



SHREWSBURY SQUASH & RACKETBALL CLUB
Chairman & Secretary :: Graham S. Jackson.
5 Holcroft Way, Berrington Green, Cross Houses, Shrewsbury. SY5 6LQ
01743 761038 :: mob 07962 724324
Email :: gs.jackson.esq@gmail.com

Dear Member,

Friday, December 10, 2021

As a member of our Club, I have a number of varying job descriptions covering Chairman, Secretary, Covid-19 Officer etc; I attempt to carry out these duties to the best of my ability even when in trying times like now, there are apparent conflicts of interest.

My role as Chairman is primarily to help the Executive Committee to function democratically and to manage Club affairs as efficiently and as harmoniously as possible; this is not easy with 158 members and seemingly a multitude of differing opinions.

My role as Covid-19 Officer was one I would love to have avoided but, in the absence of anyone volunteering, it fell to me to reluctantly assume the duties covered by that post.

The underlying principle is the duty of care I must exercise in the interests and safety of Club members and their families and to reduce as far as possible to exposure to the virus, and now the new, rapidly spreading Omicron variant.

These duties involve keeping a close eye on the ever changing guidelines, regulations and recommendations associated with the current and deepening pandemic and adapting the Club's risk assessment as we travel along to what one day, may be the new normal for life at a Squash Club.

Currently, as a Club we are still required to maintain a "Track & Trace" register and to carry on with hand sanitizing surface cleansing measures; added to this, as a small confined space with a limited capacity, England Squash and the Government require all of us to wear face masks in ALL off court areas.

It is considered, by both ES and the Government, that the Omicron variant significantly raises the risk of catching and spreading the virus and that risk assessments should be updated.

Under that assertion it is essential that the Club's risk assessment should be revisited.

I have done so and the resultant calculations indicate that the capacity of each of the main off court areas [including the Activity Space] should be limited to 20 people at any one time.

It is unlikely that the Club will come under the definitions within the Government Plan B coming into effect on 13th December where the NHS Covid Pass on the NHS App will become mandatory, but the continuing use of lateral flow tests and, if necessary PCR tests, is very much recommended.

I very much regret that my decision is not likely to be popular **BUT** accordingly, as the Club Covid-19 Officer and having considered the increased risk, I am obliged to take the decision to **CANCEL** the Christmas Social and to **RECOMMEND** that the Junior match against the Schools and the following 'party' be limited to 20 people.

Significant risk can be reduced by similarly limiting the number of people at the Squash and Racketball matches on 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th December.

Graham S Jackson
Club Covid-19 Officer