**AGM minutes for 2021 – Held 29th July 2021 at 1900**

*CD thanked all who have attended that evening in the club and those who attended via zoom*

*NP. Gave a quick explanation on the zoom function. We were joined by*

*Yvonne Forbes and Ian Chinchin on Zoom*

1. Apologies

Dave and Liz Dungar, John Searles, Matt Saunders and Steve Bullock.

2. AGM minutes 2020 - any noted amends and approval

No matters arising

Proposed - accepted as circulated by P Davies

Seconded by J Angus

All present approved.

*3. Chairman’s Report 2021*

*This year I shall say a little about the past year and follow with our plans for the future.*

*The good news is that it looks like we have a more promising future ahead of us.*

*When we started this year, the committee felt that one of the very few benefits of being closed was that it would give us the opportunity to modernise the club so that members returning would find it in a better state than when they left it. Also, some work was well overdue and it was now the opportunity to do those jobs that we hadn’t got around to. None of this work was made any easier by the covid restrictions and some work took longer than we had hoped but we were fortunate that some of the tradesmen who we had used before and were members of the club or knew the club could step in.*

*Before we go into the work we’ve done over the year, I’d just like to thank Darren Roe and Andy Rolfe and their team for their excellent work on the task force we put in place to conduct the risk assessment to help us open the club for a short time last year. Without this and all their work on the posters and putting in the equipment the club would not have been open as quickly as it was.*

*Some of the more mundane work such as the tree cutting was already well underway but this needed to be completed and the land had to be cleared and made secure. The club was brightened up by internal painting. The doors on courts 3 and 4 had suffered from a lot of use over the years and now fitted badly and were difficult to open and close. Rather than replace them with similar doors we updated the courts by fitting glass doors which provide a more modern look. We also had glass fitted to the lower part of the bar area of court 3 which again gives a more modern look and generally updates the appearance not only on the court but also in the bar. We had it in mind to update court 4 in the same way but there would have been a lot of additional work making changes to the heating which would have had to be completely redesigned so this wasn’t deemed a viable proposition.*

*The men’s changing rooms have been completely refurbished and we have installed privacy cubicles, new pipework and plumbing, new seating and has been decorated throughout.*

*Over the last few years, we reviewed our booking system – that work was complete some time last year and the plan at the time was to move suppliers but this was put on hold because of COVID.*

*Despite the issues that most of us know about with our current booking system we found that coming out of the lockdown that it helped that our current supplier is familiar with the club they were able to make the changes we needed to the court times reasonably quickly to enable the club to open when we wanted. We accept that it wasn’t perfect but it did allow the club to function. Any potential changes have therefore been put on hold on the grounds that this isn’t the right time to make these changes.*

*The committee has worked tirelessly over year trying to keep up and interpret all the government changes to try to open the club as quickly as we could. Some of these changes were very last minute and needed interpretation or clarification. England Squash did a fantastic job on this but this could mean further delay whilst they were trying to make sense of the rules. Here I’d like to add my appreciation to all the guidance we’ve had from England Squash which made our lives very much easier.*

*We’ve always struggled to contact our members quickly so keeping up with the speed of social media was quite challenging as our members were reading the same stuff on line that we were reading. At times it felt like we were in a race to see who would get there first but we tried to keep up and be ahead of the game as best we could. We are committed to improving communication and consulting members where we feel it’s important to do so.*

*The committee has been meeting every week for most of the year interjected by meeting fortnightly at times so it’s been a very busy time for committee members. We’ve also seen some changes to the Committee over the year.*

*Steve Bullock stepped down from the Committee earlier this year and we have co-opted Steve Bartlett and Dave Clifford onto the Committee.*

*On behalf of the Committee and club members I’d like to thank Steve Bullock for his work and commitment to the club.*

*If elected Steve Bartlett will take over the running of the mini leagues and if elected Dave Clifford takes on Membership Secretary.*

