**NEWTON ABBOT SQUASH RACQUETBALL AND TENNIS CLUB**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**9 January 2024**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT**

T. Villis, A. Lloyd, M. Watts, P. Allsop, N. Clotworthy, J. Lee, J. Comyns, S. Reynolds,

N. Flower, T. Boyle, D. Brown, S. Brown, D. Wignall, J. Head, K. Hooper, M. Ayliffe, B.Mackness, P. Lennox, T. Milton, J. Doxsey, D. Doxsey, A. Melville-Shreeve, A. Pettitt,

S. Mason, A. Ainscough

**APOLOGIES**

D. Gough, S. Phillips, M. Ramsey, G. Hooper, V. Bell, I. Nightingale

Tim Villis welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13 December 2022 were approved without change.

**MATTERS ARISING**

Tim mentioned that there had been no follow up to explore the potential for corporate memberships to date, as the committee was focussed on other objectives. In hindsight, with the steady increase in membership over the year, it is currently not viewed as a priority but will be kept in mind in case needed.

**CHAIR’S REPORT**

Tim reported in his second year as chairman he was keen to build on the progress made in 2022 with the following objectives.

* Keep the ‘house in order’
* Raise the profile of the club
* Continue to look for efficiencies to minimise costs
* Maintain best possible club experience for current members.

He reported very good progress had been made against all these objectives and the house was in order regarding the key focus areas of Safeguarding, Financial, Membership management and record keeping.

Tim highlighted that although membership is up 35% over the year, the club is not yet able to cover its operating costs so increasing membership remains the key objective. In the meantime, the Trust has offered extra financial support this year through reduced contributions and grants. Junior membership also increased over the year and now represents ~20% of the club which bodes well for the future.

Tim thanked the committee for their fantastic support throughout the year and all members who have made time available to support the club with various initiatives and activities. The committee is very dependent on the support of members stepping up and it is highly appreciated.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Malcolm Watts reported that the club made a loss of £4540 in 2023. Although this is a larger loss than the previous year (£3581), the increase in membership has resulted the club’s overall income increasing by £14.5k which covered the £7.4k increase in energy costs and allowed an additional £5.2k to be reinvested in club facilities.

The outlook for 2024, even with the anticipated additional financial support from the Trust, is for a further loss unless the membership fees are increased.

**MEMBERSHIP FEES REVIEW**

Malcolm presented the planned increases to be implemented February 1, 2024. Essentially the increases in annual membership are £15 for Adult and £30 for family / joint memberships, with other memberships increasing on a prorated basis. The premium for paying monthly will be increased to 20% recognising the additional admin and increased financial risk. Anyone paying monthly are free to switch to annual at any time.

Also planned is to have a single membership for junior at £40/yr. which would allow all juniors access to all the club’s facilities.

These increases should allow the club to make a small surplus of ~£2k. Tim highlighted that any surplus would be reinvested back into the club to ensure the facilities are maintained to good standard.

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY’S REPORT**

Pauline Allsop highlighted that the club has almost 300 individual members (within the ~260 memberships) with increases in all categories.

The terms and conditions for joint memberships have been updated to clarify that this is available to two adults residing at the same address.

**TENNIS COACH REPORT**

Nell Clotworthy read out Maddie’s report.

In the year ahead, Maddie plans to increase focus developing junior membership with the launch of Saturday morning beginner classes. For the senior members, Maddie is looking to develop more social and tournament events as these have proved to be very popular.

The disability tennis coaching group session recently introduced is proving to be a huge success and participation in the Devon county junior tennis league also serves to raise the profile of the club.

**RECREATIONAL TRUST REPORT**

Nigel Flower reported that a barrier system will be installed in the next weeks to gain better control of the parking facilities and potentially provide additional parking spaces during the day week-days.

Steve Reynolds reported that the bar had taken £318k last year but made a loss due to increased costs.

**APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS**

All current committee members were re-elected on mass as follows:

Chair: Tim Vilis

Vice-Chair: Andy Lloyd

Treasurer: Malcolm Watts

Secretary: vacant

Membership Secretary: Pauline Allsop

Safeguarding Officer: Andy Lloyd,

Julie Lee

Nell Clotworthy

Dan Gough

Sam Phillips

Madeline Ramsey

Affiliated committee members:

Denise O’Donnell - Deputy Safeguarding Officer

Jane Comyns – Tennis Social / Club group sessions Admin

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The potential of converting a tennis court to Paddle Tennis or Pickleball was discussed. Tim suggested that the club should remain focussed on Tennis for now at least. Paddle Tennis would require some investment and there is the potential concern of noise impacting the neighbourhood. Pickleball requires little investment, is already played indoors at the local leisure centre and doesn’t seem to be attracting much interest within the club to date.

T. Villis

12 January 2024