

**Minutes of DSTC Council meeting on July 3 2024 at 7pm
at Duffield Squash and Tennis Club**

PRESENT

Mark Benson Andy Page Nigel Williams Sally Hargreaves Grenville Holt Vic Malysz
Alison Knibbs

APOLOGIES Gill Holt, but joined the meeting later.

1. **MINUTES** - of the Council meeting on June 6 were approved. These will be put on the websites.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Council were pleased to note that Gill Holt is joining the Council as Social Lead.

A formal request from the Squash Sub-committee for specific extended bar hours is expected this week.

NW has spoken to our appointed contractor, who cannot give a start date for work on the floor of squash court 1, changing rooms and remaining downstairs common areas until November at the earliest.

ACTION : Council email to inform members of the position. MB/NW

In the meantime, works were agreed to make the ground floor entrance area and new coffee lounge space more inviting, even if temporary. This will include re-plastering, possibly some timber cladding, cosmetic improvement to the old office ceiling area, laminate flooring on bare areas and painting. Noticeboards to be de-cluttered where possible. At the same time electrics to be raised as part of flood mitigation. Cost circa £6.5k.

Also agreed to appoint architects to draw up a scheme to improve the Club practically and aesthetically as far as possible, taking into account earlier member suggestions, such as accessibility and saunas. Nigel also has a meeting this week with flood mitigation experts. He believes recommendations can be turned round quickly.

ACTION : NW/MB

Squash and Tennis Sub-committees also to be asked for feedback on a request for a vending machine, and if new lockers are needed to replace the old ones.

ACTION : SH/VM

3. SAFEGUARDING

AK meeting with Safeguarding group next week to look at amalgamating squash and tennis safeguarding policies.

4. EGM REQUESTS

Mark has had informal approaches regarding another EGM being called in response to the EGM on June 4 and to determine the club direction. He has responded to those enquiries to say he believes that another EGM would be unhelpful for the club as this would distract from essential ongoing business, and in a practical sense, reeling from one to another would be problematic for both the club and its members. To date he hopes that these messages have been understood by those concerned.

5. STRATEGY RETURNS

Due to a misunderstanding the Squash strategy is not yet done, but should be available in 10 days. All others are in, and will be assessed once the squash return is submitted. Sub-committee profiles need to be raised, engaging more with members and providing points of contact.

6. CODE OF CONDUCT AND CONSTITUTION

AK is revising a draft general code of conduct, to include a complaints process and appeals procedure. Squash and tennis to produce their own playing codes of conduct.

ACTIONS: AK/SH/VM

Further revisions are needed to the Constitution.

ACTION : MB/AK to review, plus Jon Mabbitt to be invited.

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Bulletins - publication is now synchronized, with good feedback. Gren now plans fortnightly bulletins. With so much information now coming through, a precis of topics at the start was suggested, with details further down.

New website - the optimistic hope is that this shall be ready by the end of the year. Vic and Gill are preparing subject matter.

Existing websites – in the interim content is being updated on both squash and tennis websites.

Facebook and Instagram - we now have a regular presence on both.

Marketing/Promotion – James Grindell, tennis and Mike Dyer, squash leading. Squash court 3 tin to be branded with the DSTC name, with space left for a new logo.

8. SQUASH REPORT

The Sub-committee have now been assigned specific roles. Milly Tomlinson is liaising with Gren to promote squash on social media. Ralph and Gill Ford are updating information for the new website. Rich Gilbert is helping with membership stats. Dean has restarted squash and racketball Friday club nights, including “have a go” sessions.

A “pay and play” initiative needs further discussion.

Membership remains steady, but Vic to assess reasons for recent non-renewals.

9. TENNIS REPORT

Ten adults and a few juniors had joined in the last weeks. Full figures would be available by the end of the week.

10. SOCIAL REPORT

The next event is the quiz on July 12th, with Neil Smith as quizmaster.

11. GYM/FITNESS REPORT

Bookings were now nearing the same as June last year. The joining process had been simplified and ten new all-inclusive members had joined in June. Ross Haig, a new strength and conditioning coach, starts classes with tennis juniors this week. This could be promoted to squash members.

PT Helen Treece is expected to start classes this month.

12. UNIFICATION UPDATE

The Xero accounting software is now in place.

Club Constitution and policies still need work, plus the need to look at membership options. Vic to ask Rich Gilbert to assist with the latter.

13. FINANCE

Agreement on a final settlement figure with insurers is still awaited. Looking ahead, each playing section will need forecasts, budgets and targets. The biggest worry was the reduction in squash court revenue. Andy believed £200k would need to be put aside as a flood defence fund over the next five years.

14. COFFEE MACHINE

Council agreed proposal to rent a coffee machine, initially for 12 months, with possible extension to 3 years if successful. To be sited in the new downstairs social area. Pricing options discussed and thanks expressed to Lizzie Paish for liaising with Sassy Coffee and negotiating the contract.

15. MEMBERSHIP FLOOD CREDIT REQUEST

As under item 13, a final settlement is still awaited. A reply stating this to be sent to the member concerned.

ACTION : GH

16. COACHING/PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

It was agreed to extend the input and role of James Grindell. Further discussion needed on the scope of his role.

17. RECRUITMENT FOR COUNCIL VACANCIES

There had been no responses to the appeal for a new Secretary and Gym Lead.

18. CARNIVAL AND EXTERNAL MARKETING

James, assisted by tennis leaders, had run a tennis/squash/racketball volley rally competition at Dufield Carnival. Successful, but better promotional/marketing material needed next time.

AOB

Saturday morning table tennis session, run by Jon Mabbitt, starting soon, at 10am. Just turn up.

Agreed that reports should be submitted in advance for future meetings.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING : Tuesday August 20 at 7pm