



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 25 May 2023

- **Members in attendance:**

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

Apologies – Hannah Davies, John Evans, Lee Harrison and Tom Clark.

1. **Welcome**

Mark welcomed those attending and thanked them for their support.

2. **Note of the AGM held on 26 May 2022**

These were confirmed as a correct record.

3. **Matter Arising**

- (1) Racketball Taster - thanks to Hannah and Darren, a successful taster evening had been held at the Club; the meeting agreed this was something we should explore again, but with a follow up plan to build and develop the game, hopefully attracting new members.
- (2) Social Media – again, thanks to Hannah, apart from our website, the Club now has its own accounts on the Twitter, Facebook and Instagram platforms.

4. **Chairman's Report**

In our 16th year, COVID was still about but people were getting on their lives, without restriction.

The Club continued to take on new members, with our current membership level at 82. New members are gained through our website, the new social media accounts, as well as Club initiatives.

Mark's report highlighted the following:

Junior Squash: Junior Coaching continues on Monday evenings with support from Coaches, Tom Trueman, Alasdair Blundell, Mark Davies and Jim Tunley. Numbers have fallen but, there are a number of initiatives in the pipeline which, we hope, will help give this a boost.

During term time, Moreton Hall School continue to use the courts on Tuesdays and Wednesdays; this is out of peak time and generates an income for the Club.

The Squash Wales Regional Academy (North) squads continue at the Club on Tuesday evenings, with excellent coaching from Mike Harris. We are very fortunate to have Mike helping out as his experience is invaluable.

With support from the Active Wrexham Team, our Schools Programme recently

visited Minera CP School, with a follow-up session at the Club.

We have other schools on the Programme and hope to follow these through in the Autumn Term.

Congratulations to two of our Juniors who have had great success this season:

Jamie Silvester - played for Wales in the U17 European Team Championships in Prague; he also won the NWCSL Division Three Award for the most improved player in 2022-23.

Ethan Willis - played for Wales in the U15 Team at the Six Nations in Edinburgh; and also won the NWCSL Division Five Award for the most improved player in 2022-23.

Teams Squash: Our North West Counties Squash Leagues teams performed with great success. The First Team played in Division 1 for the first time and managed to avoid relegation by convincingly winning their final match of the season, to remain in the top flight. Our Second Team finished 3rd in the Division 2 and the Third Team were 4th in the Division 3.

The North East Wales League only had six teams playing this season; it was not a satisfactory League - there were too many free weeks, also too many petty rules which prevented some players playing with points deducted for any infringement. The Club will need to consider whether we continue to enter a team in the Welsh League given all the problems it's raised this year.

We intend soon to arrange a separate meeting to discuss NWCSL teams in 2023-24.

Our thanks to our sponsor, **The Educate Group**, for their support this season. Having a team in the NWCSL Division 1 comes at a cost and, as a Club, we need to be transparent about the costs involved in running the team. The meeting received details.

Conclusions: Overall, the Squash Club has had an excellent 12 months; our finances remain in good order and, while we have lost a few members, we've also gained some new ones. The Club's refurbishment programme has been a resounding success, but we know that more work is required, plus our Teams continue to thrive.

Mark thanked Jim and Kev, in particular, for all their help this season.

5. Finance Report

Kevin presented a "headline Treasurer's Report" advising the meeting that at 9 May 2023 the Club's year-end balance stood at £14,943.46; down £9,866.81 on the previous year, but it does include recent refurbishment costs. 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.

The Finance Report was received; the meeting also agreed a recommendation from the Club's Committee that the current Member Subscriptions for 2023-2024 should not be increased from its previous level.

