



Minutes of the East Grinstead Tennis, Squash & Racketball Club AGM

Tuesday 12th November 2024, 7pm, Clubhouse

Members Present

John Belsey	Giles Cowdell	Caroline Hayes	David Martin	Richard Newbatt
Marc Razzell	Julian Holbrook	Mark Davis	Andy Humphreys	Stuart Sterling
Shaun Abbott	Magne Allessie	Doug Barr	Jayne Bartlett	Heather Bean
Roger Bean	Sheena Blenkinsop	Sean Byrne	Vicky Chilman	Tony Cox
Sion Evans	Kay Fox	Bram Frankhuijzen	Sabine Gaouyer	Daphne Hill
Ron Holah	Fiona Humphreys	Chris Jackson	Sue Jackson	Colin King
Martilie Kruger	Jane Major	Nick Major	Dan Murfet	Jenny Newbatt
Andy Norris	Matthew North	Megan North	Stuart North	Jamie Norton
Bernie O'Connell	Nick Peaty	Sue Perera	Stephen Pilgrim	Alan Swan
Bill Rolfe	Kate Stephens	Richard Stow	Kari Thomas	Malcolm Thomas
Bill Trueman	Cecilia Trueman	Laurence Turk	Angie Vater	Morgan Webb
Tracey Webster	Andrew Wells	Neil Whittaker	Alyson Young	

Absentee Voting Members

Lesley Chalwin	Tony Chalwin	Linda Fairall	Torben Harris	Caroline Ohlson
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Apologies for Absence

Rod Calder	Jonathan Guy	Mary Franck	Colin Johnson	Joyce Lamb
Pam Lamb	Peter Lamb	James Norman	Laura Pank	Toni Risebro
Rachel Scantlebury	Chris Self	Kevin Simons	Mike Sutton	Bryan Thomas

Chair's Welcome

Club Chair, John Belsey, welcomed everyone and declared the meeting open as a quorum of members were in attendance. The Fire Emergency Plan was communicated to the meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The draft minutes from the AGM, November 2023, were accepted unanimously by the Members and signed by the Chair.

The draft minutes from the EGM, July 2024, were accepted unanimously by the Members and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising From the Minutes

House & Grounds Manager, Marc Razzell, explained that the General Committee are looking to propose an upgrade to LED floodlighting once funds are available and not least because the bulbs for the current lights are being made obsolete.

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Progress with the solar panel plans has been delayed awaiting access to the roof for a structural survey.

Bar Manager, Stuart Sterling, said that although the budget for a new refrigerated beer cellar was approved by the AGM 2023 the spend would have over-stretched the bank balance in the first half of the year. However there could be a health & safety issue with the current access over the dark/wet winter months so he is happy to work with the next Bar Manager to get the project completed.

Officers Reports

The Annual Reports from the General Committee had been published for members to read in advance of the Meeting.

John Belsey, Chair, summarised by saying the Club is thriving. The new clay courts have bedded in and the squash courts have also had a major overhaul. The age range of members attending the Club gives it a dynamic atmosphere. John expressed his thanks to all the General Committee members and said that in particular the new Membership Secretary and Bar Manager would have very big shoes to fill, as Richard Newbatt and Stuart Sterling were standing down.

Richard Newbatt said that membership had increased to 370 since his Annual Report was issued. He thanked those that help with the Buddy Scheme as it means the Club gets virtually 100% conversion rate from enquiries. An Annual Direct Debit scheme will be introduced by December 2024 ready for membership renewals as handling cheques is no longer viable. Fees will increase by 5%.

During his first year as Treasurer, Dave Martin, reformatted the accounts to get a clear view of the operating profit – roughly £40k. The cash reserves need building up to accommodate the upgrade to LED floodlighting and resurfacing of tennis courts 4-6, currently budgeted for Sept 27 and Spring 28. The solar panel project should be self-funding so not a drain on the reserves.

Mark Davis was happy to report that the squash courts built in 1974 had been refurbished. Re-painting will be done in 3-4 years. All the Teams had done well in the Sussex League. 150 youngsters have now been coached in the mini-squash sessions for local schools. They were funded by the grant the Club received, which has sadly now run out so new options are being sought. Giles Cowdell also runs sessions for juniors at the Club on Thursday afternoons and coaches the Men's 3rd and 4th Teams. Tournaments have been successful particularly the Summer Social so that format may be tried for Racketball too.

