**THANET SQUASH RACKETS CLUB – MINUTES OF 2016 AGM**

**Held on 27th July 2016**

1). Apologies : Dean Barclay ,Warren Roe, Ed Pitman – due to ill health, Jim Bloomfield, Nigel Pope

2). The 2016 AGM minutes signed off as being an accurate recount of the meeting

PRO: Clive Driscoll

SEC: Jim Angus.

3). Chairman’s report was read out in full by Peter Davies, A few key points; Special thanks to committee members who go above and beyond there remit. Extremely lucky to have generous sponsorship from Miles and Barr and Roe Brothers

We have good active membership within the club.

4). Maters Arising

5). **Match Secretary’s Report**

My apologies for missing tonight due to a family holiday.

After last year's AGM the club completed their Kent League summer 2015 campaign. Competing in Division Two the club finished 1st out of 5 teams. With 5 wins out of 8 and a win ratio of 63% and the remainder fixtures being 3-2 losses. A good campaign. Thanks to the 14 players who took part in this successful campaign. Star performer at no.2 was Nigel Pope & Aaron Stanley at no.3, playing 5 and 4 matches respectively, winning 100%. Ed Miles competed at no.1 all summer and acquitted himself admirably. The winter campaign started with two teams. Division 2 captained by Nigel Pope and Division 3 by Becky Czuczman. Special thanks extended to Becky who continues to serve and manage the team expertly.

The 2nd Team finished a creditable 4th out of 9, 10 points adrift of 2nd place over 16 matches, with 56% wins. The 3rd Team finished 7th out of 10 teams, winning 33% of their 18 matches. 26 club players participated for the two teams last winter and star performers for the 2nd team were Christian Miles, playing 11 matches winning 55%, Billy Miles also playing 11 matches, winning a fantastic 82% and Jamie Roe playing 14 matches and winning 64%.

The 3rd team was ably served as normal by David Clifford, Trevor Bolt & Steve Bartlett. All playing 15 matches and winning approximately 50%. Without these members the teams would be much harder to run. It was pleasing to see new & old faces in Jon Hart, Alex Reynolds & Alex Cowell playing team squash.

In February, we put on the Thanet Cup, largely due to the sponsorship from Roe Construction. This encouraged world ranked players and club thanks are recorded to Joe Magor from Canterbury, who hosted the successful event over three days. The committee & volunteers worked very hard and this advert for the club benefitted everyone who attended. The competition through all grades was a joy to watch.

In April The club again hosted the Kent Cornwallis Cup Finals. Thanks to Anita, Marina, Kate & Becky for the hospitality afforded the visiting clubs.

This ends my 7th report as match secretary and I have advised the committee that I will be happy to continue with the role in the absence of anyone else, if elected tonight.

Christian Miles read out James Bloomfield’s junior report plus the following; East Kent juniors are playing in a three-way monthly tournament, splitting the venue between Thanet, Baypoint and Canterbury. The next level of playing would be county level of which we have several participants within our club. Chm also reiterated the need for more volunteers with the junior programme and the need for a new junior coach to keep momentum. No questions were raised.

6). **Junior Report**

It is with great regret that I will miss the AGM this evening but I am holidaying in the South of France.

As I sit here looking out over the beautiful views, it has allowed me the time to reflect on the year. Whilst not actively promoting the Sunday Juniors, we have gained many keen young players (some very young) to our Sunday Morning sessions. We have also seen some of the more experienced Juniors pass on their knowledge and skill along with Steve Bartlett. My thanks go to James Caps and Ed Miles for their help on a Sunday morning and being positive role models for the younger Juniors.  I would also like to pass on my thanks to Christian Miles and Darryl Wilson, who have supported and provided two Junior Squash Teams. We have run consistently Sunday's for Juniors, in Dave Berwick's absents with the much appreciated help of Alan Pope, Mick Beans and Glen Whitehead. Whilst we have seen buoyant numbers of Juniors on a Sunday morning it does prove difficult to manage on some occasions so I would like all playing members to consider helping on a Sunday morning and will provide more news as we look to restructure the Junior section

**7). Membership Secretary Report**

I would like to start with our very successful open day held on 9th July, through great teamwork and effort we managed to sign up 15 new members, so a very big thank you goes to all those involved. This meant that we were able to get to member levels very close to last year’s record total. We do in fact now have a total of 314 members, although marginally below last year’s total of 319, nevertheless a very healthy level financially, as the latest treasurers report indicates.

