

Blue Gum Squash Club (Inc)



Monthly Committee Meeting

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When 14-09-2020 at 03:00

Location: Squashworld Brentwood, 33 Moolyeen Rd, Brentwood WA 6153, Australia

Chairperson Steven JONES

Minute taker Steven JONES

Present Tom Bernardi , Rob BLACKETT , Steven JONES (President), Audrey LAZAROO (Ladies Club Captain), Brian SEARLES , Clare Slyth

Apologies Jeremy CLAUDIUS , Frank LUPIS , Steve TAPLEY

Minutes

1. Bills Received / To Pay

Accounts Paid since last meeting.

- \$29.00 - Gas Bottle - Reimburse Steven Jones
- \$537.50 - WA Squash - Team fees - Spring 2020
- \$280.00 - WA Squash - Player Registrations

Expenses expected

- \$2000 - Squashworld Brentwood, contribution towards court maintenance (waiting for account to be provided before payment can be made)

Income received

- Member fees x 4, \$220 for Quiz night

Current balance - \$16,060.75 @ 14th August 2020

2. Centre Improvement / Club Development Plans

Locked cabinets - committee agreed to install some locked cabinets under the noticeboard for storage of club merchandise and other items - Rob to source the same style of cupboards as the kitchen and install. This will provide a lockable storage area for the club to use.

Possible long term goals for the centre (note current fundraising will not fund these projects):

- Upgrade the courts to Court tech walls - discussed that this needs around \$50-\$60,000 to do all the courts to the optimum level, we don't really have any ideas on how to raise that much money. This issue is not a club issue, but obviously would be desirable for members to have the best facilities. Good to have this goal, but further discussion, and partnership with others is needed.

- Expansion of the centre to the vacant land to the West, could this add two more courts? This is unlikely but is there any possibility of expansion?

- Air conditioning

3. Calendar of Events

Events planned:

Quiz Night - This was held with 60 people attending. Was an excellent night, and enjoyed by all. Committee open to running another one in the future.

Club Champs / AGM - Day 1 completed last Saturday, finals on this Saturday from 12.00-4.00pm. Drinks and nibbles to be provided by the club from 3.00pm onwards, Brian to organise the food, Frank will organise the drinks.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) - this will be held on the 19th September, following the club champs, from 4.30pm. Nominations for committee so far - Steven, Rob, Tom, Audrey, Brian, Mike - Clare no, but will still manage the juniors - Steve, Jeremy & Frank TBC. Louis offered to support the committee with social media page.

Xmas Function - to be arranged around the end of November, beginning of December.

To be explored further:

Doubles - Brian raised the possibility of Blue Gum hosting a doubles tournament, Kane is looking at having one on the WA Squash calendar, but this needs to be followed up. Dates are difficult to come by, and it is difficult to gauge the potential level of interest. Discussed that we could start a Doubles comp on Monday evenings at the end of the pennant season.

Squashworld Challenge - Last year Kane suggested a Squashworld challenge between two clubs, or all four clubs. This was supported by the club. This hasn't progressed and will require further discussion.

4. Membership

We have 120 members as at 14th August

Outstanding Fees - Pennant nominated:

Night - Charles Mallozzi

Club Membership - \$30 for the remainder of the year, expires 31/12/2020

Life Membership - the committee received a query in regards to Life Membership of the club, as the Constitution is quite broad and allows for any member to nominate a prospective life member. There was some discussion in regards to criteria, particularly around length of membership, and it was highlighted that we need to develop a criteria for consideration of future life members. Steven will provide some examples from other clubs, and this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Possible options to increase membership

Marketing - still to do:

Flyers to Murdoch Uni - discussed whether this could be a useful place to advertise squash, felt it was worth a shot. We will contact the university and see what options there are to advertise squash internally.

Recontact the schools targeted last year to promote junior programme, flyer to promote what is happening at the club,

Capture names and contact details of regular casuals and contact them about the benefits of membership etc - maybe offer some 'learn how to play squash' sessions to try and encourage adults to improve their squash

New programmes - start up a King of the Court on Monday evenings, possible 'ladies' only session targeting mums of juniors (Vic Park run one with a creche) - could be squash / fitness based programme - start up a junior competition, maybe Sunday afternoons - promote Saturday afternoon squash, maybe round robin from 2.00pm

Marketing - completed (or underway):

Bumper stickers - these have been printed and are now available to club members.

