Chairman: Steve Hunter 1st October 2024

Dear Member,

As previously communicated the **2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** will be held at the Clubhouse on Thursday 24th October at 8.00pm for the transaction of the under-mentioned business.

If members wish to ask questions to the Board on any items relating to the Agenda only, these questions should be submitted by Wednesday 9th October 2024 to info@stourbridge-tennis-squash.co.uk for the attention of the Secretary. They will be answered as promptly as possible.

All questions and responses will be included in the minutes of the AGM.

As it stands, two candidates are standing for the position of Vice-Chairman, this will be decided by a poll vote.  The two candidates are Annabel Goodby and Lucy Hancocks.  Their profiles will be issued after the deadline for Board Nominations which is the 9th October along with any other changes to nominees.

A copy of all documentation relating to the AGM will be available at Reception.

Voting Members are members of the Club who are over 18 years of age at the date of the General Meeting. This does not include Members with a Social category only.

Yours faithfully

T.J.Roberts

Mr T Roberts

Honorary Secretary

**AGENDA**

1. (a) To confirm the minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 9th November 2023
2. To confirm the minutes of the General Meeting held on Thursday 29th February 2024
3. To approve the Club’s financial statement for the year ended 31 March 2024
4. To approve Lewis Smith & Co. as the Club’s auditors
5. Presentation to be given by John Bartlette regarding Padel
6. To elect the Officers of the Club until the next AGM
7. To accord a vote of thanks to the Retiring Officers

**STOURBRIDGE LAWN TENNIS & SQUASH CLUB LIMITED**

**(THE ‘CLUB’)**

Registered number: 08761408

**PROXY FORM**

I/We the undersigned, being a member of the Club, appoint.

Or, failing him/her, the Chairman of the Annual General Meeting, as my/our proxy to attend on my/our behalf, and to speak and vote on my/our behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Club to be held at the registered address of the Club on 24th October 2024, and at any adjournment of that meeting. I/We also authorise my/our proxy to sign on my/our behalf any consent to holding the meeting at short notice.

I/We direct my/our proxy to vote on each of the resolutions which are to be proposed at the Annual General Meeting (as set out in the notice of the meeting) as I/we have indicated by putting an X in the appropriate box next to that resolution below.

**Resolution No 1 - (ordinary resolution)**

1. To confirm the minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 9th November 2023
2. To confirm the minutes of the General Meeting held on Thursday 29th February 2024

 For Against

**Resolution No 2 - (ordinary resolution)**

 To approve the Club’s financial statement for the year ended 31 March 2024

 For Against

**Resolution No 3 - (ordinary resolution)**

To approve the Club’s auditors Lewis Smith & Co.

 For Against

**Resolution No 4 - (ordinary resolution)**

Election of Vice-Chairman - please put a "X" in box next to your preferred candidate.

Annabel Goodby Lucy Hancocks

“**Voting members”** means Members of the Club who, under the Club’s Articles of Association are entitled to receive notice of, attend and vote at General Meetings, who are members of the Club for the purpose of the Companies Act 2006, and who are over 18 years of age at the date of the General Meeting.

If no indication is given, I/we authorise my/our proxy to vote on the Options, or to abstain from voting on the Options, at his/her discretion.

 I/we authorise my/our proxy to vote, or to abstain from voting, at his/her discretion in relation to any other matter which is properly put before the meeting.

Signed: ………………. ................................................. Date: ……. ...................................................

Name and address of member: ……………………................................................................................

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**Notes**

1. As a member of the Club, you are entitled to appoint a proxy to exercise all or any of your rights to attend, and to speak and vote at, a general meeting of the Club. A member may appoint more than one proxy. A proxy need not be a member of the Club.
2. If you wish to appoint a proxy (or proxies), you must follow the procedure set out in these notes.
3. To appoint a proxy, insert his or her name in the box above. If you sign and return this proxy form without inserting a name in the box, the chairman of the general meeting will be deemed to be your proxy.
4. To direct your proxy as how to vote on the Options which are to be proposed at the annual general meeting, please put an ‘X’ in the appropriate boxes next to the Options. If you do not specify a voting indication in relation to the Options, your proxy will vote, or abstain from voting, on the Options at his or her discretion. In relation to any other matter which is properly put before the annual general meeting, your proxy will vote, or abstain from voting, at his or her discretion.
5. In order to effect a valid appointment of a proxy, this proxy form must be:
* Completed and signed.
* Sent or delivered to the Club addressed to ‘The Secretary’; and
1. **Received by the Club no later than 8.00pm on Wednesday 23rd October 2024**
2. If you submit more than one valid proxy form in respect of the same proxy, the form received last before the latest time for the receipt of proxy forms will take precedence.
3. If you appoint someone other than the chairman of the general meeting as your proxy, you are responsible for ensuring that your proxy attends the meeting and is aware of your voting instructions. If you want your proxy to make any comments or ask any questions on your behalf at the meeting, you must appoint someone other than the chairman and instruct that person accordingly.
4. The fact that you have appointed a proxy does not prevent you from attending and speaking and voting at the meeting in person. If, having appointed a proxy, you attend the meeting in person, your proxy appointment will be terminated automatically.

