

Woking Squash Rackets Club

63rd Annual General Meeting

7.30pm Friday 26th October 2018

Apologies

Dennis White

Kerryn Bartlett

John Schluter

Ian Salmond

John Hughes

James Dyer

Freddie Lawson

Chairman's Report 2018

Introduction

This is my third and final Chairman's report.

On becoming Chairman in 2015, it had been my intention to remain in post for somewhat longer, but unfortunately, years of wear and tear have taken their toll and I am unable to play for the foreseeable future.

Although it is not necessary for the Chairman to be a playing member, I took the decision to stand down as Chairman as I felt that I would not be as accessible as I would like to be.

So, after three years in post, how will I look back on my tenure as Chairman?

Owing to shrewd financial planning, there have been huge improvements to the building, including the Courts. In addition, many of the processes have been improved and simplified, further benefitting the Club.

We have greatly increased our investment in the Juniors. Significant changes are being implemented, and their future is looking very positive.

Negotiating a deal with GGR has enabled the Club to sponsor players for the 1st Team, and as a direct result will see them playing in the 1st Division of the coming Winter League for the first time in many years, thus bringing World class players to the Club.

Other successes include the tremendous achievements made by Jackie Thorogood and Sukhy Bains regarding the Ladies section. This has gained national recognition by England SRA who has asked permission to use their model as a case study.

The re-vamped Club Night has also been a great success. Regular 'Club Nighters' enjoy the managed format, and people turning up to try us out are assured of a warm welcome. As a result, we have converted a good number of these people into members.

All of the work that has been carried out is either clear to see, or has been conveyed to the membership in specific messages, along with lengthy 'updates', or available to view in the Minutes of Committee meetings or on our Facebook page.

It is slightly disappointing, then, that the feedback from the members to all of this work has been minimal. Instead, on numerous occasions I have listened to criticism from the sidelines, or had pointed out what hasn't been done, or what could have been done better.

Personally, I am extremely proud of what the Committee has achieved, and as I stand down, I would like to think that this is actually the view held by the majority of members.

If outgoing Chairmen were granted a wish, mine would be for the Committee (and indeed all those who give up their time for the Club) to receive the credit they deserve.

There are other changes to the Committee.

Kerryn Bartlett has decided that after 15 years on the Committee, (the past ten being as 'Bar Officer') that the time has come to pursue other interests.

Kerryn has transformed the bar into the success that it is today, and which is at the heart of the Club.

Owing to an increase in work commitments, James Dyer has also decided to stand down as 'Maintenance Officer'.

James has overseen and carried out a huge amount of work on behalf of the Club, notably the courts and changing room refurbishments, which are now something to be proud of.

I am extremely grateful to Kerryn and James for all they have done for the Club.

I wish the incoming Chairman, Stewart Perry, and all members and guests of Woking SRC every success and best wishes for the future.

Mark Watts

October 2018

Finances

The audited accounts at:

https://www.wokingsquashclub.org/uploads/pdf_docs/Accounts_2018-04-30.pdf

show the full details, but in simple terms the club finished 2017-18 season with cash reserves of approximately £66,700, which was an increase of approximately £1,000 from the same point in the previous year. The club invested heavily in refurbishment and redecoration of the upstairs and lobby areas, including new carpets and glass balustrades – a total investment of over £12,000. This has been reflected as an increase in the club's fixed tangible assets. We

are extremely grateful to James Dyer for the fantastic work he did in organising all of this to occur within a small time window, with all the work completed on-time, on-budget, and to a very high standard.

It should be noted that this is part of an ongoing planned programme of investment in facilities, which for the 2018-19 season has already seen a very welcome transformation of the mens' changing room. In coming seasons we plan to complete the mens' changing rooms with a new floor, and to embark on a refurbishment of the bar, and we are investigating other capital projects such as the possibility of a larger car park (shared with the cricket and football clubs).

As well as investing in the facilities, we have also invested in the Ladies' and Juniors' sections, funding beginners and social events, and greater levels of coaching. The ladies sessions have been a tremendous success, and have returned on their investment with a many-fold increase in the number of adult playing lady members. The club is very grateful to Jackie Thorogood and Sukhy Bains for their hard work on this initiative, which has completely transformed our female membership numbers. We are hopeful that the changes to the junior section will have a similarly beneficial effect in years to come as we increase the number of young adult members at the club, who are quite under-represented at present.

