

BIDDENDEN SQUASH CLUB

Club Update for AGM (committee@biddendensquash.co.uk)

24th September 2021

Enclosed are

- Chairman's Report
- Membership Secretary Report
- Director of Squash Report
- Treasurers report (and attached accounts)
- Bar Report
- Ladies Representative Report
- Club Secretary / Maintenance Report

Chairman's Report (Mark Butterworth)

Looking back – Thank you

Dear Members of Biddenden Squash Club (BSC) and affiliated Village Halls Clubs. Despite all the head winds thrown at the club, over the past year we have collectively managed to: -

- Weather the storms of the various locks downs to date and financially be in a stable position.
- Fully re-open our club to members (hopefully we don't need to enter back into any further lockdowns) including the bar.
- See good and growing membership (*see Membership Secretary Report below*).
- See playing of squash make a spectacular return (*see Director of Squash Report below*).
- See the start of the return to social squash events initiated with the most excellent internal Wednesday Night Internal Team Squash events held over the last 8 weeks. These kinds of events, along with the Family days that we will hopefully be able to re-start, are the mainstay of the club.
- Completed several items to further enhance the overall Club (as part of the club Long Term Development & Improvement Plan (LTIDP) improvement programme) – (*see Maintenance Report below*).

None of this would have been achieved without you. Therefore, I would like to say a special thank you to all our members; to all the helpers over the past year (you know who you are); to the Squash Club Committee; to the Village Halls Sports Committee and to Biddenden Parish Council for all the work & support that has enabled this.

Club person of the Year 2020/21

This year I would like to personally thank **John Sharples** who has played a significant role with the club and on the committee. John has decided to stand down from the Committee, but it is his continued dedication to help maintain and improve the club for which this year's award goes to John. Thank you, John, for your services to the club and the Committee.

Looking forwards to 2022

Proposed Committee

The Committee of 2020/21 will be seeking re-election for 2021/22 except for John Sharples who is stepping down (see above).

- Chair / VHSC trustee – Mark Butterworth
- Vice Chair / Membership – David Robson
- Treasurer – Elliot Lancashire
- Club Secretary – Dan Goldsmith
- Director of Squash – Tom Swain
- Bar – Caroline Swain
- Ladies Representative – Jo Davies
- Keeping us all honest – Simon Ashby

Proposed Principles of the Chair (if re-elected!)

I'm setting out the following proposed Principles to see through to next year. These principles have been tweaked from the ones used to guide the Committee over the past year.

1. First and foremost, to support and promote Squash and Racketball for its members.
2. Provide multiple opportunities to the Club members for strong squash and social interaction at all levels of capability, leveraging the bar where possible.
3. Continue the outreach into the Community alongside supporting the growth of squash to juniors, ladies and with other VHSC clubs.
4. Seek and promote strengthened relationships with the other Biddenden Village Clubs – through its relationship with the Biddenden Village Hall & Sports Committee (VHSC) and the Biddenden Parish Council (BPC).
5. Continue to weather the Covid environment and ensure the Club adapts accordingly to maintain its strong financial and administrative operation.
6. Ensure that the facilities remain fit for purpose for the future years and that the Club maintains and seeks funding in support of these larger capital expenditures. This is captured in the "Long Term Improvement & Development Plan" (LTIDP) plans brought together by the VHSC.

In Conclusion

I look forward to continuing to support this club in any way that I can and enjoying its facilities. Please do take the time to say hello and feedback to your committee and don't hesitate to contact me with any suggestions.

Mark Butterworth, Chair (mark@biddendensquash.co.uk; 07899074763)

Membership Secretary Report (David Robson)

Despite the pandemic, it has been an excellent year for membership, building on the success of the last few years. Membership at the end of the financial year (31 March 2021) stood at 167 members and, since the club has re-opened, membership has increased to **214**; this includes **47 new members/past members** who have decided to come back to play again.

The family base continues to be our strength with 25 family groups as members. This is often built on significant junior membership: Wednesday night junior sessions are extremely popular and are driving more families to join.

Total membership is:

- 122 adult playing members
- 15 young adult playing members (18-25 y.o.)
- 61 juniors
- 16 social members

Because the club was closed for six months in the membership year 2020/21, existing members will get six months “free” i.e. membership fees for 2021-22 season will be reduced by 50%; payment will be requested in September / early October.

