



Squash Annual General Meeting 2016

On: Monday 21 March 2016, 7.30pm
In: the Club's bar area

Dear Squash Member

The Annual General Meeting of the Squash section of The Wimbledon Club will be held on Monday 21 March at 7.30pm in the Club bar. All members are welcome to attend.

Agenda

- 1 To elect the Honorary Secretary
- 2 To elect the 2016/2017 Squash Section Committee
- 3 To receive the Chairman's report
- 4 Any other business

The members of the 2015/2016 Squash Committee are:

Tom Goulden (Chairman), Jan Comer (Honorary Secretary), Mark Ridler (Treasurer), Mark Brennan, Will Exelby, Rob Gale, Sam McQueeney, David Lissaman.

Jeremy Burnell decided to step down from the committee during the year. All other members of the committee are willing to stand for election for 2016/2017.

Nomination form

Members of the Squash section are invited to complete this form for the purpose of nominating for election an Honorary Secretary and Committee Members for 2016/2017.

HONORARY SECRETARY

Proposer

Seconder

COMMITTEE MEMBER(S)

This form should be returned to Jan Comer, Honorary Secretary, The Wimbledon Club Squash section, by Friday 11 March 2016, email jan_comer@blueyonder.co.uk



Minutes Squash AGM 2015

Date of meeting	17 March 2015	Apologies:
Time of meeting	7.35pm	Attendees: Richard Burt, Clare Wood, Alistair Worth, Mark Ridler, Mark Brennan, Jan Comer, Simon Cowley, Stacey Ross, Jonathon Tubbs, Jeremy Burnell, Tony Kingston, Mike Hammond, David Hurst, Ken Weston, Jonny Bouchier, Emmeline Goulden, Tom Goulden, Rob Gale
Location of meeting	Club Bar	
1. Election of Honorary Secretary	Jan Comer nominated as Hon. Secretary.	
2. Election of the 15/16 Squash Section Committee	Mark Ridler, proposed Will Exelby, seconded Jan Comer Jeremy Burnell, proposed Alistair Worth, seconded Mike Bavington Emmeline Goulden stepped down	
3. Chairman's Report	<p>Mark read through Chairman's report.</p> <p>Q. Can the work of Sarah and Paul Riley be acknowledged in the report for the excellent work they do with the juniors? A. Yes.</p> <p>Q. We should make sure the required investment is budgeted for court maintenance. A: Budgeted centrally, the Club is very responsive to section requests. We aim in any 3 year period to refurbish each court. The budget detailed in the section finances is for low level maintenance.</p> <p>Q. Can you explain position on court fees? A: We have been asked for many years to review court fees. At this point, there is no plan to raise court fees. If permission is granted to build a 6th court then court prices will have to be reviewed.</p> <p>Q. Junior squad infringing into adult time A: Courts should only be used by them 6pm-7.30pm once a week.</p> <p>Q. Disagree with point that database records have never been cleansed previously A: That was in last year's report. Database records will be kept up to date every year.</p>	



	<p>Q. How long has the committee been aware that the Club was due to make a loss?</p> <p>A. A couple of months</p> <p>Q. For members who haven't renewed membership have we followed up with them to find out the reasons for leaving?</p> <p>A. Stacey contacts each person. General reasons relate to people leaving the area.</p> <p>Q. Is a recruitment drive planned?</p> <p>A. Yes</p> <p>Q. How can the Club help retain people? Can we use the word friendly in our marketing?</p> <p>A. Direct debit option will help (no premium for this). We will stress our friendly face.</p> <p>Q. Court usage in 2014 report, why isn't it available this year?</p> <p>A. We have the information available. It will be used as part of the business proposal.</p> <p>Q. When is a decision on the court likely?</p> <p>A. Date for a meeting to be confirmed shortly. Trying to avoid clash with the pitch in the park project.</p> <p>Q. Is there an off peak membership?</p> <p>A. Yes. Up to 5.45pm. Schools also use courts off peak</p> <p>Q. Do you have any say in the refurbishment in the back changing rooms? If so, extraction needs to be included.</p> <p>A. Yes we will work on extraction.</p>
4. Any other business	There was none

Tom Goulden



Squash Section: Chairman's Report 2015/16

5 March 2016

The word first is used frequently in this year's report, not least because it has been an industrious time for the TWC Squash Section. After the AGM last year the Committee, working with our Director of Squash Stacey Ross, set out five key priorities for the year ahead. Since then much has been achieved, but there is still a lot of work to do to gain some exciting outcomes.

Our priorities

1. Grow section membership
2. Improve existing member experience
3. Excel in junior development
4. Return the First Team to Division 1 and continue to grow team squash
5. Attracting new sponsors

1. Growing our membership

Total section membership stands at 467. In last year's report it was 427. Growth has come from the U30 category and junior membership expanding to 142. I would like to thank all of our coaches, Paul, Emma, Sarah and Stacey, plus those who job in-and-out assisting when required, namely Elliot Laville and Luke Chadwick. All our coaches work together closely organising, delivering and keeping the sessions fresh to ensure the juniors remain focused week in and week out.

While the total membership figures are up on last year, our focus remains on recruiting more adult members, particularly in the U30 and ladies' categories. I am pleased to say that since membership renewal in October we have averaged an additional three new adult members per month. I believe this to be largely a result of our marketing campaign and greater publicity related to events such as the PSA tournament. Our productive talks with Christophers, regarding taking some of their membership when they close for redevelopment later this year, are also bearing fruit. Reception will track where new members have been 'activated' to join us so we can see which recruitment initiatives have been most successful. Our target is to have an additional 20 adult members by the time I report back to you next year.

