Chairman: Steve Hunter Thursday 18th October 2023

Dear Member,

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** will be held at the Clubhouse on Thursday 9th November 2023 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 Monday 30th October 2023 to [info@stourbridge-tennis-squash.co.uk](mailto: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.

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 24th November 2022
2. To confirm the minutes of the General Meeting held on Thursday 23rd March 2023
3. To approve the Club’s financial statement for the year ended 31 March 2023
4. To approve Lewis Smith & Co as the Club’s auditors
5. To advise the members of repair costs for the balcony.
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 9th November 2023, 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 24th November 2022
2. To confirm the minutes of the General Meeting held on Thursday 23rd March 2023

For Against

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

To approve the Club’s financial statement for the year ended 31 March 2023

For Against

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

To approve the Club’s auditors Lewis Smith & Co

For Against

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

To approve the Club’s financial statement for the year ended 31 March 2023

For Against

“**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 ...............................................................................

...................................................................................................................................................

**………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….**

**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 Tuesday 7th November 2023**
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**

2022/23 has been our first full year coming out of Covid 19 restrictions where we have been able operate and function more in the manor that we were used too. This last 12 months have thrown us problems which have been challenging but hopefully we have been able to develop and grow the club.

We welcome Paul Barnsley taking the role of treasurer. Paul Is a lifelong member of the club and has served as Chairman is recent times, we feel lucky that we can benefit from his experience and passion for the club. My personal thanks to Richard Cattell who stood as treasurer for the past 2 and half years and helped guide and steady the finances of the club through the pandemic. I would like to welcome David Stringfellow who has kindly stepped in as safeguarding officer, and we look forward to working with him.

Our membership numbers have continued to hold strong and at present we have 1,180 members in total. Hopefully with strong initiatives that come from each sport section along with a proactive office we will retain members and also attract more as we move forward.

You will all be aware that we have had new turnstiles placed at the entrance of the club. This was a result of a breach in security that led to a member’s car being stolen. I accept this is a big change and will have teething issues, but once overcome this will lead to a more secure club where members can feel safe. Club manager Luke is working tirelessly to ensure that it will become a smooth transition.

Now the Elephant in the room, squash court 4 and the balcony. At the beginning of the summer the board took the decision to take on some remedial work to see if we could solve the issues with the leak, with it in mind that if it failed then we would have to have a ‘start from scratch approach ‘. A sub-committee was set up led by John Bartlett, along with Stuart Davis, Pete Mumby and Mike Robbins to execute the start from scratch. Following meeting with Surveyors, core samples on the balcony and a detailed meeting with the contractors, I am pleased to say work will start towards the end of November and will last for 3 weeks. Following a period of drying, Pete Mumby will start the efforts to get court 4 back operational.

Our Project team of Aubrey Grosvenor and Stuart Davis have been busy working on plans and ideas to develop the space beneath the gym, the land at the back of the club and a proposed bubble for some of the tennis courts. We will always try and drive to move the club forward but due to the significant costs of the balcony and court 4, these plans will be delayed until we have an even keel.

I would personally like to thank each board member for their efforts, the tournaments, exhibitions, beginner courses and thriving junior sections have been outstanding this year which is testament to the coaches and the courses they set in place.

A big thank you to Luke, Josh and all the staff who make the club tick on a daily basis and keep the club in a fashion that we have become accustomed too.

It’s an absolute pleasure to work with the board and be your Chairman, I’m massively optimistic we can build on the successes of the last 12 months and, have dry squash court 4.

**Steve Hunter**

(Club Chairman)

**Treasurer’s AGM Report**

Review of the statutory Accounts to March 31st 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. At year end, the club had net assets of £1.453m with long term loans to the value of £194,691. The cash in the bank at year end was £267,655 (which included a significant number of membership renewals for 23/24).

The decision by the Board had been to delay some of the expenditure needed on the Club facilities as we were continuing to come through the effects of Covid and wanted to protect the cash position of the Club, as we recovered our trading position. 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. There was also the reduction of any covid related grants, so from a trading perspective we can be rightly happy with the way the Club has adjusted post covid.

