

Sydenham Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club Limited

DIRECTORS' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2019

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Company information

Registered office: Lawrie Park Road
Sydenham
London
SE26 6ET

Company number:1280576 (England and Wales)

Chair's Report 2019

The Club has had another good year and there have been many positive developments to report. The board has been considering issues relating to the club buildings and funding for future projects since the last AGM, as set out in this report.

Management

The Club continues to employ a professional management team to run the Club efficiently and develop an operational structure for the future. Dez Lewington is Club Manager, supported by Liam Hindson as Assistant Manager.

This year the Club has published a Staff Contractor and Volunteer Handbook. This sets out the Club's policies, for all paid staff and volunteers, on a wide range of issues. A copy of this handbook is available in the lobby area for all members to view and further copies can be obtained on request from Dez or Liam.

Membership

As at July 2019 the total Club membership was up to 566 individual members, of which 295 were adult tennis, 130 junior tennis, 131 squash and 25 croquet. (Some members belong to more than one section.) Since July 2016 total membership has increased by 21.2%. The largest increase is in tennis members, with squash membership remaining steady and croquet membership slightly down over the period.

Tennis Activities Programme

The group coaching programme, which was brought in-house in September 2017, has continued to grow. There has been a change in the management of the programme this year, as Toby Yates (Head Coach) has taken on the day-to-day running of the programme. Dez still supports the administration and marketing. There are now 33 classes with 175 adults and children, both members and non-members, involved in regular weekly coaching.

The junior holiday camps continue to be popular, especially the full- day camps that were introduced last year. In the last 12 months approximately 660 children have participated in the various camps. Fun Friday after school club for juniors also continues to be well attended and now includes a Tots Tennis sessions for pre-school 3-4 year olds.

For adults, the Community Tennis programme, available to both members and non-members, continues to thrive, with drop in coaching sessions for all standards. The day camps, introduced last year, have proven to be very popular too. Any member, who has not yet tried these sessions, is strongly recommended to do so.

Bar & Lettings

Income from the bar has remained steady. The bar continues to be open from Monday to Friday evenings and Saturday mornings, not only for drinks, but also as a reception for enquiries, a sales area for balls, grips and other accessories and for taking the fees for community tennis activities. There are currently three bar staff and Dez generally covers the bar at the weekend.

Hall lettings to Yoga teachers have expanded in the last year and there are now six instructors running nine regular classes. There have also been several one-off workshops. Witty Kiddies Pre-school and Rivers of Jordan church group continue to provide a regular source of income

Pro Shop

This year another new project has been the launch of a small Pro Shop, which is being run by Dez. Anyone can now try out a squash or tennis racket from the range held at the Club, currently Tecnifibre. There is also a range of accessories available and racket services.

Dez is available at the weekend and Wednesday evening for general enquiries and services such as grip fitting. Please contact Dez if you would like to try out a racket.

Financial position

This year the overall income position has remained almost the same as last year, with income of £216,363 and an operating surplus (after depreciation) of £17,048. This is the first time that the accounts have shown a whole year of income from the coaching programme. It is encouraging that this is proving to be a profitable enterprise for the Club and that there is still room for growth.

In relation to membership income, the offer to pay by extended instalments has resulted in membership income being spread more evenly through the year. Largely as a result of this, the accounts show a lower membership income for this financial year, which should even out this year. Unfortunately, the changeover to the new system does seem to have resulted in some members falling behind with their membership fees. Please check to ensure that you are not one of these members, as otherwise, Dez and Liam will be on to you soon!

Further details will be provided in the Financial Director's report.

Clubhouse and Squash building

Last year I reported that the Club was going to proceed with the pre-planning stage of the proposed new clubhouse. However, I also mentioned that funding of the clubhouse was still an issue and put out a call for volunteers to help with fundraising.

By the autumn of 2018 it had become apparent that there were issues with the squash building that would have to take priority over the planning for the new clubhouse. The pre-planning application was put on hold and the size and type of the new clubhouse is now being reviewed by the board.

Members will have noticed the cracks on the outside of the south and west walls of the squash building. The building has had structural problems in the past and the latest problems were caused by the ground drying out following the hot summer of 2018, resulting in further subsidence.

Advice has been obtained from a structural engineer. Several different solutions are currently being considered and the board is still taking advice on the best way to proceed. Some remedial work has already been carried out, such as removing two trees adjacent to the building.

What has become apparent is that any work to the building will only result in a temporary solution, for possibly 5-10 years. Therefore, a longer term solution for the squash courts needs to be considered in conjunction with the planning for a new clubhouse.

Fundraising

This year the board has been reviewing the 2013 business plan. One of the important matters that the board has had to consider this year is future funding for a new clubhouse and for the squash building repairs. This planning has included ways to increase income as well as for obtaining grants

and loans. It is envisaged that a new business plan will be issued in 2020 and put to members for approval.

I am pleased to say that David Hamilton, a croquet member, has stepped forward and has volunteered to lead a fundraising committee. David has many years of experience in fundraising in his professional life and is an ideal person to lead this team. He has already started to investigate funding opportunities for the Club. Anyone who would like to become involved in the fundraising committee, please do step forward and make yourself known.

