



SOUTHBOURNE TENNIS CLUB

MINUTES OF THE 56th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF **THE CLUB**

Held virtually on Zoom, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, on Monday 19th October 2020 after the Company AGM and chaired by the Chairperson Susanne Grainger.

The Chairperson welcomed all attending.

Present: Susanne Grainger took the chair and 6 Club Directors and 21 other members were present. Additionally there were 15 proxy vote forms provided.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were given from Peter Storr, Henry McKeown, Robin Secombe and Adam Spicer.

2. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 14th October 2019.

The minutes had been available on the club website for a number of weeks, and were overwhelmingly agreed by the meeting.

3. TO RECEIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS

Officers reports had been available for a good period of time prior to the meeting, on the club website.

Carolyn Day presented the Treasurers report and explained the clubs financial situation. A vote was held to agree the accounts, and these were overwhelmingly agreed.

a) Chairperson

Southbourne Tennis Club

Chairpersons report for AGM 19 October 2020

This report, my last one after four years of being chairperson, is in four main sections. A general overview, the highlights of these four years, the challenges for the future and my thanks to all those people who have supported me during the period.

General Overview

It's been an interesting, busy and fascinating four years for me, both personally, and in my role as chairperson. Back in October 2016 I had four grandchildren, now I have seven. Of the original seven Committee members (other than me) during the same four years, five of them have been replaced. More recently of course we've had to deal with the biggest challenge of all - COVID19.

It would be no exaggeration therefore to say that, on all counts, my learning curve has had a fairly steep trajectory but equally, on all counts, it's been mainly enjoyable and definitely exhilarating. Indeed, I thoroughly recommend it, as a way to fill many hours when you could be playing tennis!

Highlights of the last four years

We successfully applied for and subsequently received planning permission to build another court in February 2018. This applies for three years in the first instance. The debate about whether to continue with this or alter the project to create a padel court remains less of a priority as it's increasingly felt that we have no alternative but to replace the floodlights.

After several months of extremely time consuming work we were finally awarded charitable status in January 2019. We feel that this more accurately describes the ethos for which we are well known i.e. aiming to offer tennis to the whole community. Amongst other benefits it enables us to apply to a range of different organisations for much needed additional funds alongside being registered for gift aid thus significantly increasing any donations that we receive.

We established a very comprehensive Club Business Development Plan covering the period January 2019-December 2022. The plan sets out the priorities to ensure the ongoing development of the club, to provide a solid basis for our investment and development decisions, a basis for inviting sponsorship and external funding and delineates clear objectives on which underlying activities are based. We measure progress against the key objectives and use it to identify where and how we should be focussing our efforts. Key areas of success have been the exploration of a marketing strategy resulting in our attendance at the Littledown Family Fun Day and the production of a very attractive new publicity leaflet. An outline sponsorship strategy was developed and resulted in us gaining sponsorship from Slades, we hope that many other local businesses will take the opportunity to support the club in this way. Our financial position is actively monitored and we seek every opportunity to raise funds from a variety of sources especially for the programme to open up access to tennis for the whole community. We recognise the importance of feedback from members and set up various working groups to encourage them to support us in ongoing improvements. As a direct result of this some alterations were made to the interior of the clubhouse but lack of finance prevented any major changes.

Dave Sanger, our Head Coach, was formally recognised for the amazing programme of tennis for people living with disabilities that he provides by being awarded the LTA Regional Award. He was then a finalist for the National award. We were disappointed that he did not go through to win at this level but delighted that the commitment that he shows at Southbourne Tennis Club was acknowledged.

After many hours of work, much head scratching, testing and trials undertaken by the Committee our web site was completely refurbished. Huge thanks to Adam Spicer for his ongoing single handed determination to ensure that we have an attractive, relevant and accessible site.

Challenges

The first of these is where we need your help. As of the AGM there will be no Chairperson. We have also still not filled the vacancy for the Social Secretary. The Committee cannot function effectively unless someone is willing to consider standing for either, or preferably both, of these roles. As the outgoing Chairperson I would like to assure you that I will endeavour to do a comprehensive handover as well as provide support during the first few months. Whilst at times the role can feel somewhat overwhelming there is a great and very effective Committee in place who will continue to operate positively to fulfill their individual responsibilities.

