



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

26 May 2022

- **Members in attendance:**

Mark Davies, Jim Tunley, Kevin Jones, Hannah Davies, Tom Trueman, Paul Murphy, Alasdair Blundell, John Evans, Richard Ackerley and Dave Thomas.

Apologies – Darren Lee, Jonathan Davies and Andy Morris.

1. **Welcome**

Mark welcomed those attending and thanked them for their support.

2. **Note of the AGM held on 27 May 2021**

These were confirmed as a correct record.

3. **Matter Arising**

- (1) COVID protocols maintained by the Club for the past two years were no longer required.
- (2) The North East Wales Committee overview of the North Wales Leagues had now been subsumed within Squash Wales.

4. **Chairman's Report**

Our 15th year had again been very difficult for so many people, particularly for those who had lost loved ones during the year. Hopefully we were now moving back to some sort of normality.

Mark's report highlighted the following:

Junior Squash – Junior Coaching was now back on Monday evenings and particular thanks were passed to both Tom Trueman and Alasdair Blundell for their support and help of this important Club programme, in particular during the period since January while Jim was out of action following a hip replacement.

Our **Schools' Programme** started again with several visits to Penygelli Primary School in Coedpoeth. Importantly, we were able to use a Moreton Hall mini bus to take pupils to the squash courts following a couple of Mini Squash sessions at the School.

Other schools are on the agenda, so we're looking to the Programme in the hope of building up our junior numbers going forward.

We have some juniors taking part in a **Squash Wales Level 1 Squash Coaching Award** at the Club on 26 June and are hoping to achieve Sport Wales funding to cover costs.

Congratulations **Josh Davies** on being selected for the Wales Under 19s Team, playing at the European Championships in Holland earlier this year.

Teams: The NWCSL started up again with our First and Second Teams finishing in 1st & 2nd places in Division Two. This is a fantastic achievement and promotion to Division One is on the cards – see later.

In the North East Wales League, fewer teams had signed up this season and there seemed to be a lack of interest, with too many breaks and walkovers. Hopefully this League will get back on track for the 2022-23 season.

Maintenance, etc: We've approached CourtCare Ltd to sand the courts as well as checking the court walls and quote us for glass court doors; this as part of a fresh initiative in making the Club more welcoming and presentable.

Issues with the showers and heating during the season had been a particular problem. We're advised these are now in working order, but have still requested a full assessment of both boilers.

During the year, we renewed our planning consent for the **Third Court Project**. With a steep increase in build costs of raw materials, together with a noticeable drop in both memberships and court bookings, however, it seems to be unjustifiable and now very unlikely to continue – see later.

5. Finance Report

Kevin presented a "headline Treasurer's Report" advising the meeting that at 26 May 2022 the Club's year end balance stood at £24,810.27; surprisingly up £3,145.88 on the previous year. This excluded the funds retained 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 a steady base level for identified future rental, maintenance and other on-costs, while still looking at funding a possible Third Court at the Club.

The Finance Report was received; the meeting also received and agreed a recommendation from the Club's Committee on Member Subscriptions for 2022-2023.

Agreed Subscription rates 2022-23:

Renewal Rate - applicable to existing members:

- Seniors £80;
- Family £100;
- Juniors / Students £30.

New Members Rate - applicable for those joining during 2022-23:

- Seniors £90;
- Family £110;
- Juniors / Students £40.

Light Cards - the meeting also **agreed** a recommendation that the court light fees should be held at current levels i.e. £3.00 per 45 minutes.

6. Club Constitution

No amendments to the Constitution had been submitted.

7. Election of Officers of the Club for 2022-2023

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] Third Court – the meeting received an update on plans for a Third Court, together with comments that had been submitted by Jonathan Davies.

- An extension to our planning consent had been approved beyond July 2021;
- The meeting heard that memberships had not recovered from the two years of pandemic and closures; court bookings were considerably down.
- At this time, building and associated costs were continuing to rise significantly; to the point where all things considered, a Third Court was no longer a viable / sustainable option for the Club to consider.
- **Agreed** – that all current planning and investigation works towards a Third Court be suspended, indefinitely.

[2] Court heaters – due to the uncertainty around the servicing of our Ambirad heaters, it was **agreed** to check this with Gareth Lloyd.

[3] Future Maintenance – following a discussion on how we could best improve the “appeal” of the Club, it was **agreed** a small group [Hannah, John, Richard and Tom] should take a tour of the building and report back with their “wish list” and priority, to a meeting on 9 June.

[4] Teams – there were no First Team representatives present and so the meeting was not in a position to discuss further the issue around whether or not the Club should take promotion next season.

Mark did agree, however, to contact the NWCSL Chairman and some other Clubs, to ascertain how those similar to WBSC had managed previously, following their promotion.

It was **agreed** to invite First Team players to consider this further at the meeting on 9 June.

Hannah had sourced a new Teams kit for 2022-23 but, ideally, the hope was for some sponsorship.

[5] Internal Leagues – as part of the life blood of our Club, it was acknowledged that the leagues had been in decline recently. Some suggestions were put forward on how these may be stimulated; it was also agreed that some of the Teams players should be encouraged to join during the seasons break.

[6] Racketball Taster – Hannah had had some success at other Clubs in their Racketball Championships and described how racketball was gaining popularity. It was **agreed** to hold a taster session at the Club on Friday, 1 July from 7.00 pm.

[7] Juniors Programme – the Club continues to work with the Active Wrexham Team as well as making use of our own contacts at local schools. Recent work has been with Penygelli Primary School in Coedpoeth with pupils able to visit the Club thanks to support from Moreton Hall School, who allowed use of their mini bus.

[8] Social Media – with a view to extending publicity about the Club and increasing our membership, it was **agreed** that a Club' Facebook and Instagram Account should be developed to reach a much broader base; these would be closely linked to our current Twitter Account and the Club's website.

Thanks to Hannah who **agreed** to develop these.

[9] 20 Years: a celebration – in the light of the current situation at the Club, with low membership and an apparent apathy to support events (such as this AGM), it had been decided not to proceed with any further planning of an event we had hoped would take place in July.

This decision was made with regret, after much soul searching had taken place, but we did not wish to be in a position of incurring effort and expense only having to cancel much closer to the day.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.