**SQUASH & RACKETBALL SECTION – CAPTAIN’S REPORT**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 25th NOVEMBER 2021**

The last AGM was held 4th November 2020, and, in the usual manner, we have been asked by the General Committee (GC) to convene our Squash Section AGM in advance of the main club AGM on 9th December 2021.

**Committee**

During the year we have seen a number of changes; our Men’s Captain, Ali Jafari, has moved on to pastures new having been offered a paid full time coaching position as West Warwicks Squash Club. Jonathan Peak has kindly re-assumed the role as Men’s Captain. Kirk Alexander has recently stepped down as Treasurer, so we are seeking someone to fill that role alongside the vacant Secretary, Social and Competitions Organiser positions.

**Squash Captain** Graeme Mascall

**Secretary** **VACANT**

**Treasurer** **VACANT**

**Men’s Captain**  Jonathan Peak

**Ladies Captain**  Jessamy Linford

**Squash League Organiser** Andrew Campbell

**Racketball League Organiser** Jonathan Partridge

**Competitions Organiser** **VACANT**

**Social**  **VACANT**

**Welfare**

As the designated Welfare Officer for the Squash Section, I can confirm that no incidents have been registered or brought to my attention since our last AGM meeting.

**COVID-19**

Unfortunately, the 2020/21 season was again heavily affected by the pandemic. Following the announcement of the second lockdown in November 2020, full play did not re-open again until confirmed by England Squash on 17th May 2021 . Consequently, there were no internal or Warwickshire league matches during this period. I would like to thank the Section for complying with the stringent protocols that were put in place to ensure everyone’s safety.

**Membership**

As a Section, we have benefitted from the co-ordinated marketing campaign that was carried out early this year. Alongside people joining as a result of the closure of Freedom Fitness in Warwick, our numbers have increased to 508 across all WBC membership categories as at 15 November 2021. There remains a ‘core’ number of regular players in the Section of 90 players.

**Finances**

Our annual budget was submitted and duly approved by the GC. However, in light of COVID it is unsurprising that for the period April 2020 to March 2021, the Section ran at a small loss of £884.62. A copy of the financial performance summary is attached.

With the resumption of play from 17th May 2021, we hope to return to a positive position for the period ending March 2022.

**Team Squash**

I am delighted to report that the winter Warwickshire League matches recommenced in October 2021. Just for this season, we have put in just the one Men’s team. This appears to have a common approach with other clubs whilst some players are still reticent about returning to court. We fully intend to revert to three Men’s teams next season. I remain proud that we continue to field a Ladies’ team – a number of clubs with greater female members than our own have not submitted teams or amalgamated with other clubs. It is a testament to the efforts of Jess Linford and Alison Insley.

Catering for home fixtures by The Family Caterers has gone down a storm which has been a ‘double win’ with match fees reduced to £6 per person.

If you are interested in playing team squash, please contact either Jonathan Peak, Jess Linford or myself. What you must have is an activated England Squash account in order to be eligible, details can be found at [www.englandsquash.com](http://www.englandsquash.com)

**Coaching**

With the departure of Ali Jafari, we are grateful to Jonathan Peak who has stepped up to re-assume both 1-2-1 coaching, which will commence shortly on a Thursday evening from 6:30pm, and group coaching on a Saturday afternoon between 4pm and 6pm (all standards welcome).

In respect of juniors, there are sessions run by Alison Insley on a Saturday morning between and a second informal session on Saturday afternoon run by Jonathan Peak between 3pm - 4pm. I am thrilled that we are getting some ‘young blood’ into the Section and hopefully they will continue and develop their games.

**Competitions & Leagues**

In light of the COVID-19 situation we had little option but to cancel both the individual Spring and we have taken the decision this year to pass on the Autumn team . Both competitions will re-commence in 2022.

The internal leagues are up and running. Should you wish to join please contact either Andrew Campbell for squash or Jonathan Partridge for racketball. .

**Court Availability**

An issue that, whilst clearly has not been an issue during COVID, we keep under review.

**Maintenance**

We had to effect repairs to the heating system in November/December 2020. I would like to specifically thank Mike Blundell who kindly repaired and redecorated the entrance canopy into the squash courts.

The water cooler in the squash block has also been serviced during the reporting period and is back in full working order.

Plastering repairs are booked in for 28th November 2021 on both courts. Please be aware that both courts will be out of action that day.

A full clean of the walls and sanding of the floors has again been deferred pending the decision of the wider club membership in respect of the development proposals. The cost to carry out the same was quoted at £1,850 + VAT, albeit this cost will be ‘refreshed’ when appropriate.

**WBC Development Proposals**

There has been much discussion within the club on this matter in connection with whether WBC should look to scale back our ambitions and invest in the existing facilities that we have. I hope that you have, or will, take up the opportunity to attend once of the presentation sessions the last of which is being held at the clubhouse on **29th November 2021 at 5:30pm** .

It remains the intention that an EGM will be held specifically in respect of the development proposals in early 2022.

**Social**

During the last 12 months we have somewhat curtailed ! But looking forward we hope to:-

* Host our annual contest with Porthcawl Squash Club.
* Participated in World Squash Day 2022.
* Hold our annual summer BBQ
* Attended the finals of the PSA British Open in Hull.
* Contest an evening of darts at Flight Club in Birmingham
* Have an afternoon of play on the squash doubles court at the University of Warwick
* Put in a stronger performance and hopefully wrestle the McClosker Trophy (Rowing) back from the Tennis Section.

As I enter my final year as Captain, please remember the Section is what we all make it. We, as a Committee, put in time and effort to try and provide the best squash/racketball experience we can . Therefore, if you are interested in getting involved in any of the matters above, serving on the Committee, or have any ideas or constructive comments, then I would be delighted to hear from you as always.

Regards,

**Graeme Mascall**

**Squash Section Captain**

**Enc.**