

MINUTES OF THE 165th AGM HELD AT HCSC

ON

2nd Dec 2021 @ 7:30p.m.

Present: President: G. Willsher, Chairman P. Carter, Vice Chairman: M. Cobb, Treasurer: P. Stanton, Committee: A. Boorman, R. Gainsford, C, O’Donovan, S. Davies, T. Davies, G. Mousley, P. Briscoe, R. Taylor-Ryall, G Hollamby, C. Walton, T. Locke, R. Semadeni, A. Ruffle, J. Belcher, J. Voyle, T. Wilkins, N. Morgan, W. Clayton, A. Fernandes, P. Ludlow, D. Cobb, D. Hall, R. Welch, C. Cook, K. Cook, R.Roddy, L. Divers, B. Hodson, K. Karim, Secretary: K. Pollock

Apologies: T. McCorkingdale, T. Semadeni, C Clark, M&P Goddard, N. Pichowski, C. Green,

Declaration of Interests: None

Notice to convene the meeting:

Proposed by: Steve D

Seconded by: Tom L

In Favour: ALL Against:

Minutes of Last Meeting: 4th Feb 2021

Proposed by: Tony W

Seconded by: Gerry W

In Favour: ALL Against:

Corrections: None

Matters Arising: Sightscreen done.

Treasurer’s Report:

Period covered 12 months from 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021

As was the case for the previous 12 months, the club’s finances were affected by the Government lockdown restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic which resulted in the club being closed from 5th November 2020 and not fully re-opening until 17th May 2021.

However, the financial survival was secured largely due to Grants of just over £18,000 received from Folkestone & Hythe District Council and the successful Crowdfunder campaign which raised £25,000 plus £10,000 from Crowdfunder Ltd. A project is underway to ask people who have made donations to add Gift Aid so an additional 25p for every £1 donated can be obtained.

The club was able to claim under the Job Retention (Furlough) Scheme towards the wages of the members of staff who were laid off while the club was closed which also had a positive impact.

Bar sales income dropped from £56K in 2019/2020 to £48K mainly due to the length of time the club was closed. The 2019/2020 amount was also lower than the previous year because of closure during the first lockdown.

Other main items of income were £7,400 for the hire of the hall and ground, subscriptions £11,000 and squash income £14,000.

Gross wages reduced slightly from £21,500 to £19,500.

The largest item of expenditure in the Profit and Loss statement is Club Repairs and Maintenance totalling £19,000 most of which was the costs for erecting fencing around the perimeter of the ground and a pergola in the patio area.

The balance of the bank account is currently just over £50,000 despite no boot fairs having been held in 2021 as well as other fundraising social events including the annual fireworks display.

There are no significant outstanding liabilities and, at this stage no major projects have been agreed for the next financial year. It is likely some of the machinery used on the wicket and outfield will have to be replaced if it can no longer be maintained and repaired which will be fairly expensive.

Strong vote of thanks given to Elaine and Peter

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

Proposed by: Gerry W

Seconded by: Martin C

In Favour: All Against:

Cricket Report:

Junior Cricket:

* Run entirely by club volunteers
* All Coaches ECB Qualified
* U11, U13 & U15 teams competing in the Saxon Shore League
* Affordable for families:
* £3 per session, pay as you go
* Equipment provided
* Club membership paid
* 20% increase in number of juniors in 2021
* 110% increase in number of girls playing
* £1000 grant from ECB will pay for a shirt for every Hythe junior in 2022

(All players and parents surveyed to choose the design)

* First ever U11 girls team from 2022 - WELCOME to new girls team coach Chris Green.

New player Will joined because of great support given to the juniors

Squash & Racquet Ball Report:

This year has been both challenging and productive for the Squash and Racketball section of the club, with a number of developments within both sections.

- Highlights for the year would be

1. Our first Professional PSA tournament with over 30 male and female players involved from all over the UK and internationally. Thanks to Baz Hodson for organising.  
2. Exhibition Match with former World No.1 Nick Matthew and former World No.9 Daryl Selby. Thanks to Rhys Taylor-Ryall for organising

Both of these events brought great energy to the club and gave us great media coverage. They have been invaluable exercises in raising the profile of the Club.

- The Mycourts online booking system has expanded in use with it now being an option for collecting subs, court fees and tournament entry fees. It is also the voice for the club and the most efficient medium in sending out communications to club members. Court Bookings are at their highest level in recent years.

