

## **Squash Committee Minutes**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**Attendees:** John Cross (JC); John Sawyer (JS); Phil Rushworth (PR); Rolf Buhler (RB); Philip Black (PB); Mark Williams (MW); Nicola Sands (NS); Claire Baker (CB); Paul Mayo (PM).

### **Courts 5&6 Overview**

The committee discussed a draft document prepared by the courts 5&6 subcommittee. The document presents proposed changes to the space including enhancements to squash courts 5&6 (LED lighting, ventilation, etc) and redevelopment of the space behind those courts for general purpose and extended gym activities.

Improvements to this area are expected to provide significant benefits to ALL members and a substantial increase in revenue.

Key to this project is access, and the committee discussed the possibility of providing access from the gym via the fire escape stairs currently in place. This would involve enclosing and updating these stairs.

The off-court area would be an open multi-purpose space. Usage of the area as a whole could include:

- Additional light gym space
- Gym classes
- Corporate functions
- Children's parties and activities
- Squash tournaments and coaching camps/squads
- Work space

The committee is being assisted by Hossam Elghary who is providing support with structural improvements and engineering.

Additional support and interest from England Squash and Surrey Squash has been expressed.

The committee is continuing to investigate costs and potential revenue sources. The working proposal document is to be completed and presented to the board.

### **Club Champs**

Phil gave an overview of the club championship. He thanked the committee for their support.

During the event the evening went well and were well managed. There was a good turn out on finals day showing the momentum gathered over the preceding weeks.

One of the Warren Cup finalists was unable to attend and the committee expressed disappointment after a well organized and competitive run up to the final.

A potential partnership with Dunlop could mean that balls will be provided for club champs matches next year.

### **Handicap Tournament**

The committee made further plans for a handicap tournament coming in June.

The event will take place from 2-7pm on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2019. It will be a round-robin event over all 6 squash courts. Players will be divided in to groups of up to 6 players giving a maximum capacity of 36 players.

Entry will cost £20 and include food. The bar and kitchen have provided costs for this.

The handicap element will even out skill levels. Cash prizes will be derived from the entry fees. A charitable donation will also be made from entry fees. Any remaining income will be put towards the squash section fund.

The event will be marketed through the club by posters, emails and social media. An online entry form has been created (<https://forms.gle/QMuXSEXDspFwy3PX9>).

### **Dunlop Sponsorship - Nick Matthew masterclass**

The committee to proceeding to investigate sponsorship from Dunlop and a Nick Matthew Masterclass.

### **Wimbledon Cup**

The Wimbledon Cup is scheduled for November 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> 2019.

The committee discussed costs and revenue generation based on figures from the highly successful 2018 event. Our current understanding is that the 2018 tournament incurred a loss of around £1500.

The committee explored new initiative for revenue generation for this year's tournament, including:

- Dunlop sponsorship
- Spectator competition: Throw balls at on-court targets to win Dunlop racquets
- Roehampton university sponsorship
- Ryan Leisure sponsorship
- Other squash events (such as June handicap tournament)
- Improved ticket pricing

- Doubles event for club players during tournament
- Other sponsors
- Charity support (Neil Desai Foundation)

The committee discussed a new prize money breakdown as

- £700 winner
- £400 runner up
- £275 semi-finalists
- £125 quarter finalists

The men's prize fund total would be £2150. We are expected 32+ entries.

Ladies prize fund would be £1500. We are expecting 16 ladies entries.

The PSA entry fee is £100

The total cost would be £ 3750 (plus court costs).

Phil and other committee members are continuing to explore funding sources and will update the committee as funding is agreed.

### **Club Board Meeting (Phil Black)**

Phil Black attended the Club Board meeting and reported back to the committee.

The squash committee were concerned with issues over

- New flooring in the gym where a decision had apparently been made and then reversed
- The club booking system.
- Information forthcoming from the club's accountancy firm and its cost

### **Booking System**

Claire outlined issues with charging squash members for court bookings via the Legend court booking system. In particular, members are not identifying the second player for a booking where the court fee is split, and those charges are seemingly going unpaid.

The committee resolved to make members more aware of their responsibilities where payments for court bookings are concerned and the consequences thereof. This included posting notices at court doors and including messages with other communications (emails).

### **Marketing**

Nicky gave feedback on marketing efforts undertaken on behalf of the squash section. In general, the committee felt the club's marketing is under-serviced and a marketing person may be required.

## **DWP**

The committee discussed the status of the club's development working party. At this stage there is little information. Only 3 members have put their names forward to provide assistance.

John Sawyer is on the DWP.

## **Racketball Sessions**

The committee discussed the regular racketball session. This is to be held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month and may include Surrey social matches, which the club have entered.

The session is to be advertised via posters and email. The next session is to be advertised immediately following the previous session.

## **Juniors div 6/7 - Sunday afternoons**

Phil gave the committee feedback on the club's junior team who train on Sunday afternoons. The team won promotion this season.

## **Next Meeting**

The next squash committee meeting is scheduled for 17th June.