**Chairman’s AGM Report**

This last 12 months has been a sustained period of development and growth for Stourbridge Lawn Tennis and Squash Club, both in term of reaffirming our facilities but also a financial footing.

We had to make the decision this year to increase membership fees that were more aligned with inflation. This wasn’t a decision taken lightly but we felt as a board that it was essential to get the club in a financially stronger position to then further reinvestment into the facilities. As you will be aware we had significant but vital expenditure on the four newly laid plexi tennis courts and solving the chronic problem that we had with the balcony and rainwater leaks on squash court 4. Thanks to John Bartlett and the balcony sub-committee that have resolved the issue to a high standard and thankfully we now have a balcony we can enjoy with a fully operational squash court 4.

I have always felt that as a club we should always keep moving forward and progressing; on that we have put tremendous time and efforts into looking at Padel; and Solar panels on the field behind the club. Padel is very much a boom sport that would complement our facilities and hopefully increase our membership. The solar project would be a way of future proofing our utilities expenditure with an eye on it generating a source of income in the not-too-distant future. All these projects will only work if a strong business case is submitted and does not compromise the financial stability of the club.

And so, it is the end of my tenure as chairman, it would be remis of me not to thank a few people. I would like to thank all the section heads and board who have worked tirelessly to make, build and improve their areas. We have seen fantastic tennis competitions and exhibitions. Squash and racketball are booming with successful teams and a growing number of junior participants. The gym has seen significantly improved equipment that is put through its paces by increased numbers. I will always be thankful to Luke, Josh and all the employed staff that turn up day in day out to ensure that the club runs and looks the way we have become accustomed too.

Tim Roberts leaves his position as club secretary this year, Tim joined the board pre covid and has helped steer the club through uncertain times and he always did it with a smile – thanks Tim for your efforts, very much appreciated.

And a big thank you to all the members that have supported myself and the board over the last two years – it has been my absolute honour and privilege.

John Bartlett will be stepping into the Chairs role and it’s fair to say we will be in safe hands as there is no doubting John’s passion for the club. Good luck John I look forward to supporting you as past chair.

See you in the bar.

Steve Hunter

**Treasurer’s AGM Report**

Review of the statutory Accounts to March 31st 2023

The total income for the year was £564,501 (£540k in 2023) and the club made a loss of £50,357 compared with a loss of £19,112 for the previous year. This does include a figure of £67,715 of depreciation, which if removed would therefore show a profit position of £17,358. We also put the majority of the expenses related to the relaying of the balcony into this year’s accounts and the hope is that we can now get back to a more profitable position over the next few years.

At year end, the club had net assets of £1.402m with long term loans to the value of £165,209. The cash at bank at year-end was £170,002 (as usual, this included a significant number of membership renewals for 24/25).

If you look more closely at the income; the membership income has held up reasonably well in the current economic climate; and the Bar gross profit increased significantly. Obviously, we had the large expense repairing squash court 4 which involved work on the balcony and stripping away all of the foundations of the building to reseal the court. This looks as though it has been successful and hopefully means we don’t need to spend ad-hoc amounts on this in the future that weren’t included in our budgets. I would like to thank John Bartlett and the project team who spent a number of months looking at this problem and who have come up with a solution.

After being asked to take on the role as Treasurer last year I believed that we needed to make some above inflation increases in the membership fees at the last renewal in order to bring the Club back to profit, so that we can look to re-invest in the facilities that we have here. We are very fortunate to have some of the best playing facilities in the Midlands and in order to maintain them we have to have a rolling schedule for maintenance, which I have started to introduce with the sections. We recently re-laid tennis courts 5,6 & 7 with a plexi surface and this enabled us to have the Staffordshire County Closed tennis tournament, which proved successful. It is believed that this will be a bigger and better event over the next couple of years.

We do have to keep a close eye on expenditure and one of the key cost increases this term has been the increase in wages due to the increase in the national minimum wage. We have controlled this cost reasonably well and Josh continues to manage the bar very well and keeps a close eye on the need for staff at peak times.

Looking at the current financial year I am pleased to report that the budget that I set in the EGM in February is being pretty well adhered to and we have seen an increase in turnover in line with my projections and costs are being held in line as well. We are currently looking to achieve a small P&L profit for the year, which would be nice to see.

This will then give us the opportunity for The Board to remain open to other potential projects which can add real value to the Club. These include potential investment in Solar panels which would have a 4-5 year pay-back; this would make the Club more secure from a utility price fluctuation point of view and allow us to sell any excess back to the Grid. The other project that has now come into our thoughts is the introduction of Padel Tennis. This is a fast-growing sport, and a number of other local clubs have taken the opportunity to add this sport to their establishment. We believe that this would also be a major benefit to our Club and provide new opportunities for our members to enjoy a slightly different skill and potentially bring in a significant number of new members. The results of the survey from members was positive and has shown to have been a positive step by the Club to consider introducing this sport with a large number of members saying it would be good to play.

There is also still an opportunity to look at a possible option to add a dance studio under the Gym, as long as the business case shows that this adds additional long-term income to the Club.

