

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

The Biddenden Squash Club

Held on Thursday 23rd May 2019 at 7:00pm.

At Biddenden Squash Club, Tenterden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BB.

Meeting Minutes

I. Notices

Attendance

T Swain, D Goldsmith, C Gorman, S Ashby, J Sharples, L Weeks, D Robson, J Davies, T Davies, T Goldsmith, H Goldsmith, D Davies, C Stow, W Wood, B Jarvis, R Swain, B Golding, G Carpenter, J Ashby.

Proxy Votes

None put forward.

Apologies

Peter Denyer, John Marshall, Mark Butterworth, Jerry Slinn, Mark Gorman.

Statement of Agenda

Meeting chaired by Tom Swain.

Minutes from the 2018 AGM were approved.

II. Chairman's Report (From Tom Swain)

The club has enjoyed another successful year in all areas and has seen our membership remain very high staying up towards the 200 mark, following last years influx with 5 new member schemes. Support of events and court usage is still high and even spilling into the weekends, like last year this is in part due to a number of initiatives implemented by the committee and club members.

As a club the outgoing committee believe we are in a strong position. Growing membership across the categories, strong financial strength, strong squash for all levels and now across 3 senior teams and a strong juniors section and coaching structure. The club as a whole contributed to this and we as the committee thank everyone for their part in supporting this success.

So now onto some specific thanks...

As Chair I would like to thank the committee for their work over the last year, with the high membership it has resulted in a lot of hours to support the induction of new members into the club, what they have done is secured that the club will continue to thrive for years to come.

(i) The bar management by Caroline, in her first full year she has managed to keep us well stocked and maintained (and organised with labels!) despite some ongoing issues with suppliers plus the CO2 shortage resulting in no gas or lemonade! Also thanks to the bar staff that turn up every week and help with events over long weekends. Plus Flick for keeping our very busy club clean and tidy.

(ii) Tractor Fest this year gave a donation which we used to cover some of the costs of our Karakal Pro day at the end of last year.

(iii) This year we have maintained a programme of improvements, however we were blighted with a number of maintenance issues and Mark Gorman from Rossmark stepped in when asked, supporting the club. This included overseeing ongoing improvements to the court, heating issues which we now hope are resolved without incurring a huge financial hit, and the very recently (and hopefully completed now) refurbishment of the toilets.

(iv) Thanks is of course given to our club sponsors Rossmark, Neptune, CG Squash and Tom Claykens from Biddenden Family Chiropractic.

Events

(i) Team tournaments run by Simon Ashby have continued to be extremely popular and are very well attended, supported and received by all those involved.

(ii) The Christmas dinner dance held at Bloomsburys this year was a great success. We thank Lee and her support team. The upcoming Dec event looks like it will be equally as good as the last one so do get the date in the diary! Of special note was that Simon Ashby was awarded CPOTY.

(iii) The Karakal Pro day was one of the best events the club has possibly ever seen. Thanks must go to Tesni Evans and Phil Nigtingale plus the Karakal team for coming to us but also to Chris for leading and running such an incredible day that I know has inspired many members, young and older, to play even more.

Playing

(i) The court usage has increased on most nights with courts at 4:40 now becoming sought after on most days, however a couple of nights are quieter due to team matches not being played. Friday's after 7pm are now used for the club night which has been a great success, thanks to Simon Ashby, Dan Goldsmith, Tim Davies and many others for being here to run this each week. It's another great way to induct new players into our club and for players that don't normally meet in the leagues it's a chance to play each other.

(ii) Tournament participation is steady, even with the change to holding main competitions over weekends and both the Club Closed and Handicap tournament have been well supported, proving very profitable for the bar.

(iii) Box leagues have had an increase in numbers and are well supported, plus the ladies league is now extremely well supported with a very high percentage completed games and an improving level of squash. Thanks also to Dan Goldsmith for his support with running the MNL sessions that are over subscribed with a waiting list!

(iv) Teams have performed well, thanks to Chris Gorman and Simon Ashby for continuing their roles running the 1st and 2nd teams. Also a huge thanks to Charlie Stow for stepping up and taking the 3rd team on, an incredibly impressive achievement to have 3 senior teams in the Kent league! (A feat only matched by clubs based in Canterbury and Gillingham for both winter and summer leagues).

(v) Coaching sessions are well attended and fully booked with extra sessions now set up. Club-has a regular link with JM Primary.

(vi) The club is also allowing more holiday clubs in collaboration with Chris Gorman and Tom Swain's coaching company, to run to help promote the club and develop our young players.

(vii) Website continues to improve and be maintained well which is attracting new members, thanks to Dan Goldsmith.

(viii) An in depth check on the court heating facility has been undertaken following issues over the last winter and the committee now believes this has been resolved. Thanks again to Mark Gorman for his work on this.

Thanks to David Robson, Adam Weeks and Guy Pullen for their efforts clearing the area behind the courts which was contributing to damp issues on court 2 and the issue of the sweaty courts that affected our closed tournaments last year. Also Sam Beaney for removing the waste that was considerable, from behind this area.