Clearly the role of Social Secretary is less crucial but providing social events where members can spend time off court getting to know each other better is an important part of what we aim to do. Southbourne's reputation as a friendly and inclusive club remains one of the main reasons that new members quote as reasons for joining us.

Money

It is extremely gratifying not to say relieving that we end this year in a positive financial position. The Treasurers report will give you more detail. However there are two priorities which are crucial if we are to maintain and continue to improve our facilities; these are the replacement of the current floodlights to LED's and the creation of a paid role for a Clubhouse and Grounds Maintenance Person.

As far as the floodlights are concerned this investment will enable us to significantly reduce, not only our energy costs, but also ongoing maintenance for the existing system. We are already in the process of getting the work costed and applying for part of the necessary funds.

You will be aware that, in spite of frequent requests for volunteers to undertake both the co-ordination and the actual work needed to maintain the fabric of the building and its environs as well as the grounds, we have been unable to find sufficient willing hands to do so. It is therefore with considerable regret that we feel we have no option but to seriously consider raising your annual membership fees to allow us to pay someone to undertake this task. There is already a budget allocation for maintenance and an outline ten year maintenance schedule in place so we envisage that we are in a good position to move ahead, with your support.

Thankyous

The Coaching team- Dave, Matt, Ray, Zoltan and Liana continue to provide an extremely well received wide range of opportunities, seven days a week, twelve hours a day, in all weathers and with all standards and abilities opening up tennis for all comers. Without their ongoing dedication to ensure that members new and old are supported and encouraged to enjoy and aim to improve their game, Southbourne Tennis Club would not survive. This year in particular their commitment and sheer hard work, their adaptability to the new ways of coaching, translating the many changes in regulations required as a result of Covid, reorganising the booking system and guiding us through the complexities of Clubspark, continually clearing the courts of rainwater and linked storm damage have ensured that we can all still play in spite of less than ideal conditions. Thank you to you all from us all.

The Committee- Celia, Colin, Dan, Carolyn, Amanda are the only ones left standing! All of you in your own unique ways have made my job as Chairperson worthwhile. You have all more than fulfilled your roles and have been there in my hour of need to support me, to challenge positively, to respond flexibly to the joys of Zoom meetings, to deal seriously with your revised roles as Charity Trustee and to get your reports in on time! The incoming Chairperson can be assured

that they will inherit a hard working and dedicated Committee, ready to face the future and determined to continue to ensure that Southbourne Tennis Club goes forward with confidence. Thank you for making my last four years so enjoyable.

The members- its been a tough year for us all especially during the lockdown. I am so grateful that so many of you have continued your membership of the club and, more so, to those of you who felt able to donate your reduced membership fees to us to enable us to manage our reduced income. I am acutely aware of the impact that the Covid regulations has had on your usual weekly tennis sessions. Now that everything has to be pre-booked on Clubspark and that there's no coffee available at the end of each session it's really difficult to be enjoy each others company off court as well as on. As I informed you in my regular email updates we had to be guided in our decision making by the LTA advice and information which was not always as timely nor helpful as we would have liked. But we must have something right as not only have we retained most of last years' members we have attracted over ten new members. The Membership Secretary's report will give you more details.

Finally, this is a serious and heartfelt plea. Please think hard and long about how you personally can offer your skills to support your club. The Committee cannot survive for long without a Chairperson. There are several of you who I know have the necessary experience and could easily fill the role. We need you, and I need someone to hand the baton/racquet over to.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of being your Chairperson for the last four years, now I can just turn up and enjoy my game.

Susie Grainger

b) Treasurer

**TREASURERS REPORT for AGM re Year End
31/03/2020**

The Accounts show a Net Surplus for the Year Ended 31/03/20 of £8,362 compared to a deficit of £13,736 for the prior year. The major variances are as below:

Income

Membership fees have remained fairly consistent with the prior year. There has been an increase in Coaching and visitor fees (+£1.3k) and sponsorship (+£1k).

