

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held on Wednesday 28th November 2018**

Present:

Connie Applebe, Hop Bamforth, Jeremy Bamforth, Derek Bennett, John Clark, Matthew Cooke, Nigel Cooke, Liz Douthwaite, Nigel Douthwaite, Jemma Ferguson, Matt Ferguson, Sarah Goodwin, Jo Hocken, Karen Hocken, Hugh Jackson, Nick Leggett, Christine McPherson, Martin McPherson, Barry Moses, Nick Oates, Doug Old, Alex Osborne, Steve Osborne, Dave Rushton, Katie Shepherd, Alison Smalley, Jon Smalley, Phil Smith, Derek Smyth, Jon Spooner, Phil Wade, Nicola Widdison, David Wightman, John Wigley, Guy Williams, Kim Wilshaw, Angela Wood, Guy Wood. (Plus 3 others whose names were indecipherable)

Apologies:

John Cockill, Ed Connell, Barry Turley, Stephen Widdison.

Minutes of previous meeting, held on 25th October 2017:

Acceptance – proposed by: Connie Applebe

Seconded by: Nigel Douthwaite

Approved: Unanimously.

Matters arising:

None.

Chairman's report:

As Stephen was looking for sharks in Egypt, Nicola Widdison read his report to the meeting.

Introduction

A Chairman's Report by proxy as Stephen Widdison is on holiday in Egypt, so has asked me to deliver in his reluctant absence.

So, firstly welcome to the 2018 AGM of Collingham and Linton Squash and Racketball Club

It is a buoyant time for the Club, a potentially exciting time for the Club and without doubt a challenging time for the Club, all of which will be alluded to over the next 15 to 20 minutes.

First - Squash

I'd like to start by recording the thanks of all the squash players for Ed Connell's efforts to keep the mini-leagues running efficiently for the last year. As we gain more players to the Club, we have seen an expansion in the leagues over the last 12 months after several years of gradual decline. There are 10 leagues this month.

In respect of team squash, during 2017-18 we had an additional team in the Harrogate and District League, making 5 and one in the North Yorkshire League. With a generally successful season last year, a couple of promotions sees two teams in Division 1 and three in Division 3 this season.

Inter-club team squash is good fun and is definitely to be recommended. If you've never played for a team please contact any of the Committee and we will put you in touch with team captains and ensure you're invited to the 'team meeting' to be held next summer to decide next year's teams.

The two exhibition matches we held on the night in September are worth a special mention. It was a night of top quality squash. Such nights take organising, but the positive responses from those attending lead me to suggest a similar night will be organised next year.

Turning to:

Racketball

So again, a couple of thank-yous, firstly to John Cockill for his efforts to keep the mini-leagues running efficiently for the last year. As with squash, extra members mean growing mini league numbers. There are 16 this month. Which leads me on to a special thank-you to Connie Appelbe who relentlessly recruits new players to the Club, embraces them in the Club and has expanded the offerings and participation levels so we now have four dedicated mini leagues, two ladies' teams and several group sessions well supported.

John and Connie have also run the Wetherby U3A sessions on Monday and Tuesday mornings. These sessions are very well attended and have generated a significant number of new members for the club.

We still maintain the two mens' teams in the Harrogate & Leeds Racketball League, and as stated earlier two ladies' teams playing in the Ladies League. Anyone interested in playing Team Racketball please contact me.

Just a little footnote. We are hosting the Yorkshire County Racketball Tournament this year. During the day of Saturday 9th December. Various competitions encouraging all players to enter. The finals immediately before our own finals commence that same day.

Competitions

If I now talk about the internal competitions.

In the Club Championships held last December ...

Racketball A Competition: Robin Mannall beat Stephen Widdison
Racketball B Competition: Phil Newton beat Mike Atherton
Racketball C Competition: Neil Waite beat Steve Osborne
Racketball D Competition: Liam Magill beat George Slack
Racketball Ladies Competition: Nicola Widdison beat Angela Wood
Squash A Competition: James Rollinson beat Robin Mannall
Squash B Competition: Jim Wright beat Ed Connell
Squash C Competition: Guy Wood beat Barry Wilkinson
Squash Ladies Competition: Angela Wood beat Giannina Valli

And then a week later, after an evening of junior competitions was concluded, there was a Club Championship match between our long-term club champion, Andrew Widdison, and our club's professional coach, Alex Hodgetts. Andrew was deposed after a very long run as champion. The rematch is Sunday the 9th December.

The handicap competitions were held in the Spring and attracted their usual large entry. The winners were:

Racketball Handicap: George Slack beat Stephen Widdison
Racketball Handicap Plate: Simon Roberts beat Mike Sumpton
Squash Handicap: Stephen Kettlewell beat Matt Lowe
Squash Handicap Plate: Eddie Murray beat Nigel Charlesworth

The major club competitions are following the same format as last year and have started. As just referred to, Finals Night is Sunday 9th December and the bigger the audience the better so please try to be there.

My thanks go to John Cockill and Ed Connell for organising the tournaments.

Juniors

The Junior section is thriving. We continue with well-supported Junior Mini-leagues with lots of juniors playing in those leagues. We are also the envy of the majority of clubs in the area and beyond, with over 40 juniors attending our Friday night sessions. If there is a good indication of success now and for the future, it is the strength of the Juniors.

But it is not just about quantity, there is quality as well. The development of the juniors has seen around 10 play in external tournaments, several finishing up as winners. And the final point here is that we now have three Juniors, Eddie Murray, Holly Shepherd and James Townley, who can proudly wear their County team shirts.

In a break from tradition, I would now like to talk about the financial performance last year, because it has some relevance and sets the scene for the final topics of my Report.