*Now to the future - Any planned changes to the club will be modest, but we have plenty going on.*

*Some of you may wonder whether we have a short and/or long-term plan or a clear strategy going forward - we don’t*

*At the moment it’s all about recovering our position and our key focus will be retaining our membership, recovering lapsed members and encouraging membership growth. I guess that’s a plan.*

*For us its, MEMBERS, MEMBERS, MEMBERS*

*Like all clubs over the last 16 months, we will have lost members. Many players are always at the club playing but I guess many are not necessarily dedicated to playing four times or more a week but who enjoy the socialising and playing when asked. The lifeblood of our club.*

*Or*

*Members who simply stopped playing and find it hard to get back – perhaps it’s a fitness issue.*

*Where we find that a member has not renewed, we telephone them to see if we can offer any help or support. (Thank you Eddie) If you come across a past member who has temporarily fallen on hard times and still want to play squash do get them to get in touch with me to see if I or the Committee can help them. We are a small club and we do care about our members.*

*We will not know what our membership looks like until we are further down the road - I would urge all members to help us with improving our membership as best they can.*

*This is at the forefront of the Committees mind also.*

*The mini leagues start next week so this is something to look forward to and another sign that we are starting to return to normal.*

*We’ve seen some changes to our bar Stewards. After many years of good service, Alan Harris has stepped down from being a Steward. On behalf of our members the committee would like to thank Alan for all his hard work over the years and his undiminishing commitment to the club. I am pleased to report that Sharon Cooper, who many of you know, will be taking up that position - so Julie and Sharon will now be the bar Stewards. A big welcome back to you both.*

*Opening the bar has always been challenging, even more so coming out of the lockdown – its widely recognised as a key asset to the club but it’s not used as much as it should be outside of team matches. The committee agreed to open it for August in the hope that it will be used more as we move forward. So, we are asking all members to give their support not only to the club but also as a welcome to the Stewards who run it for us.*

*I’ve already sent a message out about card payments so will not add to it here*

*Just to say …please help us where you can on this - we would ask all members to help us in the running of the club efficiently and pay by card or fob if they can find ways to do so. If not, we will accept cash.*

*The Committee has been speaking to club night members about club night. Club night has been the bedrock of our club for many years. Whilst its good we feel it could also be underplayed and with relatively small changes has greater potential and could attract more members and non-members. Club night members are dedicated and come from a wide range of background and experience – they could be great ambassadors of the club but we need to check that they way club night is run today meets the requirements of today and the future. We’ve already had some great ideas, advertising more; benefits of changing start times and the day its held; welcoming new members; competitions, mixing with table-tennis and racket ball and board games in the bar.*

*We will be inviting representatives of club night to the committee over the next few weeks to discuss these ideas further.*

*You will have read that we are privileged to be hosting the Thanet Cup from Friday 5th November to Sunday 7th November. This is exciting news and a lot of effort has gone into securing this slot. These competitions often attract world class players and it’s a fine opportunity to showcase our club both locally and more globally.*

*Its early days yet and we are just starting to think it through, but we really value the sponsorship we get – without this we could not attract the players. Andy Rolfe has offered to market this event. this year we plan to structure the sponsorship packages so we will be setting up a small sub group to help put this together and report back to the committee. If you know of anyone who would be prepared to sponsor this event please let Nigel Pope know.*

*We are also the host of fitness classes which run every Wednesday morning with Emma Chapman of Bee Fitness. Emma currently offers Pilates and Yoga.*

*I mentioned increasing our membership earlier and we are aware of all the houses being built on the estate around the back which could potentially provide new members either as players or as social members. So, there is certainly potential there.*

 *.*

*We have also commissioned a sign so that we have club visibility form the main road. In addition, we will have an events sign box attached to the gate so that we can advertise up and coming events. We will have to wait a few months for these signs as we are having to join the que for work coming out of lockdown.*

