

MINUTES OF THE 164h AGM HELD ONLINE

ON

4th February 2021 @ 7:30p.m.

Present: President: Gerry Willsher, Chairman: Phil Carter, Rhys Taylor-Ryall, David Hounsell, Tim Owen , Chris O’Donovan , Tom McCorkingdale, Andrew Chivers, Ken Pollock, Gary Morgan, Pete Stanton, Bobby Butler, Di Cobb. Tony Wilkins, Martin Cobb, Rachel Gainsford, Ray Semadeni, Steve Davies, Tobie Davies, Glenn Mousley, Adam Ruffle, Matt Ford, Andy Boorman, Guy Adams, Tom Locke, Andy Boorman

Apologies: Peter Goddard, Trevor Semadeni, Chris Clarke

Declaration of Interests: None

Notice to convene the meeting:

Proposed by: Martin Cobb

Seconded by: Tony Wilkins

 Result: Nemo contra

Minutes of Last Meeting: 5th Dec 2019

Proposed by: Martin Cobb

Seconded by: Tony Wilkins

 Result Nemo contra

Corrections: None

Matters Arising: None

Treasurer’s Report:

The club’s accountants, Cannons of Folkestone have produced the annual accounts for the year ended 30th September 2020. They have commented as follows:

“Income was, not surprisingly given the situation during 2020, down by £17,693 to £105,355, mainly as a result of lower income in the bar, squash and fundraising. Expenses fell by £1,556 to £116,519, largely due to lower ground maintenance costs, although maintenance costs were significantly higher.

This leaves a deficit of £11,164, compared with a surplus of £4,973 in the previous year.”

The lockdown restrictions had a significant impact because no boot fairs were able to take place during 2020 and numerous event bookings had to be cancelled.

The immediate financial survival of the club was secured without having to take out any borrowing, largely by Donations and Grants totalling £37,178 which included a Small Business Grant of £10,000. Payments totalling £7,659 were received under the Government’s Job Retention (Furlough) Scheme.

Successful Grant applications were made to Sport England which resulted in payments totalling in excess of £15,000 being received for which the fundraising committee must be congratulated.

These figures do not include proceeds from the hugely successful Crowdfunding campaign which were received after the end of the accounting period.

Silver Rosebowl recorded as being worth £45. Last valuation however was £450

Motion: *To accept the treasurer’s report and the accounts*

Proposed by: Dave Hounsell

Seconded by: Andy Boorman

Result: Nemo contra.

Cricket Report:

Despite a condensed/shorter season this year, Saturday and Sunday cricket was successful in the fact we did not cancel any fixtures through lack of players only through bad weather. There were two great club days one at the start one at the end of the season with great attendance and support from the whole club. It appears that the Saturday side is about to lose three long term members of the club for their own personal reasons (Chris Slee, Tim Pichowski and Stefan Pichowski) there presence will be greatly missed around the club and is something we're looking to address. Nigel Pichowski has done a great job on Sundays having 23 different players over the season with potential to make some of those players permanent and winning week in week out with juniors playing every game.

After taking a junior coaching session this season it's clear to see that there is potential for the future on a youth level and could introduce them into Saturday and Sunday sides in the near future. Thanks to Rachel Gainsford , Martin Cobb, Dave Potter and many more for their support over the season.

No indoors this year.

The cricket section knows that cricket membership has been poor to say the least and it's something we are going to address in the coming months before the season starts.

League balls and league subs need to be paid.

Not much to report I'm afraid but here's to 2021 season and everybody staying safe.

Matt Cobb is recruiting they will promote youngsters. The juniors are members of the club. Then encourage the parents to be members in some way ie social membership.

Squash & Racquet Ball Report:

A much affected 2020, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, which wiped out most of the year for squash & racketball. There were however some highlights, the main one being the massive level of enthusiasm and increased membership during the summer months when we were able have some sort of court usage.

