**Shropshire Squash Club AGM**

**12th November 2023**

**Present;**

Matt King, Max Ball, Rich Green, Vanessa Dee, Wendy Lloyd, Ben Schur, Mills Evans, Graham Walkley, Ed Moore + approx. 40-50 members present – register not taken

**Apologies**

Mike Kirkby (treasurer) and Ian Tanner (Safeguarding officer)

**18.00, Meeting called to order/opening remarks made by Matt King**

A review of last AGM minutes and actions agreed. Minutes proposed and agreed.

* Election of new committee members - actioned
* Womens League teams needed attention - actioned
* Call for more support for women’s and lower leagues support – actioned
* New County Secretary appointment needed – actioned
* Members Survey – not actioned
* 1st Aid Refresher Course for all staff – not actioned

**Chairman's report from Matt King**

Matt delivered his report, thanking members of the committee for their support and initiatives delivered and acknowledged changes since the last meeting and positions that were to become vacant, mainly, Chair, Treasurer and Safeguarding Officer.

Matt mentioned the Charity events held raising over £1000 for 3 charities.

In answer to a question regarding the committee’s priorities, Matt confirmed that Membership is the number 1 priority focus for the committee in the coming year. Others are the growth of ladies and junior squash and finding a new more accessible kit supplier.

**Treasurers report from Matt King in absence of Mike Kirby**

Matt confirmed that Andrew Black had assisted Mike Kirby in the putting together of the figures for the meeting.

Question asked of the pizza and prosecco night self-funded as stated in the report? Wendy confirmed that previous events have been funded by the club, but for a while members and non-members have contributing so it would be fully self funding going forward.

Question regarding committee members membership fees being covered, Ed Moore confirmed all committee memberships are covered by the school as recognition of the posts being voluntary and for the work put in – currently 11 memberships in total.

Questioned also if team squash is cost neutral, and what are the fees for the website?

Max confirmed team squash should be cost neutral and more detail will be found out on this and fed back. Web hosting, back office, and a retainer held for web security purposes and other ongoing amendment costs. Whilst the website has been successful the committee will be looking into finding a better deal and will be seeking a person to fill the role of website / marketing support.

**Club Captains report from Max Ball**

Max delivered his report. He was thanked by Matt for his help and support.

**Ladies report from Wendy Lloyd**

Wendy delivered her report. Acknowledged coaching support from Linda and Becky, Debbie on social media, and Mel and Sophie running warm ups and some court sessions. Wendy also identified the potential to add coaching to the Pizza Prosecco night. Wendy mentioned there have been integration issues for lady members regarding the pathway to playing mixed squash.

Wendy was asked if the club environment was less intimidating to female members now, something Tracey had highlighted in previous meetings and confirmed that it was definitely better and she looked forward to growing the ladies section to outnumber the men.

**Social Secretary’s report from Vanessa Dee**

Vanessa delivered her report.Vanessa noted that female membership across the county is improving which is a good sign. Currently working the club captain and others on the committee to create a programme of events for the new year, there is a plan to send out a questionnaire to identify members wishes.

**Junior report from Ben Schur**

Ben Delivered his report. Ben asked Ed if another schools can use the facilities, will there be a cost? Can other schools use the courts between 4 and 6? Ed confirmed, yes it is possible for schools to use the courts free of charge but would need to be discussed and agreed on a case by case basis. Ben discussed a 2 hour introduction to squash. He also mentioned having difficulties getting contacts within other schools across the county to get them involved. Ben wants to encourage other schools to use rebounders in their own sports halls and would like to help teachers with this.

Ideally Ben would like to run after school classes and use the courts during time allocated for the school. Ed replied the school would be happy to look into it.

Question about a school in Telford who may be interested in squash but do not have access to equipment. Ben, in answer, discussed starter pack which a school in Wem has been given with items including old rackets in any condition donated by members, along with a reminder that any future donations would be most welcome. If interested we can run teacher training sessions. School in Telford have an initiative called Session 3 which is 15-17h after school where the children may be able to play – approach Ben directly for any similar suggestions.

Question regarding making a YouTube video showing what can be offered to schools? Ben replied saying that YouTube is not within his field of expertise and that he would be grateful if he could get some help making the videos if it was felt that they would be beneficial.

It was mentioned that it is not easy to find the club within the school premises and could it be better signposted from the road.

Wendy commented that there are a few ladies interested in completing the level 1 coaching qualification and willing to help Ben on Saturday mornings.

**Bar report from Richard Green**

Richard delivered his report.

Missing stock. Stock has been taken and not recorded on the system, sometimes due to cash payments, which must also go through the system – reminders need to be sent out to members.

Question: Do we know if stock deficits have improved?

Answer: No we could not tell stock levels before, new system has very much improved unregistered purchases have reduced since the camera has been installed.

Question: Has there been stock missing due to theft?

Answer: That is possible.

Question: Are there specific products missing regularly?

Answer: Mostly soft drinks and snacks. It may be that cash purchases are not being put through the system. It is important to put cash purchases through the Sum Up system also.

Question: Is it possible to get some local beers in?

Answer: Yes and if anyone can find a contact at a local supplier it would be appreciated.

Question: Is it possible to put match subs through the system?

