 3rd player in the division, having won 5 out of 6 matches. The 3rd team play in the 3rd division and are currently second out of 6 teams, having won 3 out of 5 matches. The ladies leagues have been going well; there are usually 4 leagues with around 20 players. Monday evening ladies sessions, numbers have been tailing off but we are now advertising for new members and promoting team training within the sessions when teams don't have matches.</p> <p>Wednesday morning session squash and racketball – these have been set up and numbers are slowly increasing. Looking to set up a men's beginner and improvers session but this is still being discussed re day and time.</p> <p>Sponsorship and Racketball. - DE DE stated that Ben Boulter CEO of B2 clinic will sponsor court 2. Hopefully from February. DF will raise invoice</p> <p>ACTION DF to raise invoice for sponsorship</p> <p>Racket ball booming even though team matches not happening at the moment DE was thanked for getting sponsorship</p> <p>Statistics of 2024 from Club. Update from MG</p> <p>End of 2004 273 members – 56 of which are ladies In excess of 10,000 courts booked. 170 pay and play. Since visitors fee introduced in June, 26 courts have been booked with an income of £130 Players who booked the most courts were</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OF • Jamie Morgardo • James Saker <p>Oldest member is 79 More bookings were made in the 70-80 age group than the 20-25 age group 5 new people have signed up, 3 men and 2 ladies</p>	<p>DE</p>
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	<p>Max was thanked for all the work she does.</p> <p>Chair update OF OF – In general things going well. Lots of committee and non-committee members doing lots of things – all were thanked. Things very settled and there is a good environment.</p> <p>Juniors OF Jasmine and Isabella have passed their Level 1 on the coaching team. Rob Gasson and James are progressing their Level 1. We have 25-30 juniors with some capacity which we have advertised in the main club update however those spaces are in certain groups so not everyone can be slotted in easily. Our juniors are representing Aylesbury at Aspire Training, Bucks Training and Bucks evernts. We will increase prices slightly this term as done previously. Andy Longman came to the club to do a coach to coach session which was very successful. Maxine is supporting working with the parents and the administration. We are working with Bucks Squash to enter a team to represent.</p> <p>Thanks to Russell Floutier for the last couple years helping out as he is now stepping back.</p> <p>Teams DR AND OF Issues with MMM and team squash courts inconsistently being charged – change has been made. We will need to better understand the system before applying fees. Adjustment has been made to the systems (Simone Townsend) to see if we can stop the courts showing under the captains balance and sometimes charged.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Health and Safety</p> <p>Court 2 water issues – clearing gutters and clearing shingle seems to have stopped water coming in. Need sports committee to look at the drain and they have been asked to do a survey/inspection previously Gutter needs to be kept clear. DE to keep eye on this . Board that was split needs fixing again. Will get court maintenance people in to permanently fix it now that water is longer coming in.</p> <p>Need H and S checks recorded. OF and MG done a lot of work on this. Now using an app to record all issues and work completed. Doing regular checks on courts. Completed 5 H and S issues. Have undertaken 20 inspections since app has been put in 1 outstanding issue with split board. A risk assessment has been completed and this is not presently a hazard.</p>	

	<p>Training of staff Have a supplier in place and have sent out the package to those that need it e.g. fire, data protection 2 out of 12 courses completed – people will need chasing</p> <p>DE – asked if members have got visibility of H and S.</p> <p>Health and safety audit undertaken. All actions from audit for squash club have been completed.</p> <p>Court maintenance Proposal in May to professionally fix court 2 board and finish outstanding works on court 1 and 2 This timing may interfere with racket ball However, maintenance should be quick. ACTION DE will send racketball match dates to OF OF confirmed the fix dates could be flexible Using “Dotty” to clean courts (Robot Vacume)</p> <p>Insurance Gap in insurance. If a member does not renew England squash insurance, they are not covered. In conversation with the sports club, it transpired they bought an insurance for people who are not insured any other way. Decision was made without squash committee involvement discussion. OF asked if we need to make the decision if we want to have extra insurance when currently runs out Nov/Dec 2025. To bring back any invoice to the next committee meeting . All agreed. ACTION OF to bring back any invoice given to us re this insurance to the next committee meeting to agree or disagree that it should be paid.</p> <p>Unable to get all team players to sign up for England squash despite only being £15 also hard to get all other members in the club to do this Discussion. Should we agree to enforce this for team squash.</p> <p>Captains to ensure the teams have England squash membership. If they do not, they will not be allowed to play in matches. If captains do not enforce this, captains will be removed from captaincy. Dan will enforce this for men, Julia will do ladies. This will need to be done by 2nd team match of the season.</p> <p>Noted that all ladies have signed up but not all men To do this from next year.</p> <p>Lights outside in car park – reported to sport company ltd. Not really sure who is in charge of these but MG is liaising with everyone OF to raise at sports club meeting ACTION OF to raise lights at next sports meeting Lights down walkway – in talks with sports club. Quotes in. Hopefully will be fitted in January ACTION OF or MG to log issues with lights in H&S app</p>	<p>DE</p> <p>OF</p> <p>OF</p> <p>OF/MG</p>
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	<p>Issue raised by a member re squash members being sweaty etc and sitting in the bar and this is not nice for others re smell and sweat on seats etc To put a notice up or put in newsletter to do some comms requesting people to change before spending the evening in the bar. MG will send this announcement to tennis also ACTION DE will speak to bar staff to see if bar staff will challenge people</p> <p>Confirmed cleaners clean chairs daily</p> <p>ACTION OF will raise at main committee</p> <p>Member complaint about accusation of drug use and behaviour of another player. OF asked If anyone witnesses any of this, please report as there is little we can do on one report alone. Suggested to complainant that drug use reported to right channels</p>	<p>DE</p> <p>OF</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Data Protection and safeguarding</p> <p>No update from data protection</p> <p>Safeguarding – CF now has access to club e mail Members don't yet know about CF so needs to go into newsletter OF has sent info to CF re setting up on England squash as well as other places that CF will need to register with. Also need MMM account. These are most important.</p> <p>Need to sort safeguarding board. CF will spend time with Max and will visit club. Will need a qualification specifically for England squash. Looking at safe squash and other documentation.</p> <p>Just setting up at the moment and will be looking at parental consent, travel arrangements, juniors coming and leaving on their own etc</p> <p>If any event has junior involvement, will need to run arrangements past Catherine first as should risk assess each event.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Finance report to include an update on Q3 See under section 10</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Events</p> <p>Update given by David T</p> <p>The events Rolling Calendar was set out with timings of events, subject to availability of volunteers to run the event.</p>	

