**`**

**Annual General Meeting Minutes**

**Date: 29th July 2021**

**Venue:** Warlingham Sports Club, Church Lane, Warlingham, CR6 9PR

**Attendees**

Sean Doyle, Rick Roberts, Paul Webber, Graham Norton, Paul Masters, Chris Holliman, Jason Hutchings, Matthew Smith, Eric Stevenson, Awtar Jandu, Robert Stevenson, Gerry Murphy, John Smith, Debbie Hutchings, Jon Reeve, Nicki Palmer, Lewis Palmer

**Apologies Received From:-**

Mark Fuller, Andy Thorpe, Sue Laundy, Dick Goodwin

Sean Doyle as acting Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed all members present.

**Minutes from Last AGM**

The minutes from the last AGM held on 25th August 2020 were agreed as a true representation of the meeting.

**Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising, but Gerry Murphy thanked Debbie for a detailed and meticulous recording of the meeting in the minutes.

**Chairman’s Report**

Sean commented that it has been a tough year for the club with many changes due to the pandemic. He thanked Dave Verlander for his contribution in his short time as Chairman. During the year, the committee had appointed Zeb Young as the club coach and he had already began junior coaching sessions on Saturdays with adult individual lessons at other times on request. These were going well, and the first Open Tournament was arranged for the following Saturday - subsequently turning out to be a great success. Schools have been approached and a couple have approached us, with a view to having more junior sessions, and in that respect the committee will revisit the subject of individual junior membership.

Although we were unable to hold our annual squash and racketball tournaments last year, they are scheduled in for Oct/Nov/Dec this coming fall. The boxes, leagues, club squash and rktball sessions were also heavily affected by restrictions but they are all now back and working as normal. There were no team matches, but we expect to enter teams in both Surrey and Kent leagues in the winter, though they may take a different format.

Other improvements were made such, as the camera available behind court one so members can record their matches or practice sessions on their laptops. New cleaning arrangements have been made and the heaters are to be cleaned and serviced shortly.

Sean ended, by assuring the members that we had a fine committee and he thanked everyone for their help in what was a very challenging year, with rules changing sometimes on a weekly basis.

**Treasurer’s Report**

The accounts were circulated and in the absence of Andy Thorpe, Eric explained how we had taken a heavy hit on subs and court fees, but much of that was beyond our control as for much of the year the club was shut. What we could control was costs and these had been severely curtailed. Total income was down from £35k to £7k but costs had come down from £37k to just £6k meaning we actually made a small profit compared with a small loss in the previous year. All figures have been rounded.

Eric then explained how the club was run and financed, including the relationship with the main club and that once the annual Quota had been paid (£11K), we were £10k worse off on the balance sheet compared to the previous year. This was seen as a good result, and Jon Reeve commented that given the circumstance it was an outstanding performance. Thanks Andy. The accounts were subsequently approved by the meeting.

**Membership Secretary’s Report**

Chris Holliman then reported on our membership. It was one of the strange quirks of a strange season, yet, our membership had grown from 213 to 258 even although the club was closed for over six months. There were two main reasons for this, which was that all subs had been suspended for current members and any new members were offered half price for the year. The challenge going forward, will be to hold on to as many of the current members as possible while also retaining the new members at full price.

At this juncture the committee proposed that subs should remain the same as in season 1918/19 and noted that subs had not been increased since 2015/16. The good husbandry of our finances allowed us to keep subs at the same level and it was thought this was not the appropriate time to increase them. The members present unanimously approved this proposal.

Both Paul Masters and Sean thanked Chris for all his efficient and diligent work in making the joining process for new members as smooth as possible.

**Constitution**

Over the year the committee had undertaken an extensive review of our constitution, which was nearly 50 years old. These were the days of black and white TV’s, HB pencils, slide rules and Morris Minors, so it was well overdue for an update. After looking at various clubs from squash to tennis, golf and cricket, and plagiarising what we could, the committee presented a new draft constitution to the members. This had been sent out to all members in advance and was well received. It was a balance between trying to future proof the document while not tying future committees to rules that could quickly be out of date. It also brought the constitution in line with all new regulations and laws that have been passed by Parliament over the last decade or so.

After a couple of queries from Gerry Murphy, (thanks for reading it Gerry), the Secretary agreed to look at rule 3 and amend as necessary, the new constitution was unanimously approved. The amendment is now in place.

**Election of Committee and Officers:-**

Those standing for re-election were all re-appointed; namely

Sean Doyle (Chair)

Eric Stevenson (Secretary)

Chris Holliman (Membership Secretary)

Andy Thorpe (Treasurer)

Jon Reeve (Safeguarding)

John Smith (Club Captain)

Paul Webber (Building and Maintenance)

Matthew Smith (Racketball Leagues)

Kunal Nagpal (Squash Leagues)

Along with Debbie Hutchings, who after a year’s sabbatical, was re-elected to the committee.

**Any Other Business**

Debbie brought up the fact that both herself and Chris Holliman had attended a England squash Webinar regarding Women in Sport. This was an aim of Sport England as squash was seen as very much a male sporty at club level. Sean agreed that this will be followed up as it should also be an aim of WSRC. Debbie and Chris will pursue this in due course.

The main club had been approached by “Sport Works” with a view to them helping develop the chub with both members and facilities but when the pandemic hit it was put on the back burner.

Sue Laundy had asked about better air conditioning as the courts were hot and stuffy, and Matt Smith pointed out that this world need 3 phase electricity as power is provided from the main club. Currently there is only 1 phase available and it would be very expensive to change. However the main club currently has outline planning permission for an extension for women’s changing facilities along better showers, changing rooms and access and it will be looked at subsequently at that time. In the meantime, the committee would look for better fans and updated window releases, to enable air to circulate more freely.

There being no other business and before Sean brought the meeting to a close, Gerry Murphy thanked the committee for all their work, in what was undoubtedly a trying year.

**Sean then formally closed the meeting at 19.53.**