



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT BRYMBO S&SC

16 JULY 2007 at 7.30 pm

Present – 15 members of the Squash Club, including Junior members.

Apologies – 2 were received, from Geraint Jones and Darren Booth.

- The meeting was taken by Mark Davies and Jim Tunley, as Chairman and Secretary of the interim committee. All members were welcomed and thanked for their attendance at this first AGM of Wrexham Brymbo Squash Club.

1. Development of the Squash Club

- Jim provided the following brief overview of the recent history of the Squash Club and how members had achieved £10,000 of grant aid from Sports Council Wales to refurbish the courts at Brymbo.
- The initiative was progressed through Wrexham Squash, which had been formed in April 2002 to promote junior squash (under age 19) in Wrexham using the Phoenix and Sports Connection Clubs
- Late in 2002, the Sports Connection Club was closed overnight and our facilities reduced from five to the two courts at Phoenix Squash Club in Dean Road. This building, which is owned by NEWI, was also closed around September 2005 without any proper explanation. At this time there were around 50 juniors participating in squash through the Wrexham Schools Squash Programme or through our Club Coaching programmes.
- In November / December 2005 we got to hear (late in the day) that the Directors of Brymbo Sports & Social Complex were considering proposals for the use of their run down Squash Court building and not necessarily for the use of squash.
- Wrexham Squash expressed an interest and were invited to submit detailed proposals and a business plan, for consideration by the Brymbo Directors.
- Initial enquiries were also made to the Sports Council Wales and other possible funding streams to assess likely opportunities.
- Members of the Phoenix Club were kept informed at all stages and approved our proposals. We passed a copy of the proposals to Sports Council Wales and received encouraging comments.
- The advice was to proceed with our plans through Wrexham Squash, as the most likely route to achieve the funding we required.
- On 18 January 2006 at Alyn Lodge, formal interest and support was sought from the Phoenix members on the Wrexham Squash plans to pursue the bid to Sports Council Wales to refurbish the Brymbo courts.
- On 25 January 2006, Mark Davies, Margaret Meadowcroft and Jim Tunley met with Brymbo Director, Malcolm Kendrick and Gareth Lloyd, Complex Manager, to discuss the detail from our proposals and business plan, for both parties to be clear about what may be expected from this venture. At this meeting our proposals were accepted in principle on behalf of Brymbo Directors.
- As a result, we undertook a risk and likely cost assessment of the squash courts and changing rooms with the Directors and considered our respective responsibilities. We also met again with potential members that same week and formed a task group to plan the logistics of what we had taken on.
- In February 2006, we received a formal letter of support for our proposals from Squash Wales; we also identified a number of contractors and asked them to submit estimates for the necessary refurbishment work.

- Later in February, we met Jo Clay at Sports Council Wales to go through our proposals in close detail and considered our best options to progress the funding bid. We were looking at Sportlot minor grants, Urban 2 funding and other streams, as well as other options via the Wrexham Council' Sports Development Team. We submitted a draft application for consideration by the Sports Council.
- In March 2006 we submitted our final minor works grant application for three major elements of work – Heating; Electrical and Decoration – at a total cost of approximately £12,600.
- We met again with Brymbo Directors in May, but had to advise them that our grant application was delayed. Because of the amount of grant required, our submission was now being considered under the Sports Council's Capital Grant Scheme – a two phased process for which we had to wait until the next cycle.
- The Brymbo Directors expressed concern at what they thought was an apparent lack of progress - they had been looking to us for some early return although they knew we had not commenced the refurbishment!
- They were advised about the on-going and detailed negotiations but were also reminded of the need for us to be engaged with the Directors to negotiate our own rental agreement with them, based on rates and energy costings.
- In July, the Board of Directors required a formal report of our position while, at the same time, we were busy meeting all of the detailed requirements from the Sports Council e.g. obtaining letters of support; working through details of the lease agreement; and requesting three sets of contractor quotations for each element of work.
- In August 2006, our grant application with Sports Council Wales impacted on Brymbo Directors when their leasing arrangements with Wrexham Council subsequently required re-negotiation.
- During August, September and October 2006 there were many meetings and correspondence between Squash Club representatives, the Sports Council Grants Officer in Cardiff and Brymbo Sports & Social Complex to finalise our grant. This was eventually arranged through the Brymbo Directors as they are VAT registered and the lease holders to the squash courts building.
- Our grant funding was agreed for a maximum of £10,000 and work to refurbish the building commenced with a working party over the weekend of 13th and 14th January 2007.
- Much work with contractors and volunteers took place over the rest of January and through February and the Club opened to new members on Thursday, 1st March 2007.

2. Constitution of the Club

- Members heard that this is an essential requirement of a voluntary club like ours, which sets out our vision for the club and how it should be structured.
- Members agreed to formally adopt the Constitution, subject to one amendment under Section 6 to include: "Junior membership is also available to those aged over 19 years, while they remain in full time education."

3. Election of Officers of the Club for 2007- 08

- The following Committee Members were agreed for the ensuing year: Mark Davies (Chairman); Jim Tunley (Secretary); Louise Jones (Treasurer); Garry Fisher and Andy Bunning (Team Representatives); Margaret Meadowcroft (Schools Liaison); Gareth Williams (Maintenance); Ian Davies and Craig Stevens (Ordinary Members).
- It was agreed to hold over the other identified Committee positions – Vice Chairman; Parent Representative; and Social Representative.

4. Finance Report

- Louise presented the Treasurer's Report and it was agreed that a full breakdown and balance sheet should be produced in future.
- Members were reminded that their £50 subscription to the Club, in this first year, was for 15 months and that our financial year in future will follow that of the Sports & Social Club, from June to May.
- Of the subscription, £3.00 is payable to the Brymbo Sports & Social Club as a pre-requisite membership of the Complex.
- Members were advised that our rental costs to the Sports & Social Club had been negotiated at £150 per month, which includes our building rental, rates and energy costs.
- Our operation is for the benefit of the membership, with rates that are possibly the most competitive in the region.

5. Future plans

- Margaret explained the Club's vision as a Centre of Excellence for our junior coaching programmes.
- The promise in our business plans had been to develop junior coaching and Margaret confirmed that with support from Phil Carnell, North Wales Squash Development Officer, that approaches had been made to go into the local Primary Schools at Tanyfron and Brymbo, with other to follow soon. An outcome from this will be to provide an introductory session in the schools followed by an invitation to attend a taster session back at the Club.
- For Wrexham schools interested in this programme – Wats Dyke and Borrass, it is hoped that these may be run at Queensway.
- It was agreed that having spent so much time, money and effort in getting the Squash Club to this stage, it will be most important to maintain the standard in all areas.
- We have an open membership and will seek to encourage growth of membership particularly targeting the new housing areas around the Sports & Social Complex and to the other sections of the Club.
- Important in developing the Club will be the internal league system. Andy offered to maintain these on a monthly basis and they will be open to all members. All were asked to note that when arranging to play a match with a junior member, that their parent(s) are contacted. Juniors are also reminded of the requirement to wear goggles at all times during play.
- Teams are being considered for a Tuesday (North Wales) and Thursday (North West Counties) and Margaret agreed to determine whether there is to be a Ladies Team on Monday. The three Tuesday teams will be an opportunity for some of the junior members to mix with seniors in a competitive environment.
- Consideration will be given to a Club Night session on Sunday evenings.

6. Open session

- Questions around maintenance issues were raised, including slip mats in the showers, the need for a door lock between the changing area and the courts.
- It was agreed not to hold a formal opening in September as this would not allow sufficient time to get it organised, though the view was that this should still take place, possibly when the teams are all up and running.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.