

CATFORD WANDERERS SPORTS CLUB LIMITED

Beckenham Hill Road London SE6 3NU

COMPANY NUMBER 09534146

116th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, 29TH October 2023 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] Val Elkins [Facilities and Social Director] Patsy Waithe [Badminton Director] Jason Walker [Cricket Director] Colin Gentile [Tennis Director]

And the following members:

H Singhal, Miriam Fischer, David Elem-Odongo, Andy Smith, Brian Brass, Christine Court, Jane Martin, Geoff Taylor, Julia Garling, Kate Williams, Andy Williams, Mark Smith, Karen Smith, Mark Dempsey, Monica Romagnoli, Richard Gould, Steve Gilbert, Sam Wilson, Stephanie James, Charles Stringer, Debby Dixon, Peter Romagnoli, Ian Newman, Denis Costelloe, Norman Freeman, Janice Reid

The meeting was quorate

1. **Welcome by Club President** - Dave Smythers opened the meeting at 2.05 pm. A minute's silence was held as a mark of respect for the passing of former members: Richard Ralph, Glen Scott-Thomas, Ray Andrew, Lee Arrow, Arthur Callin
2. **Apologies for absence were received from the following members:** Viet Truong [Treasurer]; Will McLaughlin [Football Director]; Jayne Qureshi, Angela Rezki, Jack Haslam, Loraine Smythers, Marcia Blackburn, Judy Amato, O'Neil Allen, Chon Tu, Julie Taylor, Gerry Taylor, Lila Brown, Clive Birkenshaw.
3. **2022 Minutes** – due to an oversight, the 2022 minutes were not approved by the membership. They had been approved by the Board at their meeting on 25th October 2023. This item will be carried over to the next AGM.
4. **Chair and Secretary's review of the year.** – [report circulated previously - attached to these minutes.] Eamon Martin opened his remarks by thanking all volunteers who gave their time in all areas of the Club. The Club could not survive or operate without them. EM then highlighted various points from his report. The Board met on 6 times during the year as they are required to do. Budgets were set and reviewed regularly, and financial housekeeping was good. The Secretary successfully challenged a £14k gas bill from EDF and was rewarded with a £15k credit. Basically, income still runs at roughly £100k per annum and expenditure is roughly the same - so the Club more or less breaks even. This means that the Club is vulnerable to any unexpected costs which might occur.

The Board produced a business plan to develop the Club in key areas and some plans were successfully implemented, notably improvements to the patio and new cricket nets which were obtained through successful fundraising led by the cricket section. EM stressed that finding volunteer people for key areas was becoming more problematic and we were not getting any younger. The club may need to consider paid staff, but it had been noted that at least one other venue in the area who had taken this route had had to close for a while as the costs could not be met. This would be a challenge for the club in the future but one that the Club would have to address. Plans for the coming year would include looking at internal Communications, IT and a unified website, reviewing the sports sections aspirations, and improving the club environment. Work on this had already been completed

with the total refurbishment of the men's changing rooms. The bar had benefitted from a new ice machine and glass washer. Cricket sections had constructed a new practice cage and new perimeter netting had been installed. The ongoing tree issue with Homebase had finally been resolved and the last resurfacing works on the tennis hard court completed. The club had a weekly calendar of events so we can keep on top of fixtures and avoid potential clashes. The club had enjoyed hosting a number of junior sessions in both football and cricket. It tries hard to maintain a balance between the need to grow the junior sections and provide adequate facilities for members. The cricket section Allstars and Juniors are growing with many juniors now moving on to more senior levels. Club social events have had an amazing year, thanks to the efforts of Julie Taylor and her team. EM finished up by explaining that a significant issue for the Club was the Lease with Homebase for the overflow car park. It is likely the position will have to change in the next few years, as the site will be likely earmarked for redevelopment. This might present an opportunity for the Club to recover full use of the car park space. We are monitoring the position and are in touch with the council.

5. **Finance Report [report and Financial Statements attached to these minutes]**

Margaret Smith summarised the results and financial position for the year.

The Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2023 were approved by a majority show of hands.

6. **Facilities and Social Secretary's review – [report attached to these minutes]**

VE thanked all volunteers who had helped run the bar during the year. Thanks to Janice Reid for setting up the new till, and Mark Smith for doing repairs around the Club. Cricket section were allowed to take over the bar on some Saturday nights when volunteer help was not available. Many successful social events took place during the year .VE reminded members to come and support the bar and they were able to book the hall at a discount for any functions.

7. **Sports Sections Reports**

Badminton – [report attached to these minutes] Patsy Waithe reported on the section's achievements over the year. 90% of the membership had renewed this season, and the membership was now closed. Court usage continued to be good, with training taking place on Tuesdays. The Section would ideally like to replace the floor in the near future. The committee are considering having a junior section. Sadly Richard Ralph, a former junior member passed away during the year.

Cricket – [report attached to these minutes]

Jason Walker read the report from the Chair of Cricket. The report highlighted the sections achievements during the season. It was a year of consolidation. Saturday teams fought off relegation and maintained their places in the respective leagues. The junior section was progressing well. and parents were positive in their reviews of the programmes. .It was hoped to progress to hardball cricket next season. Grateful thanks expressed to Daron Kularatnam and section members for the committed effort in fundraising £60k funds for the new cricket nets.

Football – EM spoke on behalf of the section. The section was well organised and structured and enjoyed successes. Wil McLaughlin had obtained grants for pitch improvements, fencing and changing room refurbishment. Will and Tony Martin had worked on the fencing project.

Tennis – Colin Gentile reported on behalf of the section. The section had enjoyed successes in the Kent League, and social tennis was well attended. The AGM was held recently. Kate Williams was appointed Secretary, Donna Gabriel, Fixtures secretary and Brian Brass, Membership Secretary. A new coaching team had been appointed and was settling in well.

8. **Election/Ratification of Club Officers**

Chair – Eamon Martin – proposed Val Elkins - seconded Peter Tombleson
Secretary – Margaret Smith – proposed Val Elkins – seconded Toni Boardman
Treasurer – Viet Truong – proposed Val Elkins – seconded Patsy Waithe
Facilities and Social – Val Elkins – proposed Eamon Martin – seconded Rob Dawbarn
The above officers were elected unopposed by majority show of hands.

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

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

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

The Board recommended **Peter Romagnoli, Associate Member** [formerly tennis] and former Club Treasurer. Margaret Smith paid tribute to Peter's commitment to the Club having served as Treasurer for 9 nine years. **Recommendation approved by majority show of hands.**

11. **Any other business**

Nick Petersen asked about the contract with Jordans groundskeepers. EM replied that the club were reviewing the current arrangements and exploring other options.

Brian Brass expressed concern about the cost of maintaining the grass tennis courts considering the number of complaints about their condition this season and members not wishing to play on them. EM replied that the matter will be looked into but that more information was needed.

Patsy Waithe enquired about social events now that Julie Taylor was stepping down from her role as tennis social secretary. EM replied that he hoped the Club would be able to find someone else to take the lead on organising social events.

Colin Gentile asked for clarification of the tax charge on page 3 of the Financial Statements and asked if it was a repayment due. MS replied that it was a repayment due on account of the year ended 2021.

12. **Closing remarks by Chair-**There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting thanking members for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 3: 00 pm.