- Membership has recovered from the lockdowns to a higher level than we have had for some years. Current figures show a total of 193 squash/racketball members across all categories. The number participating in both squash and racketball leagues has also recovered well to 57. The leagues have benefitted from good organisation from Mel Booth.

- Development of the squash section is becoming more important, especially with the increased profile and membership. There is a growing need for 2 extra courts and improved changing facilities. Discussions have begun on how to achieve this.

- The courts are in good condition and received many compliments from the professionals that have recently played at the club. The court areas have recently been redecorated and have had LED lights fitted. The coin meters are now redundant as all courts are paid for online at the time of booking. The new water fountain is greatly improved and a much more environmentally friendly way of dispensing water.

- We are running 2 x 4 man teams in Kent League and also have just started a Ladies Development team. This is the first team squash for 2 years due to Covid-19. Thanks to Gary Hollamby for running the teams. There is good interest in both representing the club and supporting the team including at away matches.  
- Gary is also running a series of quarterly handicap tournaments both for club members and other local players. They again bring extra energy and potential new members to the club.

- Racketball has been slower to return from lockdown although interest in the leagues and Friday morning social racketball (organised by Chris O’Donovan) has been strong..

- No squash or racketball club tournaments have been possible for the past 2 years due to Covid.

- Friday Squash Club Night has restarted and gets a steady turn-out of players. It is also a great way of new players being introduced to the club.   
- The junior section has gone from strength to strength under the tutelage of Baz Hodson. There are currently 6 x one hour group sessions across both courts on Saturdays and Sundays. There have also been some after school sessions and juniors taking part in a Kent junior League and box leagues. Baz is assisted by several of those members that have completed coaching courses in the past couple of years.

- Other than those above, I would like to thank other committee members Phil Porter, Lee Divers and Tom Locke for their support.

Football Report:

The Grovellers continue to flourish with 25 ‘registered’ players who are either football members or multi sports members. A full season of friendlies ( home and away ) and an end of season tournament are planned this year. The season has started well and a number of new ‘friendly’ opponents have been added to the fixture list. It is hoped that a ‘football family day’ and an end of season presentation will increase the sections use of the clubs indoor facilities this season. 2023 – 24 will be the 50th anniversary season for the team. To celebrate this fact a special kit is being designed and sponsors have been secured. The kit will make its debut later this season. The Grovellers now maintain their own pitches as well as the club outfield. During lockdown the team paid for the construction of secure storage in the changing rooms to accommodate its equipment.

The club as facilitated the establishment of a **walking football team** in Hythe through the use of our ground. This was initiated by an approach from Help the Aged. At present the team does not play matches but it is hoped that it will continue when the weather turns and that the team will become a regular feature. A small amount of revenue has been generated by the pitch usage.

Ladies football was also promoted and a request for interested ladies to take part was strongly encouraged.

Golf Report: None given.

Bar & Social Report:

* Events have been steady but still not back to full capacity since COVID outbreak,
* What parties we have had have been a good bar take.
* All groups still running during the week: Pilates, Short Mat Bowls.
* No weddings this year due to all the cancellations.
* Social we are looking at having food at the club to bring more people in,
* Next year we are looking at starting a bingo night.
* Fingers crossed next year will be a better one.
* We are also looking for a new member of staff as Lauren is leaving us to have her baby.

Membership Report:

Proposed squash section fees: multisport: £150, Full Squash: £129, off peak £75, student £40. Football/cricket £50 each. Social no change.

Proposed by: Glynn M

Seconded by: Neil M

In Favour: Nemo Contra Against:

Jayne Wilkins has kindly volunteered to be the new Membership Sec.

All current online payments are based around the Mycourts system.

Club Welfare Report:

All our safeguarding policies from the governing bodies are included under one banner. 0800 1111 ChildLine tel number. For adults concerned about a child 0808 800 500. Clubmark is an accreditation process for safeguarding etc. it requires a lot of work notably by the Cobb family. Thanks for everyone involved in getting the Clubmark. The events concerning Azeem Rafiq have highlighted the need to ensure there is no racist abuse at HCSC.

Ground Maintenance Report:

It should be noted that the outfield is maintained separately to the cricket square.