David Robson, Membership Secretary (david@biddendensquash.co.uk)

Director of Squash Report (Tom Swain)

Since the easing of restrictions, the club has seen a steady increase in court usage (see attached spreadsheet) coinciding with the increase in membership.

The club supports a number of sessions across a weekly basis and this feeds in to the healthy situation the club is currently in. The table below has a breakdown of these sessions

Type of Session	Number of Sessions per week	Number of Participants
Racket Tots – parent and toddler sessions – 2-4 year olds	3	19 – figures do not include the link with the local Playschool
Rapid Rackets – Year R-Year 2 beginners squash sessions	2	22
Junior Squash – Year 3 upwards – this includes the Young adult session for 15-19yr olds	7	47
John Mayne Year 5/6 ASC	1	5 – (4 that were in this group before the summer holidays have joined the junior squash sessions)
Monday Night Ladies	4	19
Saturday Morning Training	2 – plus fitness in between	20 - ‘signed up’ with a limit of 16 per week for the squash sessions (8 per session) – we also have some relatives of players joining the fitness session.
Totals	19	132 – this is NOT 132 different people, some of these are doubled up where a player may do more than one session per week

NB: Just under 50% of all those that take part in weekly sessions are women/girls – this is considerably higher than the number of individual bookings made by the same group across a week – averaging less than 20%

The club now has 4 qualified coaches – Chris Gorman (soon to be level 3), Tom Swain (level 2), Lorna Lancashire as a Level 1 squash coach now offering 1:1 for beginner players as well as running group sessions with juniors and ladies. Charlie Stow also qualified as Level 1 and introducing new players to the club.

Wednesday Night Internal Team Squash (August/September 2021)

The internal team squash night has been a huge success – 30 players involved, lots of social and some excellent squash across all rankings. We will be looking to recreate this in future months as well as friendly matches with a similar format with other clubs.

The resumption of team squash in the Kent Leagues will take place on Wednesday evenings when it resumes – the club will be looking to enter 2 teams with the possibility of a 3rd team in a development league for less experienced players.

Box Leagues

Currently 40 players across the club leagues with completion of matches consistently being 70%+ since the resumption.

Club Tournaments

The conclusion of the 2020 handicap final is tonight (24th Sept), the plan will then be returning to our calendar of events with the Ladies, Juniors and Vets handicaps to take place before Christmas, Closed competitions in early spring – there is no plan to try and run the missed tournaments due to the lockdowns.

Other Planned Events

- World Squash Day – 9th October – an event to be planned for the afternoon – possibly Family team day
- Pro day – Tesni Evans looking to come down at some point for a day/weekend

As director of squash, I would like to thank all those that attend the sessions, sign up for events and play in the leagues as well as those that offer their time to play new and potential members. The club is awesome and goes from strength to strength and that is due to the countless hours and efforts of everybody.

Tom Swain, Director of Squash (tom@biddendensquash.co.uk)

Treasurers Report (Elliot Lancashire)

Accounts to 31st March 2021

Despite a tough year with COVID limiting income from memberships, light deposits and the bar Biddenden Squash Club remains in good financial health due to the receipt of grant income. Gross profit from regular trading sources amounted to £6,741 whilst income from grants amounted to

£29,298. This left the club with a net profit of **£6,763** for the year despite an operating loss of £22,536.

Significant expenses included repairs and maintenance of £15,616, clubhouse rent of £4,183 and payroll of £3,967. Further, due to the lack of access to the club, £3,000 of membership income has been deferred. A key deposit accrual was also included at £2,000 to cover all keys on loan to members.

Lastly, the club now uses accounting software to maintain the financial statements but comparative figures from previous years were not available (as they will be going forwards). However, we can say that total capital and reserves have increased from £4,962 to **£11,725** which is excellent news during the pandemic.

I hereby present these accounts to be complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge for consideration by the Club for approval.

The year to 31st March 2022

The overall financial health of the club remains strong with some follow up grants in the early part of the year. This will enable a reduction in returning member fees for 2021/22 (a further note should be issued by David Robson in due course). Alongside this the focus over the coming months will be on continuing to improve the flow, control and timeliness of paying costs (expenses) and receiving membership fees (income) for the club.

Elliot Lancashire, Treasurer (elliot@biddendensquash.co.uk)

Bar Report (Caroline Swain)

The bar usage has increased steadily since reopening at the end of May. We have worked with flexible opening days and hours depending on court usage in an attempt to make the bar as financially sustainable as possible.