We will continue to look to keep the Club on a firm footing whilst also looking at ways to enhance the excellent facilities that we already have.

Paul Barnsley (Treasurer)

**Tennis AGM Report**

What a fantastic year it has been for tennis at SLTSC. I am proud to present this report, highlighting our achievements, growth, and the vibrant community that we have fostered. This year has seen a significant engagement from members, with a notable increase in participation across all levels.

What I found through writing this report, was my feeling of gratitude to be part of a thriving tennis community that encourages participation, celebrates achievements and pushes for development and growth. I look forward to seeing what we achieve across the coming year!

**Teams**

As always, we’ve had an excellent year of team tennis. My sincere thanks go to Andy Eaton and Jo Skym, who have collectively managed over a dozen teams, coordinating both weekly practices and matches. Their dedication is second to none, and those who participate will undoubtedly agree that they do a fantastic job.

All our team matches have been highly competitive, with an outstanding level of energy and enthusiasm throughout. Special congratulations to the Ladies’ C Team, led by Captain Jayne Eaton, who triumphed in Division 4 and were undefeated and to the Men’s B Team, under Captain Scott Hathaway, who claimed victory in Division 3.

It has also been great to see so many juniors participating in Team Practice. The bridging squad has done an excellent job of preparing our young players for team matches, and several juniors have delivered outstanding performances throughout the season.

What was especially noticeable during the summer season was the amount of support players received from members, who often came to cheer on our teams in the evenings or on weekends. This makes all the difference, so thank you to everyone who attended.

**Juniors**

Our Head Coach Kirk has worked hard over the past year to expand our offerings to Juniors. Specifically, Kirk has focussed on creating more competitive opportunities for our juniors and ensuring there are growth opportunities for juniors of all levels. Our thanks to Les, Grant and Frankie who have taken on additional coaching groups and responsibility to support the junior development programme.

As a club, we now offer 8 hours of junior development coaching per week, shared among our performance coaches. This programme has steadily expanded over the past two years and has become a key part of our junior development strategy. Kirk is also now leading on the Staffordshire Development Scheme, giving children aged 14 and below the opportunity to participate in more competition and coaching. In addition, all 12 and under players van now take part in Hereford & Worcester 1 day match-play team events across the winter.

Junior Night is busier than ever, with over 100 juniors attending regularly. Due to high demand, we now have a waiting list for our earlier sessions. In addition, we’ve introduced a scheme to support our teenage Junior Night assistants in obtaining their Level 1 coaching qualification.

Congratulations to our juniors who gained County titles over the past year: Lukas, Rhydian and Ruben. Well done also to Rishi on being selected for regional performance training.

It has been a joy to see the growth of our junior community over the last year. Our young players are forming their own close-knit community centred around tennis, which is promising for the club’s future. The positive and supportive environment created by our coaches has been instrumental in nurturing these connections and it’s heartening to know that our club is a place where young people feel safe and look forward to visiting.

**Tournaments**

We were delighted to host the Staffordshire County Championships in August as part of our exciting three-year partnership with the Staffordshire LTA on this tournament. This week-long event attracted some of the top players in the county to Stourbridge, and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive from both the participants and the tournament organisers. During my conversation with a Staffordshire LTA Board Member during the tournament, he shared exceptionally positive remarks about the club, noting that it felt like the tennis at Stourbridge had gained a new lease of life and adopted a fresh, dynamic approach to nurturing young talent. We are eager to continue strengthening our relationship with the Staffordshire LTA and look forward to securing future hosting opportunities to further elevate the club’s profile.

The Ladies’ Open lived up to its reputation as an outstanding event, bringing together women from across the county for an exceptional day of tennis. We extend our sincere thanks to John Bartlett for his continued efforts in organising such a successful event. Congratulations to Stourbridge members Alexandra Williams and Anne Turley on their well-deserved victory.

Grant has regularly organized and run LTA-approved junior tournaments throughout the year, which have been well-attended by Stourbridge members and have drawn young talent from across the county. A big thank you to Grant for all his hard work in making these events happen.

The Annual Club Championship was once again a highlight of the year. Returning to its traditional July schedule, the 16 concurrent tournaments culminated in a spectacular finals weekend. With participants ranging in age from 11 to 84, it was inspiring to witness such a diverse group competing during the finals. We extend our gratitude to our sponsors—Security Link Services (Aubrey Grosvenor), County Sports Hagley (Dave Vaughan), and Hicks Hadley (Oli Hicks)—for their invaluable support in making this event a success. A special ‘thank you’ to Andy Eaton, who was an outstanding tournament co-organiser. For a full list of winners, please refer to the conclusion of this report. Congratulations to all who took part!

**Leagues**

This year we launched a new Men’s Doubles and Ladies’ Doubles evening league, aimed at giving more doubles opportunities outside of our teams, these have been an immediate hit. The other leagues continue to be very well supported.

My thanks to Mike Sykes, David Stokes, Richard Walker, Sue Bartlett, Louise Hathaway and Hilary Bozko, who all do an excellent job running the leagues as volunteers. Should you wish to join the leagues – all information is displayed on the tennis noticeboards.

