

Stirling Lawn Tennis and Squash Club AGM – Tuesday 14th March 2023

1. Present: L. Greenaway (Chair), P. Barnes, M. McKeand, B. Monteith, C. Speirs, D. Gillen, D. Rodger, S. McMillan, M. Paterson, F. Paterson, M. Worsley, A Paterson, J. Brown, C Bayes, K Bayes, D. Scott, A. Elliott, H. Cormack, J. Speirs, E. Bryan, L. Lamont, K. McCormick, G. Machray, F Horne.

Apologies: G. Eadie, D. Glen, I. Carmichael, M. Hutchinson, H. Hughes, O. Hughes, P Murdoch, J. Campbell, A. McMurray, J Clarke.

Lesley welcomed everyone to this year's AGM and commented on the positive turnout.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 8th March 2022

Minutes approved – Proposed by Eddy Bryan, seconded by Colin Bayes

3. President's Report (Lesley Greenaway)

2022/23 has been a good year for seeing continued growth in our membership, increased use of the courts, expansion of our coaching programme including a successful schools' programme, Tennis Festival and Open Day, and our squash membership has continued to expand. We continue to go beyond the LTA safeguarding and club registration requirements. And the high quality of our courts continues to be one of our star assets along with being a friendly and welcoming club.

It has also been a challenging year. We have had to revisit our plans for the proposed clubhouse refurbishment, costs have become prohibitively high and finding a contractor has been difficult. In addition, we have been experiencing high maintenance costs as our building ages.

We aim to be financially prudent, with money put aside to cover most eventualities, but we are subject to the increases in utility costs which will put pressure on our finances.

I would like to thank all the Committee Members, without their goodwill, time and support the club could not operate. We are optimistic for 2023, we are looking forward to seeing our plans for the clubhouse come to fruition and we are looking forward to another action-packed year.

Committee members have provided a more detailed summary of club activities in the Annual Report 2022/23. These minutes should be read in association with the Annual Report.

4. Treasurer's Report (Moyra McKeand)

See separate Annual Accounts.

Fiona Dempster was thanked for independently examining the accounts.

Accounts approved – proposed by Colin Bayes, seconded by Alistair Paterson

5. Clubhouse Refurbishment (Paul Barnes)

Plans have now been accepted by Stirling Council, with some amendments. Costs have been broken into core elements giving scope to look at pricing of different aspects. Paul commented that will be looking to go out to tender soon.

Discussion re. VAT registration: This would require us to look at applying for charitable status, it was suggested that this would be onerous and a long term administrative and cost burden. At the

moment, we have Community Amateur Sports Club status which gives us rates relief. The rent review by the Spittal Trust has been accepted by the club; they may be willing to fund some of the clubhouse developments if we focus on community aspects and disabled access. See full report for full details.

6. Secretary's Report (Scott McMillan)

Whilst membership numbers remain healthy, the increase in our cost base is now running well ahead of subscription income. Utility costs are up by c£1500 (44%) year on year (our fixed rate deal ends in mid-2023); Rent and Insurance is up almost £800 (23%) and our spend on repairs and maintenance is over £3000 up on last year - and whilst our proposals to refurbish the club house should help us reduce this cost, we expect repair and maintenance to continue to increase due to the age and construction of the building.

The committee believes the club offers fantastic value but in order to ensure we have a positive funds in-flow, a 10% increase in fees across all categories is proposed. The committee will also be looking to develop new sources of income through potential sponsorship opportunities and other fund-raising activities.

Colin pointed out that the committee has the authority to propose fees and if unopposed at the AGM they go ahead.

The proposed 10% increase in fees was accepted.

7. Tennis Convenor's report, including coaching update (Chris Speirs)

See report.

8. Squash/Racketball Convenor's Report (Donald Rodger)

See report. Donald thanked Billy for all the work he has done on the courts.

9. Welfare Officer's Report (Dominic Gillen)

See report. Dom emphasised the point that safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone in the club.

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

The tennis court surface is now 10 years old and has a predicted useful life of another 3 years. It remains in good condition following regular care and maintenance, so it is likely to achieve this lifespan. Hopefully the leaning net posts will last as long as the courts and can be repaired at the same time. The club's position would be to replace the courts with a similar artificial sand filled grass surface, and a sinking fund is set aside to pay for this.

The roots of the large pine were starting to raise the ground adjacent to court 3 so it was taken down. In the coming year the back wall would benefit from pointing. I would appreciate some help with this.

Many thanks to Billy Monteith, Colin Hynes, Jim Brown and Chris Pearson for their assistance with various jobs, and to members for slackening the nets after play.

11. House Convenor's Report (Billy Monteith)

See report. Regarding the problem with the floor of squash court 2 due to damp, the insurance assessor has been to give his opinion on whether the replacement of the squash court floor can be claimed against insurance. Drainage outside of the back of the court has been installed.

Additional drainage will be put into the front of the building when the safety surface is laid.

12. Social Convenor's Report (Fiona Paterson)

See report.

The committee has set up a joint Social and Fundraising group, mixing fund raising with some fun social events. Plans for 2023 include:

- A 100-Club – details to follow.
- Quiz Night – date TBC
- Wine Tasting Evening on Saturday 24th June (mid-summer evening)
- Ceilidh – date TBC

All suggestions for events happily welcome!

Fiona thanked everyone who had contributed to last year's events. Eddy has spoken to someone at Stirling Council with regard to setting up a 100 club and the necessary licence. It is hoped this could start at the end of March with the first draw made on 24th April.

Mark pointed out that there is a vast amount of untapped sponsorship potential in the local community and that this is an area that could be explored with local businesses.

13. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members 2023-2024

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), Coaching convenor- Graham Melville (k) Ordinary Committee Members: Graham Eadie, Jeremy Speirs, Eddy Bryan, Paul Barnes, June Campbell, Moira Paterson.

Graham Melville and Ally McMurray have resigned from the committee. Fiona's role will now be Social and Fundraising Convenor. We are not actively looking for new members as we have a large committee at the moment; are open to suggestions of what could be added to enhance the skills and expertise of existing committee.

Proposal of office bearers for 2023-2024

Proposed by Colin Bayes, seconded by Duncan Scott

14. AOB

Duncan Scott thanked the committee for their hard work.