Expenses

Direct costs have remained fairly constant with prior year. The main variances are: Depreciation - The carpets on the courts are being written off over 10 years. The prior year also included the final charge of £2.5k on the floodlights.

Repairs and Maintenance - Very low spend in the year as most work has been deferred to 2020.

The prior year included £10k cost for re-sanding the courts.

Rent - Provisional agreement to pay rent of £1250 pa backdated to 2016. This had been accrued at £800 pa so additional cost reflected in 2020 accounts.

Loan Interest - £2.5k improvement from last year due to reclassification of expenditure.

The Balance Sheet shows Reserves at 31/3/20 of £62.9k (2019 - £54.5k). Although this seems healthy we are building up a Sinking Fund to provide for the cost of replacing major items including the tennis courts and the floodlights. The club has been allocating £10k a year to the sinking fund to build up these essential reserves.

**Forecast for Year to
31/3/2021**

The current year is obviously challenging with the effects of the pandemic. However a shortfall in membership income has been greatly offset by donations gratefully received from members and a grant from the BCP council. This has enabled the club to maintain a viable position whilst offering a reduction in fees for the lost months play and to help fund the coaches income in this period. Additional Repairs and Maintenance costs will be incurred in the current year as we get the maintenance schedule back on track.

c) Head Coach

Head Coaches Report for AGM 2020

It has been a very strange year for Southbourne Tennis Club and for my Coaching company and the other self-employed coaches. We had one of the wettest winters in history followed by Covid where all coaching was put on hold all over the Summer term, normally our busiest period. In all we have had to attend with some very difficult working conditions and the struggles of the financial impact. Through all these tough times the coaches have kept their heads up and stayed positive. We appreciate all the support from the club and the regular tennis players who are still keeping up with their lessons.

This year we have tried to continue to sustain most of our Disability Tennis Programme and community Tennis Programme. This has continued to give the opportunity to people who may not been able to access the sport. Southbourne Tennis Club is still a leader in disability tennis in the county and the country. As a result of this I was awarded the County & Regional Disability Award and put forward into the top 8 in the Country.

We have been part of the LTA Tennis for Kids programme giving around 20 new children a chance to play tennis for the first time and 12 new adults.

The main aim of the coaching is to be more pro-active and provide a better facility for tennis coaching at the club and in the county.

A big thanks to Zoltan Horvath, Matt Sanger, Ray Burningham, Sally Revell, Shuei Belcher, Liana Hodgson, Sarah Males, Dimitri Antonio, Jack Westfield, Emily Parady, Tom Birch, Matilda Brown and Jenny Hawkes who all help with the coaching, running tournaments and the disability programme at the club. More volunteers are always welcome.

This report details more news from the rest of the year.

[U14 Road to Wimbledon Club Competition](#)

No Competition held this year

[Junior Club Sessions](#)

Saturday Morning 10am – 11.30am & Monday Night 6-7pm

Aims of session:

To keep children active for 1 to 1.5 hours. Improve knowledge and skills of tennis.

Objectives:

The sessions are run offering fun competition and fun games making the sessions fun and challenging. There has been a high of about 20 children turning up on Monday evenings. Ultimately juniors will be able to progress from the Improvers group to the Intermediate group, from the Intermediates into Junior Teams, from Junior Teams into Senior Club Sessions (with approval from Coaches and Committee), from Senior Club session to play in Senior Matches for the club.

Adult Groups

These groups are based around standard. These are open to all members to help improve their tennis skills and knowledge.

There are currently around 50 adults taking part in these groups ranging from beginners, improver to advanced and from 18 – 90. Also cardio tennis has around 8 adults taking part.

Aims:

Improve standard of adults, Improvement of knowledge of performance factors. which involves technique, tactics, mental and physical parts of tennis.

To improve competition in club. Improves standard of tennis being played and will lead to more players involved in the club and coaching programme.

Objectives:

Help players improve technique, tactics, mental and physical parts of tennis. Progress players into club sessions, into teams and into club tournament.

There has been a steady increase of adults playing more regularly and enjoying their tennis.

Junior Squads

These groups are based around standard and age. These are open to all junior members to help improve their tennis skills and knowledge. Each group will on average have no more than 8 children per coach.

