

RYE LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Minutes of the 89th Annual General Meeting of the Rye Lawn Tennis Club

Held at the Clubhouse, Rye at 6.30pm on Saturday 30th November 2019

The President welcomed everybody especially new members to the AGM.

1. THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 8th DECEMBER 2018 were taken as read and agreed as a correct and proper record.
2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
Health & Safety. Peter Gore and his team continue to do an excellent job ensuring we are on top of our Health & Safety procedures.

Executive Committee. We have had 2 resignations: The first is Freddie Menzies who is not offering himself for re-election because he is now spending most of the year in South Africa, so many thanks are due to him for his excellent work on the Executive Committee over many years. We are delighted however that he will continue to look after our grass courts and grounds with Adam and keep his position on the board of the Rothermeads Tennis & Games Club Limited. The other resignation is Tom Henley who sadly simply does not have enough time to run his business, to look after a young family and to serve on our committee.

In addition Jason Stubbs and Peter Gore are standing down from the committee and offering themselves for re-election in line with the Club's rules.

We have also enlisted James Davie onto the Executive Committee to represent the squash section so thanks to him for taking on this role.

Because Freddie has resigned from the Executive Committee we have enlisted Adam Stunt to serve on the Executive Committee in an ex-officio capacity to help fill the gap left by Fred.

We have slightly rearranged our Executive Committee so that each section is now represented with a bit more autonomy: the Padel tennis section is already dissolved and separate because the sport is still to be recognised for CASC purposes. We have now elected a Tennis Sub-Committee which comprises Bob Thomson, Richard Pratt, Frances Candy, David Nelson, Adam Stunt, Fran Sharp (and Freddie Menzies if he so wishes). The squash section is represented by James Davie, the croquet section by Cathy Bingham and the ping pong by Tom Meyer. Zoe, Richard Holt, Annie Menzies and Jason Stubbs are responsible for the House side of things. We hope these minor changes will help promote these various sections within the club.

The new shed beside the astroturf courts has now been completed and a plaque in memory of Nick Moy has been erected as a thank you to him and his family for his work over many years and for the family's generous donation.

As our Treasurer will shortly confirm we have had another very successful tournament festival year but we still need more members.

As you probably know, we have now got outline planning permission for 3 indoor courts subject to various conditions and for this many thanks to Michael Gradon and latterly Charles McDonald. However unfortunately the LTA is not now prepared to offer any grants to us for indoor courts, so we are looking at other options, such as maybe a gym, some more padel courts etc. Michael will give you more details of this in a moment. As regards Padel courts it would not be prudent to spend any money on a new court or courts until Padel has been accepted as eligible for CASC purposes at which time it could be brought back under the auspices of the RMT&GC and full advantage taken of gift aid.

We now have the honour of being awarded an official biennial tennis match against the All England Lawn Tennis Club which took place this year at Wimbledon and will take place again in 2 years' time at Rye and thereafter every 2 years away then home.

Finally the Chairman remembered with affection Geoff Adams who died earlier this year and who was a regular and popular member of our squash and tennis section for many years.

TREASURER'S REPORT

David, with the help of a series of slides, showed that the club's operating profit is on a downward trend. We therefore urgently need more members, because at the moment the club's finances rely too much on donors, events and rental income and not enough on subscriptions. The good news is that our interest free loan from the LTA is now down to £11,000.00, which will be paid off in May 2020.

3. UPDATE ON PLANNING ISSUES FOR THE NEW FIELD

Michael Gradon gave an update on the position for potential indoor courts in the new field. Unfortunately the LTA is at the moment no longer prepared to offer us a grant because its chosen locations to promote indoor courts are Hastings and Ashford. This has meant that the Board has had to delay at least for the time being the building of high class and environmentally friendly indoor courts in the new field. Other options are being looked at such as bubbles which would doubtless incur planning problems and cost more to run and be more vulnerable to vandalism. In view of the importance of attracting new members, the Board is considering other options as already indicated.

4. THANKS.

The President thanked the Chairman and his team at Jempsons for their support and everybody who has helped organise events during the past year including tennis, squash, table tennis, croquet, padel tennis, bridge and all the social events. The club relies on volunteers who make the club what it is but we do need more help from members in all areas especially from new members. Our President went on to thank the Executive Committee for their work and the Board also. A special mention was made of Freddie's hard work on the Executive Committee and it is sad that he is no longer serving on this. But it is a great relief for the Club that he will still be working with Adam on the grass courts.

It was noted this was the tenth year of our Tennis Club Opera Evening which had again raised in excess of £5,000.

5. MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE had already been dealt with by the Chairman.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

We must start thinking about what we might be doing in 2022 to celebrate 100 years of our grass courts. Various points were made from the floor as regards the state of the further Astroturf court, possible extra padel courts, and the need to improve our PR. Due note was taken of these.

Peter Woodroffe awarded The Chairman's Cup to Bob Sharp for his success in various Veterans triathlon events.