Hence the Board agreed a series of maintenance and improvement works 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.

After being asked to take on the role as Treasurer for the coming year, I was extremely happy to know that the financial information supplied by ARAS accounting gives me a full pack of monthly management information by mid-month, which means I am able to keep a close eye on monthly revenues and expenditure. Like my predecessor Richard Cattell, I am able to report back to the Board and we can base many of our financial decisions on the current trading position and cash in the bank.

Some further improvement work has already taken place this financial year, including the Bungalow which needed some refurbishment. Our key focus now is to get Squash Court 4 water-tight again as this is also a health hazard, as well as the need to get the court back to a playing standard. There have been numerous attempts to resolve this previously. We have therefore taken the steps required to appoint a contractor who has resolved a similar issue that occurred at Walmley Golf Club. This involves the need to take up the balcony area and relay the flooring to a standard that will resolve the problem. The contractor will also give us a Guarantee on the work, which is a key factor in their appointment. This project is being headed up by John Bartlett along with other Board Members who have an understanding of the construction/building industry. This needs to be resolved as it has become an annual drain on the finances. There are other areas of the Club that need some refurbishment and I hope I can allocate funds to these from next year if this is resolved.

We do have to keep a close eye on expenditure and one of the key costs is wages, which have increased due to the minimum wage increase. Josh manages the Bar very well and keeps a close eye on the need for staff at peak times.

The Board are keen to remain open to other potential longer-term projects which can add value to the Club. These include potential investment in Solar panels which would have a 4 year pay-back; this would make the Club more secure from a utility price fluctuation point of view. Along with 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.

Finally, my thanks to Richard Cattell, who looked after the finances of the Club through a very difficult period with Covid hampering the normal day to day revenues. He along with the Board, did an excellent job of protecting the Club’s reserves. We wish him well with his work commitments.

**Paul Barnsley**

(Treasurer)

**Tennis AGM Report**

This is my first Annual Report since taking over as Tennis Chair and I would like to begin by congratulating and thanking my predecessor Richard Walker for his tireless effort working as Tennis Chairman for more than 10 years. This stint as Chairman is only part of a phenomenal contribution to the club, and, as you will see from this report, Richard continues to volunteer and remains actively involved in the tennis community.

It was quite daunting to learn that I would be the only woman on the Board this year. However, I have received a warm welcome and I am grateful for the support I have received from the Tennis Committee and the Board. I look forward to serving as Tennis Chair for the upcoming year and hope that we will be able to build on the year’s successes.

**Teams**

Congratulations to the Men’s A Team who won the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Summer League! This is a brilliant achievement, and we hope to continue this success in the coming Winter season.

We have had an excellent year of team tennis. My thanks to Jo Skym and Andy Eaton who have collectively overseen over a dozen teams and orchestrated team practice for over 100 members – it is no easy feat, and their dedication to the club is second to none. The teams have experienced varying degrees of success, but matches have been competitive, and the energy and enthusiasm for matches has been exceedingly positive. Across all teams in the Summer 2023 season, we had 1 promotion, 10 holds and 2 demotions.

Our 3 Mixed Teams are also doing well, with the A Team earning promotion to Division 1 and the B/C teams finishing comfortably mid-table. Thank you to Mixed Captains Jo Skym, Richard Walker, and Dora Harcourt for their efforts.

It has also been great to see so many Juniors participating in Team Practice. The bridging squad has been excellent, and I look forward to seeing more young people getting excited about team tennis in the coming year.

**Coaching**

We currently have two full-time and 3 part-time tennis coaches who all fulfil essential roles within the club and offer a diverse range of coaching styles to our members.

Group coaching sessions have been especially well-supported this year. The beginner and intermediate coaching courses run through the summer have resulted in more than 20 new members who we are delighted to welcome to the club. Thank you to Les Davies for his work on these – his experience and exuberant personality no doubt led to this being a great experience for all who attended.

Grant Chapman has completed his Level 4 Coaching Qualification and Grace Barratt, Jordan Adams and Rohan Chevelrajah Lopez have all achieved their Level 1 Coaching Qualification. Well done to all!

