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MINUTES of

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**2024**

held at The Vaults, Uppingham

THURSDAY 25th APRIL 2024

at 7.30pm

**Apologies :** Greg Watts, Peter Turner

**Present :** Katharine Gaine, John Cowan, Hilary Black, Bob Black, Rudy Ike, Helen Ike, Jon Wolloff, Michael Crawford.

**MINUTES OF AGM 2023 AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of last year’s AGM were agreed as correct, and Katharine thanked Jon for chairing that meeting and producing the minutes. There were no matters arising that were not already covered on the agenda.

**CHAIRMAN’S REVIEW**

Katharine read her review of the 2023-2024 season:

Firstly I would like to extend my thanks to the committee for another year of loyal support and hard work on the Club’s behalf. Without their time and dedication we would not be in the position that we are in, where the Club remains in good financial health and members continue to enjoy great value squash, regular leagues, social events and a lively website – I am most grateful to them all.

Secondly I would like to thank James Torbell, (Manager of The Vaults) for his continued sponsorship of the Club and for supporting our voucher scheme, as well as allowing us to use these facilities for our social gatherings and meetings.

The 2023-2024 season has been a most successful one, with a number of new initiatives such as the voucher scheme and free coaching sessions on some Saturday mornings, as well as a revival of our Belton v Rest of the World social event and of course our regular Finals Night.

In the Belton v Rest of the World contest the honours went to Belton, and at Finals Night the results were as follows:

Willis Cup: winner Ben Harford; runner-up Richard Park

Willis Plate: winner Philip Bailey; runner-up Brian Margetts

Ladies Competition: winner Katharine Gaine; runner-up Helen Ike

Handicap Competition: winner Rob Halls; runner-up Ben Harford

Doubles: winners Tony Byers-Brown & Guy Jones; runners-up Peter Turner and Greg Watts

In addition, the Myles Knauer League trophy was won by Michael Crawford; runner-up Ben Harford. *(Michael was presented with the Myles Knauer League trophy at the end of the meeting).*

Court access this year has been enhanced by the addition of a 5.00 – 5.45 pm booking slot on both courts, for which thanks are due to Richard Poole (Director of Uppingham Enterprises), and I must also thank the staff at USSC reception for their efficient handling of our court bookings along with the staff in the Uppingham School Bursary who have helped with the administration of DBS checks and issue of access cards.

Finally, my thanks go to all Club members for their support and for maintaining the friendly atmosphere that we all enjoy at the courts – long may this continue.

Jon proposed thanks to Katharine for her work on the Club’s behalf, which was seconded by all present.

**TREASURER AND MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

**Treasurer’s report for the year ending 25th April 2024**

**1 – Summary of the Season**

The Income and Expenditure Accounts show that financially we are in a sound position, as there is a nominal profit on the year, due to the continued support from The Vaults.

**2 – Current Financial Situation**

Melton Mowbray Building Society 180 day account = £5,149.77

Melton Mowbray Building Society 30 day account = £1,000.00

Community Account (Barclays Bank) = £3,052.06

£9,201.83

Less

Fees received in advance £43.00 (L Braddock)

Fees due to the School \* £2,090.63

Cheque due to R Ike £75.85

Allowance for Finals Night prizes and engraving £280.00 + £34.00

+ 34.00 = £2,557.48

**Current Assets £6,644.35**

**Rutland Squash Rackets Club**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

(For the year ending the 25th April 2024)

**Income**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | Previous Year | Comments |
| Subscriptions in 2023/4 | 2,787.50 |  | 2,845.00 |  |
| Building Society interest | 17.57 |  | 8.28 |  |
| Sponsorship from The Vaults | 200.00 |  | 200.00 |  |
| Sale of Club Shirts | 390.00 |  |  | New initiative this season |
|  |  | **3,395.07** |  |  |

**Expenditure**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | Previous Year | Comments |
| Court Rental\* | 2,090.63 |  | 2,133.75 |  |
| Website hosting (cheque 703) | 120.00 |  | 108.00 | To the 12th May 2024 |
| Insurance (cheque 706) | 98.56 |  | 98.56 |  |
| Junior coaching |  |  | 45.00 | Not taken up this season |
| Free coaching sessions (cheque 711) | 120.00 |  |  | New initiative this season |
| Welcome Night |  |  | 52.03 | Not held last year |
| Social at The Vaults (cheque 711) | 100.00 |  |  | New initiative this season |
| Finals Night | 280.00 |  | 317.00 |  |
| Engraving - allowance | 70.00 |  | 100.00 |  |
| Sale of Club Shirts (cheques 709 and 710) | 354.00 |  |  | New initiative this season |
| Voucher Costs for The Vaults (cheque 711) | 120.00 |  |  | New initiative this season |
|  |  | **3,353.19** |  |  |

\*Court Rental to be invoiced = £2,787.50 x 75% = £2,090.63

**Profit on the Year = Income less Expenditure = £41.88**

John informed those present that he was yet to receive a passbook for the new 180 day account, but he was confident that the funds in the Community Account and (if necessary) the 30 Day MMBS Account would be more than sufficient for the time being. He also thanked Jon (agreed by all present) for his excellent work on the sale of Club shirts; it remains to be seen whether this initiative will be repeated next year.

