

Stirling Lawn Tennis and Squash Club AGM – Tuesday 8th March 2022

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: L. Greenaway (Chair), P. Barnes, M. McKeand, B. Monteith (WM), C. Speirs, J Campbell, D. Gillen, D. Rodger, S. McMillan, M. Paterson, F. Paterson, A. McMurray, M. Worsley, A Paterson, J Brown, B Hanson, C Edward, C Bayes, K Bayes, D Scott, G Melville, I Bray, A. Elliott, R. Allan.
Mark Walker (coach) in attendance.

Apologies: J. Speirs, E. Bryan, G. Eadie, H Cormack, D Glen, N Mackay, G Nunn, F Johnstone, I Gray, J Brown, I Carmichael, K Moncrieff, R and M Biggart, M. Hemphill.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 14th March 2021

Minutes approved

3. President's Report (Lesley Greenaway)

Lesley thanked members for their continuing support as we emerge from Covid-19 restrictions, and the Committee for their continued and considerable time given to maintaining the club and helping to take it forward. She highlighted some key developments in the year including the new gate, the plans for the clubhouse refurbishment and the new coaching contract with Mark Walker Tennis.

Lesley introduced Mark Walker, our new coach. Mark is keen to develop more of a structure in the club, taking things step by step and enabling juniors to reach a standard to be able to play in junior teams and progress to adult teams. He plans to establish links with schools. He praised his team of coaches; they have been very positive about the club and those taking lessons have been very positive about the coaches.

The Committee have produced an Annual Report which has been circulated and which contains more detailed information in supporting the business of the AGM.

4. Secretary's Report (Scott McMillan)

Overall, the membership has increased during the year from 184 last year to 248 this year. The Committee presented a proposal to revise membership categories (see report) and to increase the membership fees by 2% across the board.

It was agreed that criteria for different memberships should be clarified e.g., that the unwaged category should be for those in receipt of benefits and that the criteria for a hitting partner should be tightened up.

There was discussion regarding changes to the 'Restricted' category. The fee reduction in the Senior membership categories (over 65s) to offset this change was welcomed but it was pointed out that the removal of the restricted category would have a negative impact on some members who were under 65. One option that was put forward was to lower the Senior age from 65 to 60 years.

5. Treasurer's Report (Moyra McKeand)

The Annual Accounts were presented – see report.

Proposed: Colin Bayes, Seconded: Scott McMillan

6. Clubhouse Refurbishment (Paul Barnes)

An update on the progress of the refurbishment plans was presented – see report. The next stage is to finalise the architects plans prior to getting building warrants and for seeing quotes for the work.

Moyra, Paul and Lesley will seek a meeting with the Spittal Trust to discuss the proposals and the lease extension before the refurbishments go ahead.

7. Tennis Convenor's Report including coaching update-Chris Speirs

Chris highlighted key developments in the year including the appointment of our new coach, Mark Walker. He also gave details of the year ahead including the provisional date for the Club Championships for September 11th, and the upcoming league matches with 3 men's teams and 2 ladies teams. See report for more details.

8. Squash Convenor's Report -Donald Rodger

Donald reported the welcome return of squash post-covid and that competitions and leagues were now getting underway. See report.

Donald also maintains the club website. He asked for photos/videos of club activities to be sent to him so the website can be kept up to date.

9. Welfare Officer's Report (Dominic Gillen) -see report with action points for 2022-2023.

Dom emphasised that safeguarding is something that all members should be aware of. He highlighted the work during the year – See report.

Actions for 2022/23:

- Attend training and Welfare Officer fora
- Update policies and procedures as required
- Update PVG membership as required and ensure volunteers are part of this Scheme and are aware of and follow the LTA Code of Practice.
- Continue to liaise with Mark Walker Tennis on safeguarding matters as detailed above
- Attend committee meetings to report on Safeguarding matters and ensure that Safeguarding is considered in all relevant areas of the Club's activity

10. Grounds' Convenor's Report (Mark Worsley)

The tennis court surface will be 9 years old this year so has 4 more years predicted lifespan. Following regular maintenance, the surface remains in good condition with minimal wear and moss infiltration around the periphery is under control. The contractor who does 6 monthly 'deep maintenance' provides an inspection report at each visit which remains satisfactory.

As the projected replacement approaches, the club's position remains that it should be re-laid with another artificial grass surface when the time comes.

The net poles continue to lean in, so the cooperation of players who slacken the nets after play is appreciated. If there is no dramatic deterioration the plan is to have this repaired when the carpet is re-laid.

The sinking fund for court replacement should be maintained as the anticipated cost (including net post repair) will be around £43000 + VAT.

Many thanks to those who have given me valued assistance over the past year, particularly Chris Pearson, Dominic Gillen, Jim Brown & George Machray.

11. House Convenor's Report (Billy Monteith)

Billy reported that everything was running smoothly. Mark, Eddy, and Billy were thanked for their hard work during the pandemic ensuring that the necessary actions were taken. Mark was praised for the condition of the courts which are the best in the area.

12. Social Convenor's Report (Fiona Paterson)

Social activities have continued to be restricted through the Covid-19 restrictions. It is hoped that we will be able to offer more this year. Fiona asked for suggestions for activities that members would like to see happening in the coming year.

13. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members 2022-2023

Current office bearers have indicated that they will continue to serve on the Committee as follows:

(a) President (Lesley Greenaway), (b) Secretary (Scott McMillan), (c) Treasurer (Moyra McKeand), (d) Tennis Convenor (Chris Speirs), (e) Coaching Convenor (Vacant), (f) Squash Convenor (Donald Rodger), (g) Welfare Officer (Dominic Gillen), (h) Grounds Convenor (Mark Worsley), (i) House Convenor (Billy Monteith), (j) Social Convenor (Fiona Paterson), (k) Ordinary Committee Members: Graham Eadie, Jeremy Speirs, Eddy Bryan, Ally McMurray, Paul Barnes, June Campbell, Moira Paterson.

Proposed: Kelly Bayes, Seconded: Colin Bayes

Proposal of new members:

Coaching convenor – Graham Melville. Proposed: Chris Speirs, Seconded: Ally McMurray
Committee member (squash) – Andrew Elliott. Proposed: Donald Rodger, Seconded: Billy Monteith.

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A concern was raised about the safety of the small wall on court 3 as well as the condition of the path. It was pointed out that path improvement is part of the renovations. However, a general attention to Health and Safety issues, especially if courts are to be open for public use, needs to be considered.

Addendum

Subsequent to the meeting, further investigation into the option to lower the Senior age from 65 to 60 years and its impact on the club was carried out. It was found that by lowering the Senior age category to 60 years there would be a significant negative impact on club finances. The Committee will therefore remove the restricted category as proposed, retain the Senior membership as those over 65 years and to offer a one-off special arrangement for the 3-4 people who would be most affected by this change.