**THANET SQUASH RACKETS CLUB – MINUTES OF 2017 AGM**

**Held on August 3rd 2017**

1). Apologies: Jim Bloomfield, John Bellow and Darren Roe

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

PRO: Peter Davies

SEC: Alan Harris.

3). Chairman’s report, thank you to all members who have given up their time to be here at our annual AGM, Special thanks to committee members who go above and beyond there remit.

4). Maters Arising

Most of the matters arising last year that were not answered related to maintenance so I’m going to start by telling you what we’ve been doing.

First of all, we have a plan. Except for simple things that we can fix straight away we log, cost them out and prioritise them.

What is clear from this that we cannot do it all that we would like straight away.

These are our top five priorities.

(Which is based, to some extent, on what the members have said)

1. Replace Heating and Boiler System 14K
2. Installing Roof and Wall Insulation 16K
3. Repairing Floor in Upstairs Room 0.5K
4. Continuation of additional Essential Electrical Work 8K
5. Replacing the Cooker 1.2k

Total 39.7K

A bit about the boiler and heating system.

You will know that we conducted a review over the winter months.

The outcome of the review was that if left on full during the coldest weather the heating worked fine. There were issues with radiators being turned down or off by well-meaning people, which when the cold whether returned caused us a problem.

Nevertheless, there were and had been issues with the showers running cold and there had also been talk of installing additional electrical showers as a back up to the unreliable and typically failing system.

it was clear that the boiler and heating system was old, had seen better days, was not efficient by today's standards and needed replacing sooner rather than later.

The new boilers and heating system were commissioned, and have been installed and the work has been completed this week,

Installing Roof and Wall Insulation is on-going and should be completed by the end of August

The floor needs repair in the upstairs room and this will be completed by the end of August.

The essential electrical work is taking place and will be completed by the end of the Summer

The cooker has been replaced.

The total cost of this work is around £40K

Other key issues that we have identified

Damp in the men's changing room we are seeking professional advice

Re-surfacing the car park

Updating signage to meet health and safety requirements

Replacing the carpet

Having more privacy in the cubicles by installing screens.

Most of these we have estimates for and there is the issue of affordability.

Its very likely that some of this will have to wait and may not be taken forward in the next 12 months or so.

Q. Becky – Has the court maintenance been completed?

Q. Barry Jackson – Any reason why they only did the back walls not the sides.

A. DC. We went on the advice of the court maintenance company, however both back and sides will be done next time.

5). **Match Secretary’s Report**

Following last year's AGM the club completed their Kent lleague**Summer** 2016 campaign, finishing second to Canterbury out of six teams in Division two.  With six wins out of ten and a win ratio of 60%.

Thanks to the players who took part, with key men...

Ed Miles, played 5 with 100% won.

Billy Miles played 7, won 100%

This summer’s campaign in Division One has stuttered due to holidays and teams not wanting to travel and I expect a rethink will happen for coming years in the summer league. **Winter** Campaign saw only two Thanet teams this season in Division two and Division three. Both teams acquitted themselves well.

Thanet 1 finished runners up to Rodmersham 1, 2nd out of 8 teams, with a win ratio of 65% and only 20 points behind. Every loss was by the 3-2 margin. The team secured promotion to Division 1 next winter. A good team performance and especially pleasing to see the return of Dominic Murphy following his long term injury.

 Thanet 2 finished 5th out of 8, winning 8 out of 14 matches – 57% win ratio.

Star performers in the winter were;

Billy Miles , playing 14 times and losing 2 (86% win) at no.1.

Dom Murphy played 6, winning 100% at no.3/4/5

Steve Bartlett played 12 winter matches

Christian completed 11 matches

Steve Casey completed 11 matches

Justin Tilley 10 matches, 60% win ratio

Shaun Chaplin & Alex Cowell were all important winter team players.

Next winter we are looking to put 3 teams in with Alan Harris looking to rekindle some spirit in the third team!

