Warlingham Squash and Racketball Club

Annual General Meeting

25 July 2023

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| Present:  |  |  |
| Sean Doyle (SD) Chair | Chris Holliman (CH) | Rod Gemmell (RG)  |
| Eric Stevenson (ES) | Awtar Jandu | Paul Master (PM) |
| Matt Smith (MS) | Jon Reeve (JR) | John Smith (JS) |
| Nicki Doyle |  |  |
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| Apologies: |  |  |
| Debbie Hutchings | Jason Hutchings |  |

1. Welcome & Apologies

The Chairman, Sean Doyle (SD) welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted as above.
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes from last year’s AGM had been circulated previously and were recorded as a true and accurate record.
3. Chairman’s Report – Sean Doyle

SD thanked previous committee members Kunal Nagpal and Debbie Hutchings for their contribution to the club.

SD also conveyed thanks to the following:

Debbie Hutchings and Rob Rosser for running the Sunday Racketball club
Paul Webber for the squash
John Smith as the squash team captain and Mark Pope for organising and supporting the teams.

SD added that the Racketball teams play across 3 divisions and conveyed thanks to everyone who support this. They won all 3 divisions so a big thank you to the team captains; Dave Verlander, Nick Raeburn Ward and all the players.
Thank you to Matt Smith for arranging the October 2022 Racketball tournament and to John Smith for arranging the squash tournament.
A thank you was to be noted for all the social events including the sponsorship from Samsara and club funds behind the bar.
A thank you to Nick Coole and his team for the cleaning.
To Jon Reeve for the improved website and cloud.

SD reported that looking back interest has picked up since covid and now increasing at a better rate. England Squash enjoyed a weekend of play at the club and we received good comments and it was noted that the club was a “jewel in the crown” amongst other local clubs.
4. SD reported that the cost of repairs are expensive and we are lucky that members are committed to help where they possibly can to maintain the club accordingly. SD noted a thanks to MS, PW and others who have helped maintain the club to the standard that it is.

Court 3 floor has been fixed at a cost to the club of £8k. Other areas that have been maintained include the men’s shower area floor, a vent has been replaced, the TV and computer have been provided, shower curtains repairs in the ladies. Additionally blocked drains have been addressed and pipes leaking; a big thank you for those involved in this maintenance.

SD commented that further costs to the club were the fees charged by England Squash for all members to be part of, as England Squash insisted that all members joined. Eric Stevenson (ES) addressed this directly with England Squash and the registration has been adjusted that members are not automatically enrolled and this has saved the club a significant amount of money. Chris Holliman (CH) has been supporting ES in this piece of work which has had a favourable outcome. England Squash have now reviewed their structure going forward.

Looking ahead to the winter, there will be Racketball tournament in October 2023 followed by a Squash tournament in 2024. We will try to organise interclub social games for all players against other clubs. In-house squash doubles and Racketball singles will be explored potentially on a Saturday afternoon.

SD commented on the bigger picture for the club with the extensions planned which will be addressed in 3 phases. PM can provide more details if required and the Committee is able to respond to decisions on behalf of its members.

The main club has asked WSRC for support and the club supports this. The extension will mean that the club is more inclusive, provides additional facilities for current members and the local community. The club was asked for a pledge to support the funding package for the project. SD advised that the club have pledged support of £20k towards the work with the potential to increase this pledge if required and if it is affordable for WSRC. SD invited discussions after the meetings around the proposal should there be any questions.

SD invited members to join the committee. The club relies on the support of members to operate, and these extra “pairs of hands” are invaluable to the club.

SD closed the Chairman’s report with thanks to all the committee members as follows:

To CH who manages both the treasury and membership of the club
To Jon Reeve (JR) for safeguarding and the website
To Paul Webber (PW) for maintenance
To John Smith (JS) as club captain
To Matt Smith for all repairs and the Racketball boxes.
To Nick Raeburn Ward (NRW) and Nick Triggle (NT) for managing sponsorship and squash boxes

SD invited questions – no questions were received.
5. Treasurers Report and Annual Audited Accounts – Chris Holliman

CH reported on the agenda items above.

The accounts have been uploaded to the website.
Income is down 10% on previous years and repair costs are up by 38%. The net figure is down 48% on 2022.

CH commented that repairs and maintenance has been curbed with the help of members supporting the club by taking on much of the maintenance where possible.

The bank account at the end of the financial year 2022/2023 was £45k with £2,200 on the pre-paid booking account. There is a building contingency fund of £6,300 with this sum ringfenced for significant capital expenditure / maintenance such as a new roof. Whilst this might not be required now it makes sense to allocate a fund for when this may be required. This has resulted in a net useable fund of £37k. The pledge for the proposed development of the whole club will come from these funds of £20k leaving £17k net useable fund.

The cost for Court 3 was £8k as mentioned earlier and it is hoped that this will be replenished by bookings to generate more income and the annual subscriptions will be due in October 2023 which will contribute to an increase in funds.