This year’s enclosure of the ground with fencing has seen a marked improvement in the condition of the outfield with a drastic reduction in dog waste, litter and a total reduction in vehicle damage. Increased maintenance of the grass has resulted in improved coverage and a reduction in rutting. This has been achieved by use of the ride on mower as opposed to the tractor pulled cutting head. The ground has been tined this year which has improved the oxygen levels in the soil. The weather has been unusually damp and mild and has resulted in continued grass growth throughout the year. At present the entire outfield is maintained once a week, weather permitting. Pitch marking is undertaken weekly as needed. The use of the outfield by outside parties (keep fit/ yoga etc…) has generated revenue for the club this year. This usage has caused some minor damage to the playing surface when the ground has been too soft but the users have been made aware. The decision to not do Boot Fairs was primarily caused by the contradiction between enclosing the ground and then allowing vehicles onto the surface. The groundsman view is that Boot Fairs would be manageable if certain choke points were protected with ground boards, a limit was placed on vehicle type/weights entering and a strict policy on the weather and resultant ground conditions was adhered to.

The improvement achieved in the outfield this year is the result of increased effort and care and has been undertaken voluntarily. It has been commented on by a number of visiting teams as well as members and non members.

Equipment update

The **ride on mower** has been heavily used this year and has been refurbished but it is reaching the end of its life, as it is designed for use in large gardens and not sports fields. The advantages of a ride on mower are a reduction in damage to the playing surface, the removal of the majority of cuttings and due to its reduced weight it can be used when the ground is softer. The ride on in its current condition has no residual value.

In comparison the **tractor pulled cutter (Ransomes)** is a heavy combination which cannot be used unless the ground is firm, if it is used incorrectly it causes pronounced ridging and scalping of the ground and all cuttings are left on the surface. An added complication with the Ransomes head is that it is difficult to adjust the cutting height (cricket and football have different needs) and it is easily damaged if roughly handled. The Ransomes has a residual value of approximately £1000 – 1200.

The **cricket** section maintain a **specialist roller** and **two specialised petrol mowers** for maintenance of the cricket square.

**Other equipment** – the club owns a tractor pulled aerator (tiner) which can and has been used when the ground is firm. A recent purchase is a smaller aerator/seeder which can be used with the ride on mower and has been used to apply fertiliser and seed to selected areas of low grass coverage. The club also own a medium sized spreader, which has not been used and is unlikely to be used. It has residual value.

Other than hand tools there is nothing else which can be deemed serviceable.

**Future needs** – the main concern is the condition of the ride on mower. This item is reaching the end of its serviceable life and needs replacement. The proposal is for the purchase of a used ride on mower unit of the type designed for sports grounds. This machine would allow for all year round use and will be more user friendly. It will allow for height adjustments to accommodate cricket and football as well as the general outfield. It will also allow for quicker maintenance periods due to its increased cutting width and grass storage capacity. Initial research of suitable units (John Deere) has suggested a capital cost of about £8 It should pay for itself in a few years.

Huge vote of thanks given to Andy for all his time and unpaid effort.

Proposed Changes to Constitution:

* Proposed that we change the HCSC legal status from unincorporated to incorporated. HCSC will become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Prop Julian B Sec Rhys T-R All in favour Nemo contra.

* Prop change from club premises certificates to a premises licence

Prop: Gary H Sec Steve D All in favour. Nemo contra

Establishment of Social Committee: Not formed

Pam’s Memorial Day: This was advertised to all present and all attendees were determined to make this a success.

Shepway Sports Trust January Campaign: This deferred

Chairman’s Report:

**INCOME**

Budgeting to do Bar Sales of £90,000 next financial year with a gross profit 55% £49500

Our wages cost are 40% of sales £36000

Bar contribution to overheads for next financial year £13500

Facilities Hire £9000

**EXPENSES**

We spend over £8000 each year for keeping the ground and equipment in good order and are budgeting to spend £17000 next year as we need to replace machinery.

We have allocated £12000 per year for general building repairs and renewals.

Fixed costs are £26,000 per year to (Cleaning, Rent & Rates, Accountancy, Insurance, Light & Heating).

**Wish List – NOW**

Upgrade Bar, dance area and Furniture £10,000 allocated in budget

New Mower £10,000 - allocated in budget

Upgrade Car Park £10,000

Upgrade Signage and the Front of the building £8000

We need to fund raise at least £20,000 per year to ensure we keep the buildings and ground to an acceptable standard. How do we that?