**Court Maintenance**

This year, we also completed the resurfacing of Plexi courts 5, 6, and 7 and member feedback has been largely positive. We were able to significantly reduce the costs of this project by securing the Staffordshire County Championships, which we would not have been permitted to host without the court upgrades. With the improved playing surface and the addition of new court scrapers, we hope these courts will see increased use throughout the winter months.

We also introduced new brushes for the clay courts, and with the addition of new signage (and frequent reminders), the courts are being swept regularly. This has significantly reduced surface buildup, ultimately extending the lifespan of the courts. Thank you to all members who take the time to sweep the courts after playing—your efforts are making a noticeable difference!

**Mix-In**

Mix-in has experienced an incredibly successful year and continues to grow. I have personally enjoyed attending the Round-Robin Mix-in tournaments that have been run and have loved the regular socials that follow the Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday evening sessions. Our ‘Mix-Inners’ also attended the Rothesay Classic at Edgbaston Priory Club again this year and saw some of the top female players. My deepest thanks to Dora and Kevin Harcourt for making Mix-in such a success and fostering such a welcoming environment.

This year, we successfully launched our beginner mix-in sessions, starting in March and continuing every Thursday. The sessions were introduced to address the need for opportunities for new players, following on from Les’ excellent beginner’s courses. These sessions provide a welcoming environment for newcomers to learn tennis etiquette in an informal setting and gain the confidence to join regular mix-ins sessions. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with attendees appreciating the support provided during the sessions. Many have cited these sessions as a key reason for joining the club after completing the courses. Several participants have already become active members, with four joining the evening singles league and some even competed in Club Championships. Well done to Emma for establishing this group and creating such a positive and inclusive new community.

**Pickleball and Walking Tennis**

Over the past year, in response to member requests, we added Pickleball lines to the junior courts, and now have a modest daytime Pickleball community. For those interested in trying Pickleball, all necessary equipment is available for loan from the office. Additionally, our walking tennis group continues to thrive, with sessions held every Tuesday afternoon.

**Communication & Engagement**

A key priority for the committee this year has been to enhance our communication about tennis-related events for our members. We want everyone to make the most of what we have on offer and to showcase the vibrant community at Stourbridge.

We have endeavoured to enhance our Facebook page by incorporating more photographs of members and providing additional information about upcoming events, moving away from a format that previously resembled a series of posters devoid of personality. Additionally, we have launched a seasonal tennis newsletter, enabling us to engage with members who do not use social media and to reflect on recent activities within the club.

To further improve communication, we have established a team match noticeboard that is regularly updated with all home fixtures, and we now contact our members more frequently via email. For the parents of junior players, we have created a variety of WhatsApp groups, allowing coaches to swiftly disseminate information and highlight potential opportunities for juniors.

Be sure to follow Kirk Woodall Tennis (@kirkwoodalltennis) on Instagram and support his content. Kirk regularly posts tennis tip videos and coaching updates, as well as running tennis merchandise giveaways and stunning his followers with his amazing dance moves! Kirk puts a lot of time into producing some excellent content, so do show it some love.

**Committee**

It has been a privilege to work with such an excellent committee over the past 2 years. Nearly all the accomplishments outlined above are the result of a dedicated group of members who have worked tirelessly to enhance and grow the club for everyone’s benefit.

Their work often goes un-thanked, so thank you very much from me to the committee for doing such a phenomenal job.

As I said last year, I take pride in our committee’s diversity. Our committee spans a wide age range of over 40 years, and we are predominantly women. Our diverse composition has allowed us to strike a balance between tradition and progression in our approach this year. I am hopeful that this will continue into the coming year, and I strongly encourage anyone who is eager to contribute to reach out. There are plenty of opportunities for you to make a meaningful impact and we want to hear from you!

I have loved being Tennis Chair. It’s been hard work, but I am so proud of what we have managed to achieve over the last two years. Most of all, I am grateful for the opportunities that it has given me to grow and for the wonderful SLTSC community. I hope to be able to use all I have learnt and to continue my involvement in Club and Tennis development projects in a new capacity.

I am delighted to announce that Dr. Emma Franks will be succeeding me as Tennis Chair. Emma has been on the committee for the past year and has brought great energy and fresh ideas. I look forward to continuing to work with her in my role as Past Chair and wish her all the best as she joins the Board— they are privileged to get to work with a such an intelligent, motivated and dynamic woman.

**Annabel Goodby**

**Tennis Chair**

**Club Championships 2024 Winners**

**Ladies’ Singles**: Maria Odland

**Men’s Singles**: Finley Cook

**Veteran Ladies’ Singles**: Jo Skym

**Veteran Men’s Singles:** Scott Hathaway

**Ladies’ Doubles**: Adina Molineux & Maria Odland

**0’45 Ladies’ Doubles:** Helen Walker & Jo Skym

**0’60 Ladies’ Doubles:** Jayne Eaton & Anne Turley

**Men’s Doubles:** Denham Williams & Charles Hill

**0’45 Men’s Doubles**: Jag Shoker & Scott Hathaway

**0’60 Men’s Doubles:** Tom Powell & Dave McEwan

**Mixed Doubles:** Kate Mitchell & Finley Cook

**Veteran Mixed Doubles:** Jo Skym & Michael Luckley

**Pic ‘N’ Mix Doubles:** Kate Mitchell & Jack Eaton

**Men’s Singles Plate**: Paul Mainprice

**Ladies’ Singles Plate**: Amie Day

**Mixed Doubles Plate**: Andy Eaton & Jayne Eaton

**Racketball AGM Report**

After many months of setbacks, the Committee are delighted to now have the six indoor courts up and running.