Financial Report:

Ed Connell who took over as Treasurer this year apologises for his absence, but has provided the necessary report with all the key figures.

Without doubt another strong year for Squash & Racketball on the financial front.

Subscription income edged upwards from £22,893 to £24,031. This is the amount paid over to CALSA as Squash & Racketball's contribution to the running of the Association.

With membership up, booking fees were up as well as you might expect; £15,417 to £16,076. It is this amount which effectively covers court repair and maintenance, a few squash & Racketball specific expenditure items, with the resultant surplus being at the Club's disposal to spend on the areas of Club where it feels is necessary.

The four major expense are the booking system which costs just over £1000 a year, England squash fees of £500 and two one off items also both around £500, the opening up of the viewing behind court 1 and some improvements to the ladies changing rooms.

Juniors, to all intent and purposes, generate sufficient income to cover their own costs; which is seen as a real positive.

With approaching £25k in the bank account at this moment in time, there are no concerns with respect to future obligations or the likelihood of issues being faced. The Squash & Racketball Committee have told the CALSA Management Committee that they will contribute the £15,000 cost of fitting out the new court 4 if and when the extension goes ahead. More on this shortly.

That concludes the Treasurer's report so I will now return to the Chairman's Report. I want to finish with two topics; court availability and the possible, proposed extension.

Firstly court availability.

Subscription income and booking fees both increasing, mean unquestionably we have more members and more members playing. Be under no doubt, along with several of the points made earlier, these are signs of a successful club, a level of success that any other Club would like the challenge it presents. Rest assured court availability is top of the Committee's agenda.

We have discussed at Committee level and listened to comments and suggestions from members, some isolated, some not so.

As a result, we have made the decision to make the following changes, the objective being to make more courts available for members' matches, changes which will start to be made immediately:

Reduce the number of coaching sessions during peak periods.
Reduce the number of courts anyone can book. Maximum of 8 bookings outstanding at any time.
Reduce the time in advance courts can be booked. Down to 35 days.
Refund on cancelled courts increased from 48 to 72 hours, unless court rebooked.
Change the time of the year when the Club tournaments are held: from next year to Summer, which is a time when no team matches are being played;

This follows the change last year of running squash mini leagues from mid-month to mid-month.

Work in this area will continue as the impact of the above measures are evaluated.

So finally my concluding topic, the possible proposed extension, including a fourth court.

In my opinion, this is undoubtedly the biggest and most complicated issue CALSA has tackled in over 30 years.

There are weeks when it has been a full-time job for me. I will stick to the key matters here and preposition those that are staying for the CALSA AGM, which is where a decision will be made. If you have an opinion then I would encourage you to stay for that meeting, express your opinion and vote. I will also make an offer that will be made at the CALSA AGM; if anyone wants to sit down with me or David Wightman and go through any level of detail regarding the proposed extension then please contact one of us.

So, the key points:

- We have planning approval for an extension. Fourth court, gym and multi-function room.
- We are now looking to compliment the extension with new changing room and shower facilities.
- The final design requires further input before it can be agreed.
- We will only have actual costs of the extension once we have fixed price tenders.
- We can only get fixed price tenders if we issue a detailed tender invitation document.
- We can only issue a tender invitation document having spent approximately £20k to have professional input from amongst others; Architect, Structural Engineer, Services Consultant and a Quantity Surveyor.

I've worked with others (including mainly Jon Spooner) to produce financial projections.

But if I distil it to as simple a question as possible, which is the proposal that David Wightman & myself as Project Sponsors will put to the CALSA AGM meeting; Do we want to spend £20K to get to a point where we can make a proposal to a CALSA AGM or EGM to go ahead with the extension. That AGM/EGM proposal will be supported by a detailed design plan, and a project plan to deliver the design. It will also include a detailed financial plan and a business plan to deliver the financial plan.

So, to close my report for this year.

Thanks to everyone who has helped the section though-out the year. The world is not perfect, the Club is not perfect. But remember it is better to deal with the issues created by success than it is the tragedies of failure. Stay positive. Feel free to offer positive suggestions for improving the Club. Feel free to discuss anything that is important to me; but preferably not when I come off court in between matches !!

Election of Officers:

Chairman: Stephen Widdison
Proposed by: Connie Applebe
Seconded by: Derek Smyth
Passed: unanimously

Secretary: Doug Old
Proposed by: Bob Robinson
Seconded by: John Cockill
Passed: unanimously

Treasurer: Ed Connell
Proposed by: Doug Old
Seconded by: Steve Osborne
Passed: unanimously

Any other business:

Doug clarified that the committee could have up to eight members; including the three elected officers. He asked if anyone wished to be nominated to join the committee other than those already on it. Barry Moses volunteered. Doug then confirmed that the following individuals had agreed to continue on the committee:

- Connie Applebe
- John Cockill
- Steve Osborne



- Jeremy Bamforth

Various members raised the issue of court congestion – Derek Smyth, Barry Moses, and others. The issues raised were those already identified by the committee and referenced in Stephen’s report:

- Perceived use of a lot of courts for coaching. Challenge that if members can only book 35 days ahead, is that the same for coaches?
- Reference to a Tuesday night when, of the 23 courts, 13 were used for coaching and only 9 available for members.
- Suggestion about the option of setting up an off-peak league for those people that are able to play then.

Doug asked the members to trust that the committee were treating this as their number one priority and that they would implement further actions if those proposed by Stephen did not improve the situation sufficiently. He then exhorted everyone to remain to vote at the CALSA AGM to help progress the longer term solution to the issue; the 4th court project.

The meeting ended at 8-00.

Approved as an accurate record of the meeting:

Doug Old – Secretary

John Cockill – committee member