Visiting club always comment about our hospitality and it was no surprise that our facilities again hosted the **Cornwallis Cup finals** on all four courts in late march. A fantastic event with superb food again by Anita and her merry team of Julie Chaplin, Marina Rolfe, Vicky & Chelsea – well done girls you are a credit to our club.

Unfortunately, our two winter teams could not bask in the Kent Cup Final night glory!

Our 2017 curtain raiser, the **Nicholas Bennett Trophy** again produced a great afternoons squash and resulted in Ed Miles lifting the trophy again, beating Mark Neil in the final.

Our **Club championships** this year included a finals night that any club would have been proud of.

My special thanks to Jim, for all the work he undertook in ensuring we played finals and plates for all the differing standards/ages at our club.

It was a packed event from 6pm when the juniors entertained us and culminated in the main event at 8.30pm.

Ed & Billy Miles provided us with 1 hour 45 minutes of high level squash, an even match like no other witnessed by me at this club.

A packed club saw Ed triumph 3 games to 1, to regain the crown and what a credit they both are, to this club and your family, well done to those boys. Special praise to the bar team on that night, who performed miracles as expected nowadays!

Concentrating on the**juniors**, it is no surprise at the standards they achieve, thanks to all the hard work, initially started by Dave Berwick & Steve Bartlett and then continued by Jim Bloomfield & his helpers. Now with the additional help of Sam Henley, they will continue to flourish.

We must not forget the terrific work that our Darryl Wilson does with the **East kent Junior league**, this works in tandem with Canterbury Squash club to provide Saturday morning box leagues to juniors.

 There is a lot of good things to take in at this club at the moment and I do not know where to start with the junior tournament successes being enjoyed by....

 Freddy Miles, Harvey McIntyre, Elize Chaplin, Billy Miles & Ed Miles …. other than to say watch this space, as they started their careers at Club Thanet!

They hopefully will continue to put Thanet squash club on the map for years to come.

This ends my eighth 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.

And hopefully after 7 months not playing I will return to the leagues next month!

Comment: CM. Becky, alongside her Kent team mates won the over 40 & 50 County comp tournament, Kent as a county have very strong players. Becky some of our members should think about participating in England Members Squash.

6). **Junior Report**

**NP read out report, A big thank you to JB with his limited professional training he does amazingly well.**

Whilst we have seen our older Juniors progress on to be coached by Sam Henley and do great things outside of the club, we have still seen great numbers on a Sunday Morning Ave ~20 Juniors.

We have also seen some of the more experienced Juniors pass on their knowledge and skill. My thanks go to James Caps, Billy Miles and Alex Reynolds 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 Darryl Wilson, who has consistently support Thanet Juniors by Managing the Junior Team (finishing 2nd on Winter League Division, Running The Saturday Box Leagues and also coaching on a Sunday morning. Alan Pope also deserve a mention for assisting in wrangling several under 5’s on a Sunday Morning.

This year the Junior Section would like to build on the successful Junior Tournament that ran along side the Club Main Tournament to really show case the growing ability of our successful Juniors.

**7). Membership Secretary Report**

|  |
| --- |
| Membership Data |
|  | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2016 |
| Playing Members | 220 | 254 | 258 | 281 |
| Stud/Junior/Youth | 21 | 40 | 38 | 49 |
| Gym Members | 68 | 108 | 85 | 76 |
| Social Members | 11 | 11 | 13 | 11 |
| Total Membership | 249 | 319 | 314 | 314 |

Membership this year has matched last year’s level at 314 members, however what has changed is the membership make up. We now have 281 playing members, an increase of 23 over 2016, Junior, Youth and student members have also increased from 38 to 49, Social membership has marginally decreased from 13 to 11 and finally gym membership is now 76, a decrease of 9 from last year. Although the fall in gym numbers is a little disappointing, the increase in playing members and 20% increase in youth and student membership is very encouraging.

I have no doubt that our personal trainer leaving and starting his own gym has had a negative impact on the gym numbers. Hopefully sometime in the future the club may be able to attract a new personal trainer. But the gym still generates a healthy income at current levels of £4560.00 with minimal running costs.