Thoughts for the tournaments this year were discussed outside of the AGM.

A Beginners Racketball Course will be held in October.

The Chairman and committee members welcomed Lucy Hancocks as a newly appointed member to the committee. Lucy will take on the role of Vice Chair with a view to taking over as Chair in twelve months. The Committee members are extremely pleased that Lucy has joined us and feel confident that she will be a great asset to the Racketball Section of the club.

**Officers Reports/Leagues**

Mike reported that the daytime singles league is running smoothly. The new leagues have just gone up. Most matches are being played. The evening/weekend singles league is also running well. Steve has worked hard in recruiting new members. The daytime doubles league run by Hugh continues well, although small in numbers. The evening and weekend doubles league also run by Hugh, continues well.

The committee have been unable to get a racketball coach during this last year.

Ricky (Squash Chair) is looking into the possibility of getting another coach.

**AOB**

The racketball section has been the only club section awarding the most improved player and services to racketball award. Since other sections do not do this, it was decided that this wouldn’t carry on.

The Committee continued the discussion for the need to address dangerous play on court, in particular doubles games. Lucy suggested that we could make use of our club media by using the camera on court 5 as a visual tool. By recording a ‘demonstration’ game of safe play and when to call lets and strokes, this could ‘showcase’ examples of safe doubles play and lets/strokes. In addition, Lucy proposed an informal workshop demonstrating safe play, lets and strokes.

The Chairman thanked all members for their attendance and contribution to the AGM and closed the meeting.

**Pete Mumby**

**Racketball Chair**

**Squash AGM Report**

We have had another very exciting year with squash at Stourbridge, including cracking results from our three Worcestershire winter teams performing well, with the first team winning the Worcs. Div 1 league and were presented with the trophy at the annual dinner on 10th May, which a number of the players attended, the trophy was collected by Andy Speake. Our second team finished midway up the table in Div 2 and our third team finished second in Div 3. We also entered a Worcs. summer league this year and came a close second just pipped at the post.

Our two winter Warks. teams finished 7th in Div 2 having gained promotion last year & also 7th in Div 5 for our second team. We also entered two Warks. teams in the summer league and they performed excellently with the first team in Div 1 and the second team in Div 5 finishing top. All fixtures are posted on the squash team notice board behind court 3.

Many thanks and appreciation to the team captains for managing what can sometimes be a challenging task. Salu Fellows organised a very successful end of season Bowling night out for the teams, fantastic time had by all, thanks and appreciation to Salu.

After many years the eventual resolution of the leak on Court 4, which was threatening to have a significant impact on Court 3 is fantastic news. The club have committed to a revamp and tidy up for the whole area.

Our annual autumn Nigel Cartwright competition took place in December, Stuart Lord won the main men’s & Evie Edwards won the women’s main event, the men’s plate was won by Andy Sinton, O35’s won by Andy Speake, O50’s won by Pete Bailey and finally the O60’s was won by Nick Carter, the presentation was made by Clair Cartwright.

We hosted the annual Worcs. senior county closed in January, participation by Stourbridge members was lower than expected. hopefully we can get a few more Stourbridge players to enter the 2025 competition in January.

On 18th & 19th May we, along with Wolverhampton hosted the Senior Inter County Competition, this brought around 80 high ranked players to Stourbridge, plus reserves and spectators. Yet again the club was buzzing with quality squash and put the club on the map with more people and clubs alike. We have requested to host the finals next year for this competition.

Worcs. Junior open will be held again at Stourbridge later this month September.

The internal leagues are still active, sometimes not as much as we would like and it’s frustrating for James Newhill the league organiser, however its understood when some players are already playing regular County team matches sometimes twice a week.

The recent 12-hour continuous squash charity event had Pete Bailey playing hard right to the very end, and for Pete’s efforts he raised over £2,000 for Mary Stevens Hospice. Great effort by Pete and many thanks to all involved in organising particularly Darren for showing off his DJ skills, compere services and marking all the matches and those that donated.

The club have formed a taskforce team to look at the possibility of bringing Padel to the club. Pete Bailey is part of this team headed by John Bartlett.

We have organised another trip to Gibraltar for a mini-Squash tournament in November, some players from other clubs have expressed an interest too.

Junior participation & numbers within the club have increased over the year, we continue to be grateful to Nick Carter’s continued voluntary contribution to coaching. Nick has been covering Brads whilst he was off for a short while and for the organising and maintaining Stourbridge’s presence with the Squash Stars programme aimed at introducing squash to 5-11 year olds.