*Most of you know that the back gate has been kept locked for security. It can be opened using a separate fob. We have a number of these fobs available for members who would find it useful to use this gate at no charge. If you wish to use the gate and would like a fob please contact David.*

*Could just emphasize that the fobs are available for members who need to use the gate. We have a limited supply so please don’t ask for one unless you need it.*

*As mentioned over the last few years the club rules need updating and John Searles kindly offered to look at the club rules and make recommendations to the Committee.*

*For some time now John has been pressing the committee for instructions but pressure on resources has meant that we have had to prioritise other work. So apologies to John for not having taken this forward in the way we would have wished.*

*We have also reported that we are planning a welcome back party on Friday 10th September. No details yet just an idea, but a firm one. We are looking for volunteers to help us take this forward anyone who can give up their time for this please contact Anita.*

*Please note this date in your diaries*

*Finally, I cannot add to what I said last year - I am supported by a brilliant committee. Without exception they give up their own time and work tirelessly for the club on your behalf.*

*I’d like to thank them for all their support throughout the year and look forward to the challenges ahead.*

*Clive Driscoll Chairman*

4 Treasurers report to the AGM 2021 – Accounts Ending 31 May 2021

(Accounts circulated beforehand followed by previously emailed questions - [AGM Year End 2021.pdf](file:///D%3A%5CWebsite%20Files%5CAdmin%5CDownloads%5CAGM%20Year%20End%202021.pdf) Sent out via mail chimp)

*One question received from Steve Bullock re the breakdown of costs – DC had replied via email – no further questions were asked.*

*During the period of these accounts the Club was only open for a very limited time due to Covid-19.*

*Members were able to play squash in bubbles for a few months, August through to September while the gym remained closed.*

*Eventually in May 2021 squash resumed and the gym re-opened.*

*For the whole of the year the bar was effectively closed.*

*The Government Furlough Scheme supported the salaries of the bar staff and the Club also received a number of Covid grants from TDC.*

*These, along with the income from the aerial, helped to cover the establishment and admin expenses as listed in the accounts.*

*A limited number of member subscriptions were collected during the year and a subs holiday of 10 months has been applied following the committee’s approval.*

*Returning members will note the new glass doors fitted on courts 3 & 4 while viewing on court 3 has been improved by the new glass fitted below the existing glass panels.*

*This work, plus new heaters on court 3 should be completed before this year’s AGM.*

*Court bookings are now only available online though our website, and the bar, which opened in June, is now cashless.*

*Money can only be added to member’s fobs via PayPal or credit card.*

*Subscriptions are being collected either via invoice (BACS or cheque) or by Direct Debit.*

*By this time next year, we will be in a position to accurately assess our membership profile and the numbers retained post Covid.*

It is proposed that there is no change in the level of subscriptions and

a) Year End Accounts for 2020 are agreed as circulated - Proposed as circulated by Gordon Whiting, Seconded by Dean Barclay

And

b) It is proposed that Levicks to continue as our accountants

-Proposed by Gordon Whiting; Seconded by Dean Barclay

All voted in favour.

5 Election of Officers

Life President Becky Czuczman thanked the committee for their continued support and hard work especially through the past 18 months

* All existing committee members stand down
* All confirmed their willingness to continue in office
* Two new member stand for committee positions; Steve Bartlett - Internal league; David Clifford - Membership secretary

Proposed by Gordon Whiting; Seconded by Keith Stocker

Committee members for election 2021/22 are:

Clive Driscoll Chair

Charles Molony Deputy Chair

Anita Reynolds Secretary

Nigel Pope Match Secretary

Steve Bartlett Mini Leagues – already elected

David Clifford Membership Secretary - already elected

David Cross Treasurer

Alan Pope Committee Member

Ian Chinchin Advertising

*Proposed by P Davies*

*Seconded by A Harris. All in favour.*

**Action: Name of officials to be updated on the website.**

6. 100 Club Draw – Led by Nigel Hefford

100 Club report. *Whilst the 100 club is still running well support is still needed. There are currently under 60 numbers in use.*

***Action:*** *Mail chimp to be sent out with all the details for joining the 100 club including news on the 100 club purchases and payment instructions.*

Current number of “100 Club” members -38

Numbers held 59

Bank balance £1334.53

AGM prize draw :- 1st prize No 1 £95.90 Justin Tilly

 2nd prize No 47 £57.54 Glenis Brick

 3rd prize No 88 £38.36 David Nolan

Chairman thanked Nigel for his continued support in running the 100 club.

