



# Woking Squash Rackets Club

## 63rd Annual General Meeting Minutes

7.30pm Friday 26th October 2018

1. **Apologies for absence:** Dennis White, Kerry Bartlett, John Schluter, Ian Salmond, John Hughes, James Dyer, Freddie Lawson
2. **In Attendance:** Shaun Mizen, David Compton, Graham Ford, Adam Beedie, Nik Meldrum, Mark Watts, Stewart Perry, Jackie Thorogood, Leigh Martin, John Bryant, David Guy, Paul Griffiths, Pete Richardson, Jen Cosgrove, Anne Struyven, Rob Heasman, Chris Burton, Simon Brown
3. **Chairman's report** – see attached
4. **Approval of the previous AGM minutes – held 27th October 2017** - Pete Richardson and Dave Compton approved
5. **Adoption of the accounts as presented for the year ended 30th April 2018**

(see Chairman's report or available to view online via website.)

We had £65k in the bank at the end of last season.

Main major expenditure is for the courts to be re-laid - Court 1 to be re-laid first (2&3 done more recently – but still some time ago!) Likely to be in the region of £5k per court

6. **Appointment of Club auditor.**

It is proposed to retain the services of our current auditors:

Brewers Chartered Accountants  
Bourne House  
Queen Street  
Gomshall  
Surrey  
GU5 9LY



Stewart Perry & David Guy appointed and approved

## 7. Election of Officers

In accordance with Section 3 (b) of the Club's Constitution, at a meeting of the committee held 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018, Stewart Perry was nominated to take over as Chairman. The committee also agreed in principle to fill the vacant roles as follows, with nominations formally made at the AGM:

### Officers

Chairman: Stewart Perry (Replacing Mark Watts) nominated and agreed at the last committee meeting

Bar Officer: Jennifer Cosgrave (replacing Kerryn Bartlett who has sadly stepped down after 20 years and was thanked by the Chairman for his hard work) Nominated by Stewart Perry, agreed by Danny Jones and Pete Richardson

Honorary Treasurer: Shaun Mizen (replacing Stewart Perry) Nominated by Stewart Perry, agreed by Danny Jones and Pete Richardson

Membership Secretary: Anne Struyvan (replacing Stewart Perry). Nominated by Adam Beedie, agreed by Ian Salmon and Lyle Dawson

I.T. and Communication Officer: John Bryant (replacing Stewart Perry) Nominated by Stewart Perry, agreed by Danny Jones and Dave Compton

Fixtures Secretary: Pete Richardson. Nominated by Stewart Perry, agreed by Danny Jones and Dave Compton

### Other Committee Roles

Vice-Chairman: Jez Foulsham

Honorary Secretary: Jackie Thorogood

Social Secretary: Jez Foulsham

Junior Representative: Adam Beedie

Maintenance Officer: Sadly, James Dyer has stepped down and was thanked by the Chairman for his hard work. The position is now vacant



Mark Watts thanked the committee for their hard work. He also thanked Nikki and Dom Kuk for their much-appreciated work with the junior section

Stuart Perry thanked Mark Watts for his 3 successful years as Chairman and commented on the positive impact Mark has made on the club

#### 8. Any other business.

##### From Hon. Treasurer:

- Suggested an increase in subscriptions by £5.

Affiliation to England Squash is increasing by £2.50 per member, this is in addition to the subscription we now must pay to Surrey SRA. An increase of 'Full' membership by £5 to £305 would avoid eating into the Club's reserves. This would be the first annual increase for several years.

Agreed unanimously by all in attendance

##### Matters raised by John Hughes:

***Please note: John has received written responses to the items he has asked to be raised at the AGM. These can be found in the Chairman's report.***

1. Can the Committee explain how they intend to deal with general communication with the membership? We have an excellent website, but latest news, updates and membership information is never disseminated via the WSRC website. Recent examples have been little or no coverage of the excellent work you and Sukhy have done with ladies squash<sup>57</sup> and the recent Women's Day, the Karakal promotion on club night and the new card reader system at the bar. I am not suggesting that the committee aren't doing a great job; it would just be nice to learn about it.