Tennis

The Club has participated in several LTA initiatives to increase participation in tennis from the local community, such as the Nature Valley Big Tennis Weekends. These events have resulted in several new members and new participants in the activities programme.

The section remains active with the court booking system in good use and 11 teams participating in the Kent and North Kent leagues, both in the summer and winter seasons. The singles leagues continue to be popular, with approximately 85-90 participants in each round. The annual tournament prizes will be awarded at the AGM again this year.

In the junior section, for the first time in several years, six junior teams, both girls and boys have participated in the Kent league. In order to try to encourage more club play participation for juniors, the Club will be trialling a new club play session on a Friday evening after Fun Friday from September.

Squash and Racketball

The squash and racketball section is active, with internal leagues, regular tournaments and outside league competitions. Club night on Thursday evenings has become a more regular fixture in the calendar and is a mix of game play, coaching and drills.

The section is already benefitting from the new LED lights that have been recently installed. As mentioned though, there are significant structural problems with the building that do need to be resolved in the near future.

More section members are urged to become involved with the running of the Club, by joining the squash and racketball committee which can have an input on important issues. Further, we are still seeking a member who is prepared to represent the section as a director – see the item on board directors below.

Croquet

Members of the croquet section have continued to participate in matches and leagues with the South East Croquet Federation. Simon Carter, who has won many competitions at the Club, qualified for this year's Golf Croquet World Championships and made it to the last 32 players before being knocked out by the European Champion.

In reviewing the business plan this year, the board raised the issue of the financial viability of the croquet section. Over the last few years, the section has often not managed to cover the direct cost of maintaining the lawn, let alone contribute to the other expenses of running the Club. This year the cost of maintaining the lawn has been brought in-house to save money and a consultation process has taken place with the croquet section.

The croquet members are passionate about retaining their section, which has been part of the Club since it was founded. The section is now looking at possible efficiency savings, additional ways to cover expenses, including more ways to raise funds from the use of the lawn from coaching and outside hire, as well as methods to attract new members and integrate more with the other sections of the Club. As mentioned previously, David Hamilton, a croquet member, will be looking into fundraising opportunities too.

Board Directors

At the last AGM David Burrow was elected as Events Director. Please save the date for the event that he is organising on Saturday 12th October, which will be a Jazz and Folk evening in the clubhouse, with a professional Jazz band and Dave's folk group. Tickets will go on sale soon. It should be great fun!

Regrettably another year has passed and we have still not been able to find anyone who is prepared to represent the squash and racketball section as a director on the board. In view of the important decisions that need to be made about the squash court building, it would be particularly helpful to have a permanent director on the board. I would like to thank three members of the section who have attended board meetings over the last 12 months on an ad hoc basis. Please could anyone from the squash and racketball section who might be interested in considering the post speak to me, Dez, or Simon Taylor (Squash & Racketball member) for further information.

Presidents/Vice Presidents

At last year's AGM Peter Lewis was elected as President of the Club. This is an honorary role and lasts for two years. Consequently, it will not be necessary to consider a new President until next year. The Board is not recommending that anyone should fill the one space left for a Vice President this year.

Volunteer of the Year Award

The winner of the Club's Volunteer of the Year Award 2018 was Katharine Beaudry for her services to the tennis section, both on the tennis committee and for organising the fixtures for the tennis teams. The award for 2019 will be announced at the AGM. If anyone considers that there is a member of any section of the Club who has shown outstanding commitment to the Club this year and would like to nominate them for the award, please let me know, either in person, or by email to gillian.bartlett@sltcc.co.uk by 16th September 2019.

Thanks

Finally, I would like to thank all volunteers and paid staff who have contributed to the running of the Club this year and have helped to make it such a welcoming and friendly place for members and the local community.

Gillian Bartlett

23rd August 2019

DIRECTORS' ATTENDANCE AT BOARD MEETINGS FROM 1.4.18 to 31.3.19

Director	History	Summoned	Attended	% Ratio
Gillian Bartlett		6	6	100%
Katharine Beaudry	App 23/7/18	4	4	100%
David Burrow	App 27/9/18	3	2	66.7%
Victoria Courtney		6	4	66.7%
Ray Franklin		6	6	100%
Jay George	Res 11/6/18	2	2	100%
Peter Lewis	Res 27/9/18	3	3	100%
Gary Lord	Res 11/6/18	2	1	50%
Hamish McDowell		6	5	83.3%
Simon Taylor		6	5	83.3%

Sydenham Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club Limited

(limited by guarantee)

DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2019

The Directors hereby present their 43rd report and financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2019.

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: Peter Lewis was elected as President at the 2019 AGM and will remain in this post until the 2020 AGM. The Board does not propose to nominate anyone for an additional Vice President position this year.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The following have served as directors of the Company since the last meeting (27 September 2018) and currently hold office, unless otherwise indicated below:-

Gillian Bartlett
Katharine Beaudry
David Burrow
Victoria Courtney

Ray Franklin
Hamish McDowell
Simon Taylor

Gillian Bartlett, Victoria Courtney and Ray Franklin retire by rotation and stand for re-election. .

BAR COMMITTEE:

In accordance with the relevant statutory requirements, each member of the Bar Committee (Paulius Kriksciunas, Keith McMillan and Simon Taylor) retires and each stands for re-election.

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 23rd August 2019

Gillian Bartlett
Chair