7. AOB

New membership for players and social members sent in in advance via email.

Questions received

Question 1 - Steve Bullock

In view of all legal restrictions being removed in respect of covid I assume normal face to face committee meetings will now recommence. Since the start of the pandemic I am not aware of minutes being recorded for any zoom or other committee meetings that have taken place. Will the committee assure the membership that minutes of all meetings taking place henceforth will be now recorded and published on the website in a timely manner and displayed on the club notice board for members to view and comment on.

*CD: During the long covid period we held frequent committee meetings to reflect the governments changing stance on covid regulations and club closure. In order to keep up with the government changes meetings were frequently held once a week. In line with most of the country our face-to-face meetings were limited and we held informal discussions via zoom. We agreed to relax the taking of minutes during this emergency situation so that we could ensure that we made the changes on time and get the club open as soon as possible. On our return to normal working minutes are now taken. Moving forward these will be in the form of bullet points and published a month in arrears on the website in the member’s section.*

*It was noted that there are two different types of meeting within the club, committee meetings which will have published minutes and working party meeting which are not minuted.*

*CD opened up the question to the floor.*

*P Davies. Minutes should be available to all members following the rules of the club.*

*It was agreed that Bullet points and electronically published minutes on the website was the preferred way of working.*

Question 2 -Steve Bullock

Can you please confirm in your Chairman’s statement you will honour your commitment to consulting with members for future projects, I feel that you are duty bound to do as that was your reason for not allowing any further discussion or calling for a vote on my suggestion regarding the function room.

*CD. Consultation Works –. We are a small club with basic rules which may need updating but have stood the test of time. We don’t need to be burdened with a complicated set of rules and we certainly could not have delivered all that we have delivered over the year if we had had to consult on every issue.*

*One size doesn’t fit all.*

*And money or cost is just one factor, not the only one, there are other issues to consider and we have seen that over the year. The last thing the committee wants is to make changes that are unpopular or cause divisions in the club, we will avoid that at all costs. The committee is therefore committed to consulting where its deemed appropriate and has done this in different ways over the years. There are some good examples consulting members via email survey to get their views on the club and how it could be improved, inviting the stewards for their views before committee meeting and inviting member groups to join the committee meeting to discuss ways forward. And more recently inviting comments on extending the gym - we had negative feedback so we didn’t proceed.*

*Looking forward we will discuss at Committee if there is any advantage in setting a cost limit to changes. This would mean a change to the club rules which could be proposed at next years AGM .*

*CD opened up to the floor.*

*Dean Barclay - Major works costs should be a working figure, anything over a set amount. Amount to be decided*

*CD – Agreed - Maintenance and improvements, there will always be different views across the membership and to some extent in appointing the committee the membership should trust its committee to make the judgments it feels are right.*

*P Davies – We do trust the Committee. Major improvements structurally, such as an extension to the club or its uses should have membership consultation.*

*CD – Agreed*

Question 3 - Steve Bullock

Additionally, now that Dave Clifford is taking on the Membership Secretary role it is now time for him to start dealing with the tscmembership@hotmail.co.uk email. After the AGM I will no longer monitor.

