

CATFORD WANDERERS SPORTS CLUB LIMITED

Beckenham Hill Road London SE6 3NU

COMPANY NUMBER 9534146

114th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, 14th November 2021 at 2 pm

in the Clubhouse, Beckenham Hill Road SE6 3NU

MINUTES

In attendance:

President – Dave Smythers

The Board of Directors: Eamon Martin [Chair] Margaret Smith [Secretary] Peter Romagnoli [Treasurer] Val Elkins [Facilities and Social Director] Debra Dixon [Cricket Director] Kate Williams [Tennis Director]

And the following members:

Monica Romagnoli, Mark Dempsey, Charles Stringer, Ian Newman, Denis Costelloe, Gerald Taylor, Clive Birkhamshaw, Cosmos Charles, Patsy Waithe, L.M. Brown, Lekan Ojumu, Nicholas Connolly, Andy Robinson, Maggie Innes, Richard Gould, Jane Martin, Andy Smith, Stephanie James, Colin Gentile, Mark Smith, Julie Taylor, Norman Freeman, Iliya Kumanichliev, Isaac Frimpong, Annis Frimpong [Junior] Julia Garling, Chris Court, Peter Horton, Basia Olsinska, [35 voting members – 1 junior] The meeting was quorate.

1. **Welcome by Club President** - Dave Smythers opened the meeting at 2.10 pm. A minute's silence was held as a mark of respect for the passing of former Life Member Arnold Adihetty.
2. **Apologies for absence were received from the following members:** O'Neil Allen, July Amato, Kalam Azad, Toni Boardman, Donna Gabriel, Kenneth Hau, Jo Hudd, Tony Martin, Thracia Perret, Jayne Qureshi, Loraine Smythers, Geoff Taylor, John Townsend, Jo Townsend, Chon Tu, Moi Tu, Andy Williams, Samantha Wilson, Kwok Tse, Brian Bass, Leigh Cole, Andy Hellier, Traudi Chu, Jimmy Dam, Simon Hookins, Sandra Robinson, Margaret Gould [Social] Rachel Gould [Social]
3. **2019 Minutes** – the 2019 Minutes were approved. No matters arising.
4. **Chair and Secretary's review of the year.** – [report circulated previously - attached to these minutes.] Eamon Martin highlighted some of the items in the report. The past 18 months had been very difficult for the Club and during the past year we had to manage Return to Sport and the Test & Trace requirements. Badminton had been particularly badly hit, with the section unable to play at all for some considerable time. The football season was extended into the cricket season so managing two sports on the outfield as well as the carpark, during the Spring and Summer had sometimes been problematic. New initiatives to deal with this included a calendar to assist with managing fixtures, appointing martials to oversee events on the day, a process we have tried to keep going. During the summer, the Club was particularly busy with over 100 juniors on the outfield playing football and cricket. Changes had been made to operations at the bar, with a pool of volunteers coming forward to assist Val. A new artificial wicket and practice nets were installed largely paid for by grants. The Club is keen to develop the quality of its assets. Recently the perimeter netting at the top end of the outfield has been replaced. Maintenance is an ongoing issue and something we need to get to grips with. Limited supply of funds and time, as we are all volunteers, continues to be a challenge. The Chair also extended an invitation to any member who might be willing to serve on the Board or assist generally to contact him for an informal discussion.

5. **Special Business amendments to the Club's Articles of Association and Rules**

[Proposal and notes previously circulated – attached to these Minutes]

Margaret Smith gave an outline of the proposal and reasons for the amendments
The Club's Articles and Rules provide for 8 directors. The Club wishes to increase these to 10.

Following on from the remarks made by the Chair about maintenance. The estate and premises are the Club's biggest asset. Managing the work associated with this is currently shared among Board members and it is challenging. The director will have responsibility for estate matters and will work with the Board to ease the workload.

During the course of the year the Club approved an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
A panel consisting of the Chair, Secretary and representatives from the sections met to discuss and draw up the provisions. The Board attaches great importance to this role. The director will oversee the provisions of the Policy and work with sections on its implementation. The Director will also have a brief for Club Welfare.

A vote was taken on each resolution.

Special Resolution 1 – that the proposed amendment to the Articles be adopted
Supported by over three quarters majority of voters present – no objections

Special Resolution 2 – that the proposed amendment to the Club Rules be adopted
Supported by over three quarters majority of voters present – no objections.

6. **Treasurer's review** – [Detailed reports and financial statements circulated in advance – attached to these Minutes.]