Sponsor a tin - This is covered in relation to our financial support of the court upgrades, Steven has provided artwork to Kane

Regular updates to website & facebook page

Contact City of Melville, get them on board with promoting the centre as a drawcard for the council - Steven met with the mayor of Melville council as part of a community meet and greet. The mayor was open to suggestions from the Tennis Club to improve the whole precinct. Teresa Campbell (Neighbourhood Development Officer) is able to promote the Squash Centre in local publications, Steven to send details of what is happening.

5. Pennant Teams

Spring Pennants - Commenced in July 2020. Teams have been submitted - 1 x ladies, 4 x Monday, 5 x Tuesday, 1 x Ladies State

Fees for WA Squash 2020 - Seniors \$70, Juniors \$30 - fees may continue through to March 2021 as WA Squash are changing their 'billable' year to give clubs time to collect fees.

6. Juniors

Junior programme recommenced for Term 3 on 20th July, now runs from 4.15pm to 4.45pm (coaching), then through to 5.30pm for games, but may extend to 6.00pm if numbers increase again. Current numbers are around 20, and appears to be increasing again. Clare advised that the Junior Club Champs were held last week, committee agreed to donate towels as prizes for each division (4), Clare to provide a write up of the current situation.

Clare advised that we are fielding a team for the State Junior champs, with 14 people entered in the A & B divisions.

Junior Open Day - may run an open day again towards the end of January to encourage any new juniors.

If you know of any juniors who may be interested please point them in this direction.

7. Sponsorship / Shirts

Only a few shirts left for sale.

Sponsors - Steven has sent a renewal letter to all sponsors inviting them to renew for 2020. Four sponsors have renewed for 2020, two remaining to be followed up to see if they are still interested.

If anyone has ideas for new sponsors, please let the committee know.

8. WA Squash

WA Squash - Leigh-Ann Kaye, and Raelene (?) attended our committee meeting in June, and asked our opinions on a range of topics currently being considered by the WA Squash committee. They are developing a strategic plan and further information will be made available at a later date.

Topics of discussion included - what can WA Squash offer clubs, marketing of squash, attracting and developing new players, how clubs, centres and WA Squash work together, coaching, refereeing, junior development, fees, how to spread the cost of squash over affiliated players and the many casual players in the system.

WA Squash are hoping to visit most clubs by the end of July, so we would expect to hear some feedback after that. No feedback received at this time.

9. Website - bluegumsquash.org

We all need to be sending content to Steve Tapley to post in order to keep our website current and relevant. If you have any ideas, suggestions or content, please forward them to Steve.

The website has been useful for new players locating our club, with several enquiries being generated since it has been up and running. Aim to have one article posted onto the webpage each month, just to keep it active.

Website has been updated with current prices, photos from last year, and a Junior section.

Articles - Need to get this up and running on an ongoing basis.

Hosting has been extended until 2022.

10. Grants

Sept 2020 - Volunteers WA - submitted an application for \$2500 to support the current club volunteers to attend a Club Management course via TD Solutions to upskill the committee, and support the club develop skills for the future.

Sept 2020 - Australian Sports Foundation - submitted an application for sporting equipment to support new juniors to play squash. Equipment requested - junior racquets, beginner racquets, eyewear, balls

11. Newsletter

The July newsletter has been sent out, next one will be done at the end of September.

If anyone has any articles or suggestions for future newsletters, please let Steven know.

If anyone would like to take on the creation of the newsletter, again let Steven know.

12. Committee Members

The following committee members were elected for 2019-20:

Steven Jones - President, Audrey Lazaroo - Ladies Club Capt, Jeremy Claudius - Mens Club Capt

Committee - Steve Tapley, Rob Blackett, Frank Lupis, Clare Slyth, Tom Bernardi, Brian Searles

Vacant - Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer

AGM - will be held at 4.30pm on the 19th September, all committee positions are open and vacant, if you are interested in being on the committee next year please let us know. The club is only as strong as the committee, and we need people to continue to step up and support the club into the future.