

CHELSEFIELD PARK LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Minutes of the

78th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at 5 Oxenden Wood Road, Chelsfield, BR6 6HR

On 26th November 2013 at 8pm

Present:

Chris Richardson, Monique Richardson, Wendy Mayell, Frances Thomas, David Sapwell, Probir Basu, Jill Basu, Michael Dyer, Angela Wilkins, Delma Moore, David Matson, Barry Purton, Larissa Smith, Pam Bowling, Alan Jepson.

Minutes of the previous AGM of 27th November 2012, which were proposed by Frances Thomas and seconded by David Sapwell, were carried unanimously. There were no matters arising.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chris Richardson presented a report which had been circulated to members in advance.

In the first part of his report he surveyed various issues that had arisen during the past year and either had been or were being addressed. The proposal to spend up to £4,500 on a waste disposal solution for the mixed toilet was supported (this being the proposed Tennis Club 40% share, the rest being shared by the Residents' Association and the Cricket Club) Some of the lady members present also expressed the wish that the interior of the toilet be renovated around the same time.

Chris had also presented in advance to members, together with the AGM agenda, a draft revision to the Constitution and Rules to which the Committee had given its agreement. The aim of the revision was to establish a simplified and coherent and set of rules, eliminating obsolete and unworkable detail. Though this proposal was generally supported, considerable discussion focused on the absence in the draft of a defined quorum. It was explained that a quorum requirement had not been included because all or most of the AGMs in recent years had had inquate attendances (the quorum having previously been defined as 10). Eventually it was agreed by unanimous vote that the Chelsfield Park Lawn Tennis Club Constitution and Rules (Proposed 2013 Revisions) as previously circulated to members, be adopted with immediate effect, subject to the insertion of the following:

The decisions of Annual General Meetings and Extraordinary General Meetings shall only be valid if seven or more senior members are in attendance, provided that where less than seven senior members are in attendance such decisions may be ratified by a simple majority of the senior members who express an opinion in writing evidenced within one month of the relevant general meeting, having had a minimum of two weeks written notice to consider the matter.

The second part of the Chairman's Report focused on the future direction of the club. Chris expressed the concern that, given the profile of the current membership and the club's experience of recruiting members in recent years, there was a risk of a large drop in the active membership in the not-too-distant future if we did not succeed in attracting new members in greater numbers than hitherto. A table was included outlining how the club's range of tennis opportunities and facilities compared with those of other similar local clubs. This indicated that ours are by quite some margin the most limited. Chris's report outlined a number of measures that, by narrowing this gap, could encourage recruitment. These included a new website, adult coaching (to be provided free to new members, as has previously been offered by the club), wider league participation and lighting for the courts to make evening play possible outside late spring/early

summer.

That last item being a facility where we are significantly uncompetitive relative to other clubs, an outline cash-flow forecast was provided that suggested that, to get us to a position where court lighting could become a viable proposition, taking into account all the other significant expenditure projects of the coming five years, we need to increase the subscription levels in the club, a £10 increase in annual subscriptions being suggested. The discussion on these issues indicated that the meeting supported the approach the chairman had outlined under “Future Direction” and specifically the proposal to increase senior member subscriptions by £10 from 1st April 2014 (with appropriate adjustments to other subscriptions) was unanimously approved.

It was also agreed that the office of Membership Secretary needs to be created and filled.

TREASURER’S REPORT

David Sapwell said the Club’s finances showed there were reserves for club resurfacing and some other projects, including the new toilet facilities to be constructed in conjunction with the cricket club and the residents’ association. Profits were made at the quiz night and the dinner dance. A donation of £200 was made to the Alzheimer’s Society from the quiz night. The 100 Club needs a boost to get the membership up to the full complement.

CLUB CAPTAIN’S REPORT

Jill Basu reported that the ladies team had enjoyed their matches. The club also played friendly matches against several clubs during the year. The Ladies Invitation Tennis Day had also been a success.

LADIES’ CAPTAIN’S REPORT

Larissa Smith reported that one ladies team had been entered into the LTA’s North Kent League for both summer and winter matches and the team had enjoyed playing. She hoped other players would come forward to play as the team is very small.

JUNIOR TENNIS REPORT

Abigail reported that the Junior tennis coaching programme is thriving with good attendance. A junior tournament was held in the summer. The Bruce Unsted cup was awarded with awards also to the winners of the intermediate and improvers’ groups. It was discussed how to integrate juniors into the senior group and a decision to invite them to play with the seniors on Fridays was made.

MAINTENANCE OFFICER’S REPORT

Barry said both courts have been improved but there is still a serious moss problem. New court sweeping equipment had been purchased. The clubhouse has been renovated and new nets installed. Arrangements have been made with an external contractor for the trees to be trimmed during the winter. Combination locks are to be fitted to the two courts and clubhouse. It was agreed that the number for the keypad will be changed every 6 months.

SOCIAL SECRETARY

Frances Thomas reported that the main social events - the quiz, the barbecue and the dinner-dance

- were enjoyed by all who came and were a success. The open day was snowed off but a new one is planned in April with the aim of attracting new members. It was agreed that the BBQ should remain a members-plus-family event, not open to all.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE 2014/2015 SEASON

David Sapwell having indicated his wish to retire as Hon Treasurer after many years' sterling service, Alan Jepson was elected in his place.

Frances Thomas, having served as Hon Secretary for many years with equal distinction, had advised that she wished to relinquish this role and had kindly agreed to retain her existing responsibilities as Social Secretary. Wendy Mayell was elected Hon Sec in her place. The other officers were re-elected. The committee membership was established thus:

Chairman	Chris Richardson
Hon Secretary	Wendy Mayell
Hon Treasurer	Alan Jepson
Maintenance Officer	Barry Purton
Social Secretary	Frances Thomas
Club Captain	Jill Basu
Ladies Captain	Larissa Smith
Junior Coach	Abigail Hussey

The office of Membership Secretary being currently vacant, Chris Richardson agreed to take on this role on an interim basis.

The meeting concluded at 10.45pm.