

Oundle Squash Club AGM – 7 December 2017-12-06

Apologies were received from Matt Pendrill and Jenny Herbage.
Eighteen members attended.

Current Membership

There are sixty one members at present. The club is trying to entice more people to join. All members were asked to encourage anyone they know who might be interested to come along and try a game of squash or racquetball. The tennis and rugby clubs will be approached again, and the electronic signs that are in Waitrose and the town will continue to show club details. Martin Pugh suggested that Bushfield and Peterborough Town clubs might have people who would be interested in joining Oundle – and he is going to look into this. Advertising was suggested – perhaps in the Chronicle and the Oundle Advertiser.

The Leagues

There are currently 31 players in the leagues. Tristan Ashby is joining in January, and Peter Kemp in February. December and January are now merged as one month – this was agreed by all members.

The Pearson Trophy for the most points in league one:

Runner up with 144 points was Jim Leakey.
Winner with 171 points was Jason Atkinson.

The Pyle Trophy for the most points in all leagues:

Runner up with 158 points was Jim Leakey.
Winner with 162 points was Martin Pugh.

It was proposed by Kev Thomas that there should be a trophy for the women's racquetball league – and after some hilarity that proposition was accepted. The name of this trophy is to be decided. The 'prosecco cup' was suggested.

Squash Coaching

Adam Begley received mostly positive feedback from members who had taken part in coaching this year. There will, therefore, be more sessions organised for Feb/March of 2018. Some of these sessions will be a chance for small group coaching – maybe just two people – with sessions running back to back over an evening. Others will be offered in larger groups as before. One or two members have children who may be interested in having some coaching – and Dan is going to be asked whether this is something he might be able to offer. Richard Poulter added that Dan does also offer racquetball coaching too.

Members feel that coaching is a valid use of the club's funds – perhaps more so than organising social trips.

It was also brought to the attention of members that Dan does offer a racquet re-stringing service. Other places that do this were mentioned – and it was decided to

collate these and list them on the club website. This service is no longer available at the school shop.

Court Facilities and Access

Charles has had a meeting with Susie Raby at Oundle School. The school is in the process of creating a new sporting facility – but the squash court building will remain untouched. This will mean it will stand alone from the main sports halls and therefore there is some uncertainty about access arrangements for town squash players. It may be that there will be a door code or something similar, but this is all to be determined. The good news is that there will not be an interruption to the use of the courts, as was initially feared.

Members would like to be able to play before 6.30pm, and this is something that Charles will keep pressing the school on. It was noted, however, that child protection is a huge issue in schools now, and the club understands that the use of changing rooms before 7pm is not possible. Members need to change elsewhere – ideally before arriving at the club.

Financial Update

The treasurer, Paul Smith, read the financial report. It is unlikely that the bill for the AGM will be as much as last year. There is slightly less in the bank than last year – this is because the membership is down. Charles is querying the rise of 4% in the rent payable to Oundle School.

Membership

Membership fees are to be frozen for the fifth year in succession. With the usual discount for payment before the end of December 2017, they look like this:

With discount – Single 120, Family 160, Junior 30
After January 1st – Single 140, Family 175, Junior 30

The definition of “family” covers anyone still in full time education – gap years included!

Town v Gown

Jim Leakey is happy to run this again. The town enjoys this fixture, and was victorious this year – losing only a couple of matches.

Squash Tournaments

Everyone played well and mostly on time. The racquetball tournaments will be moved so that they do not clash with the squash. The results of the squash tournaments:

Handicap:

Runner up – Martin Pugh
Winner – Thomas Moore

Open:

Runner up – Charles Smithson
Winner – Jason Atkinson

There will be more emails sent out during the tournaments to warn that courts are likely to be busier than usual. Adam Begley was thanked for organising.

Racquetball

Richard Poulter received the loudest applause of the evening for his presentation on the history of racquetball. The tournaments are to be held in May or June. The results of this year's matches:

Handicap:

Runner up – Charles Smithson
Winner – Jason Atkinson

Open:

Runner up – Jason Atkinson
Winner – Charles Smithson

Social

The club is going to organise a “Not the AGM Night” at the Talbot Hotel gardens. More details to follow.

Jim Leakey suggested the possibility of members organising trips to watch professional squash matches in Hull, and asked whether the club would fund tickets. This was agreed as a good use of funds.

The possibility of watching matches on screens in pubs was also raised – and this is going to be investigated.

Re-election of committee members

All members are happy to continue in their roles. There was no objection.

A.O.B

The question of taking guests to the club was raised. It is fine for someone who is thinking of joining the club to go and play a game or two with a member – but after that they would need to join.

Plate size was discussed – hard to balance the goujons and chips it seems. More salad would have been good! The meeting closed at 10pm.