On a very positive note the increase in playing members and more importantly the substantial increase in younger members, bodes well for the future.

Wednesday Club night is an essential part of encouraging new members to play. We have now added coaching by Sam Henley, available free of charge to all members and so far this has proved to be very popular.

In addition to club night I am also trying to arrange for group coaching for new and novice players on an alternative day.

Last year we held a very successful open day and hopefully we will do this again when all the many club improvements currently going on and those planned have been completed.

Finally, I would like to say that this has been a year of consolidation and the development of the club can only enhance an already excellent value for money facility provided for the members.

8). **Mini League Report**

I have to report that although the mini leagues continue to be well supported generally, the average players participating per session is 51(LY58) There could be a number of reasons for this but I’m inclined to think the main one is a number of the senior playing members are nursing injuries these days. So friendlies take priority. Understandable. Sadly, still no enough ladies, with only 2 currently in.

There is still a steady flow of new members joining the leagues of varying standards, and this an encouraging sign.

The current Mini-Leagues has a low of 46, and although there were some inclusions I lost 10 casualties for again a number of reason. Things should improve in the Autumn.

Last year I singled out a few players for a special mention and a general thank you to all.

This year I would like to be just a bit more specific, as there have been son equites outstanding performances for progress league number wise and others for shear tenacity and enthusiasm I mention:-

Steve & Dan Bartlett.. Inclusion solid for at least past 4 years (yes to play in the same league)

Dave Clifford.. Consistancy between L3/L1 for nearly 3 years

Steve Caps.. Sold consistency in leagues 3 years L4/L1

Clive Driscoll .. Sold consistency in league 3 years L4/L1

Simon Grey.. Solid consistency in leagues 2 years L1/P

Alan Harris.. Solid consistency over 11 sessions just reached P for the first time

Stonny Joseph.. Solid consistency in leagues for 7 years last 3 years L6/L4

Charles Malony.. Solid consistency over 12 sessions moving from L7/L2

Dave Nolan.. Solid performance over 12 sessions L3/L1

Jamie Roe.. Solid performance over 22 sessions L6/P

Malcolm Syme.. Solid performance over 15 sessions L3/L1

John Small.. Solid performance over 22 sessions L8/L6

John Stansfield .. Almost solid performance over past 3 years L6/L5

Oliver Secomb.. Solid Performance over 3 years L7/L5

Aaron Stanley.. Good performance over3 years L2/P

Jon Smith.. Almost solid performance over 14 sessions L7/L3

Milly Wilson..Solid performance over 11 sessions Best junior

Karen Weir.. Solid performance over 21 sessions L5/L3

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

There are currently 60 ex mini league members out for various reasons but I hope they don’t all apply to re-join at once!

Regarding eh club’s website the new one is nearing completion, and both Steve and I have had some coaching from Lloyd so we hope that transition, especially the Admin side of the life will be as smooth as possible. The site is currently still used mainly by Mini league members (an average of 85% log ins over the past 6 months)

Finally, as I mentioned last year the mini leagues are an important part of the club’s available competitive match playing and I sincerely thanks the members for their continued support.

NP We should maybe have a hall of fame for top ten players

9). **Social Secretary’s Report**

Social report for AGM 2017

Throughout the last 12 months we have been fortunate to hold many social and squash events. But first I think we need to appreciate that these events cannot run without the help from a team volunteers. These members have been thanked in our mailings that go out to all members after these events. But a special thank you to Anita for all the hard work she puts in at every social event with catering and the bar she’s always the last person standing clearing away and cleaning up!

New Year’s Eve was a great night had by all there were plenty of sore heads in the morning! We know how to party and the night was very much enjoyed by all and we have already had enquiries if this will be run again this year! Nigel Pope and his legendary Ping Pong table came back out to play. From this we raised £500 for the Oasis charity from the tickets sales from the evening.

Throughout this last 12months we were fortunate enough to hold several squash competitions involving both our members and guest players from all over the southeast, these comps have already been outlined in Nigel’s report. The Club Championships was a complete success with bar takings at £1500! 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 competitions which in turn not only boosts the bar takings but club moral. We hope to see many of you this weekend at the Thanet Open.

