

Sydenham Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club Limited

DIRECTORS' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2017

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Company information

Registered office: Lawrie Park Road
Sydenham
London
SE26 6ET

Company number: 1280576 (England and Wales)

CHAIR'S REPORT

The year 2016/2017 has been a year of change and development and a very positive year for the Club.

As reported in last year's report, Dez Lewington took over the post of part-time Club Manager in April 2016. In April 2017 his hours were increased from 20 to 30 hours per week and Dez has continued to give many more additional hours to the Club on a voluntary basis. Dez has worked hard to improve the financial position of the Club and also improve and increase the benefits and activities for members, both sporting and social. I am sure that members would like to thank him for the significant contribution that he has made to the Club as a whole, since his appointment.

In April 2017, the Club also appointed Liam Hindson as a part-time Assistant Manager for 10 hours a week. Liam has been assisting Dez with administration and using his considerable IT skills for the benefit of the Club. Dez and Liam are now the Club's management team.

Financially the position of the club is looking very good. The total income, before expenditure, increased from £130,888 to £178,319 which means that there were sufficient funds to make significant improvements to the squash court building without drawing on capital and still leave an operating surplus of £4,627, after paying for management costs and taking into account depreciation. Further details are provided in the Financial Director's report.

One of the main reasons for the improved financial position is because, through the hard work of Dez, income from the Clubhouse is significantly up. Key tenants include the pre-school group, yoga groups and a small church. The Bar is now open on most days of the week and is proving increasingly popular with Club members both for drinks and services, such as tennis balls, grips and other sporting accessories.

This year considerable improvements have been made to the squash court building, including new cladding around the roof area, new court heating and a complete hot water system plus improvements to the men's changing area. In addition, tennis courts 6 and 7 were resurfaced with artificial clay. Since 2013 all 7 courts have been resurfaced either as hard courts (1, 2 and 5) or artificial clay (3, 4, 6 and 7) and the Club will not now have to consider major expenditure on the courts for around five years.

The Club continues to involve members in an increasing range of activities. The Community Tennis programme has continued to grow, Tennis Fun Fridays after school club is very busy and the children's holiday camps continue to be well attended. The Squash and Tennis leagues are also thriving. The introduction of regular American tournaments in the Tennis section has proven to be very popular and Club Nights and Beginners' courses in the Squash section are popular too. In the Croquet section there has been a first coaching course which was well attended and further courses are planned. The Club hopes that this will lead to an increase in the number of members in this section.

In September 2017, the Club will also start running its own tennis coaching programme for children and adults, having taken over the programme from Parklangley. The programme will now be run by the Club management team, which will not only give us more flexibility to arrange the coaching to meet members' (and non-members') requirements, but also the Club will be able to put back all profits into further developments for the benefit of the Club.

Total Club membership in July 2017 is up to a record of 573 individual members, of which 295 are adult tennis members, 126 junior tennis members, 133 squash members and 28 croquet members. This is an increase of 143 members over the last two years, equivalent to a 33.25% increase. Junior membership has increased from a low point of 74 in autumn 2016, when the Club identified the need to improve the offering to juniors. Total membership is now 68 above the 2013 10-year Business Plan target for the end of 2017.

At last year's AGM, a resolution was passed to move forward with investigations for the development of a new club house on two sites, namely the current site and the site of the old pavilion next to the croquet lawn. During the year Fraher Architects Ltd prepared detailed plans for development on both sites and the Board favoured the site near the croquet lawn. An EGM took place on 15th June, which over 35 members attended. The members at the meeting and those voting by proxy, voted overwhelmingly to proceed with this option. Further reports will now be put in hand and the Club will proceed towards the pre-planning stage. A fundraising team is being set up and anyone who has either skills and/or enthusiasm for this project and would like to join the team, please contact Dez.

