



## SHREWSBURY SQUASH & RACKETBALL CLUB

**2023 AGM Report 14<sup>th</sup> JUNE 1900 hours**

### **PRESENT:**

Annette Dickinson-Flint; Ian Dinwiddy; Graham Jackson; Howard Jones; Max Lloyd; Laura Mather; Pete Morgans; Cyril Nolan; Lee Picken; Lorna Rogers; Guy Scott; Don Wallington; Alex Whitehouse. [13]  
[13 in 2022] [12 in 2021] [12 in 2020] [17 in 2019] [18 in 2018] [16 in 2017] [13 in 2016] [12 in 2015].

### **APOLOGIES:**

Mal Brown; Paul Fowler; Ryan Heath; Damian Jay; Alex Nolan; Gary Nolan; Kacper Pagorek .

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that although traditionally, Any Other Business is not listed, he had received a paper on wider use of the Gym is attached to this year's Agenda.

This had been circulated to the Membership prior to the meeting although no comments had been received.

There were no matters arising from the previous AGM minutes.

### **CHAIRMAN & SECRETARY'S REPORT :**

The Club has had an exciting, changing and challenging year - you could say almost a year in "transition". Whilst we seem to have "lost" a number of old friends and members, we have been fortunate in that we have attracted some new, younger members under 50; on the other hand court bookings and therefore activity levels are some 5% below pre-pandemic levels with a corresponding marginal reduction in Court Income, also we continue to have a marked difference between the numbers of players in the Internal Leagues and those playing socially and infrequently. Clearly, we would like to see greater participation in our internal leagues and in County league squash and Racketball.

However, I wish to concentrate on the positives

The Club is happy to continue to accommodate all variations of Activities and Ryan Heath has been instrumental in providing Metafit, Body Conditioning and Group and personal fitness sessions; these have been an immense help to members.

The Club continues to support and host the County Initiative to introduce Squash to Primary Schools, provide additional coaching for the Junior girls and by holding sessions organised by Ben Schur, assisted by Lee Picken on behalf of Shropshire County Council as part of the Club's commitment to growing junior squash.

On behalf of the Club I wish to thank Cyril, Lee, Alex Nolan and Courtney Downing for their unstinting help, commitment and enthusiasm in providing additional afternoon coaching and development for promising and improving youngsters.

There are, of course, other members to thank.

Thanks go particularly to Lee Picken who has been superb as Club Captain; he has taken over many of the tasks I usually did, for which I was extremely grateful whilst absent from the Club.

The reduced and smaller number of Officers and Committee members, particularly Treasurer Laura Mather, Membership Secretary Lorna Rogers, Cyril and Gary Nolan, Pete Morgans and the Team Captains, as well as Committee Members, have all kept the Club functioning and in a relatively good shape to go forward into the next Season.

Whilst the pandemic had previously adversely affected our income, [as I am sure it has for many of our members], thanks to the stewardship of Laura, our Treasurer, the Club Accounts, whilst under severe pressure, have maintained a reserve and have remained relatively strong despite large increases in energy and housekeeping costs.

This reserve will be essential to enable the Club to hopefully face up to the expected huge rises in energy costs and again hopefully, protect members from the prospect of increased membership and court fees.

The Club is extremely grateful to Iain Painter who has once again unselfishly audited the Club Accounts.

The Club has invested heavily by maintain and improving facilities for members from the extensive redecoration carried out by the Bailey/Jones combo to nearly all of the "off court areas", replacement showers, the installation of a 'live streaming' facility and large screen television. Please bear in mind that the Club Accounts cover the year September 2021 to August 2022; therefore some significant expenditure on "facilities" will not show in the accounts until the next AGM.

The Club is extremely grateful to Iain Painter who has once again audited the Club Accounts.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT ::**

Laura tabled a written set of audited accounts and advised everyone that they covered the financial year ending in August 2022. A copy is attached to these minutes.

[NB - the Chris Flint fund will be included in next year's accounts].

She was very pleased to report that last year's pandemic affected operating deficit of £2,289 had been turned into an operating surplus of £16,842 [£9,464 after depreciation].

Laura drew everyone's attention to the balance sheet and explained the income & expenditure account; she chose to highlight significant areas like Heating and Lighting at £6,399 out of a total expenditure of £29,980 and also outlined other areas of costs.

Laura recommended that the Annual Subscription should remain at £85 and that light fees remain at £6 for 40 minutes and a guest fee of £3.

#### **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT ::**

Lorna reported that the number of members at August 2022 was 196 [up from 2021 level of 135] [Current level at June 2023 - 199 in all membership categories].

Lorna referred to a broadcast email from England Squash which was received today [14/06/23] with reference to their original intention to introduce a direct membership levy. The email stated that the introduction of that and increased benefits etc would be postponed until Spring 2024.