**Action**:- Website to be updated and David Clifford to oversee the tscmembership@hotmail.co.uk email

Question 4 - Dean Barclay

I appreciate that the past year or so has been difficult but looking forward should we not once again have a proper steward with regular bar opening hours to preferably 11pm. This will encourage more use of the club. Members pay a decent amount of money in subscriptions and money from the mobile phone mast and gym bring in plenty of revenue. Why then does the committee Penny pinch on an essential socializing club facility? The bar and other social functions are the life blood of any club. A month’s trial opening the bar in the summer is not sufficient time to get our members back using our great club and facilities.

*CD – At this present time the bar is open Monday Wednesday and Saturday evenings from 18:00 – 21:00 (1700-2011 Saturdays) partly due to the low members attending and recovering from the pandemic. There has been minimal use of the bar during the time its been open.*

*As from the end of July the Committee decided to reopen the bar 6 days a week from 18:00 – 21:00. This was a very difficult decision as it was against the background of the bar not being used very much over the three days it had been open. We judged that this is the busiest time for court bookings and we hope by the beginning of September players will return and the social side will return with it and we can be more confident that opening the bar was the right thing to do. We will review at the end of August.*

*This is a two-sided issue -op en the bar and lose money each evening through additional wages, not open the bar and obviously no one is able to use the bar so cannot attracted new users. We don’t have all the answers but we try to do the right thing for the benefit of our members.*

*Gordon Whiting On the first reopening of club night the bar was closed.*

*CD - I do appreciate last Wednesday the bar was closed relatively early, It was open first thing and I spoke to Dean about members ordering their drinks up front. This couldn’t be easily avoided as we had a staff member self-isolating and a replacement could not be found in short notice.*

*Yvonne Forbes – we should open he bar on club night to facilitate existing members of club night and attract new club night member to use the bar on club night.*

*Dean Barclay – we should open until 11pm, as before the covid closure. The steward also helps with new members on club night, noting the players and taking the fee. Also, we need to discuss the cash payment, as we are now cashless.*

*CD- It is not the Stewards job to collect the money for Club night. We have had suggestions of an honesty fridge – this would ensure the club is not losing money by keeping the bar open.*

*Becky – We must try to have the bar open when any member is playing, perhaps do some advertising to say the bar is now open again.*

*Gordon Whiting – We should be able to get a drink and socialise after playing as was previously done for many years, pre the closure.*

*Alan Harris – Could we consider starting club night earlier, say 6.30 and finishing earlier.*

*P Davies- The bar should be open however we should not run it at a loss every week.*

*P Davies - We should allow Dean to have the last word as it’s his question*

*Dean Barclay – Restricting the bar opening times is making a restriction on our one organised club social night.*

*David Clifford – Members are simply just not using the bar*

*Tony Keeler – Perhaps the steward could leave at 10:30*

*CD – Ask members to feed back to Dean and meet with the committee on August 11th at 18:30, we will open the bar the forthcoming Wednesday evening to 11m, staff permitting* ***Action point Anita to contact steward and confirm to Dean***

*CD- Times have changed and members new and old have changed the way they use the club and spend their leisure time. Much of this is due to drink driving rules, people’s busy lives and far more activities being available in the modern world. Many especially new members play and maybe have one drink or just play and go. They don’t tend to spend all evening socialising in the bar.*

*Nigel Pope – Friday night fun tournament has a family atmosphere we are working on bringing something like that back into the club, this may encourage people back at the bar to club night, also bringing in Fitness classes and social members.*

CD- Thanked all who attended and participated in the 2020 AGM

Meeting brought to a Close – 20.25

**Attendees**

Becky Czuczman

Jim Angus

Dean Barclay

Tony Keeler

Gordon Whiting

Micky Twyman

Peter Davies

Nigel Hefford

Gordon Taylor

Jim Bloomfield

Alan Haris

Keith Stocker

Zoom Attendees

Yvonne Forbes

Ian Chinchin

**Committee**

Clive Driscoll

Nigel Pope

Steve Bartlet

David Clifford

David Cross

Alan Pope

Anita Reynolds