

# RYE LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Minutes of the 88<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Rye Lawn Tennis Club

Held at the Clubhouse, Rye at 6.30pm on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2018

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Apologies for absence were received from Michael Gradon and Sandra & Peter McKenzie Smith

1. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017 were taken as read and agreed as a correct and proper record.

2. Chairman's Report

HEALTH & SAFETY – Peter Gore, Chris and George Stephenson, Jason Stubbs and Zoe Richmond-Watson doing sterling work on the club's Health & Safety procedures and ensuring we adhere to the LTA guidelines to enable us to remain affiliated and to get our share of Wimbledon tickets. This is time consuming but necessary work – so many thanks to them.

TREASURERSHIP – JEJ delighted to report that David Nelson officially took over as treasurer of the RMTG Ltd and the RLTC as from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. He is a much younger and safer pair of hands than his predecessor, doing an excellent job and getting on very well with Sharon who still does the day to day stuff. Many thanks David and you'll be hearing from him shortly.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – We have had 3 resignations from this committee and our thanks are due to all of them for their hard work and support over many years. The outgoing committee members are Chris Pack, Martin Grenfell and Freddie Pack. Subject to there being no objections they will be (or have been in the case of Tom Henley!) replaced by Tom Henley, Bob Thomson and Richard Pratt.

ON-LINE BOOKING SYSTEM – Thanks are due to Tom Meyer for setting this up. It is now in full use for the squash courts, hard tennis courts and the Padel court. I think now people have grown used to it, it has proved to be a big improvement and certainly fairer for those who don't live close to the club.

CLUB PR – I am delighted to report that Zoe has enlisted the help of Ollie Hopkins and Colette Rouhiers to work on this increasingly important aspect of the modern world for any club.

MARY ANN DEARLOVE'S DONATION – The club has been very fortunate to receive a generous donation from Mary Ann in memory of her brother Nick Moy. Your Board has decided this should be used to replace the shed on the hard courts with something more substantial.

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF GRASS COURTS – As nobody is quite sure of the precise year when our grass courts started to be used as a club, we have decided we should celebrate our 100 years in 2022 which will be exactly 100

years since the first Invitation Tournament and will also be the next year when the Harvard & Yale players will be here for the Prentice Cup.

### 3. FINANCIAL REPORT

David Nelson explained that the trend over the past few years was showing continued increases in the costs of running the club without a similar increase in income from subscriptions. He considers it unhealthy that the club is more or less dependent on fund raising and rental income to subsidise the costs of running our sporting facilities. Therefore he is proposing to increase subscriptions by slightly above the levels of inflation to help redress this situation. Also we need to push for new members something with which all current members can assist. With the help of our PR department the Executive Committee will plan how we can best achieve this.

### 4. UPDATE ON PLANNING ISSUES FOR THE NEW FIELD (as reported by Michael Gradon)

A few months ago as you may be aware the Rother DC Planning Committee voted to green-light the project but conditional on us addressing outstanding objections from natural England regarding ecological impact and from East Sussex CC regarding flood risk and drainage. This is proving very time consuming and complex and at present there is no guarantee we can satisfactorily resolve these technical issues.

Of course even if we can obtain planning consent we need to satisfy ourselves that the project is the right thing for the club and will improve the club's financial position not weaken it. And we would need to raise the funding!

So we will keep you updated as things develop.

### 5. The President thanked all the many members of the club who help arrange events during the year whose support is essential for the success of our club.

In particular he singled out Chris Pack who has done a huge amount of work for the club over many years and who has now resigned from his various Tennis Club offices in order to spend most of his time in Spain.

### 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman's Cup was awarded to Peter Woodroffe for his extraordinary stamina over the years mainly for having played in 60 Invitation Tournaments the last one of which he competed in at the age of over 90.