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## **Leamington Tennis & Squash Club Annual General Meeting**

In the Clubhouse Wednesday 17th May 8pm 2023

### **1. Attendees:**

Simon Heath, Guy Graham, John Evison, Kate Evison, Paul Carter, Sara French, Mary Sinclair, Tony Pillinger, Kieran Barber, Elaine Cook, Debbie Morrison, Dan Cale, Janette George, Ginny Lee, John Harper, Nick Bramley, John Pritchard, Jan Pritchard, Jackie Lindsey, Nick George, Jamie Frearson, Karen Mothersdale, Alan Mothersdale, Catherine Friggens, Louise Winterton, Anthea Hamilton, Susan Hopcraft, David Stevens, Lucy Frearson

### **2. Apologies:**

Simon Brown, Rob Pelter, Martin Lusby

### **3. Minutes from last years AGM:**

- Attendees were given a copy of last year's minutes. There were no matters arising from these minutes.

Proposed: John Pritchard

Seconded: Karen Mothersdale

### **4. Chairman's Report:**

- Janette talked through her report. A copy of the report is attached to the end of these minutes.
- The report will be added to the website

Proposed: John Pritchard

Seconded: Louise Winterton

### **5. Financial Accounts:**

Dan Cale presented an analysis of the club's finances for the year up to 31st Dec 2022 and provided a report. The key points were as follows:

- We are now using a new accounting software system XERO. This is a cloud based system which anyone is able to access. It represents a real step change in our financial reporting.
- To further strengthen our controls and practices, we have employed a specialist bookkeeper (initially Jo Bond now Ruth Bates) and this year had an independent audit undertaken by Ollis and Co. Whilst we are not compelled legally to have this audit we felt it appropriate this year given all the changes the club has gone through in recent years, to ensure we have a clean bill of health. We will look to do further audits in the future but only when we feel it's necessary.
- The accounts for last year are now fully audited and complete and will be submitted to Companies House shortly.

**Profit & Loss:**

- 162K in cash was generated in 2022 equating to £13.5K approx per month. Cash generation per month has increased again in 2023.
- We currently have £138K in the bank account having repaid around £60K of the Member Bonds that were set to mature this year.
- To improve our cash reserves and allow us to undertake investment in new LED lights on tennis courts and provide a small car park behind the squash courts, we have asked existing bond holders if they would like to roll over their bond for a further 12 months. This has given us a further £71K available for investment
- Turnover is now over £500K per annum, despite being affected by COVID in the early part of 2022. This turnover compares with £318K in 2018.
- Membership is at an historical high to the point at which we have introduced caps on adult tennis and squash.
- Costs have gone up significantly due to general rises in the cost of living and the increased membership which has led to us needing more staff (less reliance on volunteers). Cleaning costs have gone up significantly in part due to outsourcing our cleaning to a contractor and also due to increased hours.
- Bar income has gone up significantly with the new clubhouse continuing to be more and more popular.

**Balance Sheet:**

- We spent approx £135K in 2022 on the following projects:
  - Redecoration of the mens changing rooms and new sauna
  - New Boiler for the Squash courts heating system
  - A new perimeter fence
  - New clubhouse sound system
  - Grill and freezers to offer food in the clubhouse
- The club's net worth has grown by approx £75K in 2022.

Proposer: John Pritchard

Secunder: Simon Heath

**6. Election of Officers:**

- There were no new nominations for any of the roles on the management committee so there was no need for any elections.

Proposer - John Harper

Secunder - John Evison

## 7. 150th Anniversary of Foundation of the Club:

- Janette provided attendees with a document that explained the reasons why we now believe the club was founded in 1874 and not as originally thought in 1872.
- This means we would like to celebrate our 150th anniversary next year. Janette was keen to say that this celebration will take many forms and won't be just one big party. It is hoped we can provide a detailed history of the club over this time with as many photos, anecdotes and documents as we can find. Club merchandise, tournaments, challenges etc are also planned.
- Simon Heath, Susan Hopcroft, Clare Blenkinsop have already offered to help with these plans. Please let Sara know if you would like to help in any way.
- There was a brief discussion at the meeting to brainstorm some other ideas e.g. a guest celebrity etc
- This year, it is the Squash club's 50th anniversary. A party is planned for 8th July.

## 8. Padel Tennis

- There were 503 responses to our online survey regarding Padel tennis (just under 50% of the adult racket members)
- It was clear from the responses that there is a level of support for continuing with investigating what options are available to us regarding Padel. It was stressed no decisions have been made about whether to introduce Padel tennis at the club. The decision will not be made until next year at the earliest with build not likely until at least 2025. Full information about the various options will be made available to the members and a final decision will then be determined by member vote.
- The options being investigated are as follows:
  - Replace Tennis Court 6 with 2 padel tennis courts
  - Replace the grass space and build 1 or 2 padel tennis courts on this space
  - Look at options for building padel courts external to the main club site for joint usage, e.g. at a local school or park.
- This generated a lot of discussion in the meeting broadly around the following points:
  - It was acknowledged that Padel was a growth sport and other clubs in the area were already more advanced in the plans to make this available to their members
  - It was recognised we have limited space available at the club for Padel which means any decision to build on the site will involve giving up something we currently have, e.g. a tennis court / the green space.
  - There was a concern about whether losing tennis courts would take us above the LTA recommended limit of 80 members per court.
  - There is a need to strip things back to basics and potentially revisit what the club should be striving to achieve for its members.
  - It's important to monitor what happens with Padel at other clubs.
- John Pritchard is taking the lead on this project and will continue our investigations. It may be that a small working group is formed to support this.

## 9. Any Other Business

- Club Merchandise: Can we arrange a display of our clothing range so members can look and feel what's available. It was felt 150th anniversary merchandise would be popular.
- Member Cap: We were asked what the current waiting list was for squash and tennis. Sara said at the time of the meeting this was 2 for squash and 6 on tennis. This probably represented a current waiting time of only 1 or 2 weeks.
- Social committee: Janette highlighted that we need more volunteers for this in order to increase the number of events provided.
- We were asked how the club was doing relative to other clubs. It was felt the Boat Club were doing OK, but others appeared to be struggling e.g Rugby, Beechwood and Kenilworth.
- What did we think made us stand out? It was felt the standard of our facilities, the professionalism of our staff (particularly compared with other clubs continuing to be run primarily by volunteers), monthly direct debits (reflecting how people like to pay) the quality of our coaches and the number of available internal ladders, leagues etc were of key importance. It was suggested that we undertake another online and offline member survey and have entry and exit questionnaires to better understand what our members really think.

The meeting concluded at 9.13pm