Event	Dates	Status	
Chairmans Cup	Oct - March	In play	
Quiz nights	Oct, Jan, May	None planned	
Club championship (Squash)	April	To be arranged for 2025	
Club championship (Racketball)	Sept	DR ran 2024 event	
Pink dot	Dec	AT ran Event 2024	
Exhibition Match	One evening, dependant on availability	TBA	

There are three committee members for events David Tattam, Aidan Turnbull, Dan Robinson. More volunteers to support events are encouraged.

Club Championship (Racketball) 7-8th September 2024.

Thank you to Dan Robinson for running this successful event. The attendance underlined this as a sport growing in popularity. Winner Rob Takacs (Dan Desousa runner up). Plate winner Jamie Morgado (Dave Herron runner up).

Pink Dot – 29th December 2024

Thank you to Aidan Turnball for running this on 29th December 2024. Winner Alex Inskip (Jamie Morgado runner up).

Chairman's Cup – Oct 2024 to March 2025

The current competition has six teams in play. Being organised by David Tattam. Final is planned for 21st March 2025.

	Rankings	Score	Matches played
1	Dragons	40	3
2	Lions	30	2
3	Hawks	28	2
4	Vikings	26	2
5	Tigers	23	2
5=	Eagles	23	3

Update 18 Dec 2024

Club Championships (Squash) – To be arranged.

Exhibition Event – TBA. Tom Phips organises. 22nd March (subject to confirmation) - 5pm till late - Mohamed El Shorbagy vs T.B.C

	<p>Quiz No further booking. It is really hard work to set up. Would more people help?</p> <p>If anyone has a link to tennis can ask them to drum up trade if we run an event.</p> <p>Will include Tennis quiz in our newsletter</p> <p>David was thanked for his efforts</p> <p>DE left 19.45</p>	
10	<p>Treasurer update Accounts have sent out. Club achieved biggest profit in Q3 except for the bar. Tennis seeing an increase in numbers. Squash profit fell on previous quarter. However , did have the exhibition in Q2 which brought in additional income In Q3 paid court maintenance but bookings down on last year Q3.</p> <p>DT left 20.30</p> <p>There will be Q4 costs and hoping to cover this with exhibition to be held in March. This means club champion cannot play one of the exhibition players as this competition is held in April/May. Mohamed Shorbagy vs Diego Elías (T.B.C) Tom and Jamie working on this and likely to be a £4k cost ACTION OF to ask both to liaise with Darren To send out a save the date message when date 100% confirmed</p> <p>Need to raise an invoice for Bucks training/comp at the club</p> <p>ACTION DF to spend time with IV to go through Q4 up</p>	<p>OF</p> <p>DF</p>
11	<p>AOB Day for next committee meeting KC has asked for meetings to change from a Thursday as he cannot attend. Tues and Wed not good dates as other people already booked. ACTION ES to send a poll out and then liaise with MG</p> <p>Talked about giving volunteers free squash membership but that was not agreed previously</p> <p>Suggest we do something for Top 5 players/members and volunteers such as giving them a box of 3 balls, free grip plus free drink at bar. ACTION MG to send Elaine top 5 players ACTION Max will present and coordinate the giving of the gifts</p> <p>OF talked some stats on the screen Income – subs went down. This likely related to England squash subs not being paid by club so membership fees less than previous.</p>	<p>ES</p> <p>MG MG</p>

	<p>Court usage was showing a slight downward trend. Court now have capacity and no complaints around being able to book.</p> <p>IV mentioned that team squash is booked on MMM although event at Rivets ACTION Dan and Julia to look into it</p> <p>Dan left 20.45</p> <p>Booking by age</p> <p>40 – 45 increased 15- 20 increased 50 – 55 increase 30 – 35 decreased</p> <p>Meeting finished 20.50</p>	DR/JF
12	<p>Dates and Time Next Meeting April 10th, July 10th (TBC)</p>	