Many thanks go to Darren Bradbury our head coach who has continued to thoroughly support the junior coaching programme and deliver quality coaching to all standards of players. Beth Fisher is actively supporting the junior coaching programme as assistant having completed the ES course, of which we are all very appreciative of. Charlotte Silwood continues to support the clubs coaching programme as and when required and will shortly be taking her level 3 exams.

In summary, we have a very supportive & active coaching team, however we are always on the lookout for ways to improve and develop the coaching programme and keep revisiting the possibility of Saturday mornings. We will shortly be running the second Stourbridge PSA Challenger 3 Tournament on 25th-29th September. 2024, again organised single handily by Stuart Lord. Last year was a highly successful weekend for the club and has yet again put Stourbridge Squash on the radar to a wide audience. We are hoping to have the whole event live streamed from court 5 after the recent installation of a permanent camera for this purpose.

The support for Squash and the constant enthusiasm & support of the committee along with support & help from Darren Bradbury, Nick Carter, John Bartlett & Luke with his team not forgetting Lisa & Josh and the many many more making the position of Squash Chair a pleasure, it wouldn’t be possible without this support. Thank you to everyone.

**Ricky Hunt**

**Squash Chair**

**Gym AGM Report**

I would like to thank all the members who have continued to support the Club throughout the last 12 months.

With prudent financial planning, the Club Board has managed to upgrade some pieces of equipment in the Gym. The equipment is serviced annually and is routinely monitored for wear and tear but if you do notice anything that requires any repair, please bring it to the attention of the office who will contact the engineers to get repairs completed.

We have the PT’s delivering the Gym sessions both indoor and out. A big thanks once again to Jon, Jane and Lucy, these sessions are always fun so please feel free to book in and come along, according to your membership category. Outdoor sessions are for ALL playing categories of membership, the indoor sessions are for Gym members only.

Please book in to the sessions via ‘mycourts’, online, using the Club App, Club website or the screen in reception. This helps the PT’s plan their sessions to suit the numbers.

Jon Hope, Karen Adams, Jane Pitt and Lucy Round are available for personalised exercise sessions. If you want a programme tailored for you contact them directly, their contact details are on reception or available on the website and app.

I would also like to thank the Gym committee, a group of 8 who have given their spare time to meet periodically to discuss equipment upgrades and all other Gym related matters that need attention. The minutes of the meetings are printed out and put up on the Gym notice board if you want to know what we have been doing on the members’ behalf, and if you wish to get involved, please make yourself known to the office.

On a final note, if you have any queries, problems or marketing ideas please let me or any of the Board members know. However, if you are enjoying the facilities in the Gym and at the Club, let your friends know and see if they would like to join.

**Nick Carter**

**Gym Chair**

**AGM Minutes 9th November 2023**

**Stourbridge Lawn Tennis and Squash Club Limited**

**Minutes of the 57th Annual General Meeting, held at the Clubhouse, Sugar Loaf Lane, Iverley, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY6 6PS on Thursday 9th November 2023**

**Present:** Sue Bartlett (Chairman of Meeting), Steve Hunter, John Bartlett, Aubrey Grosvenor, Tim Roberts, Paul Barnsley, Peter Mumby, Ricky Hunt, Annabel Goodby and a quorum of Voting Members

**Apologies:** Tracy Nash, Judith Hardy, David Stringfellow, Stuart Davis and Nick Carter

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 8 pm.

**Resolution No. 1**

The Chairman sought approval of the minutes of the AGM held on Thursday, 22nd November 2022 and the minutes of the General Meeting held on Thursday 2nd March 2023. (The Chairman explained that the Notice of the AGM sent to members erroneously referred to the meeting being held on 23rd March 2023).

Resolution No. 1 was proposed by Nick Carter, seconded by Niven Mallinson and the motion was carried

Both sets of Minutes were signed by Steve Hunter, Club Chairman

**Resolution No. 2**

**2022/2023 Accounts**

The Chairman called on the Treasurer, Paul Barnsley, to present the financial statement for the year ending 31st March 2023. Below is a summary of his report.

Review of the statutory Accounts to 31st March 2023

The total income for the year was £543,606 (£527k in 2022) and the club made a loss of £17,914 compared with a profit of £48,910 for the previous year. This does include a figure of £66,402 of depreciation, which if removed would therefore show a profit position of £48,488.

* Long term loans to the value of £194,691.
* The Cash at bank at year end was £267,655

Staff costs increased

 - Luke becoming Full time manager whereas Di was part-time

- Saturday morning staff member was introduced

- Minimum wage increased by 9.8 &10.6% respectively

- Assts Manager role went but is effectively replaced with Pete Hounsell & Tracy Nash & now Grace, assisting Luke with day to day running of the club

 - Josh maintains the bar staff on a tight budget – 1 in day and 2 after 6pm

- Coaching retainer – Ali Jafari with the view of increasing the junior section with visits to schools

expenditure needed - post Covid and wanted to protect the cash position of the Club, as we recovered our trading position.

