

COMMITTEE MEETING 20TH JAN MINUTES

Present

Murray Sutton, Tim Bannerjee, Gary Walker, Gary Couzens, Peter Gray, Graeme Hogarth, Melanie Gibbs, Sarah Dickinson

Kirsten Holst (Development Subcommittee)

Apologies

Toby Mitchell, Lucas Weilgo, Danielle Wade.

1. FINANCES (GC)

£100k approx currently. Post-school we have a £10-12k rent hole to fill

Ongoing discussions around going cashless for everything inc light tokens.

2 MEMBERSHIP (MG)

		9/19

Tennis.	253.	265
Tennis/squash	61.	59
Squash.	94.	85
Juniors		
Tennis.	47.	50
Squash.	4.	1
Tennis/squash.	41.	44
Social.	17.	15
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	517.	519

- A Health Declaration needs to be included on the membership form (LTA regs). Mel to fix
- Mel to send MS/GH/PG contacts for new members fortnightly to enable liaison to involve them
- Mel to recruit an assistant to share the load and to process new members in her absence. MS suggested Laura Robertson.

3. WEBSITE (PG)

See Peter's report. He was thanked for his work on updating/restoring and making safe the website. It was decided to employ someone to redesign the site completely. Peter to recruit and put it out on the Newsletter if necessary

Peter to decide with Lucas if original designers Socmedtech are required anymore

MS/SD/GW to rewrite the tennis text for new website.

4 DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE (KH)

183 Members completed the Questionnaire on post-school plans.

Results to be published ASAP

Other ideas to recover income etc are being sifted down KH to update via focused meeting ASAP

5. SQUASH

Graeme was thanked for all he is doing. Update:

COURTS - The courts are playing well. Re-plastering of the front wall of court 3 appears to have been a success. The lights still need looking into. The boiler cut out recently but it was simply due to the water pressure. We should have some simple instructions for a few people to solve simple problems. People still turn fans on-off (reasonable when ice cold air was being blown onto their backs while playing on a freezing cold court) so we should consider ways of covering up the switches. Not sure what is happening with the roof and damp. We could tidy up the balcony and ensure that bulbs are renewed.

TEAMS – we are running a winter third team for the first time since 2013. All teams are top or near top of their leagues. In first half we played 24 and won 21. We have just recruited 3 new second-third team players so generally things are looking really good. It looks like we will not run a junior team this year; indeed Surrey are considering changing the format with a “between winter-summer” junior tournament rather than a league (which normally runs from Feb-April. It would be good to have a board in the main clubhouse to advertise the teams and share in their success.

JUNIORS – we have re-launched the junior sessions after a couple of quiet years and numbers are increasing fast. We run 3-4pm sessions for beginners (under 12) and 4-5pm for more advanced players. The 3-4 pm sessions attract around 10-12 players while the later session we have 2-4. Andre has been helping out with a view to getting a coaching qualification and Harry Parkes will also become involved if numbers increase or if I am injured-away. It would be good to build on this through local schools (around 70% of players come from Eaton House School). How can we best advertise?

INTERNAL LEAGUES – these are very healthy at the moment. After Xmas around 10 new people joined and we have around 70 people playing regularly. I have tweaked the format with 7-8 per league which covers having a few not playing much. I send a reminder out 1 week from the end and if people haven't played they get excluded from the next league.

TOURNAMENTS – the handicap attracted 32 players and In April we will run the Grafton Closed with the aim of having a final in June. I have thought about running a Grafton Open and Peter passed on some information but I think this is a task that needs a group to work on it if we are to succeed. I have mentioned sponsorship to a few people and think we could raise £1k from members and local businesses. Has anyone actively pursued sponsorship before?

SOCIAL SESSIONS – we set up a Wednesday social session following comments from players who could not make Sundays And it's picking up after a slow start. The Sunday social is better attended and doesn't clash with league matches so we should continue. We raised the fee for non-members to £5, while members still pay £2.50. We have asked non-members to give contact details but in reality it's not clear where this information goes and no-one follows up on it. Can we do better here? I also ran a pre-Xmas social squash tournament that had 16 players and was a great success – some left the bar at 2.30am.

Plans for another at Easter. Does anyone else want to run it or try and run some other events such as the Friday night sessions that Julian ran a few years ago?

SUPPORT – Andrew Hoad has stepped in and offered a lot of good ideas and support. Can we build on this and get a few more involved; ideally some young guns to get the bar blazing? Peter continues to provide excellent advice and support at social sessions and Tony B has done brilliantly with getting the squash courts plastered and also sorting out lots of other jobs for us.

OPEN DAY – This went quite well. We had around 20 people turned up and some signed up for membership (juniors and adults). Thanks to Andrew for organising and Annie O-B for putting on her site, which attracted a number of young female players. If we are to run more, then better planning is needed and also we need to ensure that everything is in place to allow people to sign up etc. We also need to think about how we can best advertise the club for these (and other) events.

Also , not discussed but touched on in Graeme's report and endorsed by MS:
GH and PG recruit a Subcommittee of two/three to generally jump-up squash ie
Organise tournaments and get people to enter
Run social squash
Involve squash members in Club social events and lead them to the bar.
Look after new members
Network via WhatsApp, posters etc
Push Squash 57

6 MAINTENANCE (Tony B)

- happily UKPN repaid £1000 for all the grief they gave us
- Squash Lights: agreed to install LED with Panderang.(£1240) Action now
- Squash gutters: action now
- Damp in corner of squash balcony: action now.
- Guttering out back of kitchen and hole in Kitchen wall: action now
- Squash plaster: Tony to take out £500 maintenance contract
- Asbestos Register: Tony to register us viz squash building roof?
- fire tests/alarms: Tony to arrange asap
- shower heads: Lucas to check regularly viz Legionella (update Schedule)
- Driveway: two more speed bumps need to be installed to comply with LTA regs. Tony and Gary C to action
- Boiler/Plumbing service: Gary C to contract his man. Job to include testing water in tank and showers?
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- Franks fencing to be replaced ASAP by Tony's contact Dariusz
- Tennis Courts Fencing:
We await a quote from a Chiltern for replacing fencing at back of top courts and fencing between top and lower courts.
Immediately we need to cut the ivy at its base on court 8 to facilitate new fencing
Plus a practice Wall on court 4 (most practical location)
- LED lights courts 5/6/7 are high priority for this year (£20k approx).

7. TENNIS COACHING. (GW)

- two new coaches: Matt Mauduit and Alejandro (Pro Academy Players)
- Adult group coaching to start Friday mornings
- cardio coaching to start Tuesday mornings
- official LTA tournaments to be run Wednesday afternoons open to nonmembers. LTA rankings included
- Playball: Gary and Steve have arranged a Taster session in February with coaches who run the Clapham Common Sessions. They were impressed with our facilities. This will bring plenty of parents to the club and will net £10 per Court per hour.
- Disability Tennis: we're talking to Lambeth about the options/possibilities; Gary and Steve are qualified and even if there's no financial gain it would be very good kudos to offer disabled tennis (and squash?)

8. SOCIAL (SD)

Plans are afoot for the year; importantly we will revive the Racketlon Day in May, inviting entries from local clubs (could recruit new squash members). Josh Bappoo organising.

-Table Tennis

Now that it's available midweek daytime we should really push this.

Have another go at a TT night (Thursdays?) Social Committee to form rota to organise.

A TT Ladder has been revealed so we should encourage competition

A wider question is whether we have separate TT Membership. More thought required.

- Darts

MS to purchase a second board.

This should evolve....