

**MINUTES of a meeting of the Committee of Alford Squash Club
held at The Half Moon Hotel on 7th March 2017 at 8pm**

Present: Bob Karley (appointed Chairman of the meeting), John Hynes (Treasurer and keeping these notes), Graham Hounslow (Secretary), Jim Coulter, Ben Irving, Steve Brough and Chris Sykes.

Apologies: Geoff Allen and Jim Luck

1. Previous meeting

1.1 It was noted that the Minutes of the previous Committee meeting were circulated at the AGM in December and they were approved at that time;

1.2 There are no matters arising which would not be covered by the agenda for tonight's meeting.

2. Treasurer's report

2.1 The Treasurer reported that the Bank balances (as at the end of February) were £6,169.07 in the main account and £209.23 in the coaching account;

2.2 JH advised the Committee that as at the beginning of March we had 25 full members and 5 junior members. JH said that going by previous years this would increase steadily throughout the course of the year. JH said that although the membership may seem small he was confident that the present members use the facilities regularly and this gives the Treasurer confidence that healthy Bank balances should continue;

3. Signage/Sponsorship

Adam Coffey (who has set up in business as a personal trainer) has indicated to JH that he would like to advertise on the tin on Court 2 presently taken by Thurlby Motors and also wants to have an external sign too. Hopefully JH will have further information at the next meeting.

4. Website

BK confirmed that the website is up to date and he will put these Minutes on the website when they are ready.

5. Junior Coaching/development

5.1 BI advised the Committee that the Wednesday coaching sessions are going well. Six students from QEGS are taking squash as a GCSE subject and BI is doing their assessments. They will go on exam leave in May and BI will make a decision at that time as to whether to continue the sessions depending on demand. On average there are between 12/14 students attending from QEGS on a Wednesday afternoon. BI pointed out that these

students are 15/16 years old and they are not accompanied by a teacher or a member of staff from QEGS. The Committee agreed that this was a matter for the school and our duty was in relation to the sessions that we organise as a Club.

JH asked BI to explain to the Committee how the sessions are paid for. QEGS do not contribute financially at all. Each pupil pays BI the sum of £3.50 per session and BI uses as much of this money as he needs for the lights etc. At the end of each term he then accounts to JH for the excess money and provides JH with his invoice for providing the Wednesday coaching sessions. Therefore, if there is a shortfall between the money BI receives and his invoice for holding the sessions then this will be met by the Club. The Committee are content with this arrangement for the time being – in the past Martin Wells used to bill QEGS direct for his time. It was mooted whether we could do something similar for John Spendluffe but in the past their students have not been able to contribute towards the sessions. This will be discussed at a future meeting;

- 5.2** The Sunday morning sessions have been less well attended by the younger children. On average there could be three or four children attending but for the past two weeks there have been none. BI had been intending to do the last session on a Sunday, 19th March but he has decided to finish now and he will notify the parents accordingly. It is planned that he will resume them (if there is demand) in September. JH said that he thought we needed to consider this carefully. Instead of BI running the Sunday sessions for a whole term it might be sensible to do it as an after school club (where attendances might be better) and also to do small blocks of four or five weekly sessions where the children are required to pay “up front”. The cost would be modest but it would at least focus children/parents as to whether they want to attend. JH also thought that BI should reserve the right to cancel the sessions if a minimum number did not commit to them. Further thought will be given to this at subsequent Committee meetings.

6. Maintenance matters

- 6.1** SB has finished off the shower to include the metal trim and the Committee’s thanks to him are to be minuted. SB will also look into repairing the upstairs cupboard and will make some repairs to the carpeting upstairs. If this does not work then we will look to obtain a quote for a new carpet upstairs;
- 6.2** GH read out the quote that he had obtained from Simon Maplethorpe for carrying out electrical work at the Club. This included replacing parts of the court heaters not functioning properly (which the Committee thought was a lot of money) and there might merit in asking Simon to replace all four heaters in their entirety. GH will go back to him on this point.

Simon’s quote also included replacing the light meters with the forthcoming changes to £1 coins. The cost of Simon obtaining the new meters and then

installing them would again be a large outlay for the club. SB will, at this stage, make enquiries with the Caravan Site where he previously obtained the basic but reliable light meter used on Court 2. Finally, Simon's quote includes replacing the light outside the exterior door and, again, cheaper alternatives will be explored. Where relevant, Committee members will report back at the next meeting;

- 6.3** CS confirmed that the gas boiler is on "borrowed time". He will continue to make repairs but we should budget for a cost of approximately £4,000 plus VAT for a new boiler and some additional radiators upstairs. It was pointed out that this should be factored in to the next 'Discretionary Rates Relief' application that JH makes.

7. Leagues/competitions

- 7.1** This is the third month that the leagues have been running and of course there have one or two teething problems but it seems to be working well. Players are getting the opportunity to play different people they would not otherwise play and JH said that he would like to minute the Committee's thanks to BI for organising this. BI will try and increase the publicity of the Club through Facebook and other social media;

- 7.2** It was mooted that there could be a social club organised a bit like the group that used to play on a Tuesday and Thursday evening. It will need to be seen if there is sufficient interest to get this off the ground.

8. Other business

- 8.1** JH wondered whether there might be the opportunity to ask an England International Squash Player (perhaps a youngster) to attend the Club to give a demonstration and then perhaps play a selection of members like the Club did some years ago. JH thought that it could be held at the end of September/beginning of October when people are back from their holidays and before it gets close to Christmas. This seemed to be well received by the Committee and JH will explore this a little further perhaps with the help of BI;

- 8.2** JH read the email that he had received from Sarah Teasdale about the Squash Club supporting the 'Indian Summer' project that she has taken on. The Committee approved GA's suggested 'advert' and JH will have a graphic installed with squash rackets or something similar. It is a modest cost of £5 to advertise in the brochure she is producing;

- 8.3** BI has done a little research on the company, 'Active Places' who want to hold the Squash Club's details. It was agreed that we do not want to be involved in this. If they get back in touch then JH will tell them that we are not interested in having our details on their website;

- 8.4** Both BI and BK would appreciate an up to date membership list. If it

thought appropriate, BK could put a copy on the Club's website and BI will find it useful in terms of organising the squash leagues going forward;

- 8.5** JH advised the Committee that he will endeavour to register the Club with the Information Commissioner's Office (data protection) ahead of the next Committee Meeting; and
- 8.6** It was agreed that the next Committee Meeting will take place on **Tuesday 6th June 2017 at 8 p.m. at The Half Moon.**

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm