

## **UPS CLUB SQUASH SECTION - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (1996-7)**

**9<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 1997**

### **Web Version**

Present : Steve Edwards, Sandra Gill, Julian Raymond, John Beech, and Andrew Reader

1. Apologies : Phil Martin
2. Minutes of the last meeting; 1995 - 1996 (18 February 1997).  
The minutes were read, approved then signed.
3. Matters arising.  
These were all covered in the Chairman's report.
4. Chairman's Report - Steve Edwards
  - (i) Sandra Gill was thanked for her term as Secretary of the club. She had served from September 1992.
  - (ii) A squash page has been placed on the web along with all the other activities offered by the Ups and Downs Club. We would like to offer access to the Marsden. Steve will liaise with Phil Martin and Jo Milan to try to implement this. It was suggested that the Marsden could have access, providing the appropriate 'firewalls' are setup.  
Another way of providing access to members was via a personal internet connection. The options here would be for the Squash Club or The Ups Club to purchase a connection. Another option would be for a member with a current subscription to allow the club usage. The question of allowing St Heliers access was raised. This issue was not resolved. The question of security was raised with regard to individuals' phone numbers if the web pages were available to the general public.
  - (iii) Court Usage:  
We have 8 leagues at present. There has been a gradual decrease from the 10 - 11 last year. The number of individuals who have booked is down from 133 to 110. This figure is not accurate because some players are not consistent with the name they put on the sticker, and some players may not book courts at all.  
The weekly average number of games booked is again down on last year to an average of 15.7 games per week. Comparisons are: 22.5 in 1995-6; 27 in 1994-5; 31 in 1993-4. This is a reduction of approximately 50% over 4 years.
  - (iv) Court Charges:  
A new mechanism for the meter has been ordered. It will take £1.00 and 20p coins. The committee has decided to raise the cost of lighting to £1.00 per 40 mins. The cost of booking will remain at 50p. The meeting was reminded of previous price increases and that the current price increase had been ratified at previous meetings (Agreed to raise price of lights to £1 at AGM 1993 because expected increases in bills; Ratification at AGM 1994 also).  
Members queried the practicality of which player would pay for lights and which for booking and the committee took note of the concern.

(v) Squash Court Dehumidifer:

There were two minor problems during the year. The cost of repairs amounted to £192. A more serious problem arose on 26 November 1997. The engineer diagnosed a broken compressor and 2KW heater. The cost of labour for the visit has been quoted at about £140. The estimate for repairs is £800 + labour + VAT, which is approx. £1200. The committee has decided it is now time for a new unit. The quote from Trembath is £3530 + VAT + delivery/fitting. This was £2650 in December 1995. Steve will write to Trembath to ask for a reduction in cost and extended warranty before considering buying from them again. The committee feel justified in asking for these concessions because of the amount of money already spent on repairing the unit in previous years. They hope that Trembath will be prepared to negotiate on this. If a suitable arrangement with Trembath cannot be made, then the committee will consider other manufacturers. One possibility raised was to buy from Trembath and to engage different servicers - perhaps even the Hospital or Institute contractors. It was pointed out that if the unit was bought from Trembath, many of the parts in the current unit could be used as spares because some were quite new

A cover or shelter will be erected to protect the new unit from the elements. A brief breakdown of previous year's expenditure on the dehumidifier was presented - Money spent in 1996 = approx. £1627; Money spent in 1995 = virtually nothing; Money spent in 1994 = approx. £915

(vi) Leagues:

As a temporary measure, the home and away and penalty stars systems had been scrapped as of December 1997. The home and away system started in 1993/4 to motivate and encourage players to play their matches. Penalty stars were a key feature of this scheme but have been in use for much longer. The reason for the alteration is because with only 8 leagues it seems counter-productive to throw out players. Players are now disregarding the penalty star system; Steve presented a table to illustrate this.

No with 3 stars in subsequent months (same players)					
Month (No of leagues)		August	September	October	November 97
June 97 (9)	3	2	1	1	1
Aug 97 (7)		7	4	1	1
Sep 97 (8)			13	4	3
Oct 97 (8)				17	12
Nov 97 (8)					16

(vii) Playscheme:

The playscheme operated between July and August 1997 and displaced the Aerobics and Circuit Training sections from their lunchtime slots in the DC Hall. The committee sent out e-mails and put up notices proposing that the groups be allowed to use the squash court for their activities. The committee received 3 replies for the proposal, 1 against, and 1 reply concerned about booking difficulties. The proposal was therefore implemented, and the committee received no complaints about it. The members present suggested that a fee should be levied for usage. This would most likely be for the cost of the lights. It was noted that no members had complained about problems booking courts and that there had been little effect on the leagues. A member proposed that other venues could be investigated as alternatives - one suggestion was the Prison.

(viii) Site Development:

Steve had written to Ann Pendry, the Institute Planning Officer, in April 1997 to ask if the squash court could be considered for relocation if any developments were to take place. He had received an e-mail reply in July to say the issue would be raised at the appropriate planning meeting.

- (ix) Maggie Flower, Patrick Biggs, John Beech, Julian Raymond and the Bar staff were thanked for selling stickers throughout the year. It was noted that Patrick Biggs was leaving for the USA. The committee thanked him for his help and wished him the very best in his new job. Sandra Gill volunteered to take over sticker sales from Patrick.
- (x) The squash door lock mechanism had been investigated, but no better alternative to the current type had been found.
- (xi) Notices regarding squash ball sales had been displayed. Information was also available on the Web
- (xii) A quote had been received from Peter Willmor for improvements to the electrical circuitry. The committee had put this matter on hold because of other spending priorities.

5. Treasurers Report - Julian Raymond.

The treasurer reported a balance of £6028 in the bank. Expenditure was down a lot from last year. It was noted that key deposit were not kept as a separate item. The interest paid on the account seemed low. Julian would query and investigate accounts that paid better interest. Expenditure on a new dehumidifier would reduce the balance considerably, and concerns were raised about the cost of a new floor which was estimated at £3000 in 1996.

6. Election of officers.

All current officers were re-elected, collectively proposed by Sandra Gill had seconded by John Beech.

There were no nominations for the post of Secretary, so the position was left vacant. Sandra Gill was co-opted to the committee as an Ordinary Member. Any member wishing to take a position on the committee as Secretary or as an Ordinary Member would be welcomed.

7. Any Other Business.

- (i) A proposal was made to end the deposit charge on door keys. This was not endorsed.
- (ii) A proposal was made to end prize giving for the number of courts booked by individuals and to instigate prizes for the most number of league games played. The proposal was carried unanimously.
- (iii) A small area of damage to the floor was reported. The committee will keep an eye on it.
- (iv) The Handicap Tournament 1997 may not be played until the New Year, and may be cancelled because of the reduced number of leagues and the level of apathy experienced last year.

## 8. Award Presentations

The best 'league improver' and recipient of the Mike Chow Squash Cup and £15 sports vouchers was Andrew Reader. Andrew was in league 8 in November 1996 and had risen to league 4 in November 1997

The most frequent court bookers were Ray Wiggins (59) (a sheet of booking stickers) and Phil Martin (44) (a half sheet of booking stickers).