Agreed Subscription rates 2023-24:

Renewal Rate - applicable to existing members:

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

New Members Rate - applicable for those joining during 2023-24:

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

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

6. Club Constitution

There were two amendments to the Constitution agreed:

- (1) Part 7(b) – amend to reflect membership payment of £5.00 to BS&SC
- (2) Part 12 - Change of emphasis in the wording, as follows:

12. Assets of Wrexham Brymbo Squash Club

In the event of Wrexham Brymbo Squash Club ceasing to operate on the basis identified within this Constitution, or under the terms of the Agreement with Brymbo Sports and Social Complex Ltd, the operation of the courts would revert back to the BS&SC Directors. Any equipment and monies held by the Squash Club would be transferred to benefit Squash for young people in the Wrexham area.

7. Election of Officers of the Club for 2023-2024

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] Welsh Master – congratulations to Jonathan Davies who had recently represented Wales in Dublin at the Masters Team Tournament.

[2] North East Wales Team – there was some concern that recent happenings in this League would deter members from wanting to play. Squash Wales need to consider a different set of Rules to those applying in South Wales where there are many more teams and greater competition. It was hoped to raise these matters at a meeting with a Squash Wales representative in June.

[3] Team Sponsorship – the Club's arrangement from last season does not extend into 2023-24 and so a new sponsor(s) will be needed.

Several avenues are to be tested, including a direct message to all members and approaching some contacts. It's crucial, however, that whatever the outcome that any funds are managed through the Club.

A meeting for all of those involved with our NWCSL Teams will be called in June.

[4] Juniors Coaching Strategy – this is the future of our Club and what we are prepared to do in our coaching will impact on our future.

The Club continues with its Monday evening coaching sessions but is also working closely with the Wrexham Council's Active Wrexham Team, to maintain links with local schools, the Primary Sector in particular. We are currently considering holding some Saturday morning sessions, as well as some Summer activities during the schools holidays.

A recent innovation has been to work with local Youth Clubs; we're also aware of future potential through groups like the Guides and Scouts.

The Club has several Level 1 qualified coaches, and three at Level 2; the issue is how to enthuse them into giving their time when most are in full time work or education. Our Coaching Team currently relies on three / four individuals to organize and deliver all of the sessions, be they at the Club or in a school setting; looking ahead, this is not a sustainable situation.

[5] Fire security – following a recent episode when all electrical supply to the Club failed and rendered the front door inoperable, the issue of an adequate fire exit through the Cricket Pavilion was highlighted.

Representations to the BS&SC Manager are soon to result in a meeting with them and the Cricket Section to achieve an amicable solution.

[6] Camera security – a member request was made to see if the CCTV previously sited at the front of our building, overlooking the car park area, could be reinstated.

It was agreed, an approach should be made to the Cricket Section, who installed the system, when we meet concerning fire security.

[7] Squash Club Life Membership – following a formal proposal, it was agreed to bestow Life Membership to both our Chairman (**Mark Davies**) and Secretary (**Jim Tunley**).

This in recognition of their work, from before 2000, in seeking to develop and increase participation in Squash across Wrexham, with an emphasis on Juniors Squash; as well as being instrumental in founding the Wrexham Brymbo Squash Club since 2006-7.

[8] Internal Leagues – this year's Internal League winners were acknowledged:

- League Winner – Kevin Lloyd

- Play-off Winner – Alasdair Blundell
- Play-off Runner Up – Kevin Lloyd

The meeting considered how these Leagues could be boosted for greater interaction between Club members, with an aspiration for all players to get involved.

An idea to involve players of all standards in the Club was through a Box League arrangement, where one or two players of a higher standard would play in Division 1 each month, possibly on a rotation basis, giving others the chance for promotion and the opportunity to play a higher standard of squash.

This was tentatively agreed, subject to discussions around the Club and the Box Leagues idea being developed.

[9] Future Maintenance – whilst much work had been completed to give the Club an “uplift” this past year, it was agreed to request the small group of Hannah Davies, John Evans, Richard Ackerley and Tom Trueman to re-visit their Maintenance Survey Report following twelve months.

The group will be asked to agree and report back on what other works they consider are required, together with their suggested priorities, for the Committee to consider.

[10] Defibrillator refresh / training – the intention is to hold a session in September, prior to the start of a new season

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.