One of the advantages of the online booking system is that we are able to monitor court utilisation. This is helping us to get the best out of the facility for members and thereby able to justify keeping costs at a reasonable level.

2. Improving member experience

PSA Event: It is difficult not to start with the history-making news of the Club holding its first Professional Squash Association event this month. At the time of going to press, we are one week away from the start of the tournament and on track to see ticket sales that will bring in excess of 400 people across the six days of the tournament. Both the final and semi final are already sold out. I would like you to know how grateful we are to Stacey Ross for working tirelessly on this. Through his efforts the tournament has become a reality, M25 status has been achieved and the required \$25 prize fund has been found. In a first year, this is a truly phenomenal level to reach. Our focus is very much on ensuring that members will benefit from the event. To this end there are a number of exciting clinics to give adult members and juniors the opportunity to train with the best as well as, of course, to watch some terrific matches during the event itself. Assuming things run smoothly, we see this becoming an annual event that will get bigger and better each time.



Squash programme: the regular weekly coaching programme that caters for all abilities is to have a new member mix-in to increase our offering. It will make new members feel welcome and ensure our coaches are familiar with the new joiners.

Rackets changing room: I am pleased to say that after member comments around the quality of men's facilities that the rackets changing room (rear left) has now been renovated. It re-opened in January. It is still a work in progress. However, commentary has been positive around the new airier space and improved flooring. This work complements the improvements that were made to the wider men's and women's changing and showering facilities last year.

International squash: The section organised its first official international trip in the shape of a tour of the Cayman Islands in November last year. Based on the success of the experience, another trip is planned for this year. The section also welcomed a touring side from New York and in May will host a touring side from Montreal.

Doubles court: Continuing to ensure we have some of the best facilities in London remains a key focus. At the top of this list is the much coveted doubles/exhibition court. While our courts remain some of the very best in the country, we are constrained by the lack of a genuine exhibition court and we are not able to capitalise currently on the growing trend towards doubles squash. During the last few months we have had a number of options professionally drawn up under the supervision of an architect and planning expert. We have submitted these proposals alongside our rational to ManCom as part of their review of forward Capital Expenditure. I will share with you the feedback from this process when we have it. We hope that some of the recent activity in the section strengthens our case for the need for this facility.

3. Junior excellence

The junior section continues to flourish thanks to the great work of our coaches. TWC now has no fewer than 18 junior members involved in the county set up.

Country's first Urban Squash programme: Our Squash Squared initiative is an Urban Squash programme that provides squash and education to disadvantaged children. There are more than 20 such programmes in the United States which have been flourishing there for 20 plus years. Prior to the Squash Squared no other Urban programmes have made the jump to the UK. All the children involved in this initiative receive free school meals and would never otherwise have the opportunity to play squash, or afford to at facilities such as ours. TWC has pioneered the very first UK programme to play an active role in increasing playing numbers at grass roots level and to give under privileged children the chance to better themselves. All sessions are scheduled at off-peak times.

First girls training squad: We have a group of 18 girls who train together on a Friday from 4.30pm to 5.15pm. No other club in the locality has such a squad. This makes female recruitment far easier when we receive enquiries. Girls are a notoriously tough demographic from which to recruit and introduce to the game.

4. Team squash

I am delighted to be able to report that the First team have won the Division 2 title and secured automatic promotion back to Division 1 in the Surrey Cup. Congratulations to all of our First team squad and other team players who filled in at various stages.



Our goal next year is to win the Division 1 title. To achieve this we need to strengthen our squad more. We have taken the first steps in this direction by announcing that Peter Barker (former world number 5) will play for the Club next season. We now have a busy few months ahead as we strengthen the team further for what we hope will be a title winning season.

Team squash has been thriving on many fronts away from the First team. We were able to run five men's teams successfully through the recent winter season, up from four the previous year. We hope to carry on with the same number of teams through into the summer season.

We are famous across the Surrey Cup for our post-match hospitality. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our new in-house restaurant team and in particular Anthony and Paulo. The introduction of a menu for players to pick their post-match meal has gone down extremely well with home players and visiting players alike. The standard of food has been consistently good, all of course finished with the legendary cheese board.

Team Social Events: We are endeavouring to create some cohesion among all our team players. Consequently, in December we held a mid-season social event for our team players. It was a fantastic night enjoyed by both players and their partners. At time of writing, the forthcoming Sunday Buffet on 13th March will act as the function for the end of the 2015/16 season. I am sure it will be a great event with some world-class squash mixed in.

5. Sponsorship

I would like to thank the sponsors of our section and our PSA event for their generous donations which have made a lot of what has been achieved this year and in the future possible. We were delighted to secure agreements with Grafton Haymes (two years), Coco5 (three years) and H2 Property Services who have been a real supporter of section targets.

I would like to finish by thanking members of the Squash Committee for all their hard work and support throughout the year; Rob Gale, Sam McQueeney, Will Exelby, Mark Brennan and David Lissaman. Special mention must also be made to our Director of Squash Stacey Ross, Emma Mathews, Mark Ridler (Treasurer) and Jan Comer (Hon. Sec) whose dedication to their roles is very much appreciated.

Keep enjoying your squash

Tom

Tom Goulden
Squash Chairman