

Minutes of Squash Meeting – 8th May 09

Attendees: Mark Davies (MD), Sarah Taylor (ST), Bill Bailey (BB) and John Needham (JN).

1. THE SQUASH COMMITTEE

Discussion

MD – It should be noted that this is not a “squash committee” meeting as the committee needs to be elected by club members. However this meeting of interested people is a good starting point to forming a committee.

JN has an e-mail list of all squash members (approximately 100 people).

BB questioned how many people we would like to have in the committee.

JN/MD – suggested that there are particular squash members that could provide very useful input to the squash committee such as Natalie Le Serve, John Darcy and Derek Hume.

MD would like to have a “general meeting” for all squash members to discuss issues in an open forum.

Items agreed

It was agreed that all members interested in the committee would be welcome, but it would be best to keep the number of people attending the committee meetings to about 6.

It was agreed that we should invite other members to form a squash committee and elect a Squash Captain.

It was agreed that a general meeting open to all squash members would be a good idea for the future.

Actions arising

- JN to send out a general e-mail to all squash members to let them know that we would like to form a squash committee and invite people to join and provide comment
- MD to speak to Natalie Le Serve, John Darcy and Derek Hume to seek their opinions and see if they are interested in joining.
- BB to identify who is running the squash team next year and ask for their input into the squash committee

2. SQUASH CAPTAINCY

Discussion

It was noted that Peter Obemeata has recently stood down as Squash Captain and the attendees wished to thank him for his contribution to the club in this post.

BB is keen to have two squash representatives at the Management Committee meetings. It was confirmed with Viv Mason (Secretary) that these two people would have a vote on issues arising at the meeting.

BB is keen to be an active part of the squash committee but would prefer not to be Captain or Vice as he has other commitments. JN and MD are both happy to act as Vice and ST is willing to act as Captain with the support of the squash committee.

Items agreed

It was agreed that two people from the squash committee will attend future Management Committee meetings and the club Annual General Meeting (AGM).

It was agreed that ST will be put forward as Squash Captain with either JN or MD as Vice.

It was agreed that there will be no Ladies Squash Captain at this time.

Actions Arising

- BB to put Captain and Vice nominations forward to the club.
- ST to create a spreadsheet including dates of Management Committee meetings, the AGM (and other items discussed below) for completion by attendees to this meeting. This will show who is going to attend each event on the list.

3. 2008 HANDICAP TOURNAMENT

Discussion

MD and ST have been organising the recent tournament. The tournament has not been particularly successful with low participation. Various suggestions were discussed as to how to improve this for future tournaments.

BB suggested using a system where the “top” player in the tie is responsible for arranging the game, they provide 3 dates/times to their opponent and if the opponent cannot play at these times, the “top” player goes through to the next round

JN suggested holding the next tournament over a long weekend using a seeding system called “swiss pairings”. Every player plays in every round of the tournament and no one is knocked out. There was concern that players might not be available for the whole duration of the tournament but it was welcomed as a useful suggestion and attendees thanked JN for volunteering to run such a tournament.

Items agreed

It was agreed that the handicap tournament should continue. MD made the draw for the semi-final matches and set a date for the final of June 3rd 2009.

It was agreed that the ideas put forward for improving the handicap tournament would be taken into consideration when arranging the next tournament.

Actions arising

- MD to re-work the handicap draw list and display it on the squash notice board and contact the players involved in the semi-finals.
- JN to include the date of the handicap tournament final in his e-mail to all squash players to encourage their attendance at the match.

4. SQUASH TEAM/ LEAGUES/ MIXING IN/ COACHING

Discussion

MD would like to see more squash team players playing in the club leagues.

JN suggested allocating each team player a night to come down for Wednesday night mixing in.

It was noted that Natalie Le Serve attends one Wednesday in 4 to run adult squash coaching sessions.

JN said there is a big divide between the top players in the club before you reach the next best, then another big gap before the next players.

ST suggested that there are a lot of players, of varying standards, in the club that the attendees may not be aware of.

Items agreed

It was agreed that the attendees would like to encourage squash team players to play in the leagues and attend Wednesday night mixing in sessions.

It was agreed that the attendees would like to encourage squash members to offer their support to the squash team by attending matches. It was agreed that the dates of the home matches need to be advertised at the club.

It was agreed that at least one meeting attendee would go to Wednesday night mixing in.

Actions arising

- JN will attend the Wednesday night mixing in session this week.
- All attendees to encourage participation at Wednesday night mixing in for all squash members including squash team members.
- ST to add dates of mixing in sessions and team matches to the spreadsheet mentioned above.
- ST to display the new coaching sign up sheet on the squash notice board (for the last Wednesday in May).

- BB to offer the groups thanks to Sharon for organising the leagues each month and invite her to continue doing so.

5. OPEN TOURNAMENT

Discussion

There is a board of Open Tournament winners' names on the balcony above the squash courts. It was observed that the board is full and there is no more room for names.

BB observed that the Open Tournament used to include matches for Men, Women, Vets and Doubles.

Items agreed

It was agreed that a new board should be provided. This should be divided into two sections – Mens and Ladies (no Vets).

It was agreed that the next Open Tournament would consist of a Mens competition, Ladies competition and Vets competition but no doubles.

Actions arising

- JN to speak to Mike Halls to request a new board divided into Mens and Ladies winners.
- BB to determine when the Open Tournament should be played.

6. VETS/JUNIORS

Discussion

MD - Natalie runs coaching on Saturday mornings. Attendance is approximately 3-4 juniors, 6-8 intermediates and 10-12 advanced.

BB asked if the club pays for lighting for the junior coaching.

JN – Yes.

ST – The club also pays for the lighting for team games and Wednesday night mixing in.

ST – Neil O'Neil expressed an interest in playing for the Vets team, how can he get involved?

BB – Tim Cox is running this.

Items agreed

It was agreed that the club should continue paying lights for the junior coaching, Wednesday night mixing in sessions and team matches.

Actions arising

- BB will speak to Tim Cox about how members can get involved in the Vets team – this will then be advertised to members.

7. NEWSLETTER

Discussion

Viv Mason requested that someone writes an article for the club newsletter.

Items agreed

It was agreed that a member of the squash committee would contribute a piece for each newsletter.

Actions arising

- ST to provide a piece for the next newsletter (June 1st) about the formation of a squash committee and the Wednesday night mixing in sessions.
- ST to add newsletter deadlines to spreadsheet and ask attendees to put their names against the dates and write a piece.

8. AOB

ST thought it would be a good idea to make these minutes available to all squash members e.g. by posting them on the club website or on the squash notice board.

9. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Next meeting – Friday 5th June 19.30 at the squash club.