Minutes of the meeting of the Newton Abbot Squash and Tennis Club

On 6 April 2017

Those present

Glyn Davies, Jane Gick, Lee Manning, Malcolm Watts, Tim Dickinson, Richard Thomas, Matt Whalley, and Jane Comyns.

Apologies for absence received from

Andy Lloyd, Nick Whalley and Dan Gough.

Minutes of last meeting

Were read, approved and signed by the acting Chairman, Glyn Davies.

Matters arising

Malcolm reported on our investigations concerning the free extension of Wi-Fi coverage to include the tennis pavilion. In view of the difficulties of monitoring usage of internet sites, for both content and extent, by juniors to whom we owe a duty of care, it was decided to continue with areas currently provided, i.e. Reception and Main Bar areas.

The terms of Russell Bond’s new contract have been agreed by both parties. He intends to sign it upon his return from holiday. It includes confirmation that Saturday morning juniors’ tennis session is to continue but at no cost to the Squash and Tennis Club.

Information gathering and storage of that information needs to be managed on a formal footing. Richard Thomas, our Child Protection Officer, confirmed that records are already held for squash juniors. We need to ensure that similar records are held for tennis juniors, too. Under 18s (squash) must complete a Squash England-provided form which includes health questions. Might this also be suitable for adults, too? It was agreed to investigate what terminology might be suitable for adding a line to online and hard copy Membership application forms, to the effect that Members play at their own risk.

With regards to storage, there is a lockable cupboard by the squash courts, to which Paul Lennox also has access.

Glyn is to check Russell Bond and Becs Heale’s current level of Safeguarding. He would ask them if their most up to date Certificate could be displayed in the Clubhouse.

All Members can choose NOT to have their details published or on general view, if they so wish.

An e-mail is to go out to all new Squash Members asking them to confirm that their details may be passed on to Squash England so Squash England may communicate directly with them.

It was deemed a good time to republish the names and photos of Committee Members so all Members could recognise them in case of need.

Chairman’s Report

All items covered in matters arising above.

Treasurer's Report

A list of tennis only members has been drawn up so refunds can be arranged where appropriate. The list to convert from full Membership, was closed as at 31 March – any future requests will be at the discretion of the Committee. The ways of entering these changes/ refunds to the online system are being investigated.

Current a/c £9150.00 Subs a/c £338.00, £45974.00 loan a/c. Last quarter’s payment was higher than usual (£6144.00); another quarter is due soon.

Malcolm stressed the importance of keeping expenses down.

Secretary's Report

Nothing to report

Membership Secretary's Report

The new tennis-only membership is not yet available for those applying for membership online. This situation is to be investigated and corrected as soon as possible.

Tim is to ask Dan if he can put a suitable note about tennis-only membership rate on the website.

A list of juniors who are due to play in the Aegon league matches is to be requested from Russell and Becs.

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On 6 April 2017 continued………

Recreational Trust Report

Work on the kitchen is close to being finished. It has been almost 2 years’ work. Quotes, including a clause specifying a finish date, are being sought for the rest of the work. It is hoped that the work will be completed by 20 June (the Benefit Cricket Match). Louise will then pay rent for the facilities and the catering will be arranged on a more professional basis with menus, available days etc.

The cricket Club are to install an electronic scorebox. We are not sure what the system for billing them for electricity consumed will be (they have been set up to use our supply via the tennis pavilion).

Squash Section

Our Men’s team won the Devon Plate Final!! The Mixed 1st team have also retained Premiership status. Congratulations to them on both counts!

The Ladies were due to play the Final of the Devon Cup on the same night as the above competition. They lost 3 -2 to Plymouth although they did beat the cup favourites in the semi-final!! Again, well done!

However, a complaint was made following the switching of these external competition matches between glass-backed and other courts. After discussion among the Committee Members, it was agreed that, in future, priority should be on a strictly first come first served basis, and any negotiation for changes should be held BEFORE the night of play.

If any events were due to take place on a Friday night, now an established racquetball night, Jane Gick should be told beforehand\*\*.

Ladies 1st team finished 3rd and Ladies 2nd team 6th in the Ladies’ League’ only Divn.

Mixed 2nd team were relegated from Divn 1, Mixed 3rd team finished 3rd in Divn 2, Mixed 4th team finished 4th in Divn 3, and last but by no means least, MIXED 5th team WON DIVN 4!!! What an excellent result!

Tennis Section

Andy Lloyd was playing tennis, introducing a possible new Member, so was not at the meeting, but had supplied a few comments to update the Committee

* mixed training continues to be well attended and should be considered a success
* introductory sessions have not been well attended. However, content about these and the price reduction has generated traffic on Facebook and those with admin rights have dealt with a number of enquiries
* Gordon Mellor tournament to take place on Sunday 23 April
* League teams registered
* Men's A Team have a friendly v Dawlish on Thursday 13 April

Racketball Section

\*\*See above in squash section.

Any other business

Jane Gick is to put a poster for the tennis-only reduced rate subscription on the online pages she follows.

A practice wall for tennis has always been a popular theme – investigations are under way to see if a suitable location can be found. Glyn has asked for a site visit from someone who might help. This would be a self-funded project.

Lee Manning reported, in Dan’s absence, that the $100 spent on facebook advertising had produced 40 texts!!

Jane Gick also asked if there were a secure location where she could store spare racquetball racquets as 2 have gone missing recently. It was agreed that she could be given a key to the lockable Junior Squash cupboard.

Date of next meeting

Thursday 4 May 2017 at 7pm