**Juniors**

There are now 8 thriving squads that are exponentially improving the quality of our junior tennis players. Junior night continues to be very well attended, with more than 100 juniors attending on a Friday through the summer season. Thank you to our young helpers who give up their Fridays to facilitate these sessions and ensure our juniors are having a great experience.

We also have Junior 2023 County Champions! A huge ‘well-done’ to Ruben for winning the U’10s County Singles and being a finalist for the U’11’s County Doubles. Congratulations also to Rhydian who beat the no.1 seed to become the U’9’s County Singles Champion.

We have identified the need for more social tennis opportunity for our juniors who are not playing at a county level. We are seeking to develop a junior tennis mix-in which should be coming early next year.

**Court One**

After falling into an unplayable state, Court 1 received a much-needed facelift in 2023. It has been lovely to see players who had migrated to Court 7 back onto Court 1 and making the most of the new Plexi. It was great that we were able to push and get this done ahead of the 2023 Club Championships.

We also ran an Exhibition Match to celebrate the re-surfacing of Court 1. This was a personal highlight of the year for me! It was great to see a capacity crowd from all sections of the club enjoying a fantastic match and a BBQ as the sun went down. Thank you to Umpire Jon Norman and our players Kirk Woodall, Finley Cook, Henry Parry, and George Southall.

**Tournaments**

We ran several social tennis tournaments earlier this year which were designed to be fun and inclusive of members who may have less experience in competitive matches and tournaments. These were well attended, and feedback was positive, so we will continue to grow this in the upcoming year.

The Ladies’ Open upheld its reputation as a fantastic event, welcoming women from across the county to a great day of tennis. Thank you to Vice-Chair John Bartlett who took on the organisation of this tournament for the first time.

September also saw the finals of our Club Championship and it was a whirlwind of action! Nearly 300 matches were played across the tournament culminating in 16 exciting finals. Congratulations to all the winners on a fantastic tournament. During the event we also trialled the live scoring system ‘AceFace’ – following the success and positive feedback we will be seeking to use this for more events and team tennis in the future. Thank you to event sponsors: EWS Facade, County Sports Hagley & Hicks Hadley, as well as the LTA who gave us some funding as part of the Senior’s Tennis GB Grant.

Following your feedback, I am delighted to announce that the Club Championships will move back to July, with Final’s Weekend scheduled for 6th/7th July 2024.

**Walking Tennis and Pickleball**

This year we launched Walking Tennis. After 12 weeks of coaching, the Walking Tennis group has become a vibrant group in the tennis community who play weekly at 2pm on Tuesday afternoons.

Over the summer we also held several Pickleball taster sessions. Following the popularity and success of these sessions, we will be aiming to offer more sessions and groups within the next year.

**Leagues**

The leagues continue to be very well supported. My thanks to Mike Sykes, David Stokes, Richard Walker, 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.

**Mix-In**

Mix-In has experienced an incredibly successful year and continues to grow. Regularly filling four courts, Mix-In is a wonderful, inclusive community for all members. Alongside the regular sessions on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday, there have been several social tournaments throughout the year, which are exceedingly popular. A group of our Mix-In members also went on a day out to the Rothesay Classic at Edgbaston Priory Club and saw some of the top female players, including Venus Williams! My deepest thanks to Dora and Kevin Harcourt for running the Mix-In and fostering such a welcoming environment.

**Committee**

The Tennis Committee have worked incredibly hard this year on the projects above. I am so grateful for their effort – which isn’t shouted about nearly enough!

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 our commitment to diversity will continue to thrive, and I strongly encourage anyone who is eager to contribute to join the committee or reach out. There are plenty of opportunities for you to make a meaningful impact and we want to hear from you!

**Annabel Goodby**

(Tennis Chair)

**Racketball AGM Report**

**Juniors**

A lot of cross discussions have taken place with Squash section and the current coaching people on our approach to Racketball coaching of Juniors. There is a lot of common ground at younger ages and routes are similar between racketball and squash. History tells us older age groups tend to be the ones that start to play racketball, often alongside squash. Work is ongoing on racketball coaching bearing in mind that the club Squash Junior programme is relatively new in itself.