There are currently around 30 children taking part in these squads ranging from junior improver to junior performance.

Aims:

Improve standard of children aiming at Club to County standard if not higher. To improve general competition in club. Improves standard of tennis being played and will lead to more performance players involved in the club coaching programme.

Objectives:

Improvement of knowledge of performance factors which involves technique, tactics, mental and physical parts of tennis. Players progress into junior teams and ultimately into Senior Club play and teams.

There has been a steady increase of juniors with LTA ratings who want to play in club matches and individual tournaments.

Mini Tennis Programme

Starting with numbers; **Mini Tennis Term Club Membership for all Under 10's is included in coaching course fee &** Total numbers for the year for Mini Tennis Members was 120.

We have been hard at work increasing the number of children under 10 participating in Club coaching sessions and in Mini tennis events. This has also aided in strengthening our links with St Katherine's School, St Peters & Christchurch Infants & Junior Schools & Priory Primary School & Corpus Christi. We have over 60 players in our Schools programme although this is on hold at the current time.

Competition Programme

We run a comprehensive competition programme as part of the LTA schedule and the clubs programme. Adult Box leagues have been popular using the Scala App system.

Disability Tennis Programme

The disability work is going well although some of the groups are unable to go ahead currently.

Starting with numbers; Total number playing over a month is 71. This breaks down to;

12 players playing in mainstream sessions, (1 transplant player, 4 Learning disabilities, 4 deaf players, 3 mental dis)

Impairment specific groups;

23 physical/wheelchair players, (7 Adult players, 3 Junior players, 1 Boscombe connect day centre, 12 from Victoria Centre.

27 Learning disability players, (16 people for our P&P LD session, 6 with SCARF children's group. DS Active Session added with 5 attending)

6 Physical / Mental disabilities, (Day centre 6 players)

3 Visually impaired players. (3 Junior VI).

Developments using funding from LTA;

We have a weekly session with Victoria School with 6-8 players with physical disability. We have now finished the 4th year of our Schools Hub with Victoria Education Centre.

Our LD session has gone from strength to strength. We have 20 players on our register and have had 15 players to some of the weekly sessions.

Junior DS Active session added Sat 11.30-12.30pm with 5 attendees

Girls Tennis Programme

We have a girl only sessions on a Friday at 5pm for girls ages 10 and over, we have a regular number of between 10 – 16 girls attending.

Funding support for Disability and Community funds

- **Tennis Foundation £4000 towards the whole Disability programme**
- **£500 from local Giving towards Children's disability tennis**

David Sanger

Head Tennis Coach

d) Vice Chairperson

Vice-Chairperson's AGM Report October 2020

- Southbourne Tennis Club flyers displayed in local convenience stores and libraries
- Advert placed in local publication 'The Southbourne Link' for three consecutive months over the summer, with an editorial feature in July; this was very successful and resulted in new members enquiring and subsequently joining the club. (Special thanks to Karen Dear for her work in helping to edit the advert).
- The Committee decided against reapplying for the Littledown Fun Day as, although this was an enjoyable event last year, it did not result in any new members joining. The event was subsequently cancelled this year anyway, due to the Covid pandemic.
- Application made to the Boscombe + Southbourne Rotary Club for funding towards an outdoors defibrillator – however no response has been received as yet, despite chasing this.
- Thanks to the Committee members for making adjustments to the clubhouse and toilet facilities to ensure compliance with Covid guidelines. And thank you to the members for adhering to the guidelines during this challenging time.
- Application made for a Tesco Community Grant – no outcome received yet.
- Plan to apply for Waitrose and Co-op community funding in the near future (Co-op applications open in Spring 2021)