*[Not part of the AGM Minutes but in GSJ's opinion England Squash have been taken aback by the strength of feeling and criticism across the Country and, perhaps, the realisation the both ES, Counties and Club would lose members. Sad when our aim and efforts are constantly striving to make Squash & Racketball available to all]*

#### **CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT.**

Lee Picken gave a summary of the past season and made reference to upcoming events.

The Club had fielded 7 teams in the County Leagues including an embryonic Ladies Team organised by Damian and Linda in Division 3.

Congratulations to Alex Whitehouse and the "A" team for winning the League Division One Title for the first time since 2014.

Steve McClelland's team won the Racketball League and were Runners Up in the Racketball Cup.

The "B" team were Runners Up in the "A" Knock Out Cup. Congratulations to all teams and players for their efforts.

Lee thanked Pete Morgans for persevering with the Club Championships with the Racketball draw being a little drawn out. Lee announced the winners etc : Duncan Mosehli won the Men's Club championships; Elaine Radcliffe won the Ladies Club Championships; Chris Wase won the Racketball Championships; David Scott won the Nolan Downing Competition; Don Wallington won the Squash Plate competition; Rachel Pritchards won the Ladies Plate Competition and Steve McClelland won the Racketball Plate final.

Lee is attempting to arrange future events and would welcome volunteers, spectators and helpers for the following events :-

1. An "ASHES" style competition between Club Competition Mens & Ladies Winners & Runners Up from the Schools & SS&RC in September or December.

2. 9<sup>th</sup> /10<sup>th</sup> September the Chris Flint Junior Bronze Open Championships.

[We need a new Tournament Organiser because Ian Tanner has decided not to do it.

3. 16<sup>th</sup> September - an England Vets team versus a Welsh Vets Team.

4. Also to be confirmed /arrangements for hosting County Closed and the 10<sup>th</sup> Court 3 Anniversary Celebrations.

It was agreed that the Club would host 3 No 2 hour Sessions for Greenfields Primary School on 27<sup>th</sup> June; 4<sup>th</sup> July and 11<sup>th</sup> July. The Chris Flint Fund Steering Committee to be asked to consider if this activity would qualify for a grant from the fund to cover Court Lighting costs.

5. Summer usage would include Racketball Summer Leagues on Monday evenings with Staffordshire Squash Summer Leagues on alternative Wednesday evenings. Ladies Summer Socials to be programmed in.

6. Court 3 Maintenance :: despite several attempts to appoint Courtcare, it would appear that they are no longer interested in Squash Courts. We are attempting to appoint Courtmasters, Courtcraft or Mellors?

Damian Jay reported by email that the Ladies Summer League Roadshow is going well at differing venues with 9 ladies each week; after the Roadshow is finished he and Linda will arrange a curry night !

#### **JUNIOR SECTION REPORT.**

Gary Nolan was unable to attend the AGM but Cyril remained upbeat about the mid week and Saturday sessions

Gary, Ben Schur and Lee have taken the "squash wall" to a couple of venues and will be attending the Food Festival in the Shrewsbury Quarry on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

#### **ELECTION OF CLUB CAPTAIN.**

Our volunteer for this position is Lee Picken

#### **ELECTION OF 1st TEAM CAPTAIN.**

Alex Whitehouse's volunteering was approved.

#### **ELECTION OF TREASURER**

Laura Mather's volunteering was approved.

#### **ELECTION OF MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

Lorna Rogers volunteering was approved.

#### **COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE**

Don Wallington reminded the Club that the County would like to "balance" the Divisions next season; this has been made a little more difficult because two Clubs will not be playing in the Leagues. He asked for any comments and, in particular, how many teams we may field by the end of July at the latest.

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.**

Nomination forms had been issued well in advance of the meeting and the following people either had their arm twisted or selflessly volunteered for the following positions.

Chairman	Graham Jackson
Secretary	<b>Vacant</b>
Honorary Treasurer	Laura Mather
Membership Secretary	Lorna Rogers.
Club Captain	Lee Picken
Vice Chairman	Ian Dinwiddy
1st Team Captain	Alex Whitehouse
Safeguarding Officer	Gary Nolan
Internal League Organiser	Cyril Nolan
Head Coach	Courtney Downing
County Representative	Don Wallington
Competitions Organiser	Pete Morgans
Junior Organiser/Coach	Gary Nolan
Ladies Development	Damian Jay/Linda Pritchard
Fitness & Training Officer	Ryan Heath.
First Aid Officer/Advisor	Ryan Heath
Maintenance Officer/Advisor	Chris Heath
Website Editor	Kacper Pagorek/GSJ
Honorary Auditor	Iain Painter
Sponsorship Co-ordinator	Graham Jackson
Committee Members	<b>Vacant</b>
	Malcolm Brown
	<b>Vacant</b>
	Howard Jones
	Max Lloyd
	Guy Scott

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Ryan Heath's Paper on greater use of the Gym and what services he could provide was issued prior to the meeting; it was discussed briefly.

It was agreed that this would be placed on the Agenda for the next Committee meeting which is scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> July for further debate and consideration.

The meeting concluded at 2015 hours with a sponsored buffet.