



Minutes of the General Committee Meeting held at PRUFC

on

Tuesday 6th August 2024

1. **Present** - Richard Utting (Chair) (RU), Jemma Donald (JD), Alex McIntosh (AM), Ethan Niazi (EN), John Scott (JS).
2. **Apologies of Absence** – received from Neil Coward (NC), Garry Hobson (GH), Richard Lee (RL),
3. **Minutes of Last Meeting** – as previously circulated
4. **Matters Arising** – there were no matters arising
5. **Membership**
 - AM confirmed that we have 186 members including 34 juniors as at 31st July with RU commenting that this was a good result considering that we normally have a drop off in the summer.
 - It was agreed that we should recommend to the AGM that there should be no increase in subscription rates for 2024/25. However members should be advised that subscriptions may well be revised in 2025/26 to reflect the proposed developments at the club and that we look to everyone to continue to support the club in the lead up to the Olympics.
 - It was agreed that the membership categories should also be reviewed before the beginning of the subscription year in 2025.
 - ES affiliation changes were again discussed with changes occurring from 1st November.
Penrith Squash will pay £75 per court but no charge for individuals.
Individual squash members will be able to decide whether they wish to join directly at a cost of £15pa.
It was agreed that details be sent to the membership at the beginning of the membership year (1st October) to offer them the option but that all those members committed to play for the teams should be paid for by the club.
ACTION – AM to check on how the club can pay on the team members behalf
ACTION – AM to check with NC over the database for the booking system
ACTION – AM to advise committee members on the names of future cancellations.
ACTION – RU to check with Craig Donald over database for Mailchimp/Website

6. Junior review

- In NC's absence various matters were discussed including junior competitions with other clubs, junior leagues, collaboration with other clubs.
- It was agreed that a meeting with NC and Gavin Stephenson would be a good idea before the schools go back to discuss these and other matters.
- **ACTION – RU to discuss with NC**

7. Leagues

- EN happy with the way the leagues are now set up through Squash Levels.
- RU felt that we should be promoting them more and this could be done through membership communications
- RU asked EN if the league rules could be updated and sent to participants as well as appearing on the notice board
- **ACTION – EN to update rules**

8. Teams

- Ben Hoyle had submitted 2 teams into the Cumbria League.
- RU had expressed his initial concerns that we may not have enough members who would commit but BH had confirmed that he felt there would be sufficient numbers.
- It was agreed that team shirts should be provided to those who had committed to regular team squash and that a further supply of up to 10 shirts should be made available to those who could participate occasionally.
- **ACTION – RU to contact BH to confirm and arrange for team shirts to be produced.**

9. Welfare

- AM confirmed that there had been no welfare issues however the 'Incident Reporting Form still requires an updated email address
- **ACTION - AM to organise**

10. Website/social media

- JD had previously commented that we needed to increase the number of followers on FB.
- It was agreed that we should hold a competition and that 'Another Place' should be contacted to see whether we could organise a day at the hotel through a member(s) contact associated with the club
- **ACTION – RU to contact Another Place.**

11. Club Development

- Following PRUFC's commitment to the club, RU provided a background to the work which has been carried out by him, AM and GH in relation to development plans for the club. Details had been sent prior to the meeting to all committee members for their perusal
- He confirmed that a presentation would be made to PRUFC covering improvement to the roof (re-felting rather than a new steel roof due to cost) and refurbishment of the courts (including possibly bringing Court 3 back into use) all to be completed in 2025.
- The presentation would include a business plan and full financials which would also need to be provided to all potential grant funders.
- RU felt that there was a strong case for the improvements to be made particularly with the Olympics coming up in 2028. The downside was if these improvements were not carried out the future of the club was in doubt

12. Signage

- It has been confirmed that Absolute Physiotherapy (club sponsors for 2024/25) was proceeding in having the main sign outside the club redone with their logo etc. This to be completed shortly
- RU felt that we needed new banner signage at the entrance gates and on the club.
- **ACTION – RU to organise banner signage**

13. Women's Squash Week

- It was agreed that promotion around Women's Squash Week would take the form of making the Tuesday evening Ladies Club Night an open event inviting both existing members and those interested in trying the game.
- It was agreed that no meter fees should apply to those ladies who wish to play through the week. This would be done by providing free tokens.
- Publicity would be via social media and press releases encouraging ladies to come forward and try the game. Existing members would also be encouraged to bring a friend(s) along to try the game.
- **ACTION – JS to investigate purchase of more tokens**
- **ACTION – JD/RU to consider promotional angles**

14. World Squash Day – 12th October 2024

- It was agreed that the club should have an open day as in previous years to promote the sport and encourage those who haven't played before to come along.
- **ACTION – RU to consider promotional steps etc**

15. AOB

- RU reminded everyone that the AGM should be held in September and suggested the w/c 23rd September. All in agreement
- EN suggested that we should have another charitable fund raising marathon later in 2024 or early 2025. To be considered further as to which charity to support (Children in Need or Sports Relief) but EN confirmed that he is happy to organise.
- JS congratulated RU, GH & AM for their work on the development plans so far.

With there being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.45pm.