Overall, the position is reasonably good with no major concerns or outstanding bills. The accounts have been prepared transparently and approved as a clear representation of the club’s financial position. ES questioned why there was £6.5k for the work on Court 3 and CH explained that it was invoiced from both 2022/2023 financial year and 2023/2024 financial year. ES also questioned whether the use of the contingency would be available funds. CH commented that it is preferable to build a base of funds for future unforeseen works and keep these funds in reserves.

Rod Gemmell (RG) asked for the timeline for the £20k pledge. PM commented that there is no current timeline for this, however the deadline for Your Fund Surrey is September 2023. If approved, this will provide £235k of funding for phase 1 of the proposed redevelopment. If approval is given for this, the pledge from WSCB will be required further along the timeline, potentially end 2024 in phase 3. If Your Fund Surrey is not approved, then the situation will be reviewed. PM confirmed that the survey which has been previously circulated to members for their comments/support is now closed.

The approval of the accounts was proposed by PM and ES and seconded by JR. Approval was unanimous.
6. Membership Report – Chris Holliman

CH reported a stable membership of around 200 members with an approximate 10% turnover. This is rectified by new renewals and then the figure climbs back to the average of 200.

CH reported that membership fees have been unchanged since 2014. CH proposed an increase to the fees, due to the increase in inflation since the last rise and recommends uplifting the fees by around 10%. Proposed figures are set out below:

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| Singe membership | £170 | Increase of £16 |
| Family membership | £255 | Increase of £29 |
| Off Peak membership | £125 | Increase of £12 |
| Senior membership | £120 | Increase of £12 |
| Young Adult membership | £35 | Increase of £4 |
| Social membership | £25 | No change – to remain aligned with the social membership of the sports club |

It is proposed to keep the increases down to 10% and we can do this due to the work of PW and other members, which saves costs in maintenance. There have been no changes to lights or booking fees. This may be reviewed at a future date.

The increased fee structure needed approval and PM commented that the fees should be adopted. This was proposed by MS and JR and following a unanimous show of hands the motion was passed to adopt the new fee structure. The club is still cheaper than other local clubs and the courts are in much better repair. The club is more friendly and could probably charge more but the Committee feel it’s inappropriate to current members to charge more due to the economic climate and whilst many options were considered, 10% seems reasonable and remains very good value.

RG commented that we are relying on members’ support to keep the costs down as we don’t have to spend more on maintenance. PW commented that it would be difficult to quantify these costs and CH said that whilst we have the support of the members we are in a good position and are grateful for their goodwill.

Awtar commented on improving the heat loss from the building. CH has discussed this with Ron Terry (RT) and PW and are exploring potential grants to support any work that may be required. SD added that the club is committed to being as green and sustainable as possible.

CH took the opportunity to thank SD for all the work he has done as Chairman this year.

1. Club Captain’s Report – John Smith

JS provided an update. There are 3 squash teams consisting of 20 players. The teams currently play in Surrey division 5 and 8. The first team in division 5 and 2nd team in division 8 and there is 1 team in the Kent division 5.

They have lots of people to call on if people drop out and there is always someone to play if someone wants a game. It is well represented with good positivity in the teams.

SD commented that there had been a slower take up in the RB teams whilst previously putting out 3 teams that has now reduced to 1 for the summer due to injuries and holidays. Chris Canham is the RB captain and doing a good job.
2. Safeguarding – Jon Reeve

JR provided a short update explaining that junior coaching has been suspended due to lack of uptake and not worth Zeb providing the opportunity. This minimises the safeguarding role. There have been no incidents raised in the last 12 months with nothing to follow up or record. The current safeguarding policy commencing September 2020 is due for review. JR will recommend to the committee updated guidance, changes and reporting through the Committee channel. JR reported his DBS check is due for renewal in September and only he from the club will renew this. ES commented that the Scottish method could be applied when the DBS is for the individual as opposed to the Club but since this is the only place that JR requires the DBS we will continue with the original DBS application and perhaps review again should the need be required in the future. SD confirmed that the club will fund JR’s DBS.

There has been some sensible thinking applied around Daniel Fernandes using the courts without his father/family member present and looking at a workable solution. PW commented that after discussions regarding the showers, Daniel will not be using the showers at any time so mitigates any issues. PW also commented that the access fobs are provided to adults and not children so the adult must attend with him to allow access to the club.
3. Election of officers and Committee Members – Sean Doyle

SD advised that all committee members are standing for re-election in their current roles. SD invited comments or objections around these continued appointments. There were no objections, and the Committee were voted in for a further year.

RG requested that the minutes of Committee meetings were shared on the website. SD confirmed that regular minutes will be published and uploaded accordingly via the MyCourts section. The minutes from this meeting will also be shared on the website.
4. AOB - All

SD invited AOB from attendees.
There was no AOB and no further business.
The meeting closed 1919 hrs.