Tuesdays still remains our most consistent night, however the Wednesday tournament has had a massive impact. Thank you to Tom for organising this.

Fridays fluctuate with the traditional 'club night' being inconsistent and occasional bookers from newer members. This is an area that could be revitalised so that we are not 'losing' courts and bookings.

We have a few events scheduled between now and Christmas which hopefully will bring back the pre-covid socials that are so greatly missed.

Caroline Swain, Bar (caroline@biddendensquash.co.uk)

Ladies Squash Representative Report (Jo Davies)

It has been a strange year due to the pandemic but despite this the number of ladies playing squash at the club continues to grow. Coaching for the 'Monday Night Ladies' has increased from three to four sessions to cover the demand which is testament to the club being so welcoming of new members of all ages and abilities. It is uplifting to see so many ladies and girls getting involved in the box leagues and competitions as well as those just playing for fun because they love it. I'm very proud to be the Ladies Representative for a club that has such a thriving group of female players that

is going from strength to strength. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any suggestions you may have as I'm here to ensure the voice of the Ladies is always well represented.

Jo Davies, Ladies Squash Representative (jo@biddendensquash.co.uk)

Club Secretary / Maintenance Report (Dan Goldsmith)

Despite the pandemic, the club has remained very active over the past 18 months maintaining and improving the facilities.

Members will have seen the outstanding effort made to:

- move the steps that access the courts,
- sand the court floors,
- re-paint the bar and playing facilities,
- re-tile the toilet areas,
- and re-floor the club throughout.

Allied to this, behind the scenes, we have been very busy too:

- re-wiring much of the club,
- installing new fire alarms,
- improving the exterior access to the heating facilities,
- meeting new plumbing regulations and attaining certification,
- and making safe the area where bar staff store empty beer kegs.

We have other exciting plans ahead too, and will report on these when we have approved funding for the projects, currently we are looking to renew the court tins and improve the cellular connectivity around the communal areas.

Dan Goldsmith, Club Secretary (dan@biddendensquash.co.uk)

BIDDENDEN SQUASH CLUB

Accounts to 31st March 2021

PROFIT AND LOSS	
INCOME	
Bar Sales	506.15
Light Deposits Income	1,135.00
Membership Income	4,146.57
Total Income	£5,787.72
COST OF SALES	
Bar - Stock	-952.89
Total Cost of Sales	-£952.89
Gross Profit	£6,740.61
EXPENSES	
Accounting Software	43.20
Bad debts - Key Deposits	2,000.00
Bank Charges	7.00
Court Booking System	576.00
Entertaining	176.10
Golf Day	-132.56
Heating	1,050.49
Insurances	446.19
Office / General Administrative Expenses	144.52
Other Professional Services	41.76
Payroll Expenses	3,967.18
Phone Costs	560.34
Repair and Maintenance	15,616.44
TV, ICO, etc Fees	372.50
VHSC Rent	4,183.00
Website / Email	223.99
Total Expenses	£29,276.15
Net Operating Income	-£22,535.54
OTHER INCOME	
Grant	29,298.29
Total Other Income	£29,298.29
Net Other Income	£29,298.29
Net Income	£6,762.75

BALANCE SHEET (as at March 31 2021)	
Fixed Asset	
Total Fixed Asset	
CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	
Current	12,962.88
Membership Account	2,806.50
Total Cash at Bank and in Hand	£15,769.38
DEBTORS	
Debtors	200.00
Greene King	752.23
Total Debtors	£952.23
Net Current Assets	£16,721.61
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	
Current Liabilities	
Deferred Membership Income	2,997.00
Key Deposit Liability	2,000.00
VAT Control	0.00
Total Current Liabilities	£4,997.00
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	£4,997.00
Net Current Assets (liabilities)	£11,724.61
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	£11,724.61
Total Net Assets (liabilities)	£11,724.61
CAPITAL AND RESERVES	
Opening Balance Equity	4,961.86
Retained Earnings	0.00
Profit for the Year	6,762.75
Total Capital and Reserves	£11,724.61

TREASURERS COMMENT

Despite a tough year with COVID limiting income from memberships, light deposits and the bar Biddenden Squash Club remains in good financial health due to the receipt of grant income. Gross profit from regular trading sources amounted to £6,741 whilst income from grants amounted to £29,298. This left the club with a net profit of £6,763 for the year despite an operating loss of £22,536.

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