We currently have 258 playing members, an increase of 4 over last year. Gym membership has fallen from 108 to 85, this is primarily due to squash members dropping gym membership but still retaining their squash membership. 85 gym members is a very healthy total and when considering the cost of setting up and operating the gym, financially an extremely useful source of revenue with very little operating costs. Student/Youth membership which includes our very successful junior section shows a small fall of 2 over last year, but again at near record levels for this club. Social membership has increased slightly from 11 to 13.

Going back to our open day, as this was so successful, I would hope to hold further open days on a regular basis to boost our membership. The campaign raised our profile in the Thanet area and further campaigns can only improve on that. The committee also has plans to revamp and improve the club’s website, and until now, considering the majority of new members applying have been via the website, any website improvement will help boost membership further still.

In addition, over the next week or two I will be sending all playing members a short questionnaire, the purpose of which is to foster and encourage established members and new members to play more regularly. I have called this “The Squash Buddy Initiative”. I will be asking the following: -

1 On a scale of 1 to 10 where do you see your squash standard?

2 Would you be willing to mentor/play new or novice members as an encouragement?

3 What would be your preferred times for playing?

With this information I will match a group of players and send them a list of contact details. With likeminded individuals wanting or willing to play at similar times, valued mentoring to provide additional support, this should provide the necessary encouragement to play that appears to be clearly needed.

Over the last two years we have managed to attract many new members, however, retaining them has been another matter, we have had a number of new members playing just a few times, or maybe not playing at all, I am hoping this initiative will go a long way towards dealing with this issue.

I think this has been a year of consolidation, and with future plans, I expect membership to improve over the coming year.

Finally, I would like to thank our President, Chairman, fellow committee members and many volunteers for their continued efforts in making this a very successful club, and a special thank you to Karen Weir for both helping and standing in for me when I am away for a few months.

8). **Mini League Report**

Due to i’ll health of Ed Pitman, the mini league report was read out by PD

I am pleased to report the mini leagues continue to be well supported, with a steady average of 58 players participating. Sadly, not enough ladies, with only 2 currently in.

It’s very encouraging to have new members in the leagues of varying standards, ranging from the lower right up to Premier league.

Congratulations to both Ed and Billy Miles for obtaining their Premier league status and to Simon Grey also. Ed is currently no in the leagues. Billy is doing exceptionally well and Simon as a new comer to this position

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I mentioned last year the Kevin C would have to look over his shoulder for Ed, and sure enough it came to pass. Kevin is currently out with an ongoing injury problem I believe. Anno Domini

At this point I would like to make a special mention to Mark Harrop who has in my view, brilliantly withstood the Miles onslaught to maintain his Premier League slot for the past eleven league sessions. Quite an achievement and well done to Mark. (especially as he is over 21!

Apart from the premier league, we must never forget the efforts of all league players, and their enthusiasm certainly does not go unnoticed.

There are currently 55 ex mini league member. Out for various reasons, but I hope they don’t all apply to re-join at once!

Our president Becky is still not in the leagues, but I know she is back playing and looking great.

Regarding the club’s website it is still used mainly by Moni –league members (an average of 80% log in over the past 6 months.) the problem of failed log-ins is still with us. Steve and I have discussed this, as often it is new members having trouble. He’s come up with an answer so things on this from should improve.

It’s worth remembering the Members Only Documents **can only be viewed by a complete log-in**

Finally, as I mentioned last year, the Mini-League are an important part of the Squash Club’s available competitive match playing and I sincerely thank the member for their continued support**.**

9). **Social Secretary’s Report**

As the secretary of the club we have been asked to deliver the minutes of each meeting to all members currently they are posted on the web site. As the club does not have a mail server we can’t send large group emails without being white listed, so we propose to do this using mail chimp SB has looked into this and we are confident it will work.

