

# **VICTORIA PARK CLUB**

## **Extraordinary General Meeting held at 6 pm on 21 February 2019**

The purpose of the EGM was to seek approval from the Membership of the Revisions to the Victoria Club Constitution as circulated. This was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Barry Flicker and all were in favour.

## **Minutes of the 139<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 21 February 2019**

**Present:** Edward MacMullen (Chairman, EM), Jane Barclay, Elizabeth Bell, Tim Cartwright (TC), Peter Cornelius, Paul Creber, Julie Crichton-Smith, Cliff Dampney, Sue FitzHugh, Barry Flicker (BF), Alan & Ethel Grateley, Diana King, Mary MacMullen, Vicki McAndrew, Don Mitchell (Chairman, Bridge Committee, DM), Etta Mitchell, Jill Murdoch, Jake Neal, Chris Pennington, Mike & Sue Sanderson, Jackie Shepherd, Sue Stott, Maggie Thomson (Honorary Treasurer, MT), and Andrew Warin.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Owen & Joan Bennett, Joan Bolden, David Evennett, Jo Hawkins, and Jon Rycroft.

### **2. Minutes of the 138<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 22 February 2018**

Paul Creber proposed that these Minutes be approved and this was seconded by Jake Neal. All were in favour.

### **3. Chairman's Report**

EM welcomed the new Associate Bridge Members to the Club. He thanked all members who had helped at the Spring Working Party last year and felt that this had set the tone for the year with much being achieved. New contractors were now doing the gardening and a new kitchen had been installed by Jake Neal, Alan Grateley and David Evennett. EM thanked them for all their hard work as well as all the other work they had carried out. EM also thanked all those who had helped with the gardening and planted up the tubs, and also Tim Cartwright and Barry Flicker for arranging refurbishment of the gates. A proposal to be put forward in Any Other Business would give the Tennis Committee greater autonomy.

EM said that shortly a list of who was responsible for what in the Club would be put together, as well as relevant information such as how to switch the heating on, and this would help improve communication with members.

EM thanked Committee Members for all their hard work and also Poppy Brimson for sending out Club emails.

### **4. Treasurer's Report**

MT reported that the Accounts for the year 2018 once again showed a healthy surplus. The large increase in subscriptions in 2016 had achieved its purpose and enabled us to build up

funds to cover the cost of resurfacing the courts. It was therefore proposed that there be no change in membership fees this year.

There was a change in the way that coaching for Exeter School was administered. Previously the Club had collected the full amount from Exeter School and paid Jon Rycroft, our Coach, for coaching fees. This year, Jon collected the full amount from Exeter School and paid to us the amount due for court hire. This explained why there were nil amounts for both Income and Expenditure for Coaching Exeter School.

Ground Maintenance included £1,884 for moss treatment and cleaning of the courts. We now had a regular ground maintenance company, as reported by the Chairman, who mowed the grass and kept the place looking tidy.

Repairs & Maintenance included £3,500 for the refurbishment of the kitchen and MT hoped that all agreed that it was money well spent. She again thanked Jake Neal, Alan Grateley and David Evennett for all their hard work in getting it fitted.

On the Balance Sheet, the National Savings Investment Account now had a balance of £54,902.03 which should be more than enough to cover the costs of resurfacing the courts which was due to happen either at the end of this year or in 2020.

Under Reserves, the Junior Tennis Reserve had been transferred back to the General Reserve. Approximately £1,300 was now spent each year on free coaching for the juniors and there was no need for the Reserve. The transfer of £10,902.03 to the Resurfacing/Floodlighting Reserve meant that the balance on that Reserve now equalled the balance on the National Savings Investment Account.

There was a drop in income for Club Room Hire because the Farmers' Club who previously hired the Bridge Room on a regular basis had folded and most of its members had joined Victoria Park as Associate Bridge Members.

Poppy Brimson, who had recently qualified as an accountant, had reviewed the Accounts and had asked for it to be noted that she would have preferred the information on the Reserves Transfers to be included in the Notes to the Accounts. MT answered a question on how the Capital Reserve worked and explained the reasoning behind this.

EM thanked MT. Cliff Dampney proposed accepting the Accounts, seconded by Alan Grateley.

## **5. Treasurer's Subscription Recommendation for Approval by the Membership**

Following MT's report and her recommendation that there be no increase in membership subscriptions, Chris Pennington proposed that this be accepted, seconded by Sue FitzHugh.

## **6. Report from the Bridge Section**

DM reported that 2018 had been a fairly busy year for the Bridge Section.

