

Minutes of Coolhurst AGM 2018

Monday, 5 March 2018

The meeting started at 7.35 pm. It was also streamed on YouTube.

There were 33 people present at the beginning and c. 10 more arrived during the meeting.

1 Introduction

Gerald Barrett, the Chair, his annual statement was contained in his recent newsletter, circulated to members.

The Chair thanked those Club members who had volunteered their services through the year, especially Martin Zinkin.

Turning to the organisation of the meeting, the Chair explained the adjudicators Pambos Patsalides and Dudley Leigh were sitting outside in the Clubhouse. Johnny Bruce would assist with time management.

2 Voting Procedure Martin Zinkin, Tennis Secretary, explained how the system worked and that the online voting system would be open until midnight.

Secretary's note: the results of the voting, declared next day, are given as an appendix to these minutes.

3 Approval of minutes of 2017 SGM

These were circulated prior to the meeting. They would be subject to voting online.

(Secretary's note: these have since October 2017 been on the Club website here:

www.coolhurst.co.uk/members the password is coolview)

4 Finance

Victor Wilks from the floor asked why there was no commentary to the accounts this year.

Bob Taylor, Treasurer, replied that there was a commentary. He was asked to read it out, and did.

Andy Watson from the floor noted that the accounts said loans had increased over last year by £55k, and that it was not sustainable to finance the Club this way. BT replied the Club financial model was sustainable and the Club generates around £100k p.a. in cash.

AW: The PSL shows a loss of £13k in the accounts. It is a great event but not affordable, what does the GMC think?

A question from the floor: Is it Club policy to borrow money from members from higher rates than borrowing from a bank? BT replied that borrowing from members is cheaper and the position is reviewed periodically.

Andres Berzins: Where is the revenue contribution of the £20 per squash member, charged to support the PSL team? The account show only £3k income for PSL. Where has the levy gone?

BT: This was accounted for as squash subscription income, so not shown against the PSL account.

5 Squash Update

Giles Clawson thanked the coaching team especially James Wilson and the Club administrator, Anthony; also Neil and Adrian Morris for running the leagues, and Stuart Lunniss for leading on maintenance of the courts.

Coaching lost £6.8k this year, less than last year. There are measures under discussion to improve this position. Junior coaching has become stronger and stronger. We have new level 1 coaches and Steve Thompson has become a level 3 coach.

This year to improve the Club squash tournament extra categories are being added including vintage and racquet ball. There are now 10 teams. Team squash is one of the most important things to offer members.

PSL (Premier Squash League) team:

We are currently 2nd in our league. There were 100 people attending the last match.

Nigel Hutchings spoke from the floor in favour of the PSL.

Mark Levison, a squash member who joined in July, spoke from the floor in favour of the PSL, and said the PSL was one of his reasons for joining the Club. Mark also offered to help promote the Club.

The AGM delegated to the GMC the power to set the Squash sub given there was no proposal for squash subscription.

This was done through a show of hands vote with one person voting against.

6 Tennis Update

At mention of the newly improved improved courts Martin Zinkin got a spontaneous round of applause. MZ has been spending time on Club management, and studied other Clubs, following advice from the LTA. At some point in the year we will need to be a radical upgrade of the Club IT system (booking, subs, etc.)

Marketing could attract more members, using a better website. Vivienne McNaughton was congratulated on her recent competition success.

Total tennis income is down c. £9k, or 3%. Junior programme continues to contribute generating c. £75k profit. MZ thanked squash members for supporting the tennis court development.

MZ: We have planning permission for floodlighting on courts 6,7,8. We need to get the Club debt free and generating a surplus.

The grass courts and floodlight projects are probably self-funding, helped by the Club's low cost of borrowing. Measures are in hand to improve Club period. MZ appealed to tennis members for help with e.g. website, marketing, welcome pack.

Martin Bostock responded from the floor. He thanked MZ for driving through change and said the amount of work he had done was extraordinary. MB: There is no point talking about marketing programmes if we don't know how many members we want. We need a long term strategic plan. MZ replied the according to LTA guidelines we still have capacity for more tennis members.

7 Appointment of new GMC

Nigel Hutchings asked from the floor why there were no contested GMC positions. The Chair replied to Nigel that there may have been no contested positions because members had confidence in the GMC as proposed.

8 Resolution on streamlining the GMC

Martin Hearn proposed the motion.

Adrian Morris from the floor pointed out that he had proposed a motion with Peter Hilton at last year's GMC that the GMC should be restructured, and this should be along task or functional lines. That motion had been carried.

Neither the proposer (Christian Midhage) nor seconder of the amendment to the streamlining motion were present in person. No one spoke in favour of the amendment.

Two speeches from the floor opposed the amendment, from Walter Merricks and Martin Zinkin.

Martin Bostock from the floor said he liked the amendment proposed by Nigel Hutchings that sought to maintain the need for a GMC quorum in the Articles of Association. (That amendment had already been accepted and applied to the streamlining motion, proposed by Martin Hearn, in the week before the meeting.)

Victor Wilks asked the GMC to undertake to instruct the Tennis and Squash committees not to spend beyond limits set by the GMC if this the streamlining motion were to pass. The Chair agreed this.

9 AOB

Victor Wilks asked about CASC.

Michael O'Callaghan replied. We don't currently qualify for Community Amateur Sport Club (CASC) membership because we need to put the squash PSL team into a trading subsidiary which would be not difficult, but the GMC has not yet decided to push on and do it, pending a review on the future of the PSL team. MOC said he hoped this would be resolved soon, since we appear otherwise to qualify for CASC membership.

Gerald Barrett responding to a question said that about £2000 had been spent on the proposed house in the tennis entrance. The project was now on the back burner as the tennis entrance will be needed for resurfacing the grass courts. He said that the Club's landlords Nuthurst had not yet been formally consulted

10 Closing remarks

GB thanked attendees and reminded people to vote. The meeting ended at 9.05.

Notes written by Michael O'Callaghan Club Secretary.

Voting Results

1 Motion to approve the minutes of the SGM of 25 September 2017

For 98% Against

2%

Passed

2 Motion to receive the accounts

For 94% Against 6% Passed

3. Motion to approve the reappointment of Messrs Collards as auditors

For 94% Against 6% Passed

4. Motion to approve the annual tennis subscriptions as proposed

For 95% Against 5% Passed

5 Special resolution to restructure the GMC

For 70% Against 30% Failed (special resolutions require 75%)

5a. Motion to amend the resolution to streamline the GMC (Motion 5)

For 51% Against

49%

There were 95 voters counted electronically.

END