**MINUTES OF SLTCC 43rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**Present:**Gillian Bartlett, Chair, the following Board members: Katharine Beaudry, Victoria Courtney, Ray Franklin, Hamish McDowell, Simon Taylor, plus Dez Lewington (Club Manager) and around 25 other members.

**Apologies:** Barbara Seabrook and Michael Wheeler

**Introduction**

Gillian welcomed everyone present and thanked them for coming.   She introduced the other members of the Board, plus the Club Manager.

**Minutes of the 2018 AGM**

Gillian confirmed that the minutes of the 2018 AGM had been approved by the Board and referred attendees that the minutes are available on the Club website.  She thanked Simon Taylor for preparing these minutes.

**1. To Receive the Accounts and the Directors’ Report**

Gillian reported that the Club had had another good year to 31/3/19.  Highlights are:

* The coaching programme continues to do well, albeit there is room for some further growth in 2019/20.  The full day tennis camps have also proved to be popular;
* Membership at end April 2019 stood at 566 members, made up of 292 adult tennis, 130 junior tennis, 131 squash and 25 croquet;
* Membership income is somewhat lower due to the new system of paying by instalments - Ray to comment further;
* Since last year, problems with the squash court building have got worse and the club house project has had to be put on hold as the squash court building issue is more urgent, given the need to maintain playing facilities and infrastructure such as electric supply for lights;
* The Club has been looking at the business plan on how to finance future developments including increasing income to service loans.
* This led to a consultation with the croquet section on how to increase income and integrate more with the rest of the club, as the section has run at a loss for the last few years.
* David Hamilton, a croquet member, has volunteered to lead a fundraising committee and has started to look into fundraising potential for the squash courts initially and then the club house.  There are already some volunteers for this committee but other volunteers are welcome;
* Dave Burrow, Events Director is organising a Jazz evening 12th October.  This is the first event for some time, so Club members are encouraged to come as it should be a good night.  Dez to send out a reminded by the Club Manager’s Newsletter next week;
* The Christmas Quiz will be held on 6th December, hosted by Jeff Richards.

Ray Franklin introduced the Accounts for the financial year to 31 March 2019 and explained that the club had a financially successful year:

* Income in 2018/19 stood at £216,363 compared to £216,965 for 2017/18.  Expenditure was slightly higher, being £199,317 in 2018/19 compared to £194,384 in 2017/18;
* This gave an operating surplus for 2018/19 was £17,046, compared to £22,581 for 2017/18;
* Membership subscription income was lower (£63,019 v. £88,801 in 2017/18).  This is due to the move to a new membership payments system where subscriptions are paid in 10 instalments, whereas before members paid in advance.  However, this should even out in 2019/20;
* Coaching programme income was substantial at £47,490 - 2018/19 being the first full year of the Club running the coaching programme, after bringing it across from Park Langley.  Coach expenditure has also increased, but there is still a substantial profit for the Club;
* Lettings income continues to increase standing at £24,183, with the hall being used by a Pre-School Group, several yoga classes and a Church;
* There was no large capital expenditure in 2018/19, although there will be expenditure in 2019/20 on the squash courts;
* The Club Bar breaks even; it was noted that the bar also provides a valuable reception service for existing and prospective members;
* A Sinking Fund is being funded for future refurbishments of tennis courts.  This stood at £55,436 as at end April 2019.

The motion to receive the Accounts was carried unanimously on a show of hands, with thanks to Ray.

**2. Election of Directors:**

Gillian advised that there had been no change in the Directors over the past year, the Board is still missing a Squash Director plus extra members for the squash committee – any volunteers speak to Gillian, Dez or Simon or another member of the Board.

The Articles requires one third of the Directors to stand down each year.  Accordingly, Gillian Bartlett, Victoria Courtney and Ray Franklin, stood down as Directors by rotation and offered themselves for re-election.

The AGM voted and approved the aforementioned as Directors.

Peter Lewis was elected as President last year.  The role lasts for 2 years and so next year a new president will be elected from the current vice presidents.

Under the Articles, the Club can have 6  Vice presidents  –  currently there are 5 Vice-Presidents in place.  The Board decided not to elect anyone this year, so keeping one Vice President space free.

**3. Election of Bar Committee**

In accordance with the relevant statutory requirements, each member of the Bar Committee retires

Paulius Kriksciunas, Keith McMillan and Simon Taylor and, each offer himself for re-election.

The AGM voted and approved the aforementioned as members of the Bar Committee.

**4. Winner of the Club Volunteer of the Year Award 2019:**

Gillian mentioned the valuable role of the many volunteers who helped with the Club - as listed on the Key Roles list.  The club benefits from having many volunteers and their assistance.

The award was originally introduced to recognise exceptional contribution and service to the Club during the year.  Last year it was felt that it should also recognise long standing contributions too, even if not in the actual year of award – hence Katharine Beaudry's award reflecting many years service on the Tennis Committee.

The person elected this time has been on the list of candidates every year for the last few years and not been chosen largely because of the original criteria.

This year it was decided that it was time that the contribution to the club should be recognised by this award.

**The Winner this year is Ray Franklin** – recognising both past and present contributions:

* Ray has been the longest serving director on the board since 2005
* He became membership secretary when he joined the board
* Switched role to Treasurer/ Finance Director in January 2010 when Shelagh Brooks retired.
* Ray continued to take care of membership until Christine Hensby was appointed a year later in January 2011 and has continued as Finance Director since.

And Ray as a busy day job, too!

Ray has looked after the club's finances impeccably for nearly 10 years, providing regular financial reports to Board meetings.

In 2013 Ray suggested a DIY preparation of the annual accounts thereby saving the club professional accountancy fees of about £2,000 every year

He also liaises with the banks and HMRC on behalf of the club.  We are incredibly lucky to have Ray as a volunteer and this reward is very due, possibly over-due.

The Volunteer of the Year Trophy and Prize was presented by Peter Lewis as Club President.

**5. Presentation of Tennis Finals Trophies:**

This is the second AGM where Trophies are presented to the winners.  The Trophies were presented by Peter Lewis and Dez Lewington with warm congratulations to all winners.

 A photograph of all the winners was taken at the end of the meeting.

**6. Information on Fundraising Committee for new Clubhouse  / Squash Courts**

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.

It was noted that any repairs to the squash court building would be to keep the building viable for 3 to 5 years, with the long term aim of the new club-house being combined with squash courts.

There was a view expressed that it appeared the new clubhouse was being pushed back. Dez explained that the hot summer in 2018 had led to substantial movement of the squash court building, hence the need to prioritise repairs. Dez explained that the Squash building was worth approx £25,000 per annum to the Club, including income from the squash section, and as a wet weather facility for tennis coaching. Without the building there would also be significant costs associated with rehousing the electric supplies for floodlights, grounds equipment, etc.

Another factor is that if the Club had moved to pre-planning for the new Club House, this would cost substantial funds and also require the building to be completed in a fixed period of time.

Further, no one had stepped forward until now to help with fundraising.

It was explained that a the club was in the process of preparing a business plan, that the club would have to take out loans to build a new club house and it was important to have sufficient income to cover such loans.  This was something that the board had been looking into.

**7. Any Other Business**

It was queried if there were any plans to convert courts 1 and 2 to clay surface.  This will be evaluated by the Board and Tennis Committee at a later date, taking into account finances (clay courts are more expensive) and member preference.

The croquet section annual competition will be held 5 October 2019, instead of 29th September, due to the likelihood of rain this weekend.

At 9.00pm pm Gillian closed the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.