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

on 7 September 2017

Those present

Glyn Thomas, Andy Lloyd, Malcolm Watts, Richard Thomas, Matt Whalley, Lee Manning, Paul Lennox and Jane Comyns

Apologies for absence received from

Dan Gough, Nick Whalley, Jane Gick and Tim Dickinson.

Minutes of last meeting

Were read, amended and approved unanimously. Amended version to be signed by Acting Chairman for Club records.

Matters arising

Discussion with Russell Bond, about his contract, is still pending.

Paul Lennox has moved Russell’s double-glazing items from between squash courts and 76 Club.

Malcolm Watts has located the cricket club electricity meter.

Membership details in the form of leaflets are now available in Reception.

E-mails welcoming new Members are once again set up (to be sent once subs have been paid).

Squash England subs have now been paid.

Lee Manning reported that the League fees are a flat rate rather than a cost per head for each nominated player, as previously.

The £100.00 invoice from 76 Club was forwarded to the Rec Trust as the land between squash courts and 76 Club belongs to the Rec Trust.

Smokers from the 76 club have been using their club’s back entrance which is less obtrusive to tennis players on court 1.

Lee has asked Dan to change the website Non-Member fee for club nights to £3.00.

The installers of the card machine in the squash courts have updated them to take new £1.00 coins.

(The old guest stamp machine continues to take old and new versions of the coinage.)

Tennis balls supplied for ladies’ winter matches are paid for by match subs paid the previous summer. In the summer the men’s teams cover the cost by match fees. Second-hand balls would be used by club members in club sessions. Summer mixed match balls were paid for by, and returned to Russell Bond.

Chairman's Report

Glyn warmly thanked Tim Dickinson for all his hard work on our behalf over many years. Tim is standing down from the Squash and Tennis Committee at this year’s AGM, though he will remain on the Rec Trust Committee to represent our Club as long as he is needed. Lee proposed a formal vote of thanks, Richard Thomas seconded the proposal. It was passed unanimously.

We need to ask again that more Members to join our Committee. It is only one meeting per month and is a good way of helping to keep our Club running.

Treasurer's Report

Malcolm reported that Club finances are sufficient to require only a small increase (2%), in our Subscription Rates this coming year (with effect from 1 October). He supplied figures to support this proposal and said he would be asking that the Rec Trust increase be kept to a minimum, too. The new rates were proposed by Glyn Davies and seconded by Jane Comyns.

Dave Brown had suggested that we add administrators/ directors’ indemnity to our existing insurance policy to cover Committee Members as individuals acting on behalf of our club. This would result in a small increase in the premium from £76.00 to £87.81. This had been taken up - a necessity, in this day and age, it was felt.

BCR Associates had again reviewed our Gas and Electricity suppliers. A change in both was imminent; Malcolm was merely waiting for confirmation of recent quotes.

June’s quarterly sub has been paid to the Rec Trust.

Secretary's Report

Jane asked that the date for the November AGM be discussed at the October Committee meeting so that the required 21 days’ notice can be observed. She reminded the Committee that, due to other commitments, she would not be seeking re-election as (Nominal) Secretary at the AGM, as she would be

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

on 7 September 2017 continued………

Secretary's Report continued

unable to attend Committee meetings for the foreseeable future. Glyn would ask Paul for dates when the hall is available. This is usually a Tuesday.

Membership Secretary's Report

Paul submitted his report before leaving to play in a squash match. He told us that some members are cancelling their direct debits and preferring to pay by cash. This is time-consuming, requiring monitoring. He asked that the Chairman’s letter reinforce the message that we pay an ANNUAL subscription but have the privilege of paying it in monthly direct debit instalments, if we wish to.

The Membership figures he supplied were as follows -

Total membership 254

Senior Members 131

Juniors 34

Family Members 12

HM Forces 6

Honorary Members 3

Joint Members 18

Off Peak / Day 10

Apprentice / Student Members 8

Tennis only Seniors 33

Tennis Joint 4

Tennis only juniors 18

Tennis family 9

Recreational Trust Report

There had been no Rec Trust meeting but the Budget Meeting was due shortly.

The transition between old and new Bar Managers was proceeding smoothly. Nicky has put the facebook site to good use since she started in her new post.

Kitchen refurbishments were almost finished. Decoration was being completed this week, which would mean that food would be available at set times as planned.

Squash Section

Matt Whalley reported that 5 teams have been entered in the League. The first match would be played on 3 October.

Junior mornings would recommence on 9 September.

Lee reminded us that the round robin matches of the newly-formatted Summer Teams Tournament had been completed, that semi-finals had taken place on 5 September, and that the competition’s Final, between the winners of groups A and B, plus the Plate Competition Final were due to take place tomorrow, 8 September! Followed by entertainment and food.

From the feedback received to date, the new format is working very well.

The Committee expressed a resounding “thank you” to Lee, Vicki Evans and Steve O’Donnell for organising it.

Lee, in turn, said that they could always do with more volunteers to help them. He told us that, in addition to the very welcome £250.00 sponsorship from Charles Royal, Financial Advisors, shirt sales for the competition had raised £324.00 (£314.00 of which had been collected), playing fees of £1 per head over the 5 weeks had raised £240.00, on the semi-finals’ night £138.00 had been collected and finals night subs and food costs would raise funds to almost break even.

Tennis Section

Andy Lloyd summarised the summer by saying that after a hard season, men’s A team had secured their place in Division 5. The men’s B team had found it very difficult to get sides out. They had performed well in the matches they HAD been able to play.

Our Club had arranged two tournaments during the summer – Gordon Mellor (won this year by \*\*\*\*\*Mary Danfer and Andy Lloyd?) and Ghana Day. Each was successful in its own way and helped to draw various parts of the tennis membership together.

The Club Tournament, to take place in September / October, had attracted a bigger number of entries than before!

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

on 7 September 2017 continued………

Tennis Section continued…

Jane reported that Ladies’ A team had secured promotion by winning Division 4! and Ladies’ B were still striving to retain their place in a tough Division 5.

A mixed team had been entered in the WBW South Devon League but, after a promising, successful start, the availability of players had tailed off and we had to concede 3 fixtures when no men were able to play. It will be a difficult decision to put a mixed team in next summer unless someone volunteers to run the side.

Club sessions have been very well attended, the standard raised, a gratifying and laudable result!

Racquetball

Jane Gick had sent in a report when apologising for her absence –

The ladies have entered 2 teams in the League (there is only one division). It includes several new players. 3 NEW Club members have been attracted to join to play racquetball.

Whilst Friday night club sessions will remain ladies-only, Sunday mornings are to become mixed, for a trial period, as men starting to play the sport need somewhere to begin.

Jane was delighted to report that her deputies whilst she was away in holiday, had done a superb job!

Any other business

The possibility of a new post of Social / Social Media Secretary was discussed – the AGM is imminent. It was felt that more input in the way of social media would help to promote our Club, that more reporting on the website of matches, play and results, and of other events, would extend our profile. The October meeting would concentrate on this area.

Andy asked if he could be granted Admin access rights to the website so he could upload content. Paul said he would ask Dan Gough to investigate the possibility.

The men’s showers have developed green mould in parts. Poor changing facilities are letting us down, at a time when other other aspects are being upgraded. Richard is to take the matter up with the Rec Trust.

Date of next meeting

Thursday 5 October 2017