e) Membership Secretary

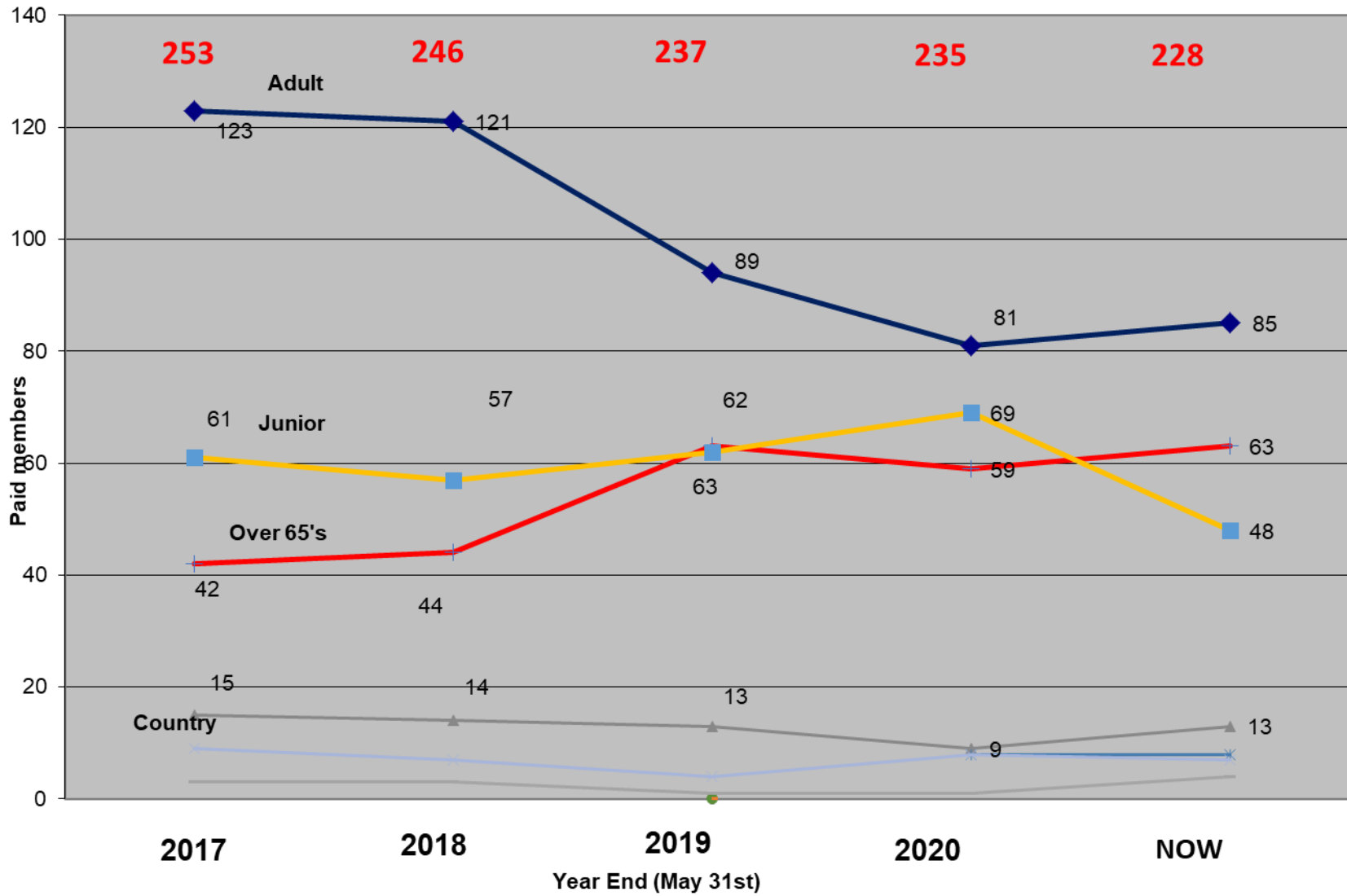
Membership Secretary's AGM Report October 2020

Membership Group	Renewal noticed sent out in the summer	Paid 20/21 Members as at 311020
Adult	89	85
Country	9	13
Family	4	8
Over 65's	59	63
Students	1	4
Juniors	69	48
Girls Friday Club	4	7
Totals	235	228

new members at 10th October 2020

Membership Group	July	Aug	Sept	Oct		possible joiners
Adult	3	4	4			1
Country	0	0	1	2		1
Family	4	0	0			
Over 65's	1	0	1			1
Students	1	0	0			
Juniors	3	0	0			2
Girls Friday Club	0	1	1			
Totals	12	5	7	2	26	5

Paid Members Five Year Trend



f) Match Secretary

Match Secretary Report – AGM 2020

As with all things, over the past 6 months, our matches have faced much disruption. The winter 2019-2020 season was curtailed due to the onset of covid, with our teams still having a number of matches to play. As a result, in many circumstances, these were matches which we should have won had they been played, and as such, we would have ended up with more points than we got with the system of unplayed matches having points shared.