John also pointed out that because the Club currently does not have any teams in the Leicester/Peterborough leagues, we can afford to pay out for free coaching and to subsidise social events without any significant loss of income. It was agreed that these two initiatives were a good use of Club funds.

**Membership Secretary’s Report – 2024 AGM**

As can be seen the membership has remained stable throughout the year at around 40 members.

The £50 admin charge (levied by the School) for DBS checks has not proved a deterrent to any prospective new members.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Membership 2023/4** | |
|  |  |  |
| **Ref** | **Name** | **Comments** |
| H1 | John Cowan | Life Member |
| H2 | Katharine Gaine | Life Member |
| H3 | Bob Black | Life Member |
| H4 | Hilary Black | Life Member |
| H5 | Steve Barson |  |
| H6 | Martin Brown |  |
| H7 | Ben Harford |  |
| H8 | Jeremy Leaf |  |
| H9 | Greg Watts |  |
| H10 | James Tucker | Injured and out for the season. |
| H11 | Eddie Lawday | Junior member |
| H12 | Morris Borthwick |  |
| H13 | Brian Margetts |  |
| H14 | Peter Turner |  |
| H15 | Rudy Ike | Includes H16 |
| H16 | Helen Ike |  |
| H17 | Philip Bailey | Distant member |
| H18 | Tony Byers-Brown |  |
| H18A | Vicky Byers-Brown |  |
| H19 | Steve Kind |  |
| H20 | Roger Mortimer |  |
| H21 | Mark Tinkler | (+ Ruby H22) |
| H22 | Ruby Keningham | Junior member (paid by H21) |
| H23 | Andrew Bell | (+ Joe H24) |
| H24 | Joe Bell | Junior member (paid by H23) |
| H25 | Lee Middleton |  |
| H26 | Jon Wolloff |  |
| H27 | Michael Crawford | Includes H28 and H29 |
| H28 | Amy Crawford | New member |
| H29 | Peace Crawford | Junior member (paid by H27) |
| H30 | Charlie Plows |  |
| H31 | Steve Park |  |
| H32 | Chris Booth |  |
| H33 | Richard Park |  |
| H34 | Ian Lavender |  |
| H35 | Guy Jones |  |
| H36 | Rob Halls |  |
| H37 | Malcolm Philpott |  |
| H38 | Nick Douglas |  |
| H39 | Hilary Vogues |  |
| H40 | David Wildman |  |
| H41 |  |  |
| H42 | Matthew Turner | Intermediate Member |
|  |  | **Total** £2,787.50 |

John explained that H41 was blank because the person concerned had not yet paid their subscription fees. It was agreed that the voucher offer had not seemed to encourage early payment of subs from members; indeed, the threat of having to re-submit for DBS checks had proved to be much more of an incentive.

**ELECTION OF COMMITTEE**

All current members of the committee were prepared to stand for another year and were proposed en bloc by Michael, seconded by Rudy and all present voted in favour.

Katharine then proposed that Michael Crawford should be nominated to fill the vacancy on the committee for a School representative; this was seconded by Bob and approved unanimously.

The RSRC Committee for 2024-2025 is therefore as follows:

Chairman – Katharine Gaine

Secretary – Katharine Gaine

Treasurer – John Cowan

Membership Secretary – John Cowan

League Organisers – Bob and Hilary Black

School Representative – Michael Crawford

IT and Marketing – Jon Wolloff

Committee Member – Rudy Ike

Committee Member – Helen Ike

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

It was proposed by John, and seconded by Jon, that given the current financial climate subscriptions should remain the same so that squash should be as available as possible to everyone. All those present voted in favour.

**COACHING**

It was agreed by all present that the Club should continue to fund weekend coaching sessions as these had attracted a good range of players and had been well received. Katharine agreed to contact Joe Green to see if he would be available for three sessions in the new season. A further suggestion was that if Joe was available on a School exeat weekend then a coaching session could be offered on a Saturday afternoon rather than morning, which might attract members who might have other Saturday morning commitments.

**CLUB ADVERTISING**

Jon reported that the Club website was getting good traffic from people moving into the area, but advised that a burst of advertising at the beginning of the new season would be worth considering. He agreed to research costings to run an advertisement (which he would design) in the local press which could be discussed at the June committee meeting. There was further discussion about the use of Facebook and WhatsApp, and Michael kindly offered to keep an eye on Facebook and to post at key intervals. It was agreed that WhatsApp was not needed as well, especially as the Belton Crew already have their own group.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Katharine thanked the committee for their superb running of Finals Night, and especially Jon for his fantastic write-up of the matches which she had sent to the local press. Jon suggested that there might be potential for a further trophy to award at the end of each season for the most improved player. All present were in favour of this new award, and it was agreed that the committee would devise a system for submission of nominees and selection of the winner.

Michael asked whether there might be an opportunity to set up an initiative for members who are keen to play but don’t want to participate in the leagues. It was agreed that there were limited options for members in this category but that they should be encouraged to come to the courts and have a game, and that this should be discussed at the next committee meeting (date to be confirmed after a Doodle poll).

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.