I would also like to thank Jerry Slinn for his ongoing commitment to ensuring that all the clubs amenities run smoothly, he is an incredibly important person for making sure our club continues to thrive.

Moving forward

The following are developments that the club will be considering over the next 2 years and will, be brought to all members of the club to consider where a wider vote is required.

(i) Team Squash – To continue develop players to represent the club form both the junior and senior sections of the club, already some new names in the frame following tournaments and box leagues.

(ii) Replacement of the roof (in conjunction with the BVHC).

(iii) Bar area flooring – to be replaced.

To support the wider programme, we will need to work hard to secure funding sources outside of membership fees and just drinking at the bar. I ask everyone to give this some thought for the coming year so we can also consider;

Re-painting and plaster (if necessary) the court walls.

Maintaining the court flooring.

Holding another pro day with Tesni and the Karakal team.

III. Treasurer's Report (From John Sharples)

Financial Health

We have 3 primary income streams, representing our financial health.

(i) Memberships.

(ii) Lights.

(iii) Bar Takings.

These have all substantially increased in the year giving us the opportunity to invest back into the club.

In recognition of the service provided by the staff this year we increased the bar staff and bar manager wages.

We did make a small loss on the bar. However, it has always been intended to run the bar on a break even basis.

We have spent over £1,000 on medical supplies mainly in the cost of a defibrillator.

We have also spent over £2,500 on maintenance costs.

Registration fees increased by around £2,000 last year as the call from squash governing body increased, but hopefully, more of our members can benefit from this investment, especially as we now have over 20 members playing team and junior squash.

Finally there is a reconciling item in the balance sheet but this is not considered material in the context of the overall accounts.

Club reserves (at the date of tis AGM) being carried forward;
£12 627.00

IV. Membership Report (From David Robson)

It's been another growth year for membership, building on the success of the last two years. Indeed, in the last three years we have grown from 116 members to over 180 today.

Growing our family base has been key to our success. New members tell me that we are an extremely welcoming, fun and inclusive club and that message is making its way to others through our family members. In January last year, we had a marketing drive to get new members and while that was successful, the key was to retain those members when full membership was due. That has held true and, while our membership has dipped slightly since last year's AGM, this was mainly due to clearing up our membership lists to reflect active members.

Income from membership has also risen, with an increase of approximately 50%. A large part of this is to having so many more active players.

Diversity is again a feature of the club. Of the 185 members we have, 110 adults, 6 young adults (18-25), 52 juniors, 11 social members, 6 honorary members important to our club and has been a feature in the members we look to attract. With approximately 28% of members being juniors and 26% of members being female, we have one of the strongest clubs in Kent in both categories.

Finally I'd like to say thank you to those who have welcomed new players, getting them their first game and introducing them to the club – especially Tom, Tim, Simon and Dan. We're always looking for volunteers to hook potential new joiners up with so please let me know if you'd be interested in helping out in the future.

V. Players Report (From Chris Gorman)

Overall court use is up, box leagues are well attended and the family tournaments have remained popular throughout the year.

Ladies squash continues to grow with more ladies entering the monthly box leagues and there is even a waiting list for the Monday night coaching sessions with Dan Goldsmith and Tom Swain.

The club has been well represented by the three teams in the Kent leagues and thanks is given to Chris Gorman, Simon Ashby and Charlie Stow for running the teams and continuing to bring new club players into the three squad. A fantastic achievement for a small village club!

Wednesday night junior coaching still remains popular and combined with other weekly coaching sessions, the club currently sees over 50 junior players on court during the calendar week, with 5 juniors called up to represent the Kent squad.

VI. Election of Officers

Chairman

Tom Swain. (Proposed by Dan Goldsmith, Seconded by Si Ashby).

Vice Chairman

Simon Ashby. (Proposed by Tom Swain, Seconded by Lee Weeks).

Treasurer

John Sharples. (Proposed by Dan Goldsmith, Seconded by Robin Swain).

Club Secretary

Dan Goldsmith. (Proposed by David Robson, Seconded by Tim Davies).

Membership Secretary

David Robson. (Proposed by Tom Swain, Seconded by John Sharples).

Biddenden Village Hall Management Representative (BVHC)

Simon Ashby. (Proposed by Tom Swain, Seconded by Chris Gorman).

Director of Squash

Chris Gorman. (Proposed by Charlie Stow, Seconded by Dan Goldsmith).

Social Secretary

Lee Weeks. (Proposed by Harry Goldsmith, Seconded by John Sharples).

Bar Manager

Caroline Swain. (Proposed by Dan Goldsmith, Seconded by David Robson).

Ladies Squash Representative

Jo Davies. (Proposed by Tom Swain, Seconded by Lee Weeks).

Associate Committee Member

Mark Butterworth. (Co-appointed).

VII. Resolutions To Pass

1) To increase the subscriptions to;

- Junior £25 (pcy)
- Young Adult £65 (pcy)
- Adult £125 (pcy)
- Family £200 (pcy)

This resolution was agreed by all in attendance.

VIII. Any Other Business

None brought forward.

Meeting closed 7.50pm.