**Tunbridge Wells Squash Rackets Club**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on**

**Monday 30 October 2023 at 7.00PM at the Squash Club**

**39A London Road Tunbridge Wells,TN1 1DL**

**Present:**

Committee: Martin Steyn (Chairman), Mike Rose (Sec & Treasurer), Rollo Bramwell (Membership), Richard Morris, Simon Lees, Adam Barnes (Teams) Declan Wainright (Juniors.) Craig Bowers.

In addition, there were approximately 20 club members present

**1, Apologies**, Steve Pearce

**2, Adoption of Minutes of last AGM held on 7 November 2022** were proposed and adopted

**3. Matters arising** There were no matters arising

**4**. The 3 longest serving members of the committee Martin Steyn, Rollo Bramwell and Mike Rose retired by rotation and were accordingly re-elected.

**5. Chairmans Report**

The Chairman said I must start by mentioning the sad news of Mary Scott-Millers sudden passing in August, she had been associated with the club for over 40 years as a player coach and referee. She will be greatly missed. The club have plans to hold a junior tournament in her name and further details will be announced in due course.

He then went on to give a brief review of the current state of affairs confirming the club was In a good position. Membership numbers remain healthy now exceeding pre-Covid levels. Subs remain the primary source of income and it is vital we continue to attract new members. Thanks go to Rollo Bramwell for his close attention to membership admin recruitment.

Finances remain healthy despite inflation and the very high energy costs. Thanks go to Mike Rose our Treasurer for his management of the club’s finances, his report follows. The Junior Academy has continued to thrive under the leadership of Declan Wainwright who works tirelessly in growing our junior section.

For the first time since 2006 the club has managed to field 4 teams in the summer leagues. A special mention goes to the 2nd team led by Sam Colegate who finished runners up in the summer league. Thanks to Ed Wales and Richard Morris who have worked hard in encouraging and developing a strong pool of players to support our 3rd and 4th teams. Thanks also goes to our club Captain Adam Barnes for and his efforts in team organising and his involvement in-house tournaments.

Thanks also to Steve Pearce for the encouraging increase in boxes and player participation. It continues to be a great way of meeting players particularly for new members.

We held a very successful Kent Open in January sponsored by 501 Fun, plus funding from PSA. We were able through Alan Thatcher the tournament Director to sign up a strong international field which allowed the club to receive valuable media coverage.

During the year the club has seen an extensive refurbishment and upgrade of our facilities in all areas, thanks go to Alison Barton for overseeing the project. We also carried out extensive maintenace projects covering all 3 courts which included new LED lighting and glass doors. The external patio area was completely cleaned, painted and re planted. The rest of the external area was tided up and rubbish removed. Thanks go particularly to Simon Lees who has been very involved in managing all the upgrading and maintenace projects.

**6. Treasurers Report**

The Treasurer gave an overview of the Annual Accounts for the year ending 30 June 2023*.* Copies were available at the meeting and had been circulated to all members in advance. The highlights of which were:

* Income up 5.3% on the previous year to £72,777. The one disappointing area was a fall in Bar sales profit by £1,958 (15.6%)
* Costs were up by a very significant £26,019 (43%) virtually all of which can be attributed to Energy cost increases up by 80% to £16,498 and Maintenace Refurbishment costs up by 185% to £19,615 to due to our extensive refurbishment of the building and in particular the courts.
* As a result of the above 2 areas there was a deficit overall of £!3,679
* At the end of the year the bank balance remained strong at £37,898 and a net current assets position of £32,007.

The Chairman proposed the adoption of the accounts and was seconded by Rollo Bramwell

**7. Membership Secretary’s Report**

The Membership Secretary reported that membership levels were good finishing the year with the same number of full members as pre Covid and twice as many juniors and three times as many off-peak.

There has been a significant change in the way the club subscribes to England Squash and the payment of fees. We no longer pay a fee per member and you are asked to deal direct with ES if you wish to be a member. One of the main benefits of membership was and still is the death or injury insurance so we have taken out insurance cover directly on the members behalf.

The club remains affiliated to ES by way of a modest fee per court. I am pleased to report that one of the benefits of this change to the club has been a significant cost saving over the old arrangement.

Finally court bookings remain the same as the prior 12 months.

**8. Junior members report**

Recruitment of new juniors (5 to 18) continues to be excellent standing at 83 in June this year, the highest in recent times of which 44% are girls! This will continue to grow with outstanding commitment from Declan Wainwright and the coach Zeb’s group coaching sessions. Zeb winning ES coach of the year is helping and the increased level of activities for juniors is encouraging more to join along, in some cases, their parents.

**A.O.B**

A member John Garwood asked for an explanation as to the problem with court heaters. Simon lees explained that following a service of the heaters it was established that the gas pipe from the road to the premises was only ¾ of an inch not the current statutory requirement of 2 inches. On that basis we had no choice but to immediately cease the use of the heaters. The advice regarding the building central heating system was that we could continue using the gas boiler for that purpose.

The gas main into our premises was on the other side of the A26 which would mean closing the road and digging up our driveway. Simon and the Committee were now in the process of deciding the best way forward and looking for alternative ways of heating the courts. Simon warned that there was no quick fix and whichever alternative we choose it would be several months before the problem is fixed.

The Chairman asked if there was any other business. Charlie Wadsworth asked that we should be minute that he thanked the committee for all their work and efforts on behalf of the members throughout the year.

There was no further questions or business and nothing was tabled he therefore declared the meeting closed at approx. 8.00pm.