At the previous AGM, a decision was made to introduce a new Membership category: Associate Bridge Membership. Associate Membership was then offered to all members of the Farmers' Club (which had previously been hiring the Bridge Room for play on Wednesday evenings). In early April the offer was taken up by all 26 members and from then on Wednesday sessions were run under Victoria Park auspices.

Looking back, the change seems to have been broadly successful. In the autumn, members of the Farmers' Club held a meeting to take stock and decided to continue with the new arrangements. In November a decision was taken to dissolve the Club and dispose of its assets. Over the year a further 7 Associate Members had been recruited and attendance at Wednesday sessions had nudged up. Against this, it should be noted that there were still weeks in which we had difficulty in arranging Directors/Scorers to keep these sessions running smoothly.

Largely as a result of these changes, Bridge Membership had increased to 86 Full Members and 33 Associates: the highest membership over 82 years of Bridge play on these premises. (As background, it was perhaps worth noting that Bridge Membership fell to as low as 37 in the mid 1990s). Another consequence was that the Club was now able to offer three evening sessions of Bridge each week.

Over the year, the Bridge Section had also been active on other fronts. We ran three different series of lessons - an initiative that was well received. We entered a team in the East Devon Bridge League and we increased (to 3) the number of charity competitions shared with other regional clubs. Mid-year we purchased a dealing machine. This ensures that hands are truly random and slows us to post the hand records on our website. Members can then use various facilities to see how they might have improved their bidding and play of the hands.

Sue Stott mentioned how friendly the new Associate Members were towards Tennis Members and how supportive of the Club they were, and it was a pleasure to have them.

Sue Stott proposed accepting DM's report, seconded by Ethel Grateley.

## **7. Report from the Tennis Section**

TC reported on tennis activities and said that we continued to be a strong Club and many wanted to play matches. We currently had 8 teams in the Summer League and 5 teams in the Winter League including mixed teams, and also Under 14 and Under 16 boys & girls teams. There was plenty of opportunity to play.

On the social side, Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons were very popular and there was plenty of free court playing time available at other times. It was a safe, welcoming Club for all. TC reminded his teams that, if there were spare courts, members were welcome to play whether it was a practice or a social night. New members were always made welcome and invited to play, or if no courts were available, were encouraged to go to Heavitree.

TC said that Jon Rycroft was fantastic and the coaching was going really well. The Club provided a non-competitive social environment with heavily discounted rates. There had been a few problems of parents forgetting to pay fees. Vicki McAndrew was the Club's Welfare Officer and safeguarding policies were in place providing a safe framework for juniors. Jon Rycroft went above and beyond his duties and the Club expressed their thanks to him.

Regarding maintenance, we were trying to make it more regular, including the floodlights and moss cleaning, the latter for health & safety as well as to prolong the life of the courts. They were due to be relaid at the end of this year but we may be able to get away with just repainting them again. The more we looked after them, the better.

TC reported that they were planning to formalise the Tennis Committee and meet prior to April every year to discuss junior membership and coaching. EM thanked TC and expressed appreciation for all his work.

Mary MacMullen proposed accepting TC's report, seconded by Peter Cornelius.

BF reported on the current Membership figures which were as follows: Adult Members 101, Limited Adult Members 32, Combined Bridge & Tennis Members 2, Combined Limited Adult Tennis & Bridge Members 3, Junior Members 78, Young Junior Members 10, Student Members 10, Country Members 5, Tennis Coaches 3, Committee Members 3, Life Members 2, and Trustees 3, making a total of 252.

#### **8. Election of Officers**

Chairman	-	Edward MacMullen
Treasurer	-	Maggie Thomson
Secretary	-	Liz Bell
Safeguarding Officer	-	Vicki McAndrew
Tennis Committee Chairman	-	It was proposed that Tim Cartwright be Chairman. Chairman and Committee to be elected by Tennis Membership before 31 March 2019.
Bridge Committee Chairman	-	Don Mitchell

These elections were proposed by Jackie Shepherd and seconded by Barry Flicker.

#### **9. Nomination of Life Honorary and Temporary Honorary Members**

EM proposed that Jake Neal be made a temporary Honorary Member for the coming year and also Jon Rycroft as Head Coach. This was proposed by Edward MacMullen and seconded by Don Mitchell.

#### **10. Any Other Business – Proposal:**

The Adult Tennis Members of the Club shall elect a Committee of such Officers as are necessary to manage the day to day affairs of the Tennis Membership, no later than 31 March 2019, and annually thereafter at a time and date prior to the Annual General Meeting.

**Reason:** to comply with Rule 8.10.

This was proposed by Edward MacMullen and seconded by Tim Cartwright.