Stewart Perry

Subscriptions

Membership numbers for the 2017-18 season were:

<u>Subscription Type</u>	<u># at End of Season</u>	<u># Joined During Season</u>
Full	146	15
Off-Peak	23	3
Youth/Student	8	2
Junior	49	20
Non-playing	5	0
Lifetime Honorary	8	0
Temporary Honorary	3	1
Ladies Racketball Taster	12	12
TOTAL	254	53

The ladies Racketball taster subscription was a free membership (to the end of season) given in January/February to try to encourage ladies to join up, which has clearly been very successful. We currently have 32 adult, playing female members, compared with 5 at the start

of the season. Membership in general is also up; as of October 2018 we have a total of 273 members.

Stewart Perry

Social

Our Social Secretary Jez Foulsham has arranged several events during the year including:

- Quiz Night (with additional thanks to Adam Beedie and Nik)
- BBQ to coincide with the Tournament Finals
- The now legendary 'Walking Tour' of local licensed premises in the lead up to Christmas
- Other squash related outings

Maintenance

This is just some of the work carried out at the Club this year:

- Negotiating a contract with our new cleaners - Cara
- Enhanced annual court maintenance
- Refurbishment of gents changing room
- Research into humidity control - ongoing
- Increased number of emergency call outs – heating /water issues
- Update of bar and kitchen
- Car park maintenance
- Replacing of guttering and downpipes

James Dyer

Ladies Section of Woking SRC

This time last year we had 5, adult, playing, paying, female members. Incredibly we have increased this to 30 adult, playing, paying, female members. We also have other ladies trialling the club and our aim is to increase this number to 50 next year.

Jackie and Sukhy started an initiative last November where they offered a beginners Squash57, 4 week course on a Friday morning. They wanted to utilise the courts during off peak times when the club is rarely used. This developed into further courses and now into a Ladies Friday morning Club Morning every week. Fridays now attract 15-20 ladies regularly as well as non-members trialling the sport – most of whom go on to join.

We recently ran some sessions for Woman's Squash week and attracted 25 ladies to a Monday evening event at the club. This was picked up by England Squash and we have been asked to be a case study to share our success. The Committee has also agreed that for one night per month the ladies can run a 2 hour Squash57 club evening and coaching session, trying to attract new members and for existing members to play club night games

We've found that people attend for different reasons – be it competitive games, fitness or for social reasons. Sukhy is a respected player and coach and is going on to study for her level 2 qualification so she can develop the ladies further. Jackie takes the beginners coaching sessions and organises the various social activities and events.

Please let your female friends and family know about our events, which are advertised on the website and facebook. We have a number of Saturday beginners coaching sessions coming up. Everyone is welcome to come and give it a go and have some fun!



We anticipate aim to have a number of entries for a Ladies Racketball Tournament in next year's tournaments as well as possibly have some social games with some other clubs in Surrey like Ebbisham

Jackie Thorogood & Sukhy Bains

Teams

1st team

One of my goals has been to get the 1st team back to the top division. We came very close last year, finishing second place in division 2, but losing the playoff match for promotion.

Recently I received an email from the league organiser. One of the clubs in division 1 has withdrawn their team, and as Woking was runner up of division 2 we have been offered to fill their place.

I am absolutely delighted to announce that our 1st team will be playing in division 1 this coming winter season for the first time in 19 years!

For us to be competitive and to raise the profile of the club I have secured the services of **Joe Green** who will join us as our new number one.

Joe is a passionate and very keen squash player. His achievements include:

- Highest PSA ranking of 105
- PSA tour titles: 1
- PSA tour finals: 2
- Winner of the Barbados Open 2017

Additionally, **Harry Leitch** will join us again, this time playing the mighty number two. Harry has proved himself an invaluable member of the team by winning all matches last season except for the incredibly tough playoff. Some other highlights from Harry's long list of achievements are:

- Played for Scotland at three Commonwealth Games, three World Team Championships & six European Team Championships (70 caps)
- 2006 Commonwealth Games: quarter finalist (men's doubles)
- 2010 Commonwealth Games: 4th place (men's doubles), quarter-finalist (mixed doubles)
- 2014 Commonwealth Games: 4th place (men's doubles)
- Record breaking 10 Blues (University of Cambridge, 2004-2014)

With Joe and Harry, together with club champion **Steffan Morgan**, and former champions **Hayden Rogerlund** and myself, we will have an extremely competitive 1st team this season.

Emails about fixtures will be sent out closer to the time. Surrey division 1 has many international players of very high standard, and you can expect some fantastic matches to take place at the club this season.