Over the next 12 months there will be plenty of events to get involved in and please if you have any ideas please get in touch.

10). **Communications Report**

**Looking back on 2016/2017.**

The Club hosted an **Open Day** in August of last year. With thanks to Miles and Barr we had promotional posters in local newspapers and also ran various promotional campaigns on Facebook and Twitter in order to raise the profile of the event. We had close to 60 people attend throughout the day, with approximately 15 signing up on the day. We learnt lots on that day and for a first attempt this wasn’t a bad effort.

We have also been working with a company called KPS Digital Marketing on a **new website** and this will be going live in the next 7-10 days. We have a professional photographer coming this weekend to take shots of the club and matches which we will use for the website and future marketing.

Moving forward the plan is to retain them to help **increase our online presence** with the use of video and further use of facebook, twitter and you tube.

Over the past year, we have also been sending out **monthly or bimonthly Club updates** via email updating members on events, club competition results and other interesting pieces and have had some good feedback from this.

**Planned marketing for 2017/2018**

The **new website** will take some bedding in and no doubt there will be some teething issues so we will need to be on top of that.

The **top 3 things** that the new website will be able to give us over the existing one are:

* There is a dedicated visitors section, clearly detailing how to get in touch with the club, where we are, along with the health benefits of squash and other interesting bits of information.
* There is also an opportunity to have a ‘blog-style’ page on the new website, which should work nicely in tandem with the bimonthly club updates. Hopefully this can become an area of the club website that people will frequently visit when on the new website to find out the latest club info. We want the website to be highly informative for members and non-members alike and not just a place where you go to book a court.

We also hope to get better at advertising club match fixtures, competitions and results. Especially for home club matches, it would be great to see greater support and we feel this will be a way of raising the profile of those matches.

We’d also like to run another **Open Day**, potentially this time in January when there is a bit of a buzz around getting fit etc. There will be lots of marketing necessary to promote that.

11). **Treasurer’s Report**

TREASURER’S REPORT TO THE AGM 2017

The approved accounts by Levicks were presented to the Committee last month and the following questions were raised. The response follows each question:

1. a) Is the thinking correct that we lost £10k on turnover but made £8k on the bar account therefore the overall loss is just £2k

**A: Yes**

2. Why is the aerial income less than last year?

**A: There has been a change in tenant and agreement. The new tenant will pay annually in advance and the balance for current year was received after the end of the 2017 accounting period.**

3. How much of our £34k repairs last year are fixed annual cost?

**A: About £6500**

4. The telephone bill for £600 p.a. does this include the WiFi cost?

**A: Yes**

5. What is the insurance cover for the building?

**A: £596,636**

6. Please elaborate with details the differences plus or minus year on year for Membership Subs; Court Fees and Club Nights?

**A: The Court Fees figure is down due to approx. £4.5k being allocated to Light and Heat. This arrangement is beneficial to recover some element in VAT within the Partial Exemption calculations.**

**You will note the low figure for Light and Heat.**

**As for Club Nights I reported this to the Committee in the 3rd quarter’s report. At least 8 weeks of Club Nights receipts were not recorded as such but were included as a total banking figure along with bar takings and floor safe receipts.**

**Comments from the Treasurer**:

Looking first at the General Account/Income:

The ‘Other Income’ is the total from Room Hire £863 and Tournament income £875.70

General Account/Expenditure

Rates and Water: The Business Rates Bill from TDC 2017/18 is significantly lower than the Non-Domestic Rates Bill of 2015/16.

In 2015/16 the total charge was £2880 and this has reduced to £485.41 for current year.

The full effect will be noted in next year’s accounts.

In the Repairs & Maintenance amount of £34,198 the element of fixed annual costs include the following: Annual Fire Safety Inspection £193; Vending Machine Service contract £395; Kiosk, software annual charge £1790; Boiler service £40; Till service £100; Standfast Alarm £410; Court maintenance £2964 plus sundry small repair items that crop up every year. e.g sauna elements.