Peter Romagnoli reviewed the financial position for the year, highlighting areas of particular interest. During the past year, income had decreased due to reduced subscriptions. Covid restrictions had a major impact with severely reduced bar takings, and loss of income from the Recycling Cabin and Bootfair. However, we had reduced expenditure on grounds maintenance, waste disposal and cleaning. The Club was still obliged to spend money on other maintenance, The water tank had to be scoured to prevent the build-up of legionella, and the lobby skylight was replaced. Diseased trees had to be removed and the barrier repaired. PR reminded members that the Club is over 35 years old now and major repairs will be required at some point. The Club received several government grants totalling £45000 via London Borough of Lewisham without which the Club would have been in severe financial difficulty. LB Lewisham were unable to say which particular grants had been awarded.

Questions from the floor:

Julia Garling asked about the cost of sales figures and low takings from the bar. PR replied that the volume was down because the bar was closed for a substantial period. Also, the margin was lower as out of date stock had to be written off.

Colin Gentile enquired why PR had said he was unsure what the LB Lewisham grants were for. PR replied that he had applied for many grants and monies were received but LB Lewisham couldn't clarify which particular application had been funded. CG asked whether it would be fair to say that without the grants the Club would have been in great difficulty. PR replied that was the case. CG said the Club needed to consider what maintenance was required, as the Club had sustained an operating deficit. PR replied that this year was unusual and next year would be a full year. CG said that the position still looks difficult, and the Club's policies and operations would need to adapt accordingly. For example, margins

and operating costs would need to be reviewed. The rationale for any changes would need to be communicated to members. PR said the Club needed to look at other sources of funding. EM agreed with CG and said the Club did need a business plan; this will be looked at during next year.

7. **Facilities and Social Secretary's review –**

Val Elkins said that the past eighteen months had been very difficult for the Club and that Covid restrictions had a major impact on service. The Club had run a café with outdoor service for the junior sessions. But now the bar was very busy. VE thanked members for coming forward to help out while she was ill. Now that functions had resumed and very busy Saturdays and Sundays, she does need that extra help. During the closure, the bar was refurbished, and some equipment replaced, the cost was borne by suppliers, a new soft drink gun was going to be installed soon. VE gave special thanks to Norman Freeman for covering every Saturday evening shift and for Janice Reid who stepped up to help and was invaluable while VE was ill. VE thanked the army of helpers who have now formed a WhatsApp group to make organising a rota easier. She thanked the badminton section as their sport does suffer when functions are held in the hall. VE reminded members about the forthcoming Christmas dinner which is due to be held on 12th December. Further details will be available once she had heard back from the caterers.

8. **Sports Section Reports –**

Badminton Section: [report circulated in advance – attached to these minutes] Maggie Innes reported that membership had increased and was now at a high level. This means the hall is being used in a different way now. The section is very strong. Pasty Waithe is going to step up to be the Badminton Director.

Cricket section: - report available – attached to these minutes. Lekan Ojumu highlighted areas from his report which covered 2020 and 2021. He played tribute to those members who in 2020 turned up to support the game in whatever way they could. The Saturday 2nd team won the aptly named Corona Metropolitan Division C 2nd XI. Moving to 2021 he said the section was stable with 29 playing members. The 2nd XI were promoted to Division 2. Judesurethar Johnmary took 41 league wickets the highest number across all divisions in the Kent County league. The Sunday XI had only three losses in the 2021 season. The section is committed to building its junior membership and hosted over 50 children to the Saturday morning All-stars and Dynamos junior coaching sessions. Thanks to Vishaal Patel and the coaching volunteers. The section has also been able to improve its playing facilities with new mobile practice net and artificial playing surface.

Football Section: No report received.

Tennis section – [Report circulated in advance- attached to these minutes]. Kate Williams thanked the members and committee for their support during Covid. Special thanks to Andy Williams for dealing with the many new members, 40 joined in May alone.

9. **Election/ratification of Club Officers:**

Chair – Eamon Martin – proposed Val Elkins seconded Andrew Hellier
Secretary – Margaret Smith – proposed Eamon Martin – seconded Mark Dempsey
Treasurer – Peter Romagnoli – John Allen - seconded Val Elkins
Facilities and Social – Val Elkins – proposed Andrew Hellier – seconded Eamon Martin

All officers were elected unopposed by majority show of hands.

10. **Ratification of Honorary Club President –**

Dave Smythers role as President confirmed for another year by majority show of hands.

11. **Nomination and Ratification of new Life Members**

The Board recommended **Nick Petersen** [tennis section]. Eamon Martin paid tribute to Nick's commitment to the Club over the past 50 years. **Recommendation approved by majority show of hands.**

Julie Taylor enquired how many Life Members did the Club have. MS replied around ten to twelve.

12. **Any other business** – EM reported that BT sport was now available in the Bar. This was part of an initiative to generate more takings at the bar. A list of key Champions League matches had been distributed. It will show Ashes matches as well next year. Lekan Ojumu asked about raising money through grants. EM replied that Fundraising would form part of a Business Plan.
13. **Closing remarks by Chair**-There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting thanking members for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 3: 15 pm.