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**Court Maintenance**

The replacement of the floor and court cleaning of court 5 took place over 9th, 10th and 11th August 2023. Courtmasters carried out the work. Some of the light fitting elements need replacing on other courts. Presently we are assessing spares and the means of changing them. Work is ongoing with updating/configurations of notice boards in conjunction with the Squash section. No further scheduling of court maintenance can be done until the Court 4 issue is resolved.

**Teams**

There will be one Racketball team in the Warwickshire league this winter season.

Jason Edwards will run this.

**Beginners Courses**

The Racketball section are suggesting that two courses are run concurrently - each for 4/5 weeks. One would be on a Saturday morning, the other on a Wednesday evening.

This would give more options for people and optimise numbers. Darren Bradbury will run these in conjunction with myself and the club office. It is normal to provide rackets (which participants can keep if they join) and access to mix-ins for the period of the course. Fees to be decided.

**Committee**

Two further people have resigned from the committee.

Replacement duty members are being sought.

**Tournaments**

The first tournament will be at the start of the winter season and this is to be a doubles event.

**Exhibitions/National Events**

Our thanks to John Bartlett for organising the Racketball exhibition match on 29th September. Unfortunately, the club calendar meant that the inter county racketball weekend could not be held in early December. It is hoped that the club can host an event in the New Year.

**Pete Mumby**

(Racketball Chair)

**Squash AGM Report**

We have had a very exciting year with squash at the club, including both Worcs. 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 19th May 2023 which a number of the players attended, the team was led by Pete Bailey, our second team finished midway up the table in Div. 2 headed up by Ben Quinn.

Our winter Warks. team headed up by Stuart Lord finished top of Div. 3 winning 13 out of 14 matches. We entered two Warks. teams, in the summer league and they performed excellently with the first team finishing 5th in Div. 1 with additional match support and input from Will Salter (WR of 211) & Sponsored by Nick Law of Quattro Properties Ltd, which also boosted drive, team bonding and enthusiasm even further with some new members joining the club; and the second team finishing 2nd in Div 6. gaining promotion for next season. Enthusiasm has continued into the current winter season with 32 players wanting to join in team squash, this has allowed us to enter two Warks teams headed up by Stuart Lord and Ben Quinn and three Worcs. teams, headed up by Pete Bailey and Andy Sinton & Ricky Hunt, entering 5 teams in total will ensure all players get a reasonable amount of matches. Matches will be played Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays, all fixtures are posted on the Squash team notice board behind court 3.

The current ongoing situation with court 4 is very disappointing, reported exactly the same in last years’ report. Only in last years’ annual report did I mention that we would be hoping for a timely conclusion to the water ingress, but despite the best efforts of everyone it has continued to deteriorate and is now impacting on court 3, however a separate team (balcony sub-committee, set up by the board) have been working very hard behind the scenes to understand all the issues including technical and structural to propose the best way forward, significant progress has been made recently and hopefully it will be sorted once and for all by Jan 24.

Our annual Autumn Nigel Cartwright competition took place in December, Stuart Lord won the main men’s event beating Jack Dukes and Myroslava won the women’s main event, and finally the Over55’s was won by Andy Speake, the presentation was made by Clair Cartwright.

In May we, along with Wolverhampton hosted the Senior Inter County Finals, this brought around 80 high ranked players to Stourbridge, plus reserves and spectators. Yet again the club was buzzing with quality squash.

We hosted the annual Worcs. senior county closed in January and the Worcs. Junior open in September.

Our Junior Jack Bennett won the U15’s Worcs. Junior County Closed, and recently won the Wye Valley C grade open tournament.

There has been a positive take up with the internal leagues too & James Newhill has continued to organise these, at the last committee meeting it was discussed and decided to run a “ladies only” ladder to see if we can get more ladies/girls involved, the option is for the ladies/girls to enter the mixed leagues as well or continue in the ladies only ladder.