Of the Light & Heat the actual cost of our gas supply (building heating and shower/water heating) was £3276 while in 2015/16 it was £4408.

It appears we are getting the benefit of improving the insulation above courts 3 & 4 and this should be further enhanced by this year’s work on courts 1 & 2.

It will also be interesting to see the effects of installing the new heating system which may be completed by the time of the AGM on 3rd August.

This year’s court maintenance has been completed and while this work took place a new gas main into the club was installed.

Under Admin Expenses: ‘Advertising’ are the costs involved with our new web site.

Balance Sheet

The £1279 for VAT is the amount we recovered for the last quarter and received earlier this month. The total VAT recovered in the year was £1610

Included with this report are a copy of the accounts plus a 2 page synopsis looking at the accounts 2009 – 2017.

Due to the Pre AGM Committee Meeting being only 3 days before the AGM this report is now circulated to the Members. Please raise any questions by 31st July which I will then answer at the AGM or earlier if possible.

Other than proposing that Levicks continue as our accountants the Committee is considering that, after a number of years, the subscriptions need to be increased.

The work taking place this summer includes the improved insulation around courts 1 & 2, the new heating arrangements and rectifying electrical deficiencies with the court lighting. In respect of the latter we are looking at courts 1 & 2 now and 3 & 4 next year.

No questions were pre sent to DC ahead of the AGM from members.

John S. Ariel sub’s from tenant who pays annually in advance is this in your account for this year?

Business rates from TDC are lower this will be reflected in next year’s accounts.

Accounts proposed by John Stansfield – Seconded by Nigel Hefford

Levicks proposed by All and seconded by Gordon Taylor

.Q. RG How much does the club make each year? Not taking into account the maintenance, do we still have a healthy balance of 20K

Chm. The last 4 years has seen no increase in the fees and the increase itself is only £1 per month to members.

RG Would we be better to increase the light fees?

NP We have considered that but that would affect the most regular players to a much greater extent and we want to encourage regular play.

Becky The facilities are generally excellent at the club and to maintain the club’s high standard an increase of £1.00 per month seems to be the most cost effective solution.

12) ADOPTION OF NEW FEES Let’s take a vote: Increase of subs by £1 per month. – Proposed by Peter Davies and seconded by Nigel Pope. Approved by All at the meeting

13)

Adoption of new rules

2 extra officers Deputy Chair and Communication officer.

Proposed by Becky Czuczman seconded by John Small Agreed by All members present.

14). Re-election of the committee members,

All current members are re-elected to the committee – Proposed by BC Seconded by P Davies

AOB

B Jackson Is the roof over 1 &2 made of the same fabric as 3&4, will it require standard insulation?

 DC, we will wait and see but we don’t expect any difficulties with insulation.

R Grimes Clubs Heating policy, can we insure that courts and communal areas of the club will be heated over the coming winter.

CHM. As we have already explained we have replaced the boiler after taking advise from a specialist contractor.

R Grimes Wil the club install the already purchased inferred heaters in the courts?

 DC We are waiting to see the effects of the new heating and insulation.

R. Grimes Will the court temperature be monitored?

DC yes

B Jackson Has all the electrical work been completed?

 DC No there are still elements of work to be completed and ongoing projects.

B. Czuzman What is the ongoing situation with the Steward?

 PD For legal and privacy reasons we are unable to discuss this at the present time.

Chm I would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter Davies for his continuous service to the club and committee over the past 7 year.

N Hefford There are 23 numbers available on the 100 club at £12 a year.

100 club draw 1st prize DC, 2nd prize Peter Davies, 3rd prize Randy Bishop.

Meeting finished 3rd August 2017 at 9am

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

Committee Members Present

David Cross, Anita Reynolds, Alan Pope, Christian Miles, Charles Molony, Clive Driscoll , Victoria Wells Nigel Pope.

Club Members Present.

R Grimes

A Harris

B Jackson

G Taylor

J Small

N Hefford

P Davies

J Stansfield

J Angus

D Barkley

B Czuzman