

# MINUTES

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

Date: 5 December 2023

Held at the Wimbledon Club

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**Present:** Derek Howorth (President), Peter Bradshaw (Chairman), Roy Staniland (Secretary), Lynne Hunt (Treasurer) and 8 other members of the Council, Chris Risebro, Tim Sagar, Justin Sherring, Debbie Slater, Mandy Spicer and Lewis Woodham (Surrey Tennis)

**Total number signed:** 42

The following register venues were represented by one or more delegates:

AELTC; Banstead Downs LTC; Byfleet LTC; Cassac LTC; Coombe Wood; Downswood LTC; DLL Epsom; Horsley Sports Club; Norbury Park TC; DLL Purley; Purley Sports Club; Oxshott Village TC; DLL Raynes Park; Roehampton Club; Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club; RAC; St Georges Hill LTC; Shirley Park LTC; Sutton Churches LTC; Westside LTC; Wimbledon Club; Woking Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club.

### 1. The President

The President, Derek Howorth opened the meeting, welcoming everyone to the 127<sup>th</sup> and probably last AGM in its present format.

### 2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous AGM

The minutes were taken as read and approved unanimously.

### 3. Election of Councillors and Reporting Accountant (Kreston Reeves LLP)

Peter Bradshaw explained that 3 Councillors were up for re-election, Matt Trevail, Neil Kapoor and Tim Pearce. As there were no other candidates they were re-elected for 3 years without a vote.

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The election of the Reporting Account – Kreston Reeves LLP. It was passed unanimously.

#### 4. Election of Life Vice President

Sally Parker was elected as a Life Vice President, and she thanked the Council for the honour.

#### 5. Treasurer's Report – Adoption of Association Accounts for the year ending 30 September 2023

Lynne Hunt introduced the Accounts and mentioned the high level of sponsorship received last year, £320,000. She explained that the current LTA funding model gave Surrey £100,000 per annum. Surrey Tennis running costs are £125,000 per quarter so we are dependent upon sponsorship. Surrey also receives income from competitions, leagues etc. The balance sheet is strong with a small profit showing for 2024. There is £600,000 in the bank.

Surrey Tennis offer loans to clubs up to £25,000.

There were no questions.

#### 6. Accounts of the Surrey Junior Trust Fund for the year ending 30 September 2023

Derek Howorth explained that The Surrey Junior Trust Fund is a small charity funded by donations from the County and a Charitable Settlement from Vernon Ely. This year the Trust had an income of £33,000 from interest and dividends. £30,000 was paid out in Grants and £500 in running costs. It also received donations of £130,000, which included a £100,000 donation from the Patrons' Fund, which had been set up originally to support Junior Tennis in Surrey. Designated funds are retained for investment and the income from the investments is used to give grants to Surrey players. The Trust is in a good financial position.

Doug Clare asked about a bursary grant to one player to help with development, giving support to those needing financial assistance. Peter Bradshaw replied that another Councillor, Alyson Fox will be joining the Junior Trust to help set up a scheme.

## 7. Report of the Council

Peter Bradshaw introduced the report. There were no questions.

## 8. Incorporation

### Resolution

Lynne Hunt explained that the LTA recommended that all Counties incorporate. Surrey will be Incorporated, Limited by Guarantee and will apply to become a Charity. All Councillors will become Directors and Trustees.

Clubs, Schools, Parks etc will become either an Associate or an Affiliate member of Surrey Tennis. Most Clubs will become Associate members which will allow them to enter competitions and vote at General meeting for election of Councillors. The Regulations will dictate how the Clubs interact with the Council. The Standing Orders will dictate how the Council operates. Under the new funding system from the LTA, there are no direct links between Clubs and the County as the clubs pay directly to the LTA and the LTA pay separately to the County, a fixed sum rather than an amount related to the number of clubs. The LTA do not inform the County when new clubs register. So Surrey will be making a small charge for clubs to be associated or affiliate with the County, based on size, between £20 - £150. The maximum would be for clubs with 6 or more courts.

The resolution is to change the rules and then transfer the assets and liabilities from the Association to the charitable company.

There was a question about how the size of a club was calculated for the payment as number of courts is not always a good guide. Did it include grass courts. Could it be based on the number of members. It was explained that it would be based on the number of courts, including grass courts as it would not be easy to get details of number of members from all of the clubs.

There was a question on what was included in the assets. Lynne explained that this included shares and the indoor courts at St Georges' but was mostly money.

The Resolution was passed with one vote against.

## 9. Presentation of the Bernard Crouch Memorial Trophy 2023

The President introduced the award and said it was being presented to Mary Harper for her long and dedicated commitment to Surrey Tennis and in particular to schools' tennis.

The Award was presented by David Crouch.

Mary thanked the Council for the Award and explained how much it meant to her and how she was still passionate about supporting tennis in schools.

## 10. Presentation of Full County Colours and Senior County Colours

The list of names was read out and colours were presented to those in attendance.

## 11. Presentation of shields to winners of the County Leagues

Winning clubs were The Wimbledon Club, The Sutton Tennis and Squash Club and St Georges' Hill Lawn Tennis Club

## 12. Open Forum

Mary Harper asked for more information on Play Your Way to Wimbledon, with a breakdown in numbers. It was explained that all this information is held by the LTA and that the office is waiting for the report from the LTA.

There was a question about the "Sudden Death" rule in the summer league competitions. Lewis Woodham explained that it was introduced as a way to shorten matches. The suggestion was made that the server should only receive one serve for the sudden death point.

## 13. President closes the meeting

The Chairman said that we should be very proud of all we that achieved in 2023.

The plans for 2024 include:

- Inclusion
- Streamlining the IT and Office processes
- Further improvement to communication with the clubs.

He gave thanks to Lynne Hunt for all her hard work on Incorporation.

Roy Staniland thanked Peter for steering the Council in the right direction, and all the Councillors for their work during the year.

The President thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 8.00 pm