Wrexham Brymbo Squash Club

Annual General Meeting - 29 May 2024

* **Members in attendance**:

Mark Davies, Jim Tunley, Kevin Jones, Darren Lee, Hannah Davies, Tom Trueman, Alasdair Blundell, Paul Murphy and Richard Ackerley.

* **Apologies:**

Jonathan Davies, Paul Silvester, John Evans, Rob Evans and Peter Lee.

1. **Welcome**

Mark thanked everyone for their attendance and support.

**2. Note of the AGM held on 25 May 2023**

These were confirmed as a correct record.

**3. Matters arising**

**(1)** Racketball Taster - a further session was held on 2nd April and, building on the

successful Saturday morning Women and Girls Squash sessions which also incorporates

racketball play, a separate Racketball League was started, initially for the summer

months. As a result, the Club is more vibrant with members playing both squash and

racketball. There’s also the future possibility for a Racketball Team, playing other Clubs.

**(2)** Camera security - concern was expressed that the camera previously located at the

front of our building, facing the car park, had been removed. These were installed by the

Cricket Section and it was understood that, given the camera located in our foyer area,

they needed to re-locate to another area of concern. A further approach will be made to

see if this could be reinstated.

**4. Chairman’s Report**

The Club had grown its membership again this year; in particular with contact through our

website and Club initiatives such as the recent free sessions held to encourage **Women**

**and Girls**.

During the 2023 Summer holidays, we took part in a Squash Wales initiative to

encourage juniors between the age on 6 and 12 years. The **“Summer of Squash”** will

be repeated again this year, when we hope that some of those taking part will continue at

the Club.

**Junior Squash**: Our Club’ coaching session have continued this year, with thanks to Jim,

Alasdair and Tom. Also, we’ve been pleased to host the Squash Wales Academy [North]

sessions with Coach, Mike Harris - many of our juniors are part of this arrangement and

have clearly benefitted from this higher level coaching.

The Club also continues to host squash session for Moreton Hall School during term time

and this is good income from a down-time in court usage.

Concern was expressed about the poor state of both the **Ladies and Men’s changing**

**and Ladies changing and shower areas**, importantly including for health and safety

**shower areas;** both are in desperate need of refurbishment, importantly including for health and safety reasons

reasons. We could make a contribution to the costs; suggestion was we should speak

with the Cricket Section and plan a concerted approach to the BS&SC Directors.

A **defibrillator refresh** was hosted by the Club last December and thanks to Rob

Evans for providing his expertise.

**Teams Report**: Darren provided an outline of the First and Second Teams during the

2023-24 Season.

**Firsts** - we were very grateful to Dave Cadwallader (Cadwallader Ltd.) for sponsorship

of the Team for the first time last season, and again in 2024-25.

Having finished the 2022/23 season one place outside the relegation zone, we

entered the 23/24 with a degree of optimism of a lower to mid table finish. Although

we’d lost our Club Champion Tim Arthur to “pastures new”, Tesni Evans was

persuaded to sign up and play for her “home club”. Our two “away players”, Owain

Taylor and Rhys Evans had returned to play for us again. Josh Davies and Will

Silvester both looked to build on their first team experience; plus we called on Jon

Davies and Steve Jenks when needed - it was a good squad.

The season didn’t quite turn out as we’d hoped; finishing just one point into the

relegation zone with 176 points, with Manchester Northern 2 on 177 points. We also

won 6 matches, one more than Northern 2 and the bottom club, City of Manchester 2.

Relegation was on the cards.  However, with the Manchester Northern 2 Team

withdrawing from Division 1, we live to fight another day!

Many lessons were learned, in particular concerning the League administration and

rules, the good communications required and that it is not a one person job!

Following our refurbishment of the courts, it did take some time for them to settle and

the other issue would be to ensure our heating is set appropriately during the winter

months.

A couple of the many highlights:

\* Our home match v. Warrington - when Joel Makin came and played to a packed

balcony;

\* Our Away match v. Cheetham Hill - young Rhys nearly beat Nick Matthew in 5 sets.

