



# **SURBITON CROQUET CLUB**

## **Provisional Minutes of the 39<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Held at the Clubhouse, 11:15, 24 March 2024**

### **1 and 2. Present and Apologies**

Andy Dibben, present despite his earlier apology for absence, welcomed members to the meeting. 37 members attended, and 14 apologies were received. Adrian Coles holds the lists.

Heading numbers refer to the item number on the agenda circulated before the meeting.

### **3. Approval of Minutes of 38<sup>th</sup> AGM**

There was no discussion of the minutes. Val Hitchens proposed that they be adopted as a correct record, with Carol Collins seconding. The meeting approved the minutes unanimously.

### **4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **5. Committee Report**

Andy presented the Committee's report, which had been previously circulated to members. He highlighted the huge importance of volunteers, especially in catering (which generated significant funds) and grounds maintenance (which saved significant expenditure).

Andy also highlighted the importance of maintaining a strong financial position, recruiting new members, strengthening diversity in the club, especially in relation to the age distribution of members, and improving the coaching on offer from the club.

There were no questions on the Committee's report.

### **6. Club Accounts**

Mike Burrow introduced the accounts for 2023, which had been circulated the previous day. Income from subscriptions had increased slightly – fees had risen, while member numbers had fallen. Expenditure on grounds maintenance had increased, as more work was being done by external contractors. An expected Gift Aid reclaim had not materialised and Mike believed it appropriate to write this off. The claim stretched back over a number of years, and a change in the rules on expiry dates, not communicated to the club, probably meant it was no longer recoverable. Overall, the club made a loss of £2,778, leaving reserves at £75,246, broadly equivalent to one year's expenditure.

Members felt every effort should be made to reclaim the Gift Aid due.

Andy explained that the Honorary Reviewer had not been given sufficient time to review the accounts. This would be undertaken in the near future and any amendments would be communicated to members. The accounts were accepted on the basis that the review did not raise any significant queries on them. [On 27 March 2024 the Reviewer wrote to the Secretary stating "I now have all the working papers and in view of the detail in now have I am happy to say the accounts are fine."]

Cliff Hunter took the meeting through the proposed 2024 budget. Lawn maintenance costs would show a further significant increase. Other costs had been increased to reflect general inflation. Interest was now being earned on a significant proportion of the club's funds. Expenditure on grounds maintenance was organised so as to be VAT efficient. Those attending felt it might be helpful to remind all members that donations (but not subscriptions) would be eligible for Gift Aid.

## **8. Election of Hon Treasurer and Hon Secretary**

Andy noted that Mike was standing down as Treasurer. The meeting thanked Mike for his service over a number of years.

Cliff had agreed to take on the role. His appointment was proposed by Bernard Pendry, seconded by Stephen Parish, and approved unanimously.

Adrian had agreed to serve a further year as Secretary. His re-appointment was proposed by Alan Grundy, seconded by Mary Knapp and approved unanimously.

## **7. Election of Committee Members**

Max Holland had resigned from the Committee and Mike was also leaving after stepping down as Treasurer. Carol Collins and Rose Gebhardt had been nominated to replace them and were duly elected unopposed. The remaining committee members (Martin Burger, Andy Dibben, Alan Grundy, Barry Holland, Nick Parish and Sue Pendry) were re-elected unopposed.

## **9. Election of Hon Reviewer**

Harry Midgley had agreed to continue in this role. His re-appointment was proposed by Elizabeth Kennedy, seconded by Stephen Parish, and approved unanimously.

## **10. Subscriptions for 2024**

Cliff presented the Committee's proposed subscription scale for 2024. Among the points made in discussion was whether the discount for the second member of a couple living at the same address was too great, whether other club's subscriptions were examined when setting Surbiton's and whether there should be a special rate for members aged under 25. There was also a discussion about how best to ensure that guests make the appropriate payment when playing at the club, and whether there should be a membership category for part of a year, in limited circumstances. The Committee would examine the points raised.

Adoption of the suggested subscription scale was proposed by Louise Taylor, seconded by Margaret Packer and approved unanimously.

## **11. Motions for Consideration**

Adrian spoke about the minor changes to the club's constitution which had already been communicated to members. Adoption of the proposed constitution was proposed by Adrian, seconded by Graham Brightwell, and agreed unanimously.

## **12. Any other Business**

Among matters raised were the possibility of evening roll-ups, the need for marketing expertise to promote the club to potential new members, and the need for a volunteer to maintain the sprinkler heads.

Adrian indicated that all matters raised at the AGM would be considered at the next Committee meeting.

Andy was not putting himself forward for a further term as Committee Chair. A warm round of applause denoted members' recognition of the significant contribution Andy had made to the club in that role.

The meeting closed at 12:25.