We have had a few improvements this year with the re-tubing of the LED lights, New floor for court 5, visual scoring display for court 5, Team match results dry wipe board behind court 2, all these little things improve the professional appearance of the club. We have a few more little ideas for next year!

Junior participation & numbers within the club have increased over the year, this is putting pressure on the coaching team. Charlotte Silwood has worked very hard to deliver an enthusiastic and successful coaching programme to juniors and attain her Level 2 ES coaching award and is sponsored by Oliver Sports Equipment. She has currently taken a month out of coaching whilst she gets to grip with her new University timetable. We continue to be grateful to Nick Carters’ voluntary contribution to coaching when time permits & to Darren Bradbury who has continued to thoroughly support the junior coaching programme.

Jack Dukes and Charlotte have recently (June) started a successful Saturday coaching clinic for juniors of all abilities, Jack is currently continuing this on his own for the time being.

Recently I have started discussions again with Invictus schools, in an attempt to get a school’s squash programme integrated with the club.

Beth Fisher has expressed an interest in coaching juniors and is currently enrolled on an ES Junior Leaders (coaching) course and is looking forward to supporting the coaching programme shortly.

Squash stars initiative run by ES for 5-11 year olds is still not proving very successful for our club, however we are getting a few members from this programme. Nick carter continues to drive this hard.

John Bartlett yet again pulled out all the stops to promote and deliver another outstanding exhibition match last November between Patrick Rooney (WR 20) and Gregoire Marche (WR 14), as usual the squash quality delivered is nothing short of fantastic with a packed house.

We have finished this year with a well-planned PSA Challenger 3 tournament run alongside a graded tournament with 90 competitors playing over 100 matches between them, and a significant number of players with a WR (the highest being 146), a highly successful weekend for the club and has yet again put Stourbridge Squash on the radar again to another wide audience. Having the whole event live streamed on court 5 was a great idea and a number of people watched it. The event was managed almost single handily by Stuart Lord with a $3k prize pot, the PSA tournament being finally won 18 year old Jonah Bryant.

Discussions are already underway with the PSA for a higher ranked tournament next year due to this year’s success.

Many thanks to everyone who was involved & helped making the tournament a success not forgetting all those “behind the scenes” such as bar staff, kitchen and office personnel.

The support for Squash and the constant enthusiasm of the committee along with support & help from Darren Bradbury, Nick Carter, John Bartlett & Luke with his team and many more, make being the Squash Chair a pleasure, it wouldn’t be possible without this support.

Thank you to everyone.

**Ricky Hunt**

(Squash Chair)

**Gym AGM Report**

AGM Gym Report November 2022 to November 2023.

Nick Carter-Gym Chair

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 apologise for the slow service we get when calling the engineers, they are slow to respond to our requests but finding an alternative company that provide a more responsive service time is proving difficult.

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. Booking is available via ‘mycourts’ online, via the Club App, website and via the screen in reception.

Jon Hope, Karen Adams 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.

Regards

Nick Carter

**General Meeting Notes 23rd March 2023**

**Stourbridge Lawn Tennis and Squash Club Limited**

**Minutes of the General Meeting held on Thursday 2nd March 2023 held at the Clubhouse, Sugar Loaf Lane, Iverley, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY6 6PS**

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

**Apologies:** Sarah Davis, Mitch Davis, Richard Cattell

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

1. In the absence of the Treasurer, the President called upon the Club Chairman, Steve Hunter, to read a statement prepared by the Treasurer detailing the proposed subscription charges for 2023/24, together with a brief explanation of the proposed budget for the year ending 31st March 2024 (the two being co-dependent).

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

**Questions and Answers**

Hugh Mathew

In the annual report professional fees have ben quoted at £17,000.00. What was this money spent on?

Luke Stone - the professional fees include a professional leak expert to assess squash court 4 and also experts on solar panels.

Steve Hunter - for a more comprehensive list we will need to speak to the Treasurer and will get back to you.

Has £6,000.00 been spent on squash court 4 as per the accounts? Is there financial allocation for this in next year's budget?

Steve Hunter - there is budget allocation for the repairs to squash court 4 for the next financial year.