***This is an area which can always be improved. Very recently John Bryant has agreed to take on responsibility for the club's social media presence, which is a gap we've been trying to fill for some time. Facebook, Twitter etc are ideal platforms for quickly disseminating information and engaging with the membership in two-way discussions, hence this will be a central part of our communication strategy going forward. We have, however, made many improvements in this area already:***



- ***Committee meeting minutes are now posted on the website after each meeting, and members are notified.***
- ***There is now a bulk email tool (MailChimp) which the whole committee can use to send professional, mobile-friendly, GDPR-compliant emails to the membership, and I think there has been much better communication as a result of this.***
- ***We have an agreement from Paul Reilly to produce photos and match reports for the first team this season, which will be posted on social media and sent to the Woking News and Mail.***

***Just to touch on the specific examples you gave John - both the contactless card reader and the Karakal promotion night were mentioned in emails sent to members recently. The latter was a little late going out as we were waiting for a draft from Paul Reilly, who set up the event. The growth in the ladies' section has been an evolving thing over many months, but it is fair to say that we are overdue a big announcement celebrating the success of this initiative, and we've just been told the wonderful news that England Squash will cover the story as a case study! I'm sure you'll agree it is fantastic that Jackie and Sukhy's hard work is getting recognized at this level.***

2. I understand that the committee have the power to award Honorary memberships at their discretion. If this is correct, can the membership be informed who has received such an award and the reasons why? Would the wider membership be able to nominate a member who they feel deserves honorary membership for their contribution to the Club?

***Regarding the points you (and Danny) both made about Honorary members - there are 8 surviving lifetime Honorary members, all of whom have been with the club for a very long time and/or have provided years of service. In the time since I have been part of the committee we have appointed two - Bob Boorman and (recently) Graham Ford, both of whom were voted for by the committee and announced in minutes of those meetings.***

3. In the continued absence of a Woman's team in the Surrey Cup, it has previously been suggested that a senior 5<sup>th</sup> team is entered both in the Summer and Winter as we certainly have the strength in depth to do so. Can this be put to the vote at the AGM please?



4. ***Regarding a possible 5th team - it is important to discuss this in the broader context of all teams currently using the courts. In the winter season last year, team matches accounted for approximately 15% of the peak-time court slots. At a guess I would say we have 25-35 regular team players, out of a membership of over 270, so there is an argument to say that team players already get slightly more than their fair share of peak court time. Under section 3C of the Constitution, we have a duty to "ensure that the facilities of the Club are managed such that their use achieves the best balance between players of all standards and interests". Having said that, I don't think a 5th team necessarily needs to be ruled out, but it seems clear that one or more of the other four racketball and vintage teams would need to go to make way for it. Also, we have stated previously that any reformed ladies' team would have priority over any of these teams.***

It was unanimously agreed by all present not to proceed with a 5<sup>th</sup> team

4. Finally, there does not appear to be any integration between the junior and senior membership, unlike many other clubs. Do the committee have any plans to address this, if indeed they perceive it as an issue?

***Regarding integration of the junior section into the Club - I certainly agree that this should be a very high priority for us. As you know, Adam has recently taken on responsibility for the juniors, and has been working with Surrey Squash to engage Rob Beaumont as coach, who I understand has his own proposals to increase integration of junior members. Adam is also working on changes to the club's rules to allow juniors to play later in the evenings (we have already changed the rules to allow them to play in peak times if playing a league or tournament match), which will allow them to play matches after school. Adam also thinks that this increase in juniors playing matches against each other (outside of coaching) can be facilitated on social media. We are also considering changes to the booking system rules to allow juniors to use unclaimed peak-time courts.***

**Matters raised by Danny Jones.**

1. I would like to propose that the Club Constitution is amended to state that members may propose candidates for Honorary Membership at the AGM, either at the time or



in writing. Such proposals should be seconded and agreed by majority vote at the relevant AGM.

**It was agreed that any potential Lifetime Honorary Member should be recommended before the AGM by any general member or Committee member. The Committee will then vote and agree beforehand whether to award the Honorary Membership which if approved, will be handed out at the AGM.**

**This was unanimously agreed by all present**

2. I would like to propose that the rules for Club Night be incorporated in to the Club's bye-laws\*

**John Bryant to write guidelines for the website and laminate a copy for Club Night**

\*In case I can't attend I would also like it to be formally recorded that the recent changes to Club Night have been a great success, ensuring that all members of all abilities are given the opportunity to participate equitably. I would like to thank those members who have given up their time (Rob Heasman, Adam Beedie, Jez Foulsham, Peter Richardson) for doing a superb job. (And anyone I've missed)

- It was asked if the club would pay for Competitive Racketball team shirts? It was agreed that each team should find their own sponsors
- It was discussed that we currently have 274 members and the committee will discuss whether we should cap the number of Full members

**The meeting closed at 8.47pm**