Paul Reilly

3rd team Winter 2017/18 and Summer 2018

The third team has been fairly stable for a while now and has led to steady if not surprising results. Last winter we were in a league with three teams who would have won the division higher, we managed to win the battle of the also rans finishing fourth. The highlight of the season was the catering of Beedie and Richardson who piped in a meal of Haggis, Tatties and beeps, the kitchen was nervous as the meals were sent to the table..... However we need not have worried, one opposition had finished his plate and asked if there was more. All for the princely sum of £4-

Summer was a similar story with mid table mediocrity again, finishing 4th out of 8. However we did have a good time with bread cheese with our opponents.

Pete Richardson

Final League Tables

Winter League 2017 / 2018

Division 2

	Team		P	W	L	D	F	A	Pen	Total
1	<u>Wimbledon Racquets 2</u>		14	11	3	0	217	105	0	217
2	<u>Woking 1</u>		14	9	5	0	190	126	0	190
3	<u>Purley 1</u>		14	8	6	0	173	138	0	173
4	<u>Surbiton 1</u>		14	8	6	0	168	143	0	168
5	<u>Colets 2</u>		14	6	8	0	153	177	0	153
6	<u>Limpsfield 1</u>		13	7	6	0	148	142	0	148
7	<u>St.George's Hill 2</u>		14	4	10	0	110	204	0	110
8	<u>The Wimbledon Club 2</u>		13	2	11	0	79	203	0	79

Division 4R

	Team		P	W	L	D	F	A	Pen	Total
1	<u>RAC 1</u>		14	13	1	0	224	75	0	224
2	<u>St.George's Hill 3</u>		14	11	3	0	214	101	0	214
3	<u>Limpsfield 2</u>		14	10	4	0	189	132	0	189
4	<u>Woking 2</u>		14	9	5	0	179	139	0	179
5	<u>New Malden 2</u>		14	4	10	0	123	191	0	123
6	<u>Oxshott 1</u>		14	4	10	0	118	187	0	118
7	<u>Ashtead 1</u>		14	3	11	0	111	204	0	111
8	<u>Reigate 2</u>		14	2	12	0	91	220	0	91

Division 5B

	Team		P	W	L	D	F	A	Pen	Total
1	<u>Purley 3</u>		14	14	0	0	236	68	0	236
2	<u>Spencer 1</u>		13	11	2	0	218	64	0	218
3	<u>Surrey Sports Park 4</u>		13	10	3	0	200	67	0	200
4	<u>Woking 3</u>		14	6	8	0	133	179	0	133
5	<u>Wimbledon Racquets 5</u>		14	5	9	0	129	184	0	129
6	<u>Reigate 3</u>		14	4	10	0	112	198	0	112
7	<u>Sandown Sports 2</u>		14	4	10	0	108	191	0	108
8	<u>Oxshott 2</u>		14	1	13	0	62	247	0	62

Division 6B

	Team		P	W	L	D	F	A	Pen	Total
1	<u>Kings Club 1</u>		12	10	2	0	177	109	0	177
2	<u>Lensbury 1</u>		12	9	3	0	173	95	0	173
3	<u>Nuffield West Byfleet 3</u>		12	7	5	0	148	129	0	148
4	<u>Sheen 1</u>		12	5	7	0	137	148	0	137
5	<u>Woking 4</u>		12	6	6	0	134	137	0	134
6	<u>Surbiton 4</u>		12	4	8	0	109	164	0	109
7	<u>David Lloyd Purley 4</u>		12	1	11	0	93	189	0	93
8	<u>Oxshott 3</u> (<i>withdrawn</i>)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Summer League 2018

Division 3R

	Team		P	W	L	D	F	A	Pen	Total
1	<u>Horley 1</u>		14	12	2	0	186	56	0	186
2	<u>Woking 1</u>		14	13	1	0	172	65	0	172
3	<u>Limpsfield 2</u>		14	8	6	0	132	121	0	132
4	<u>Dorking 1</u>		14	7	7	0	132	112	0	132
5	<u>Purley 2</u>		14	7	7	0	131	120	0	131
6	<u>Sutton Tennis & Squash 1</u>		14	7	7	0	125	121	0	125

7	<u>New Malden 2</u>		14	2	12	0	57	182	0	57
8	<u>Ashtead 1</u>		14	0	14	0	39	197	0	39

Division 4B

	Team		P	W	L	D	F	A	Pen	Total
1	<u>Spencer 1</u>		14	14	0	0	191	57	0	191
2	<u>Woking 2</u>		14	11	3	0	169	72	0	169
3	<u>The Wimbledon Club 3</u>		14	8	6	0	124	121	0	124
4	<u>Ebbisham 1</u>		14	7	7	0	120	134	0	120
5	<u>Surbiton 3</u>		14	7	7	0	114	129	0	114
6	<u>Sandown Sports 2</u>		14	5	9	0	99	141	0	99
7	<u>Grafton 1</u>		14	2	12	0	87	165	0	87
8	<u>Horley 2</u>		14	2	12	0	77	162	0	77