At the last year's AGM Peter Lewis announced his intention to stand down as Club Chair and I took his place as Chair of the Board in January of this year. As he said in his last report, Peter has served three 5-year terms as chair in the last 30 years. He has given many hours of his time to the Club over these years and, before the appointment of a Club Manager, the bulk of the work of running the Club, including the responsibility for the premises as a whole, rested on his shoulders. Peter has not stood down from all duties though, as he still remains on the Board as Vice-Chair. On behalf of the Board and the Club as a whole, I would like to thank him for all that he has done and continues to do for the Club.

Christine Hensby stood down from her post as Membership Secretary in May of this year. During the period of 6 years that she held this post, she not only dealt efficiently with all membership issues, but promoted the Club with her significant marketing skills, including the introduction of social media and many improvements to the website. Her legacy to the Club is considerable and again I would like to thank her, on behalf of the Board and the Club, for all of her hard work.

This year we have a nomination for a Vice President in Shelagh Brooks who has done so much for the Club in the past and continues to support the administration of the Club.

The winner of the Club's Volunteer of the Year Award 2017 will be announced at the AGM. If any member has a nomination for the award, please email me on gillian.bartlett@stcc.co.uk by 10th September. Full details of previous winners of this award are in the bar area.

As I have outlined above, the Club has taken significant steps towards fulfilling the aims and vision of the Club's 2013 Business and Development Plan including changing from a club solely run by volunteers to a more professional organisation. Nevertheless, the role of volunteers in the Club is still extremely important. The Key Roles sheet attached lists the many volunteers who have given time to the Club this year and I would like to thank them in particular on behalf of the Club. However, there are many others who have helped out on events, such as Open Day, who deserve the Club's thanks too. All volunteers are always warmly welcomed.

Gillian Bartlett

July 2017

DIRECTORS' ATTENDANCE AT BOARD MEETINGS FROM 1.1.16 to 31.12.16

Director	History	Summoned	Attended	%Ratio
Gillian Bartlett		8	8	100%
Ray Franklin		8	6	75%
Christine Hensby		8	8	100%
Peter Lewis		8	8	100%
Gary Lord	App 7/3/16	7	6	85%
Steve Nash	Res 10/16	8	7	87.5%
John Sheridan	App 7/3/16	7	7	100%
Jon Sherman		8	7	87.5%
Simon Taylor		8	6	75%
Dez Lewington	Res 11/4/16	2	1	50%

Sydenham Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club (limited by guarantee)

DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2017

The Directors hereby present their 41st report and financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2017.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: The Company's principal activity is that of a sports club.

RESULTS: The results for the year are shown on pages 4-10 of the attached financial statements.

SHARE CAPITAL: The Company has no share capital and the liability of members is limited by guarantee.

CLUB PRESIDENT: Barbara Seabrook remains as President until the AGM 2018

VICE PRESIDENT: The Board nominates Shelagh Brooks to fill a vacancy as Vice-President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The following have served as directors of the Company since the last meeting and currently hold office, unless otherwise indicated below:-

Gillian Bartlett
Vikki Courtney (appointed 3/7/17)
Christine Hensby (resigned 22/5/17)
Ray Franklin
Jay George (appointed 10/4/17)
Peter Lewis

Gary Lord
Stephen Nash (resigned 21/10/16)
Jon Sherman (resigned 22/5/17)
John Sheridan
Simon Taylor

Vikki Courtney and Jay George were co-opted as Directors in year and, in accordance with the Articles retire and offer themselves for re-election. Ray Franklin, Simon Taylor and Gillian Bartlett retire by rotation and each, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

BAR COMMITTEE:

In accordance with the relevant statutory requirements, each member of the Bar Committee retires - Jeff Hinton, Paulius Kriksciunas, Peter Lewis and Simon Taylor and, with the exception of Peter Lewis who wishes to retire, each offers himself for re-election. Julia Parker is nominated by the Bar Committee and offers herself for election as a new member.

Marcus Van Breugel resigned from the Bar Committee in June 2017

SMALL COMPANIES SPECIAL PROVISIONS: The report of the Directors has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The report was approved by the Board on 1st August 2017.

Gillian Bartlett
Chair