

WOLVERHAMPTON LAWN TENNIS & SQUASH CLUB

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 18 JANUARY 2021

Due to restrictions of lockdown during current Covid crisis, the AGM was held as a Zoom meeting with 55 attendees and recorded by the Club.

1. OPENING AND APOLOGIES

Ron Stevenson (RS) opened the meeting and welcomed the members.

Apologies had been received from: John Evans, Jeanette Tweedale, Darren Collingswood and Ray Simmons.

2. MINUTES OF LAST YEAR'S AGM AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of last year's AGM had been approved by the General Committee and were proposed by Steve Russell (SR), seconded by John Hollingsworth (JH) and approved unanimously.

Under Matters Arising, SR asked whether the General Committee had discussed the point brought up last year about what information new members would be given following the changes to the Constitution/rules. JH said that the lockdown had meant these changes had been postponed until 1st October 2021 but that it would be discussed before then and guidelines drawn up.

Due to the meeting being held on Zoom, items 3-12 were voted on "en bloc". They are all proposed by Rod Willetts (RW), seconded by Peter Jones (PJ) and no objections were received.

3. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF THE CLUB

Ron Stevenson

4. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CLUB

John Hollingsworth

5. ELECTION OF HONORARY SECRETARY

John Reynolds (JR)

6. ELECTION OF HONORARY TREASURER

Graham Loader (GL)

7. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TENNIS SUB-COMMITTEE AND THE TENNIS SUB-COMMITTEE

Tennis Chairman: Steve Chilvers

Committee: Marc Hughes (MH), Karen Fletcher, Gregg Davies, Jonathon Whitehead, Emma Bolland, Simon Bird.

8. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SQUASH SUB-COMMITTEE AND THE SQUASH SUB-COMMITTEE

Squash Chairman: Neil Patel

Committee: Cathy Grinsell, John Reynolds, Marc Hughes, Beth Grinsell, Helen Tottey, Allan Walton, Peter Roberts, Simon Newell, Kate Fuller, Mia Wright.

9. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FITNESS SUB-COMMITTEE

Fitness Chairman: Nigel Mynott

Committee: Paul Fothergill, Marc Hughes, Billy Hughes, Bendon Turner and Adam Guest

10. ELECTION OF BAR, RESTAURANT & SOCIAL CHAIRMAN

No Chairman at present.

There is no committee at present.

11. ELECTION OF CLUB MINUTES SECRETARY

Lesley Calrow

12. ELECTION OF THREE FURTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF WHOM AT LEAST ONE PERSON SHALL BE A MAN AND AT LEAST ONE PERSON A WOMAN.

Lady Member: Judy Loader

Male Member: Dave Tilley

Male Member: Gregg Davies

13. REPORT OF THE HONORARY TREASURER AND PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS

GL said it was an honour to service the Club as Treasurer and that it had been especially challenging in recent months. In view of the meeting being held via Zoom, GL presented a series of slides for ease of explanation.

Statement of Comprehensive Income 2020

GL stated that the overall result for the year ended 30th September 2020 was a loss after tax of £5k. This compared to a loss of £10k last year.

This year's result included £95k government support (Job retention scheme (£56k), small business grant (£25k) and rates holiday of £14k.

Overall the club received a clean audit report.

Income September 2020

Neil Patel (NP) had started a redundancy programme for the Bar & Restaurant but all the staff agreed to take a reduction in hours to avoid this. The situation is being closely monitored and the level of loss means that some hard decisions may need to be made in the future.

GL stated that if members do not use the facility then it will close.

Income was down by c£32k after taking into account the £25k grant.

Expenditure September 2020

There was a saving on utilities in the year of £13k, wages of £26k and rates of £15k. These savings were partly offset by legal & professional fees (£7k) and affiliation fees for both tennis and squash of £7k.

Overall expenditure was £32k less than last year.

Cash & Bank September 2020

GL explained that the cash balance as at 30th September 2020 of £455k included the legacy account of £101k and 2020/2021 subscriptions received in September of £93k.

GL explained that the Legacy account has now been reinvested in a 95-day notice account. This account is ring fenced and not part of the day to day running of the club. It is envisaged that part of this balance will be used to provide a disabled access during this financial year.

GL paid huge thanks to all members who continued to pay their subscriptions and direct debits during the lockdown as it was a great support to the Club.