In my report to you last year I said that the function room would have a mini make over, the walls have now been painted, new blinds have been hung, tables have been purchased and the clubs photos have been hung correctly around the club and a trophy cabinet had been put in place. All these task have now been completed and I hope you agree with me that the function area looks much more inviting.

Throughout this last 12months we were fortunate enough to hold several squash competition involving both our members and guest players from all over the southeast, these comps have already been outlined in Nigel’s report, the social element of these events runs smoothly in the back ground with a small but efficient team of volunteers, Myself, Elise and Marina Rolfe and of course our president Becky is always there to lend a hand, I would like to take this opportunity to thank them.

These events not only bring great squash to the club but it’s our chance to shine amongst the other Kent squash clubs, not only to show off our great young talent but to further endorse the use of our club for outside comps which in turn not only boosts the bar takings but club moral.

10). **Communications Report**

This past year we have tried to become less reliant on posters being the only means of communicating with members and the general public.

We have increased the use of our Facebook group. For those not already on it you can find it on Facebook under the name Thanet Squash Rackets Club.

We have also set up a Twitter page which has now over 150 followers from the local community. The handle for this is @ThanetSquash. Most notable posts have included one which was retweeted by world number one squash player Mohammed El Shorbagy and one about our recent Open Day which was seen by over 3,000 people.

We are also in early discussions about a new and modern website. We all feel that with this being most probably the first impression that any potential member has of the club, this is quite high up our priority list.

In the past month we have set up a Mail Chimp account. Using this we can send out newsletter style emails to members and also track various pieces of insight about the reader experience, such as are they actually arriving at the emails intended target and are they actually being read.

We also now have a very good relationship with the local press and they are more than willing to publish our news, competition results and any other interesting stories. This will add to raising the profile of the club in the local area.

Moving forward we want to continue what we are currently doing but we welcome any feedback as to how we could communicate with members better.

Qt. Yvonne within both the senior and junior members, what is the ratio of male to female members?

Chm also commented that he would include photos of female members on the next promotional poster.

11). **Treasurer’s Report**

DC read out key parts of the already circulated treasurers report – The report and the re-appointment of Levicks as our accountants was agreed upon by all present and PRO: Clive Driscoll and SEC Yvonne (surname eludes me)

Barry Jackson questioned the 27k in medium and minor expenses but he was assured by DC and PD it added up.

Yvonne wanted it noted that the function room floor may have been repaired but voiced strong concerns regarding the floor, whilst in use for classes, it is directly above the ladies changing rooms and apart from the pounding noise levels the ceiling is showing signs of damage.

Nigel Hefford asked the question of the Telecom mast; How often is the lease updated DC, contract updated every 10 years but the payment received is updated every 3 years to reflect market levels.

12). Membership fees to remain at the same level as 2015: no objection raised. PRO Clive Driscoll SEC Nigel Hefford.

DC also thanked Nigel Hefford for his assistance throughout the year, vending machine, floor safe and many other treasury tasks.

Maintenance Overview

PD – Maintenance Roof- Plan of works as follows

Partial insulation has already been completed.

We have had several quotes over the past year in the region of 40K, however we have had an extremely generous offer from Roe Brothers – A new type of cladding system which is far more economical. Roes have offered to purchase the material at trade price on our behalf, approximate cost of 15K. Labour, top hat and other expenses possible 7K

Works to be above court 3 and 4.

Insulation thickness needs to be above 250mm

We are dealing with the issue of Asbestos and removal is complicated and expensive. It has been brought to our attention by Barry Jackson that Dean Barclay may have some professional insight into this problem. We would appreciate any member’s feedback who has specific knowledge in this field.

The work is to be started in the next few weeks and our aim is to have the insulation in place before the heavy winter months. Barry Jackson, what is the cladding made from? Majority if the fabric is Metal but precise materials not known by the committee. If you would like to see the cladding it can be found in the building behind B&Q/Hornby’s

John Stansfield (cash planning) over the next 3 to4 year have we considered cash flow for future maintenance. PD Yes, we are not considering the second half of the roof at the moment. We need to track the worth of the first insulation.