Hence the Board agreed a series of maintenance and improvement work across quarter 4 of 2022 and continuing into the 2023 year, which have led to the reason for the losses in the 22/23 financial year.

* Squash courts new floors and paint
* Electrical upgrades – to include time/sensitive lighting and new light to the Clay tennis courts

Current Year

* Income is up 12% - both in terms of membership and bar revenues are good and show increases.
* Expenditure is up 15% currently – work needed on the bungalow, Court 5 new floor, centre court 1 re-surfaced
* Profit of £5k to date before depreciation is included
* New security gate system £22k
* Cash at bank £250k
* Balcony split into two elements: making water-tight and putting the balcony back into good order
* Building survey to assess potential areas of repair that we don’t already know about

Projects

* There is a desire to look at new projects over the next couple of years, but this depends on finances.

The most logical – Solar Panels

Underneath the gym with a Dance Studio.

The Chairman invites questions on the financial statement.

Q. Dave Perry - can you give an assurance that the work to be carried out on the balcony will resolve the problem and stop leaks on to Squash Court 4?

1. John Bartlett - he confirmed that the work was being carried out by a very reputable Company experienced in this type of work, namely The Rio Group and the work will carry a 20 year Guarantee. John explained some aspects of the work that will be done and the approximate time frame of 3 weeks.

Q. Mike Emery - re the squash coach, Ali - what was the cost and where did he come from?

1. Ricky Hunt - he was recommended by Rob Owen. Ali was the best of 3 applicants but, unfortunately, everything went wrong, and we did not receive from Ali what was expected of him, e.g. he did not visit schools to encourage junior members to take up the sport and, hopefully, join the Club. He had an excellent portfolio. He "talked the talk", but did not deliver. His salary was £14,000.00 p.a. This salary was discussed with Zena Wooldridge, and we thought it was a competitive wage.
2. Steve Hunter - we were hoping he would grow as a squash coach, but that never happened.

Q. Mitch Davis - what is the timeline for the balcony.

1. John Bartlett - mid-January.

Q. Mitch Davis - what is happening with regard to broken gym equipment and is there a budget for replacement?

1. Luke Stone - the Company we have been using are awful. Thankfully, John Bartlett has found someone else who can repair on a 3/4 day turn around so we are hoping this situation will improve.

Q. Niven Mallinson - what is the position with regard to tennis coaching and fees?

1. Steve Hunter - enquiries with other Clubs show that we actually pay the lowest. Coaches are needed to encourage juniors. Friday nights are great, and we have to remember that these kids are the next generation - we have to hope they will continue and ultimately their families will play too.
2. Annabel Goodby - Kirk is the only coach who is paid a retainer.

Q. Graham Wood - he thanked Paul for his excellent presentation of the financial position of the Club. However, he queried the loss of £17,900.00 referred to, which should actually be £19,100.00 when taking into account Corporation Tax as referred to later on page 4. Your report should have quoted the higher figure.

1. Paul Barnsley - fair comment. You are correct.

The Chairman sought approval of the Club's financial statement.

Resolution No. 2 was proposed by Dave Perry, seconded by Mitch Davis and the motion was carried

**Resolution No. 3**

The Chairman sought approval of the appointment of Lewis Smith & Co. As the Club's Auditors

Q. Graham Wood - can I ask if they are going to be independent, i.e. they will be doing the audit only and ARAS will continue with just the accounts.

1. Paul Barnsley - yes, that is correct.

Q. Richard Cattell - just want to point out that it is not a legal requirement for the accounts to be audited.

A. Paul Barnsley - that is correct, but as we are dealing with Members' money, I would prefer audited accounts to be prepared.

Resolution No. 3 was proposed by Sarah Davis, seconded by Max Palermo and the motion was carried.

**Election of Officers for 2023/2024**

Re-election and election of officers for the forthcoming year was presented by the Chairman and stated that the nominees were all elected unopposed, i.e. President, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Safe-Guarding Officer. All Sports Committee Chairs having been appointed at their relevant AGMs.

**AOB**

Q. Dave Perry - there appears to be a lack of communication with Members as the Minutes of Board Meetings are no longer posted on the relevant Notice Board.

1. Luke Stone - that is my fault, Dave. I will make sure they are posted in future.

Q. Niven Mallinson - he queried restricted membership and suggested the Board look at details of what is available for restricted/non-restricted members in all areas.

A. Luke – Restricted members were given Sundays as well due to the increased rise in this specific category in comparison to other categories.

Q. Rob Moreton – we need to be mindful of giving more facilities to restricted members as this category pays less.

Mitch Davis agreed with Rob Moreton's comments.

Gill Pargeter indicated that she would not agree with one membership. Restricted Members choose this category not only because time wise it is suitable, but also it is more affordable. This category was penalised in the last increase in subscriptions as it was increased by 9%, compared to a 0% for gym membership.

1. Sue Bartlett - your comments will be noted Gill, and I am sure will be taken into consideration by the Board when membership categories/fees are discussed in the future.

Q. Nick Jones - are there any plans for paddle tennis?

1. Steve Hunter - may be looking at this in the long term, but the main objective now is to repair the balcony and put Squash Court 4 back into play.