What are the £10,000.00 sports expenses on the accounts?

Steve Hunter - this question will have to be directed to the Treasurer and a response will be given in due course.

Mike Emery

What is the percentage balance between full and monthly members?

Luke Stone - approximately 60% of members pay in full annually and 40% by direct debit.

Jo Skym

Why allow restricted members to play on a Sunday?

Steven Hunter - as a gesture of goodwill for the substantial increase to their membership fee.

How has the Board assessed the risk regarding the amount of members who may drop down from full to restricted membership as a result of being offered play on a Sunday?

Steven Hunter - it is thought unlikely that this will happen and, therefore, no risk.

How many members are restricted?

Sue Bartlett - someone asked a similar question earlier today and, from memory, it was roughly 325 full rackets members compared with 109 restricted rackets members. This does not account for members who may be gym and rackets, although this figure can be obtained if you wish.

Lin Stokes

We is there such a proposed substantial increase in restricted membership?

Steve Hunter - we are moving toward a single membership as the number of membership categories is unsustainable. Consequently, a substantial increase in restricted members is needed.

Niven Mallinson

What is the percentage increase for restricted membership as this information has not been provided.

Luke Stone/Sue Bartlett - this information was communicated to all members by e-mail. The increase is 9%.

Can we table modifications to the proposals made tonight?

Sue Bartlett/Steve Hunter - no as there are proxy votes to be taken into account. If the vote is not carried this evening then modifications would be discussed by the Board, proposed to the members and voted on at a future meeting.

Rob Moreton

As teams play on Sunday mornings are the tennis courts already booked in advance of the two weeks that members are able to see them from?

Tim Roberts - yes, courts are booked out for team matches in advance on the booking sheets going live on MyCourts.

Richard Walker

Was this discussed at Committee level or was this just at Board level? This unfairly impacts tennis as courts are booked out on the weekends for team matches in the morning. Perhaps offering restricted members Saturday and Sunday afternoons would be preferable?

Steven Hunter - this is something that could be considered going forward.

Glenis Poletti

Due to the changes in the Articles of Association, we will lose the benefit of being able to have a partial year's membership as a sort of trial period?

Luke Stone - we are offering 4 week trial sessions that include full use of the facilities and coaching, so potential members can try out the Club without committing to a full year. Prospective members could also pay via direct debit instead.

4. The President then asked for a proposer and a seconder of Ordinary Resolution 1 to approve the proposed subscription rates from 1st April 2023 She reminded members present that only Voting Members are entitled to vote on all three Resolutions, i.e. social members and persons under 18 are not entitled to vote.

Ordinary Resolution No. 1

Proposed by Pete Hounsell and seconded by Aubrey Grosvenor

For 46 (12 present and 34 proxy)

Against 24 (13 present and 11 proxy)

**Motion carried**

Ordinary Resolution No. 2

Proposed by Tim Roberts and seconded by Ian Binks

For 64 (20 present and 44 proxy)

Against 0

1 abstention

**Motion carried**

Special Resolution No. 3

Proposed by Ian Hughes and seconded by Richard Walker

For 48 (20 present and 28 proxy

Against 19 (2 present and 17 proxy)

**Motion carried**

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

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

(Sue Bartlett, President and Chairman of the Meeting)

**AGM Minutes 24th November 2022**

**Stourbridge Lawn Tennis and Squash Club Limited**

**Minutes of the 56th Annual General Meeting, held at the Clubhouse, Sugar Loaf Lane, Iverley, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY6 6PS on Thursday 24th November 2022**

**Present:** Sue Bartlett (Chairman of Meeting), Aubrey Grosvenor, Richard Cattell, Tim Roberts, Richard Walker, Nick Carter, Ian Binks, Steve Hunter, Lucy Hancocks and a quorum of Voting Members

**Apologies:** Stuart Davis and Ricky Hunt

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, 9th December 2021 and the Minutes of the General Meeting held on Thursday 24th February 2022.

Resolution No. 1 was proposed by Mitch Davis, seconded by Mike Emery and carried.

Both sets of Minutes were signed by Aubrey Grosvenor, Club Chairman.