Answer: Yes that can be arranged. This should be done in conjunction with the treasurer.

**Facilities Report from Ed Moore (added to reports from what was said)**

Question: from Max Ball. Is it possible to get more my courts logins for committee members?

Answer: In the past all committee members have had access, however some important things were deleted and unauthorised changes made to the system, for this reason only the Captain and Chairman now have access and this is not likely to change, but happy to discuss.

Question: Is it possible for a direct debit to be used for members to spread the cost of membership, and would this help with retention?

Answer: My courts does not currently support this and it will require a creative solution. Can discuss potential options with the committee.

Question: When do the students use the courts, and is it every day?

Answer: Different times, generally 2-6 on weekdays, and yes, they are used everyday.

Question. What is the target membership?

Answer: Around 200 is an ideal subscription, above that leads to complaints around court availability.

Question: Does the school contact members who do not renew?

Answer: Members are sent an reminder email leading up to renewal and another if they do not renew. The school is happy to work with the committee on the subject.

Question: Is there a VAT on memberships and is it possible that membership costs will go up with VAT?

Answer: Yes

It was pointed out that the contact form on the website is not working and to contact the club they had to go through Instagram. There needs to be review of sign up procedure there is confusion between school and club website. Action for the committee with Ed.

Question: Formerly we have grown the club against national decline, the club must take responsibility not the school. We need the intelligence from the school to allow this to happen. Can we get this information?

Answer: Yes this is an actionable point between School & Committee.

Question: Has there been a stalling of improvements in the club due to other improvements across the school, of the new facilities how many have been female facilities? It seems there has been an unfair split in favour of female sports.

Answer: There is no stalling, £3.5 million has been invested, on team hockey, football and cricket, for all students.

Question: There have been new tennis courts installed in the school. Will tennis club members have access to the new facilities?

Answer: No the new courts are to replace courts from another site and have no connection to the club.

Question: Can lights be installed to the tennis courts for use in the evenings?

Answer: Idea has been noted and thank you for the feedback.

Question: There has been talk of installing Padel courts, is there any truth in this?

Answer: There was mention of Padel sometime back but nothing an official or planned.

Question: Can soap be supplied in the ladies changing rooms as is provided in the men’s

Answer: Yes

Question: Is Saturday evening access possible?

Answer: Possible to run pre-arranged events on Saturday evenings but there will have to be responsible committee members present, the same for bank holidays. Everything can be discussed.

Question: Due to inflexible opening times, for example closing on Saturday evenings, members have left the club to join others.

Answer: To promote partnership between school and club. The club take more responsibility and about a possible trial of opening on Saturdays. There is a need for a plan and a strategy to make this work.

Question: Every year there is talk of closing the club? What is the ongoing plans for the club?

Answer: Please have no fears of the clubs being taken away, there are no plans to take the club away.

Question: Are the car parks signposted and available to use by members?

Answer: Car parks can be used by members and they can use the public right of way to cross the school to the club.

Question: Did the school look at feasibility to change the club into a different facility and would have it gone ahead?

Answer: Yes the review of this site and others. Certainly no planned changes within the next 5 years. It is understandable that the school to continue reviewing and if demand for other sports increase maybe changes to the club will be made.

Question: Is investment planned into court heating? It was suggested there is a England Squash recommended minimum temperature for courts for safe play, this has not always been reached and that last winter the temperature on court was as low as 10 degrees. It was suggested that the heater on court 2 was broken.

Answer: Walls have been insulated, we will look with committee to invest in heating if required. The school is aware that there is a recommended minimum temperature, but that they are comfortable with the decision regarding heating and this is site wide in order to mitigate some of the energy price increases. Heater can be looked at.

Question: Could we running open nights inviting members of the public to play in order to help recruit new members?

Answers: The school is open to this idea and will work with Committee if ideas are proposed.

Question: Are there long term plans for the club especially with the Olympics coming up in 5 years?

Answer: Matt King replied that the committee will indeed be coming up with long term plans for the club.

Question: Is there a 5 to 10 year plan for investments in the club to provide a long term guarantee to members?

Answers: We are interested in investing in the club and the school will work with the committee to identify where the investments are most needed. There are no plans to change the club, naturally the school are not keen to guarantee commitment to the club long term as plans can change as within any business.

**Election of Officers: (all unanimously elected new and re-elections)**

**New Officers:**

Philip Caudle voted in as Chairperson replacing Matt King who resigned

Grant Thomas voted in as Treasurer replacing Mike Kirby who resigned

Debbie Hammil voted in as Safeguarding and Welfare officer replacing Ian Tanner who resigned

Graham Wakely voted in as Secretary – post previously vacant

Mills Evans voted in as Digital Marketing Secretary – new post

**Re-elected Officers:**

Vanessa Dee (Social Secretary) – Wendy Lloyd (Ladies Secretary) – Max Ball (Club Captain) – Becky Wright (Assistant Club Captain) – Ben Schur (Club Coach) – Finley Aimer (Junior Coach) – Richard Green (Bar Manager and Licence Holder)

The club is currently seeking a Membership Secretary with the role remaining unfilled. This has been left with the committee.

Matt thanked everyone for their time, and bought to a close at 20.05.