

Sutton Tennis & Squash Club CIO

Registered Charity Number 1185220

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 8:00PM IN THE CLUBHOUSE

Trustees Present:

Peter Ward	PW	Trustee & Chair
Tim Davies	TD	Trustee
Andrew Jennings	AJ	Trustee
Steve Lewis	SL	Trustee
Jason Jones-Smythe	JJS	Trustee

Apologies for Absence:

James Dubois
Shade Alu

Opening of the Meeting

PW called the meeting to order, welcomed and thanked all those members in attendance with a complimentary arrival drink.

Tribute to Clive Galyer

PW paid tribute to the passing of Clive Galyer. Clive sadly passed away on 26th August 2024. He was a long serving member of the club and social committee for many years, and valued the community of friends of all ages he made over the decades. A glass was raised to Clive from all those in attendance.

Approval of Previous AGM Minutes

PW commenced the meeting by referring to the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held back in January 2024. He enquired if the members had reviewed these minutes and whether they had any questions or issues to discuss. The minutes were taken as read and accepted.

Prior to the AGM, members were circulated with a number of documents which were made available to view and download from the club's website.

Given that the membership already had a chance to read and digest the information within the documents it was not necessary for them to be presented in detail again on the evening itself:

Annual Statements of Accounts for Year Ended 31/03/2024

Regarding the consolidated accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024, the one point requiring clarification was the number of current employees within the Trading company, to which AJ responded was an average of six. In the absence of any further questions the accounts were accepted.

Trustees' Annual Report for period ended 31/03/2024

PW drew attention to a number of key achievements during the year: -

- Modest growth in core membership numbers to a new high of 810 members.
- Growth in the funding of charitable objectives within the inclusivity programmes resulting in: -
 - Reaching 212 individuals (25% growth) during the year.
 - Increasing the number of subsidised hours to 5,577 (18% growth) during the year.
 - Increasing the value of subsidies towards our inclusivity programmes to £17,337 (14% growth) during the year.
- Increased the number of active league Squash / Racketball Teams.
- Maintaining a high level of active league Tennis Teams at local, regional and national levels.
- Winning Awards in the year for: -
 - Ladies Team Tennis National Champions
 - Surrey Tennis Club of the Year
 - Tennis for All (disability programmes)
 - LTA Youth Recognised Venue Status

Management Report of Trustees to September 2024

PW drew attention to the key topics within the report, firstly congratulating Liam Rabbitte on his role as “Inclusivity Manager” and his delivery of a number of key programmes during the year. These included disability and walking tennis, mental health & wellbeing, ladies low income, over 65’s and discounted school programmes among others.

PW commented briefly on the club's achievements within tennis during the year, noting the weighting of our membership towards the junior section and recognising the hard work done by all the coaching team, led by Karl Stowell.

This month, both the Men's and Ladies' teams competed at the National Team Tennis Finals in Bournemouth. The Men's team narrowly missed out on the finals, falling to David Lloyd Raynes Park in the semi-finals. Meanwhile, the Ladies' team secured their third consecutive title. SL paid special recognition to Men's NCL team captain, Steve Tiddy, as this was his final year in the role. Tribute was paid to Steve for his leadership, which brought the team four championship titles and several runner-up finishes during his tenure.

Regarding Squash & Racquetball reporting, membership has been maintained at 196 which is an astounding level, given we only have two squash courts. This number has been driven by the excellent work of our Head Coach, Sam Hodgkins.

Financial Performance

AJ provided a brief overview of STSC's financial performance for the first five months of the year, up to 30th August 2024, highlighting a significant turnaround. During this period, the club generated nearly £26,000 in profit (before depreciation), despite spending £24,000 on clubhouse and grounds maintenance and improvements. Membership subscription income increased by 9%, and rental income from the apartment, leased since December 2023, contributed £9,000. Additionally, income from the coaching programme's junior guest fees continue to grow as a strong revenue stream.

AJ credited the bar and catering operations for the most notable improvement, praising Bar Manager Kerry Hill and her team for delivering another valuable source of income, which will help fund further enhancements to the club and its facilities. PW also expressed gratitude to Adam Freeman and Will Burgess for their financial support of this year's British Tour 2024 tournament.

Tony Mason raised a question from the floor, asking if any analysis had been done on the financial benefit of transitioning to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with a trading subsidiary compared to the previous structure. He noted that members were initially informed this change would result in significant financial advantages, and it would be valuable to understand what those benefits have actually been.

AJ responded that, unfortunately, the financial benefit has not been as substantial as anticipated. One key advantage of charitable status was

supposed to be the ability to claim gift aid on a portion of membership fees. However, HMRC closed this loophole within the last 3-4 years, preventing the club from benefiting in this way.

Colin Whitehair added that, under the old structure, members were at personal risk in the event of a liability, whereas as a CIO, that risk no longer exists. In light of the discussion, PW requested that an analysis be conducted and recorded in these minutes for future reference.

Post AGM analysis of financial benefits since transitioning from Club to CIO

- Eligible to claim Gift Aid on donations made to CIO. Since switching to CIO and up to 31/3/2024 £9,375 in Gift Aid has been received.
- Charitable Business Rates relief. As a registered charity we are entitled to a mandatory 80% relief on Business Rates. Up to 31/3/2024 £30,000 in relief has been received. Historically STSC as a "Club" received discretionary rebates from Sutton Council which were withdrawn some years ago.

Future Plans & Announcements

SL presented the club's outlook, highlighting priority investments and future aspirations for the coming financial year. He noted the positive reception of the new LED lighting on tennis courts 1-3, which is a significant upgrade from the previous floodlighting. The goal is to extend LED lighting to the remaining courts by the end of the financial year, contingent on funding.

SL also emphasised the continued growth of the squash section, acknowledging the need for investments in the squash viewing gallery and a new sprung wood floor for Court 1. Additionally, improvements to certain areas of both the men's and women's changing rooms were identified as necessary.

Regarding staff safety, SL raised concerns about bar staff working late shifts, particularly when locking up on weekday evenings. To address this, the club plans to issue personal panic buttons to bar staff, providing a direct link to the police in case of emergencies. This safety measure is expected to be implemented within the next month.

Promissory Notes

To raise funds for future projects, AJ sought approval from the members to issue "Promissory Notes" totalling £40,000. These notes would be available in £1,000 blocks with a redemption period of three years. Members who

participate would receive value in lieu of interest, choosing between two options:

- o A reduced annual subscription of £48 per year for each promissory note held, or
- o A £60 annual credit to their STSC bar bill for each promissory note held.

A show of hands from the floor indicated strong member support for this initiative to proceed.

Elections & Appointments

In accordance with Clause 13 of the Constitution, by rotation, two of the Trustees must retire but can stand for re-election. AJ and SL formally retired and indicated their willingness to stand for re-election.

Andrew Jennings and Steve Lewis were nominated, seconded and elected thus confirming these appointments.

Any Other Business

None recorded.