Cash & Bank Movements September 2020

GL explained the adverse cash movement during the year of £7k.

Fixed asset additions were £29,761 in the year. Of this, £20k was to preserve planning permission granted for future projects within Fill the Gap. It is proposed to lease/purchase new strength equipment for the gym later this year.

Statement of Financial Position September 2020

GL explained the summary of financial position which culminated in total members funds of £1,179k.

Forecast for 2020/2021

A loss of £40K was previously forecast, which took into account the first 1.5 months credit and the refund for November. Currently we are £56k worse than last year. With the current lockdown the loss could easily reach £80K. At this stage no decision has been made on refunds to members. This will be done once the club has reopened.

Limited Company Update

This has been delayed now until 1.10.21. due to the possibility of receiving £20k from the government

GL opened the floor for questions.

Ian Detheridge (ID) asked at what point would a decision be made on the viability of the restaurant. GL explained that this would be reviewed monthly once the facility was reopened.

Simon Calrow (SC) said that costs of maintaining increasing numbers of staff and covering the shop were c£40K per annum and there was not enough footfall to warrant this level of expenditure. SC said he had brought this up at last year's AGM as well. GL stated the level of £40k was not just for the shop but also included a reception facility. They were effectively "front of house" for all members and NP pointed out that staff are all able to help each other out as a team. JH said that the figures are examined every month to ensure a good balance between service and costs, also that before this pandemic, things were going very well. SC said that nationwide players of sports like tennis and squash are decreasing, whereas fitness is growing in popularity and the Club's fitness offering is not as good as it was. In SC's opinion the General Committee have several challenges in the forthcoming year.

The accounts were approved, proposed by PJ, seconded by Mike Satterwaite (MS) and no objections were received.

14. ELECTION OF AUDITORS

Messrs Muras Baker Jones are to continue as auditors. Proposed by GL and seconded by JH. Carried unanimously.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

JH opened by saying that these are unprecedented times and to reassure members that no major expenditure on Fill the Gap would be taking place for the foreseeable future. Members will be consulted, and any proposals would have to be passed at an EGM whenever it is possible to take things forward. JH further explained that a great deal of work was being carried out on social media to attract new members to the club. Finally JH reassured members that costs will be closely monitored once the club has reopened.

There had been some resolutions from members received.

- a. The General Committee should proceed immediately to getting disabled access to the Bar and Restaurant area of the Club – proposed by SC and seconded by Jonathon Whitehead.

JH said that it was agreed that this was the right thing to do and that a renovation of the front entrance plus wheelchair access was being investigated, with the hope of a lift in the conservatory area at a later stage.

- b. The prices in the bar for beers, wines and spirits should be in line with those in local public houses in the area – proposed by SC and seconded by Nigel Eastwood.

This will be considered when things are more back to normality. RW did point out that the gross margin charged on beer had gone up from 50% to 60%.

RW said that the Zoom format was not suitable for discussing and voting on resolutions and proposed that they be delayed until an EGM could be held at the Club. This was seconded by MS.

SC was happy to withdraw his resolution until a future EGM

- c. All plans, work and cost towards Fill the Gap project be scrapped with immediate effect – proposed by Jason Mansell (JS) and seconded by Glen Rickwood

JH said that further to discussion and feedback with JS, JS was now happy to withdraw this resolution.

- d. MS had proposed new guidelines for the booking of indoor tennis courts, seconded by Bob Walker.

JH said that MS had withdrawn this resolution and that there would be a joint consultation with MS, Steve Chilvers and any other interested parties to resolve the situation.

MS said there was a lot of support from members for this proposal.

Amun Samra said that he thought it was unrealistic for the Club to think we will be able to go back to holding an EGM at the Club at any time soon. He said that all big companies were adapting to meetings/decision making on-line and that the Club should be able to do that too. However there are members of the club who do not have zoom facilities who would have attended a normal AGM.

Helen Totty asked if it was costing more to have two managers and GL assured her that there was no overall cost increase.

Steve Pass gave thanks to all the Energize team for their excellent service during the past year and the motivation they had given to the members.

RW said well done to NP and Marc Hughes for all their hard work, and to the General Committee.

JH gave thanks to members for their support to the Club which is now in a better position than many other clubs.

There were no further questions and the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.