However, despite that, we still had some good results particularly in the fact that our Ladies 1 team, captained by Cleo Reid, along with team players Mel Castagne, Kirsty Holmes, Jo Jones, Natalie Carter and Sarah Winter (from 2nd team), were the overall winners of the Ladies Dorset League – a great achievement.

Our Ladies vets team were level on points with West Hants at the end of the season, but as they still had 2 matches left to play they missed out on winning the League by a difference of 2 sets.

Our Mens vets team also had a very good result with placing 3rd in Division 1. Results for our other teams:

Mens 1 - 3rd Div 2

Mens 2 - 8th Div 2

Ladies 2 - 7th Div 1

Ladies 3 - 3rd Div 2

Mixed 1 - 7th Div 1

Mixed 2 - 8th Div 2

Both of our mixed teams lost out on the points sharing system for unplayed matches. With great enthusiasm we arranged all the matches for the summer season, with none of them being played. We are now looking forward, with great expectation, to a full and successful winter season. 10 teams have been entered in the Dorset League this time as we now have a Mixed 3 team. Many thanks should go to all those members who have acted as captains of teams in the past year, and who have agreed to be captains for the coming season(Pat B, Owain, Richard H, Cleo, Helen, Sarah W, Lena, Kirsty, Lloyd , Dan L) as this is far from an easy job. Also many thanks to everyone who is happy to represent the club in matches, often in pretty dire weather.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Very little to report. No real safeguarding issues to deal with. All those within the club who need to, have up to date DBS clearance and regular Safeguarding and welfare training.

Celia Barron

g) Social Secretary

Social Secretary Report – AGM 2020

Unfortunately there is no Social Secretary and therefore no report.

4. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st March 2020.

The accounts were proposed by Daniel Light and seconded by Susanne Grainger.

The accounts were unanimously approved by the meeting.

5. TO AGREE FEES

Due to the ongoing issues with the pandemic the committee feel unable to recommend a fee structure for the 2021/22 membership year as this is still 8 months away and so much is unclear.

The committee propose making recommendations for these in the Spring of 2021 and holding a General Meeting to present and agree these.

The meeting accepted this recommendation.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Membership Secretary

As required by the clubs mem and arts, on rotation Colin Gilbey stood down as membership secretary, and chose to stand to be re-elected.

The Meeting overwhelmingly voted Colin Gilbey back into his position of membership secretary.

Chairperson

Susanne Grainger stood down as chairperson at the meeting and David Bull was proposed as replacement by John Grainger. This proposal was advised to the membership with the required notice period.

The meeting voted on David becoming the new Chairperson and overwhelmingly agreed to this.

7. COMMITTEE VACANCIES

- a) Social Secretary

On the day of the AGM interest was expressed by several club members in joining the committee/ helping out. This interest was acknowledged and due to the late notice was deferred for the incoming chairperson and committee to respond in due course.

8. CLUB MAINTENANCE

- a) Need for a maintenance person and its financial implications

The meeting were advised that the committee feel there is a need to pay someone to do maintenance on an ongoing basis, as there no longer appears to be the willingness within the membership to do this. This is likely to have implications for membership fees as an increase to cover this cost should be expected.

Jan Lawson (Member) advised she may know someone this will suit and will provide details to David Sanger.

9. AOB

The Chairperson congratulated the ladies first team for winning the Dorset ladies league.

Thanks were provided to Susie Grainger, from the committee and the members, for chairing the club for the last four years.

10. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT AGM

The date of the next AGM is to be confirmed

.....
Daniel Light, Secretary

.....
Dated

.....
Susanne Grainger, Signed as a true record by the Chairperson

.....
Dated