

46th AGM Minutes – 1 June 2021 (meeting held by Zoom)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received

2 MINUTES OF 17/6/2020 AGM

Jeanette Taylor (JT) proposed, Danine Irwin (DI) seconded.

3 GENERAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Kyri Costi (KC) read report, text sent to Adam Gamsa (AG) for circulation, so unminuted.

Derek Thorpe asked about membership numbers. KC indicated that numbers had increased to over 1,000. AG indicated that there had been a number of joiners from David Lloyd, partly due to Covid restrictions on indoor Court usage.

4 TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

Simon Hancock (SH) reported on a strong financial year due to (1) cost savings such as furloughing staff made during the pandemic; (2) government support received, incl £25,000 government COVID grant (3) robust membership figures with good receipts from the pay and play scheme which was introduced and (4) a number of members donating their membership fees to the club during the period which the club was closed, for which SH extended his thanks.

SH noted that the current financial year is not likely to be quite as strong as the club has been closed for the first three months of the year and the levels of government support have been reduced.

The cash balance at the year end was over £250,000, providing sufficient funds to cover ongoing maintenance costs and to investigate capital expenditure schemes.

Alison Argyle (AA) proposed, Gavin Green (GG) seconded.

5 REPORTS OF SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRS

AA on tennis:

Court utilisation: outdoor tennis came into its own during Covid restrictions. 50-60% court utilisation whilst the club has been open. Community member (pay and play) proved particularly popular during the Summer but tapered off over the Autumn. There is a need to balance Community membership against admin costs and access to facilities for full members.

There are 439 full members, which translates into approximately 48 members per court; the LTA guidelines are 60 members per court, so there is scope to expand the membership. But AA will continue to keep an eye on court utilisation.

Head coach Jordan resigned in December 2020. Laura and Chris were initially appointed on a probationary basis. Their contracts have been made permanent from today.

The 2021 coaching personnel are: Laura, Chris, G, Anthony, Squidge and Lewis (now full time). There is a good variety of coaching and fee levels available to members.

Group sessions – there are a wide range of adult and junior group sessions. The intention is to try to cover all standards and suggestions are always welcome. Groups and holiday camps are very well attended.

Team tennis – very limited team tennis in 2020. Spring/summer were cancelled and winter league had to stop.

Maintenance and development – manufacturer's recommendation are being followed. During lockdown, all the Courts were de-mossed. Additional sand was added to Courts 4--6 as recommended to extend the life of the Courts. Rain showers have helped to bed the sand in. There is a team investigating the feasibility of indoor courts, led by Simon Spalter. Additional parking spaces have been completed, as part of the pre-planning phase, and numerous surveys have been required, including topographical, tree, and flood risk surveys. Planning costs are underwritten by a club benefactor. AA will report back following the planning phase. No construction work will be started prior to approval by members.

Padel tennis – looking into the possibility of two Courts to be located beyond Courts 7,8,9. AA will update the Committee once the project has progressed beyond the initial investigatory phase.

AA thanked the tennis committee and maintenance volunteers.

GG for squash:

It has been a very tough year for squash owing to restrictions that were only lifted on 17 May 2021. GG thanked the members for their patience.

Since then, social squash has immediately been fully subscribed and leagues are stronger than ever

There are new initiatives on the junior side and camps very well attended today.

The coaching staff has expanded to include Paul Carter (England national coach) who will run group sessions fortnightly.

Usage. There are currently four courts, meaning that there are pinch points at peak times. The key statistic from GG's perspective is how often the courts are fully booked (i.e. so that a member is unable to play). Currently occurs 33% of the time (only includes times at which there is at least one court booked). Hence, GG is looking into the feasibility of building additional courts. The usage issue has been exacerbated by the growth in members transferring to other clubs:

Nuffield (St Albans) haven't looked after their membership. Quite a few members have moved to RLTS.

West Herts and Watford propose to go down to 2 courts from 6 or 7 Courts. GG envisages that their members will be dissatisfied and look to join RLTSC.

GG will monitor the Court usage over the next few months and report to the Committee.

6 2021/22 OFFICERS ELECTION

No objections to Committee. Trustees re-elected.

7 AUDITOR RE-APPOINTMENT

RLTSC does not require a formal auditor but does require an independent review by a suitably qualified reviewer – Daniel Wolfson and co have fulfilled that role in the past. SH recommended their reappointment. SH thanked Jeanette for her first full year in charge.

Chris Martin (CM) proposed, Jim Murphy (JM) seconded.

8 AOB

Jackie Underwood thanked the committee and volunteers for their work at the Club. Despite the enormous challenges presented over the year 2020 the Club was in great shape.

Danine Irwin (DI) asked whether the cold water machine is OK to use in the squash area. GG: Covid restrictions currently require people to wear a mask to enter the area unless they are playing. The water machine is in service.

Mark Roycroft sought to promote adult drills on Thursday night. AA: this session was advertised in the last newsletter in order to increase attendance. There is a non-members price to attend that session, which is listed on the 'What's on' page of the website.