Division 5B

	Team		P	W	L	D	F	A	Pen	Total
1	<u>Surrey Sports Park 3</u>		14	13	1	0	189	41	0	189
2	<u>Wimbledon Racquets 4</u>		14	11	2	1	167	84	0	167
3	<u>Limpsfield 3</u>		14	6	7	1	127	115	0	127
4	<u>Woking 3</u>		14	8	6	0	120	120	0	120
5	<u>Reigate 3</u>		14	6	7	1	108	132	0	108
6	<u>Purley 4</u>		14	5	9	0	92	163	0	92
7	<u>Surbiton 4</u>		14	3	10	1	88	159	0	88
8	<u>Oxshott 2</u>		14	2	12	0	80	157	0	80

Division 6B

	Team		P	W	L	D	F	A	Pen	Total
1	<u>Surrey Sports Park 4</u>		12	12	0	0	175	31	0	175
2	<u>Woking 4</u>		12	9	3	0	135	75	0	135
3	<u>David Lloyd Purley 3</u>		12	6	6	0	99	114	0	99
4	<u>Dorking 2</u>		12	5	7	0	89	119	0	89

5	Lensbury 2		12	4	8	0	79	127	0	79
6	Barnes 1		12	4	8	0	77	129	0	77
7	Purley 5		12	2	10	0	74	133	0	74
8	Nuffield West Byfleet 2 (<i>withdrawn</i>)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

All league tables are available on the Surrey County Leaguemaster website:

<https://county.leaguemaster.co.uk/>

Juniors

At the beginning of this year, the committee increased the clubs' commitment to the Junior section by 400%, by increasing the number of coaches, and also engaging the services of Chris Bartlett to implement changes, assisted by Dominic Kuk.

Unfortunately, owing to work commitments that would take him to America for six months, it was necessary for Chris to step down.

At the same time, Dominic indicated that in all probability this would be the last year that he could fully commit to the Juniors.

With this in mind, Adam Beedie, who had recently joined the committee, was asked to take responsibility for the Junior section. The first priority was to identify someone who could take on the role of coach to the juniors. This was expected to take some time but, having made enquiries with Surrey SRA, Rob Beaumont was available. Rob is a Level 3 coach, and one of his roles is 'Development' with Surrey SRA. He is highly experienced, and has contacts in schools and other venues where we have not been able to previously reach.

Appointing Rob as junior's coach is a significant 'coup' for Woking, and an opportunity not to be missed. He will take over the running of the Juniors in late October.

It is envisaged that by implementing a recognised Surrey SRA programme, the juniors will be able to prove their improvement, taking them out of the club and into the wider squash community.

Rob has also indicated that he would like to introduce a range of initiatives that are working well in other clubs around Surrey. This further enhances our commitment to developing this section, - the future generation, and is in keeping with our Mission Statement.

I would like to thank Dom and Nicky Kuk, and the other coaches for all that they have done for the juniors, and Rob has made clear that he is very happy to share his skills to assist them in their coaching development.

To further enhance the status of the juniors, they held their tournament finals on the same day as the main finals this year.

Details of the finalists of the Junior Tournaments are:

Handicap :	W - Muneer Ali	R/U - Toby Harris
Girls :	W - Cherrie Kwon	R/U - Issy Chaffe
U11 :	W - Aaron Marsh	R/U - Fraser Pennells
U13 :	W - Benjamin Kuk	R/U - Reef Aston
U15 :	W - Benjamin Kuk	R/U - Ram Marwaha
U19 :	W - Toby Harris	R/U - Muneer Ali



Any Other Business

John Hughes has asked for the following issues to be discussed at the AGM.

John has already received replies to his questions (copied below them), for further debate.

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 squash57 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 5th 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?

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.

Unanimous against a 5th 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 to be 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. – not agreed
- 2)
- 3) Recommended before the AGM by any member, Committee agree beforehand, handed out at AGM – unanimous AGREEMENT

Please see response to item (2) of John Hughes's points above.

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

JB to write guidelines for website and laminate copy

*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)

Conclusion

There is a lot of fresh blood on the Committee, which is great for the Club, and I am grateful to those who have volunteered to join.

I hand over the Chairmanship to Stewart Perry safe in the knowledge that the Club is in good shape, and the future is looking very exciting. I would, however, offer Stewart one final piece of advice.

When entering the bar, even the Chairman is entitled to a night off once in a while.

I would therefore advise him to cut the below image out, and turn into a very handy badge!



Kind regards

Mark Watts

October 2018