Boot Fairs, Family Fun days, raise the subscriptions, increase the usage of the club, monthly social events, marketing, a regular food offer, encourage non-members to use the Bar, Free social membership to our neighbouring clubs.

**Future Development Plans, Ideas, Opportunities**

Re-model footprint of existing building. Additional Squash Courts, multi-use for other uses – Table Tennis, Yoga,

Additional Parking

Junior sports teams – Football, Table tennis,

Female sports activities with changing facilities – Cricket Football

Activities for additional needs Adults and Children.

Merge with other sports clubs

Create an events venue catering for at least 120 people – Weddings and Parties.

Café on the Canal - trading seven days per week 9am to late.

Rebranding

Partnerships with Shepway Sports Trust and De Hann Foundation.

Sponsorship

Proposals:

1 Changes to the Constitution: Unincorporated to Incorporated Status:

REINCORPORATION OF Hythe Cricket & Squash Club to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, (referred to as a CIO).

We are currently an unincorporated organisation known as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) With the changing legislation it has become clear that this will leave us exposed in terms of our trustees, and any damage real or reputational to the club and the volunteer individuals who manage it.

Our best route is to incorporate as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This will mean that we are under the auspices of the Charity Commission going forward and that we will operate on a charitable basis.

Importantly this will provide protection to the club, its members and remove any potential liability issues. It will also allow us to apply for a greater number of grants, bursaries etc. in the future when we need them.

We aim to have this completed by the end of March 2022.

2 Re-Development Plan

The proposal. To set up a working party (Not a sub-group) to investigate and compile a redevelopment plan for the club. The working party may include non-members.

It will enter in discussions and negotiations with any organisation to ascertain the feasibility of a Re-Development Plan and present their recommendations at an Extraordinary General Meeting by the last week of February 2022 when the members will be asked to vote on its adoption. The aim is to make this process transparent and to encourage input.

The remit will include redevelopment/new-build, fund-raising, rebranding, management structure, five year plan. Prop set up a working party to produce a development plan. This to include new build, fund raising, rebranding, management structure, five year plan. Prop Julian Sec Glyn. All in favour Nemo contra.

3 Change from Club Licence to Premises Licence.

4 Agree 21/22 Budget income/expenses proposals. This not taken to a vote.

Projected figures for income 20/21 £47645 21/22 £69500

Projected Expenses; 20/21 40085 21/22 65500

We will need to have some fundraising activities.

It was considered other revenue streams need to be explored.

Cricket members not able to drink on a Sat because no one behind the bar to man the bar.

Election Of Officers:

President:

*Proposal: Gerry Willsher*

Proposed by: Phil C

Seconded by: Steve D

In Favour: ALL Against:

Chairman:

*Proposal: Phil Carter*

Proposed by: Gerry W

Seconded by: Steve D

In Favour: ALL Against:

Vice Chairman:

*Proposal: Martin Cobb*

Proposed by: Ken P

Seconded by: Phil C

In Favour: ALL Against:

Hon. Secretary:

*Proposal: Ken Pollock*

Proposed by: Rachel G

Seconded by: Martin C

In Favour: ALL Against:

Hon Treasurer:

*Proposal:* *Peter Stanton*

Proposed by: Martin C

Seconded by: Phil C

In Favour: ALL Against:

Hon, Membership Coordinator:

*Proposal: Jayne Wilkins*

Proposed by: Tony W

Seconded by: Martin C

In Favour: ALL Against:

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: Pat Bristow Saturday 1st X1 Vice Captain : None

Saturday 2nd X1 Captain: None Saturday 2nd X1 Vice Captain: None

Sunday 1st X1 Captain: Nigel Pichowski Sunday 1st X1 Vice Captain: None

Hon. Cricket Fixture Sec. None Cricket Team Sec: None

Godden Cup Captain: None 20/20 Captain: None

Cavaliers Captain: Richard Little

Squash Chairman; Glyn Mousley Men’s 1st Captain: Gary Hollamby

Men’s 2nd Captain: Rhys Taylor-Ryall Ladies Mel Booth

Election of Officers Ex Officio:

New ex officio officers: None

Re-election of current officers en bloc:

Proposed by: Gerry W

Seconded by: Steve D

In Favour: ALL Against:

Any Other Business:

*Proposal to be vice presidents and life members-* None

Meeting closed at 9:51pm *Next Meeting: Thurs 8th December 2022*