Q. Ken Cowdry - what about pickle ball?

A. Luke Stone - the junior courts are being marked out for this facility.

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Signed ............................................................ (Steve Hunter, Club Chairman)

**General Meeting Notes 29th February 2024**

**Stourbridge Lawn Tennis and Squash Club Limited**

**Minutes of the General Meeting held on Thursday 29th February, 2024 held at the Clubhouse, Sugar Loaf Lane, Iverley, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY6 6PS**

**Present:** The requisite quorum requirement was met

 1.The President and Chairman of the meeting, Sue Bartlett, welcomed all members and declared the meeting open.

1. The President handed the floor to the Treasurer, Paul Barnsley, who explained the proposed subscription rate increase (effective from 1st April 2024) and the upcoming budget (for the year ending March 2025).

Dear fellow Member,

I joined the Board as Treasurer in April 2023 and have now had time to look very closely at the finances of the Club.  Whilst we have money in the bank it is fair to say that we are currently running at a loss based on our income and expenditure.  This is something that as a Board we can’t allow to continue as it is starting to have an effect on the fabric of the Club.  A number of members have commented, and I think that we can all see there are areas of the building that need some serious attention both internally and externally.

We have hopefully now found a resolution to the leak on Squash Court 4 and the work that has taken place on the balcony area will be coming to an end soon.  We believe that this is now a success and I certainly hope so, as over the last few years we have spent significant amounts to try and rectify the problem.  If so then this will free up some funds to be utilised elsewhere within the Club.

There are some one-off projects that will still need to be undertaken this year that will require some sizeable costs, these include the internal refurb of squash court 4, to bring it back into playing standard as well as court 3 which has also been affected by the leak.  We have been successful in pitching for the Staffordshire County Closed Tournament, and this requires us to re-surface the plexi-courts 5,6 & 7. Work will start on this in April.  Whilst this is an initial cost to the Club, we will recoup this from Staffs Tennis over the next 3 years.  There have been a number of tennis members who were not happy with the playing surface on these courts, so hopefully this will give some confidence now that the surface will be playable for all members.

We also have to fix the leak that is causing the wall by the toilet doors as you go down the stairs. I think it is important that a rolling plan of maintenance is introduced and we are discussing this with Luke at the moment.  We want the Club to look good again as this is our shop front when potential new members look to join.

Our biggest single increase in expenditure going into the next 12 months will be the staff costs, as the Minimum Wage will increase by over 10% on average.

On the basis of the continued investment that we need to make in the fabric of the Club and the increase in normal expenditure I hope that you all understand the need to increase the membership fees accordingly.  We are a members Club, and it is incumbent on us all to share the costs across the board.  I am hopeful that if we get through this year this will help to bring us back to a profitable surplus that we can then continue to re-invest in the facilities.

3. The President invited questions on the proposed increase in subscriptions and the proposed budget.

**Questions and Answers**

Zena Wooldridge

Q Has there been a fall in membership?

1. No significant fall, a slight fall is always expected.

Q Do you have a market plan?

1. We are looking into more media exposure.

Graham Wood

Q I have to query the expenditure. In Autumn 2020 we lost in-house staff and reduced retainers to save money. Last year wages/salaries increased considerably. Do we still pay retainers? Can you give a breakdown?

A The only retainer now paid is to Kirk Woodall as Head Tennis Coach.

Simon Beddow

Firstly, I wish to offer my thanks to the Board for all their hard work and commitment to the Club.,

Q I would like a breakdown to get a better understanding of wages - £197,000.00 and now £250,000.00 which is a 25% increase as of 2 years ago.

A Increase in minimum wage is a large factor - 11%.

Liz Beddow

I wish to echo my huband's thanks to the Board.

Q Generally happy, but questions have to be asked how budget is presented. Capital expenditure? Balcony? Tennis Courts? There is disquiet and questions have to be asked. Money has been spent on the new barrier system - why now and how much? What costs will arise in the future, e.g. servicing? New furniture?

A Yes, new furniture is needed.

Steve Hunter also added that the barrier was considered necessary for the safety of members and their belongings after the car theft. The Treasurer went on to explain that it had paid for itself with the extra income from non-members having to now pay and become a member to gain entry.

Niven Mallinson

Q How much is paid for Sky T.V.?

A £1,200.00 per month.

Q Is that considered value for money?

A Mitch Davis replied that we are a sports club and should showcase sports.

Christine Palmer

Q Can you give a breakdown of sundries?

A T.V. Waste. I can let you have a list. Luke is looking at new suppliers.

4. The President then asked for a proposer and seconder of Ordinary Resolution 1 to approve the proposed subscription rates from 1st April 2024. She reminded members present that only Voting Members are entitled to vote on the two Resolutions, i.e. Social members and persons under 18 are not entitled to vote.

Ordinary Resolution No. 1

Proposed by Mitch Davis and seconded by Sarah Davis

**Motion carried**

Ordinary Resolution No. 2

Proposed by Max Palermo and seconded by Sarah Davis

**Motion carried**

1. The President once again thanked members for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed..................................................................

(Steve Hunter, Club Chairman)