- The Mycourts online booking system has expanded further in use and in addition to collecting subs and tournament entry fees, it is now used to pay for courts, making the coin machines redundant. It also continues to be used to send out communications to club members. It is hoped to expand its use in the future as part of an integrated club IT system and incorporate usage by other sections in the club.

- Despite the chaos during the year, when play was possible, court usage was greatly increased and it was increasingly difficult to get a court during the evenings and at weekends.

- Membership has also shown a significant increase and is now at the highest level it has been for some years with 132 Full Members, 15 Off-Peak, 8 Multisports and 25 Juniors. This trend has prompted the founding of a Club Development group that have been looking at club expansion including the building of 2 extra squash courts. We would particularly like to thank Tom and Lydia Locke for their efforts in attracting new members during the summer. Lydia, particularly has almost single handedly created a much needed ladies section which was thriving before the latest lockdown.

- The courts are in good shape and the new booking system was aided by the fitting of LED lighting, re-decoration, new carpets and a new water fountain. Phil Porter is also to be thanked for his efforts with court cleaning.

- Team Squash was quickly cutailed following the start of the pandemic, but the club are in a good position to hit the ground running once the Kent League re-commences. This also goes for the graded Tournament that was cancelled in April 2020 but will be re-arranged as soon as we are able.

- Neither squash or racketball tournaments were able to take place but we hope they will resume for 2021.

- The junior section has been rejuvenated by our new coach Baz Hodson and when able, there were 5 x groups of juniors receiving coaching at the weekend and plans for midweek after school squash. This has also resulted in the growth of junior members to 25 which is probably the highest it has ever been. To aid this, the club has offered free (unbooked) courts to juniors which has provided great opportunity for practice. Baz, who is also Chairman of Kent Squash has got juniors to joining Kent box leagues and taking part in local tournaments. Some of the members that took a Level 1 coaching course over the past couple of years have assisted with junior coaching.

- I would like to thank the squash committee of Phil Porter, Tom Locke, Mel Booth, Lee Divers, Gary Hollamby, Tom Ash and Chris O’Donovan for their support.

Football Report:

Grovellers played a few games with all payments completed despite no changing/shower facilities. We have enough Grovellers to put out 2 teams. The league side that regularly comes to the bar on a Sunday might join our structure. More discussion on this to follow. Football is very healthy. The ground is being well looked after.

We will make the ground as good as it has ever been. The near pitch has been rested and repair of far corner by HLTC is important; we are affected by global warming and as a result the pitches are becoming increasingly difficult to maintain. The equipment has been serviced. In the past no one walked on the cricket ground now this has changed. This has left us open to the ground being abused. We need more emphatic notices. The ground is currently so soft that all people using the ground are ruining its surface. Andy B and Phil C will work to resolve this problem. **ACTION:AB/PC**. We need a mentality change concerning unsupportive behaviours within our ground. There is a right of way through the ‘south’ entrance because the council has put down paving slabs. This was never agreed to by the club.

Golf Report: nothing to report, the deposits are still active.

Membership:

Subs: all renewals have been postponed until the club gets back to normal. All subs paid in 2021 will be valued for the 12 months post reinstatement. No discussion re increases has taken place. Subs paid for 12 months begin at the point of reinstatement. We are looking at rolling membership, payments to be done using IT. The HLTC model for this is very good.

Proposed by: Matt Ford

Seconded by: Rachel Gainsford

Result: Nemo contra

Chairman’s Report:

An interesting past 12 months!
The pandemic has proved that we have an outstanding group of members who despite the difficulties we were able to ‘get together’, keep the Club going and importantly put the Club in an extremely favourable financial position.
We have lots of highlights: (Not in any real order)
Special mention to Gary Hollamby and Kayvan Karimi reviving Tom Mccorkindale on the squash court and saved his life.
We increased the overall membership to 295 members.
Squash and Racketball now have 145 players, massive thanks to all members, particularly Tom Locke and Lydia Clark.
Baz Hodgson, our Squash Coach, has a thriving Junior section, requiring the need to allocate more courts for them.
We plan to open at 6.30 am once we are back to normality to satisfy demand. We are seriously investigating how we can accommodate two more courts.
We played Cricket Saturday and Sunday –thanks to Matt Ford and Nigel Pichowski for getting teams together.
Our Junior Cricket was able to continue - thanks to Martin Cobb and Rachel Gainsford.
The Grovellers managed a few games before the last lockdown and Andy Boorman taking on the responsibility as Head Groundsman.
We now have best shower facilities in the Hythe area, thanks to Dave Wilson, who is not only a great plumber but has work wonders on our Entertainment media, web advertising and IT facilities.
We had over fifty members turnout over a weekend to ‘tidy up.’ Andrew Chivers spending days renewing the bench seating.
Steve & Tobie spent weeks re-decorating the bar and reconditioning the bar tables.
Phil Porter and his team cleaning the Squash court walls.
Chris O’Donovan weekly visit to clean the beer cellar pipes.
We have two new working groups reviewing our Communication, Marketing, IT and Membership.
We sadly had to make our Cleaner Lucy redundant after over 20 years of fantastic service and devotion.
We have developed a more amicable relationship with the tennis club and are actively working together on several projects. – Watch this space.
The main highlight was the Crowdfund effort with members and the community raising over £30,000, remarkable – a great club effort led by the inspirational Rachel Gainsford, who we cannot thank enough.

Priorities in the months ahead are reviewing the Club’s vision and objectives, reviewing our current structure, and agreeing the best format for the Club now and in the future.
(We are currently unincorporated, and if there is an accident and someone wants to claim damages, they could claim against the Trustees, Committee or Members).
The consideration is a change to an Incorporated Club, becoming a legal entity with limited liability. Our members will own it, and they vote in the Directors to run the Club.
We are taking legal advice and will present to the members in a General Meeting once we get back to some normality, any proposal of change is a decision that rests with the members.
Finally big thank you to Tobie Davies – who continues to our most valuable asset, on behalf of the members a massive thank you to her.

*A motion to elect all officers below en bloc was recorded*

Proposed Dave Hounsell Seconded Glenn Mousley Result: Nemo contra

Election Of Officers Therefore:

President:

*Proposal: Gerry Willsher*

Chairman:

*Proposal: Phil Carter*

Vice Chairman:

*Proposal: Martin Cobb*

Hon. Secretary:

*Proposal: Ken Pollock*

Hon Treasurer:

*Proposal:* *Peter Stanton*

Hon, Membership Sec:

*Proposal:*

In accordance with the Constitution Rule 6 and Bye Law 19:

The following Cricket/Squash Officers have been elected at a meeting(s) previously held and are eligible to sit on the Main Committee:

Saturday 1st X1 Captain: Matt Ford Saturday 1st X1 Vice Captain : Matt Cobb

Sunday 1st X1 Captain: Nigel Pichowski Sunday 1st X1 Vice Captain: Tim Pichowski

Hon. Cricket Fixture Sec. Matt Cobb Cricket Team Sec: Matt Ford

Cricket Chairman: Matt Ford 20/20 Captain: Pat Briscoe

Cavaliers Captain: Richard Little

Squash Chairman; Glenn Mousely Men’s 1st Captain: Gary Hollamby Men’s 2nd Captain: Baz Hodson. Ladies Captain TBA

Election of Officers Ex Officio:

New ex officio officers: None proposed.

Any Other Business:

* We will install a new container for the cycling club at the end of March.
* We will have a bigger sign at the Stade Street entrance. Scott Walker to be asked about signage. **ACTION:PC**.
* A sightscreen has broken only one in reasonably good repair. Martin is looking into this. **ACTION:MC**
* More attendees at the meeting by Zoom than by ‘physical only’ meeting. Need to have meetings where members can contribute either online or in person as is convenient for each individual.

Meeting closed at 8:46pm *Next AGM Meeting: 2rd December 2021*