Further to his Annual Report Julian Holbrook expressed thanks to all the members who support group activities / events but who do not have an official role. Wednesday morning Club Sessions are well supported despite the lack of WhatsApp reminders. Luke Taylor is now a fully-fledged member of the coaching team. Sion Evans was commended for his amazing work running the Box Leagues but he will now be handing over the reins to Bram Frankhuijzen. Julian said he feels the Junior section could be developed further and more Facilitators and Buddies would be welcomed. Sion Evans is also standing down as Men's Captain.

Sheena Blenkinsop asked Julian for an update on the performance of the League Teams.

Marc Razzell told the meeting that when he meets with contractors they are regularly impressed by the care taken in looking after Club facilities. In his first year as House & Grounds Manager Marc has

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prioritised H&S issues and welfare. New bar furniture has been purchased and a new TV installed. All the tennis courts have been maintained. Once funds are available there are some big ticket items to be done. Marc said the new Admin Officer role was working brilliantly with Kari Thomas at the helm and Jenny Newbatt has also been very helpful. He thanked Richard Newbatt and Bernie O'Connell too. Jenny Newbatt asked Marc to make members aware of the H&G Comments book which can be used for reporting H&G issues. Marc said he was happy to discuss new issues so as to get the right picture (but maybe not when he is trying to play or have a quiet drink!).

With only a £750 budget Andy Humphreys had maximised the marketing opportunities during the year, mainly using Facebook, Instagram and East Grinstead Living. The Open Day was probably the best one ever for the Club. WhatsApp groups are very active within the membership and Sean Byrne produces some excellent updates / reminders with clever graphics and even music!

Stuart Sterling confirmed that the Bar was doing very well and also benefitted hugely from the trade on Open Day. In his report he had thanked all the regular bar staff but said he should have included Sean Abbott and Andy Norris and also all the extra people who chip in and help with the big events. Unfortunately though, bar prices will be going up in 2025 as rising costs can no longer be absorbed.

Club Welfare / Safeguarding

The report by Kari Thomas had been emailed to members. No further issues were raised.

Election of Officers

The nominations, as per the Agenda, for the GC and both Sub Committees listed below were unanimously approved.

General Committee

	Yrs Served	
President:	2	Jane Major
Chair:	2	John Belsey
Secretary:	1	Caroline Hayes
Treasurer:	1	David Martin
Membership Secretary:	-	Kevin Simons
		(proposed : Richard Newbatt, seconded: Fiona Humphreys)
House & Grounds Manager:	1	Marc Razzell
Tennis Chair:	1	Julian Holbrook
Squash & Racketball Chair:	3	Mark Davis
Marketing Manager	2	Andy Humphreys
Bar Manager:	-	Andy Humphreys
		(proposed: Stuart Sterling, seconded: Bryan Thomas)



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Tennis Sub Committee

Tennis Fixtures:	Daphne Hill
Men's Tennis Captain:	Morgan Webb
	(proposed: Sion Evans, seconded: Linda Fairall)
Ladies Tennis Captain:	Sabine Gaouyer
Junior Tennis Rep:	Kari Thomas
Ordinary Member 1:	Giles Cowdell
Ordinary Member 2:	Magne Allesie
Ordinary Member 3:	Sean Byrne

Squash & Racketball Sub Committee

Squash Fixtures:	Andy Norris
Men's Squash Captain:	Joe Collier
Ladies' Squash Captain:	Megan North
	(proposed: Heather Bean, seconded: Mark Davis)
Junior Rep:	Roger Bean
Ordinary Member 1:	Tracey Webster
Ordinary Member 2:	Giles Cowdell
Ordinary Member 3:	Ben Swadling
	(proposed at the AGM: Giles Cowdell, seconded: Roger Bean)

Other Officers

Club Welfare – Safeguarding:	Kari Thomas
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Appointment of Auditor

The Accounts for 2022-23 have now been audited and were approved unanimously by the Meeting.

Malcolm Thomas was duly appointed to continue as Auditor.

Any Other Business

- Marc Razzell explained the need to have the perimeter trees and hedges cut back and said that he is liaising with the Club's neighbours. The work is likely to cost about £6k, which is more than the £4k upper limit allowed to the GC, so he asked the membership for approval to go ahead once a suitable quote is received. Approval was unanimous.
- Fiona Humphreys asked members to be aware of the massive utility bills incurred and to be sensible about leaving windows open and lights on unnecessarily.
- Heather Bean asked if the small freezer could be moved as it compromises the worktop space.
- The Club Xmas Party will be on Saturday 7th Dec, if people could sign up asap. Tickets cost £10.

Tony Cox asked those present to show their appreciation to everyone on the Committee(s).

Next AGM – Tuesday, 18th November 2025

Meeting closed at 8.20pm