Taking part at the elite level has been a significant achievement for the Club; it is a

reminder of why we have a Division 1 side and provides great publicity beyond

Wrexham.

**Seconds** - a disastrous season finishing in 10th place, 4 points into the relegation

zone.  Optimistic and early reports from the League are that we have secured

Division 2 squash again next season - we’re still awaiting official confirmation.

Seeing us slip into the relegation zone on the last match of the season was a shock;

although the Team were affected by Division 1 call ups, we shouldn’t have finished in

10th place.

**Thirds** - Richard explained how Squash Levels had assisted with Team selection this

season and how satisfying it had been introducing young Lewis Davies as a regular

into the Team. Our Thirds finished the season in fifth place, as roughly anticipated.

North East Wales - Tom explained how the Team plays in a Winter League (up to the

Christmas break) and then a Spring League (in the New Year). Home matches were

played on a Monday evening with away matches on a Tuesday; this had worked well

and, It did mean that both Tom and Ethan Willis were able to play without affecting

their SW Academy Squad commitment.

The Team worked on a rotation of players with the intention to let as many as possible

to have a game. We finished in third place before Christmas; however, in the Spring

League, with the addition of some strength higher up, we were Champions by a single

point - a quite brilliant result.

**5. Finance Report**

Kev presented his “headline Report”, describing some of the items attached to the

Club’s Fixed and General expenditures, which included a comprehensive

refurbishment of both courts in December.

At 27 May, the Club’s year-end balance stood at £12,543.28; down £2,400 on the

previous year. This excluded the funds held on Deposit, but included funds that were

ring-fenced to either specific junior or coaching expenditure.

Our balances remain healthy, but necessary if we wish to maintain the facility and

other running on-costs.

The Finance Report was received; the meeting also **agreed** a recommendation that

the current Member Subscriptions for 2024-25 should not be increase from its

previous level.

**Agreed Subscription rates 2024-25:**

**Renewal Rate** - applicable to existing members:

\* Seniors - £80;

\* Family - £100;

\* Juniors / Students - £30.

**New Members Rate** - applicable to those joining the Club during 2024-25:

\* Seniors - £90;

\* Family - £110;

\* Juniors / Students - £40.

**Light Cards** - the meeting **agreed** a recommendation that the court light card fees

should be held at current levels i.e. £3.00 per 45 minutes.

**6. Club Constitution**

There were no amendments submitted for consideration.

**7. Election of Officers of the Club for 2024-25**

The following were elected:

\* Chairman - Mark Davies

\* Secretary - Jim Tunley

\* Treasurer - Kevin Jones

\* Teams Representative - Darren Lee

\* Ordinary Members - Hannah Davies, Tom Trueman, Jonathan Davies and Alasdair

Blundell.

**8. Open Forum**

**[1] Insurance matters** - we ask all players to “Shut with Care” our glass court doors

but, given the high cost of replacement and in the event of any accidental damage

occurring, we have asked that both be separately itemised under the insurance cover

held by BS&SC.

For information, they hold Public Liability and Third Party insurances, as well as cover

for some personal injury.

**[2] Light cards and alternatives** - submitted for consideration by Jon Davies, this

alerted us to a system of Contactless Club Light Meters, where court users tap their

bank card on a programmable card reader each time they play.

In the absence of Jon, it was **agreed** to defer the matter to the Squash Committee for

further discussion / consideration of this, as well as the MyCourts system.

**[3] Club merchandise** - Hannah raised the possibility of allowing members the

opportunity to purchase from a potential range of Squash Club merchandise. It was

**agreed** Hannah should obtain more detail, for further consideration.

**[4] 2024 Club Championships** - notices had been circulated and an Entry Form

posted in the Club for our 2024 Club Championships, with a Finals date set for

Saturday, 29 June.

While the current arrangements included both male and female members, there was a

proposition that in future there could also be a Ladies Championship to be held

alongside the Main Event.

By the same token, the Club may also wish to consider a Racketball Championship in

the future.

It would be challenging for a two court Club, but as part of our future development, we

could also consider an “Open Competition” for squash and / or racketball.

The meeting closes at 8.50 pm.

*JT 524*