Mick Twyman Is there asbestos on both sides of the building- some discussion was had between members as to the presence of asbestos but we believe it’s only above 3 and 4.

John Stansfield, what are there anticipated benefits from the project? PD There has been considerable water damage in the past from the leaking roof. There is a noticeable draught from behind the bar going directly into the social area and possible onto court. Insulation will reduce the heating costs and enhance the efficiency of the existing and new heating.

Will the courts be out of action if so how long for? I cannot answer at the moment it depends on the way the project is carried out. Would need to seek advice from the contractor.

Barry Jackson – Could the Metal roof in fact be too hot with the level of insulation?

Becky - We have spoken in committee about raising the ceiling level on court 3 and 4, PD if you remember we decided that this is far too costly against the benefits it would give.

Nigel Hefford – Has a thermal survey been done in the club? – No, however it is a very good suggestion and once planning and costings have been completed we will take the necessary advice from the correct professionals.

Clive Driscoll When could we see the project being started, As I said earlier we are hoping to start late summer it is dependent on the Labour schedule, CD would like it noted that the club appreciates the generous offer from Roe Brothers it’s a tremendous saving.

PD; Once the roof is off it will enable us to check the electrics, we need to ensure the clubs old electric system is adequate for further new electrical appliances, thermal heaters, electric showers etc etc

Barry Jackson, there is further damp in the men’s changing area are there steps being taken to combat this. PD The damp has manifested itself in several places and we are seeking advice from a professional until a permeant solution is decided upon we will do our best to keep it at bay.

Shower repairs have been carried out but the contractor found more faults than we initially thought, we need to plan for a possible closure of the showers.

No further questions on maintenance.

13). **Adoption of club rules**

Adoption of club rules read out by Peter Davies

We propose to bring into the rules a new committee place for Deputy Chairman. This position will be held by an individual already on the committee, with the option to become chairman if the vacancy arises and if elected by the existing committee.

PRO Clive Driscoll SEC John Stansfield

14). Committee have agreed to carry on for a further year if re-elected.

Karen Weir has been nominated by PD and seconded by Jim Angus

Victoria Wells has been nominated by AR and Seconded by JB

Clive Driscoll would like to join the committee PRO DC Seconded Becky

Club president BC asks the member in attendance for the proposal to re-elect the committee for a further year. PRO John Stansfield SEC Mick Twyman.

AOB

Agenda items Ray Grimes

Heating issues, 40 people have signed a petition including 5 committee members for better heating on courts 3 and 4. What does the committee propose of the heating and hot what - Secondary boiler or a new main boiler.

PD not sure on the accuracy of the petition, however our primary concern is the heating on 3 and 4, I have received two replies to RG email to members both in agreement with RG that heating needs to be improved on both courts to make them playable in winter months.

After taking advise from other squash clubs and industry professionals we have purchased two infra-red court heaters these give instant court heat and have proved to be very successful especially at Canterbury squash club where some of our member’s play. This will work from the light meter.

RG will these heat the court immediately. We cannot guarantee this however we can trial them and look at putting them on before the court is play on.

John Stansfield could we programme the heaters to come on before play is due to begin

We will enquire if there a way of putting them on automatically a set time before the court is due to be played on.

RG is insistent that the committee guarantee the heaters will be the solution. PD we cannot guarantee we will trial the purchased heaters that have been recommended by the industry pros, I this is not the solution then we will look at the heating of the club after the club has been insulated. We have also proposed additional heating for the bar area.

Chm / Ed Miles We have played on the courts and Canterbury the courts are open to the elements of their club as they are not closed. The heaters do seem to work.

RG when will the heaters be installed. We must carry out an electrical test to make sure the wiring is adequate to install the heaters in place of the blow heaters that are currently being used.

RG the committee has taken no visible steps over the past 18 months re club heating a new boiler or secondary boiler system.

We as a committee have taken several steps over the past 18 months to review the Roof, heating and hot water situation.