**Resolution No. 2**

**2021/2022 Accounts**

The Chairman called on the Treasurer, Richard Cattell, to present the financial statement for the year ending 31st March, 2022.

April 2021 feels like an age ago. We emerged from COVID restrictions in April, were required to keep infection control processes and safe spacing in place for the first part of the year. Our membership remained relatively steady, particularly when compared with other clubs and sports, and indoor and outdoor sports returned.

During the latter half of the year, the spectre of further lockdowns remained and heavily influenced our financial decision making.

Our club management and coaching team began the year much like it had ended the previous year. By the end of the year Di Hart had moved on, Eva Cook joined us briefly, and Luke joined us near years end. I would like to say a big thanks to Pete Hounsell and Tracy for supporting the office, making sure staff and bills were paid, and income secured, during this period of significant change.

* 21/22 Accounts

The total income for the year was £523984 (£346k 20/21) and the club made a profit of £48360 (£11k loss 20/21) for the year. During the year, to ensure the club could operate for its members, pay its bills and manage any potential period of closure, a very risk averse approach was taken with significant spending decisions. With the gradual reduction of this risk of closure, the board agreed a series of maintenance and improvement work across quarter 4 and continuing into 22/23 of around £100k. Our expenditure on gross pay and NI contributions was £165k c/w £167k in 20/21

At year end, the club had net assets of £1.47m (£1.42m) with loans to the value of £226687 (£255k 20/21). The Cash in the Bank value at year end was £326817 (£378k 20/21) which included a significant number of membership renewals for 22/23).

* Accounting approach

SLTSC has outsourced its accounting since September 2020. Subsequently our financial reporting has changed. The 21.22 accounts reflect the structure of the financial information supplied by ARAS and this information is shared with the Board monthly. Our current banking relationship is with Lloyds and we meet with them regularly to ensure good communication. Along with the P&L and balance sheet information, we base many of our financial decisions on the monthly cash in bank value and use this to plan for the remainder of the financial year. This is In line with recommendations by Sport England for small sports clubs. These approaches give the Board (and thus the members) assurance that members money is being handled appropriately.

* Current financial picture (Nov 22 financial report)

During this current year our income has been reduced by process of returning 2 months subscriptions to members from the COVID lockdown period.

During this year, sporting activity has returned and with full coaching, teams and social programmes. In January 2022 the Board agreed a maintenance and repair programme of £90k across 19 individual areas, progress and squash court 4 and tennis court 1. Of this programme tennis court 1, and squash court 4 remain the most significant works remaining. Further improvement work will be planned for 23/24.

Profit remains variable with the club making £2k profit in September. Currently the club has fixed assets of £1.53m, a Cash in Bank value of £305k, and two loans totalling £210k. Our current planning suggests we should reach year end, including currently known risks and costs, in reasonable financial health.

* Financial risks
  + Legacy leaks onto courts 3 and 4 – we have updated court 3 however the leaks above court 4 remain despite significant work.
  + Inflation - price rises have been well documented, and the club is currently within a fixed rate deal with its utility provider so should be protected from this currently. The club manager and treasurer are working together to assess any future impact of broader inflationary pressures.
* Looking forward
  + Membership subscriptions
    - Decision on 23/24 subs in Q4 22/23
    - End of the subscription return from 20/21 subs due to COVID closures
    - Significant inflationary pressures on the running of the club and on members themselves
  + Significant works
    - Tennis court 1
    - Squash court 4
    - Refurbishing the bar fixtures and fittings
  + Projects under consideration
    - Covered tennis courts
    - Better use of the club land behind the tennis courts

Q. Niven Mallinson - "How has the price of electric/gas affected the Club?"

1. Richard Cattell - "We are tied into a contract with our suppliers until 2025, which means we are somewhat sheltered at the present time. We are looking into the additional land owned by the Club for solar panel use. There is rumour members will use the Club facilities rather than home facilities. We have not noticed this at the moment, but will be monitoring the situation."

