



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

27 May 2021

- **Members in attendance:**

Mark Davies, Jim Tunley, Kevin Jones, Hannah Davies, Tom Clark, Tom Trueman, Jonathan Davies, Colin & Nicky Whiteside, Paul Murphy and Dave Thomas.

Apologies – Darren Lee, Simon Koscinski and Laurie Jones

1. **Welcome**

Mark welcomed those attending and thanked them for their support.

2. **Note of the AGM held on 1 June 2020**

These were confirmed as a correct record.

3. **Matter Arising**

- (1) Flooring in shower area – after persistent expressions of concern, new flooring in the Men's toilet and shower area has been completed.

4. **Chairman's Report**

In our fourteenth and a very difficult year for so many people, our thoughts were with those who had lost loved ones during the year, due to the global pandemic.

Mark's report highlighted the following:

Lockdowns – in total, since March 2020, the Club was closed for play on three occasions, for around six months. We first closed on 23 March 2020 and re-opened on 24 August; we closed again on 23 October but re-opened on 9 November until 19 December. That final closure was to last through until 3 May 2021.

The Squash Club is currently up and running, subject to certain essential protocols and restrictions in place; members are trusted to observe these at all times when visiting the Club. At this time, only modified squash should be played and the changing rooms and showers are not in use.

Subscriptions 2021-22 – as a result of these lockdowns, the Committee made consideration of how to set our fees for the ensuing year; importantly how to bring in some fairness to those who had supported the Squash Club throughout – more later.

Club maintenance - Over the last twelve months, our courts have been refurbished by CourtCare Ltd, the Men's shower floor has been replaced, both changing rooms were redecorated and the benches also painted.

During the limited time our courts were open, Jim or Mark attended the Club on a daily basis to clean and sanitizing all of the touchpoints and other areas where members may have had contact.

A new CCTV system has been installed in the Squash/Cricket Complex and is accessible by certain designated iPhone users.

Junior Squash – very little coaching has taken place during the last twelve months; a great shame when we have players with potential, like Josh Davies, Will & Jamie Silvester, Tom & Ethan Willis and Kieron Sievers and who may have missed out on possible selection by Wales for European & National honours.

Teams – There's been no Teams Squash either in Wales or North West Counties Leagues, since 14 March 2020. We understand that our Second Team in the NWCSL will be promoted to the Second Division, whenever league squash recommences.

Some sad news on 15 August 2020, we heard of the passing of **Malcolm Williams** (also known to many as Big Mal). Mal had been both a member and huge supporter of the Club for many years and, on behalf of his Company, **Redwither Ltd**, he supported our Teams with shirts and match balls.

Club's protocols - As far as we are aware, we have been very fortunate not to have had any Covid-19 cases attributed to our members; we do, however, it will be important to remain on high alert by following the guidelines and protocols posted on the various noticeboards in the Club.

Included in this is an ongoing area of concern in that too many people continue to congregate in the foyer area before or after their matches. It's becoming a bottleneck and so Members are asked to please help us –

- ensure you take your bags onto the court;
- be ready to play at the specific time you have booked; and
- then leave the building as soon as you have finished.

If you want to have a chat, please do it outside.

5. Finance Report

Kevin presented a "headline Treasurer's Report" advising the meeting that at 27 May 2021 the Club's year end balance stood at £21,664.39. This excluded the funds retained on Deposit but included funds that were ring-fenced to either specific junior or coaching expenditure.

Kevin went through a summary of the various elements. Our on-line booking system had allowed us six months stay on payments due to the lockdowns; also, the BS&SC did not make a charge for rental during the period we were closed.

During those periods when the Club was open, to assist social distancing, we provided an honesty box for light cards – each day cards were made available (and money collected), based on the number of courts that were pre-booked.

Our balances remain healthy, but necessary if we wish to maintain a steady base level for identified future rental and maintenance, 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 2022-2022, as follows:-

The new three tiers of rates were to reflect an emphasis on bringing in fairness for all existing members and any new members from June 2021.

The **Lower Rate** applies to those who have paid and supported the Club throughout (since June 2019 and beyond); the **Higher Rate** is applicable to those members who paid a membership in 2019-20 but did not renew in October 2020, plus those who joined during 2020-21. This rate gives some credit to those existing members over the **New Members Rate**, applicable for those joining in 2021-22.

Agreed Subscription rates 2021-22:

Lower Rate – Seniors £45; Family £55; Juniors / Students £20.

Higher Rate – Seniors £80; Family £100; Juniors / Students £30.

New Members Rate – 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 2021-2022

The following were elected:

Chairman	-	Mark Davies
Secretary	-	Jim Tunley
Treasurer	-	Kevin Jones
Teams Representative	-	Darren Lee
Ordinary Members	-	Hannah Davies, Tom Trueman and Jonathan Davies

8 Open Forum

[1] Third Court – the meeting received an update on plans for a Third Court.

- An extension of our planning consent had been submitted beyond the current deadline of July 2021;
- A meeting was being arranged to move forward on a potential change of construction and design, for affordability;
- The Club has been made aware of some glass walls that could be available soon at no cost and an expression of interest has been made known;
- Much of this will hang on to the need for us to increase court usage and it is possible that some schools may wish to hire out daytime courts.

[2] Squash Wales – there is now a new regime within Squash Wales.

- they are trying to shake up a Governing Body that was irrelevant to many individual players, teams and Clubs.
- A new Regional Development Officer (**Phil Barker**) had been appointed for North Wales and he was reaching out to raise awareness of our sport and assist Clubs with school links.
- A new monthly **Clubs Forum**, via Zoom, has been instigated.
- There's a new push, at the development level, for junior coaching.
- Squash Wales will soon announce a new membership scheme (that will come with many member benefits) which, importantly, will apply to all playing in the revamped Welsh Leagues.

[3] Shower areas – the meeting heard about Welsh Government guidance to re-open the showers and changing areas and how it could be read as a bit ambiguous. It was agreed that members should be given the same responsibility as when they go on court and trusted to follow the guidance and protocols in place.

Subject to a direct message to all members and the appropriate measures in place, that it be **agreed** the Changing and Shower areas be allowed to open from 1 June 2021.

[4] Court bookings – for use at times when courts are usually not booked, the Club has given permission for certain local elite professional player to use the facility for their training.

During the lockdown also, when the Club was closed to our members, Tesni & Emyr Evans and Rachael Chadwick had allowed access.

We have also agreed to allow Andrew Evans, ex Wales High Performance Coach, to use courts on Saturdays and Sundays, for One-to-One and Elite Club Player Coaching.

[5] Juniors Programme – due to coach non-availability, our Juniors Coaching Programme was currently in suspense; it was hoped to remedy this as restrictions eased, as well as working with the Active Wrexham Team on a continuation of our Schools Programme. Jon Davies and Tom Trueman offered their support to assist whenever they could.

[6] Social Media – with a view to extending publicity and increasing our membership, it was **agreed** that a Club' Facebook Page may reach a broader base; this would be in addition to the current Twitter Page and our website.

This would be developed with help and advice from Hannah.

[7] Internal Leagues / Club Night – these could be considered when there had been a further easing of restrictions.

[8] Membership Cards – these can be made available via the Secretary, who will liaise with Gareth Lloyd.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.