We have spent many hours consulting with engineers, including very time consuming site visits from industry professionals with varying solutions. This is a major outlay which involves much more than just a new boiler. Recently there have been very few reported issues with hot water.

RG The clubs heating is inadequate, why when other money has been spent around the club can we not invest in heating the club at all times. This money could have been better spent. We have a surplice in the account we can afford it.

PD It is unfair to say the committee have no plans for the heating, we have been elected by the members to work on their behalf and the money spent on general maintenance exterior and interior painting, electrics, etc etc are not only for ascetics, they are for the building maintenance and sustainability. The efficient running of the club is our main priority if after the insulation is completed and the inferred heaters fail to heat the courts we will look again at the clubs internal heating system.

Yvonne and CD at this point would like to thank the committee for their work and commitment to the running of the club.

RG Business plan

Will the committee commit to a business plan? PD we are a volunteer committee most of us with Jobs and other voluntary commitments, we have tried to implement a business plan before however it is just not sustainable with the time our committee members have.

RG you commented we are not a transparent committee; we disagree;

Our treasury figures are broken down to the minutest of details by DC and the SAGE programme

We are every present in the club, always available for someone to moan at.

We post the minutes of each meeting on our official website. We invite members to our meetings and to sit on our sub committees

We take the advice from any member who has professional knowledge in the work being carried out on behalf of the members.

We have been elected to take discussions on behalf of our members, we do so with the best of intentions for the club and its members.

If we had to ask the members for their approval of every discussion nothing would ever be resolved.

Let me assure you we will always inform the membership of any large planned works just as we have in relation to the insulation of the roof.

RG Can we open the doors and windows to let heat circulate throughout the club. It is impossible to keep the club windows and doors permanently open as members come and go throughout the day each with their own preference to heating and fresh air. During the winter months we will once again trial the open door policy to see what difference it makes to the court heating.

Heating the club throughout the day will be a very costly process, we need to give this solution a fair trial before we go down that route.

Gordon Taylor

Would like to thank Yvonne for hosting the successful games night.

John Bellow. Is insistent that the so called Bellow shower remains in the men’s shower area.

He had the unfortunate pleasure of a cold shower at lunch time today. Any reason for this? DP it has not been report by any other member DC to look into it.

PD We are currently investigating the possibility of installing 1 extra electric shower into the men’s however, we need to be sure that the current electricity is capable of sustaining this facility.

John Bello; When will this be installed and just to make sure it is one additional shower not a replacement.

No timescale has been set for this, we need to wait for the relevant electrical report.

BC There seems to be a draught in the corridor between court 3 and 4. DC has already installed draught excluder on court 4 will look at court 3.

AR is it coming from the cellar? Perhaps that could have the draft excluder.

Chm or possible the changing rooms.

John Bellow Asks for the re-instalment of the men’s changing benches.

John Stansfield – Does the club have enough residual funds to cover Roof faze 1 and 2 plus a new boiler installation? DC Not at the current time No.

Nigel Heffford Clubs do need to keep a certain amount of operating capital.

Becky Could the 100 club prizes be given as fob credit if a playing member is lucky enough to win. NH. Yes, this could be optional.

Nigel Hefford. There are currently only 45 members in the 100 club, however the club has managed to fund the purchase of a defibrillator and case. The committee thanks NH for his continued support with the 100 club. Results of the AGM 100 club draw, 1st prize drawn by BC is Mrs Hefford. 2nd prize drawn by DC is Ray Brick 3rd prize drawn by PD is BC

Meeting finished 27.7.16 at 21.30

Members who attended (these are the names on the sheet)

Committee Members Present

Peter Davies, David Cross, Anita Reynolds, Alan Pope, Karen Weir, Christian Miles, Charles Melony , Steve Bullock, . Becky Czuczman, Clive Driscoll.

Club Members Present.

Victoria Wells

Lloyd Knowlton

R Grimes

B Jackson

Gordon Taylor

M Twyman

Nigel Hefford

Rebecca

C Driscoll

John Searles

Karen Weir

Jim Angus

Tony Keeler

John Stansfield

John Bellow

Yvonne

Alex Reynolds

Ed Miles