Q. Robert Moreton - "There appears to be no real savings on staff costings, despite redundancies being made?"

A. Richard Cattell - "We have made a few redundancies, however we have re hired for different roles within the club. For example, Luke’s role within the club is a lot different to previous managers, spending more time at the club resulting in a hire pay rate and we have now taken on another Tennis coach who is focusing more on the development of juniors.

Q. Paul Barnsley - "In the section marked 'other creditors', could you elaborate on who the other creditors are?"

1. Richard Cattell - "Bank loans of £227k (£255k in 2021) with Lloyds, including bounce-back loan of £50k taken out in October 2021.

Subscriptions received in advance £352k (£334k in 2021) relating to the year commencing April 2022, invoiced in March 2022, plus the balance of 2 months deferred from 2021 subscriptions carried forward in relation to the lockdown period.

Other taxes £16k (1k in 2021) £10k VAT and £5k PAYE.

Accruals £10k (29k in 2021). 2021 included £12k re balcony repairs and £5k redundancy reserve.

Provisions £25k (£27k in 2021) relates to the SRA and Carbon Trust grants still to release over remainder of 50 years / 10 year terms.

Q. Graham Fox - "What savings do we make with the solar panels which we already have on the roof?"

A. Richard Cattell - "Not a great amount. Approximately £800 per month, which is a small amount compared to what we have to pay out".

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

Resolution No. 2 was proposed by Zena Wooldridge, seconded by Robert Morton and carried.

**Resolution No. 3**

The Chairman informed the meeting that Resolution 3 would not be voted on as it was agreed at the AGM held in 2021 that the Club would no longer have their accounts audited. Richard Cattell explained that Companies House have no expectations of small businesses having their accounts audited and this decision would be saving the Club upwards of £5000 per annum.

**Election of Officers for 2022/2023**

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. Secretary, Treasurer and Safe-Guarding Officer. All Sports Committee Chairs having been appointed at their relevant AGMs.

**Incoming Club Chairman**

The Chairman presented the incoming Club Chairman, Steve Hunter, with the chain of office and then handed the floor to Steve.

"Madam President and Club members

Thank you all for attending tonight’s AGM – it is a pleasure to see you all. Thanks for taking the time to make sure the Club is run for the members in the best way possible.

Firstly, I would like to thank retiring Chairman, Aubrey Grosvenor, for the job he has done over the past two years – it is fair to say he, along with the Board, have steered the Club through some very uncertain times, and with the changes he has implemented I believe the Club is in a better place for it. For his hard work in bringing members together and leading us through the tricky times, Aubrey please accept a light refreshment from the Club – we will be forever grateful for your efforts and I look forward to working with you as past Chairman.

I take great pleasure in welcoming John Bartlett as the incoming Vice-Chairman. Many of you know John and I am sure he will bring all his enthusiasm, organisational skills and questionable fashion sense to the Board – John you are very welcome and look forward to working with you.

I would like to welcome Annabel Goodby to the Board as the new Tennis Chairman – we are pleased you have taken up this role and look forward to seeing you bring your energy to the Tennis Committee and the Board.

On the back of Annabel taking the role of Tennis Chair, it is only fair we thank outgoing Tennis Chair Richard Walker. Richard has served on the Board for 10 years holding post of Tennis Chairman and Club Chairman. As a thank you for your significant contribution and leadership and as a token of our appreciation, please accept a gift from the Club.

Richard's contribution reminds me to point out that the Board are all members, working on behalf of all members, and they do so on a voluntary basis. It is key that members come forward to work on committees and on the Board. I would encourage everyone to think about contributing more to the running of the Club. The more the merrier!

As a Board we will continue to promote and grow Stourbridge Lawn Tennis and Squash Club and I personally am very proud to be taking on the role as Chairman. Thanks to Luke and all the staff at the Club who keep the place running on a daily basis.

We are here for the members – and look forward to any ideas and input you may have on how we can improve.

Thank you for your time".

**AOB**

Niven Mallinson asked, "would it not be feasible to push the AGM back to June to be closer to the year-end Financial Report?" He answered his own question by also saying "but not really as it would mean Steve would serve only a 8 month term".

Meeting closed at 8.23 pm.

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