



**Walthamstow Cricket, Tennis and Squash Club**  
**Founded 1862**

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**Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**1. Notice**

Nigel Kleinfeld (NK), Chairman, read out the notice formally convening the meeting.

**2. Apologies:** Tom Davey, Nat Pabla, John Grimble & Gilles Ward.

**3. Minutes of the 2020/21 AGM**

Proposed: Diane Weaver

Seconded: Richard Webster

**Agreed Unanimously**

**4. Matters arising from previous Minutes.**

None

**5. Chairmans Report**

NK summarised his report that was circulated prior to the meeting.

**6. To vote on the proposal not to audit the accounts (in accordance with the Cooperative and Community Benefits Societies Act 2014).**

A question was raised regarding what the cost of a full audit would be. It was explained that the club currently uses the services of an independent qualified accountant to prepare the club accounts and his Independent Accountants Report to members. Currently this costs approximately £1500 plus VAT per annum. The chair observed that, in his opinion, the accountant is very thorough in his work. The chair stated that, in his opinion, a full audit would be likely to cost the club between £5-10k plus VAT (the exact figure is not known until we get quotes). The Club Treasurer stated that he could see nothing to be gained by having a full audit and that the additional cost would be a waste of precious funds. In addition to the accountant, we have an independent qualified bookkeeper who is also very competent. Between the two of them they ensure the books are in good order.

Further questions enquired as to if the decision made was just for the year and then when the last full audit was. It was confirmed that the decision is just for the forthcoming year, hence the resolution at every AGM. It is not known when the last full audit was but it is not believed to have been in the last 25 years.

A vote was taken on the above resolution.

For: 31 Against: 18 Abstentions: 3

**With a 2/3rds majority required to succeed, this resolution was not passed.**

**7. To receive the accounts for the years ending 31 March 2022**

The treasurer presented the accounts, which were circulated prior to the meeting. The treasurer explained that "to receive" in this context is to inform the meeting of them. They will be submitted to the FCA. The

treasurer explained that the accountant had independently examined the accounts. A question was asked as to if having an audit delayed the preparation of the March 2023 accounts would affect grant applications. It cannot be confirmed but it is believed it should not do.

## **8. Ratification of senior officers and election of the Management Committee**

### **Senior Officers**

The following Senior Officers had been elected by the Management Committee:

President – Robert McKill  
Chair – Nigel Kleinfeld  
Treasurer – Don Brereton  
Secretary – Matthew Guest

A management committee rep from each of the three sections confirmed to this meeting the above names were correct.

### **Sectional Representatives**

In addition to the four names put forward by the Tennis Section at their AGM two nominations were received to the AGM.

*The Chairman read a short statement outlining the Management Committees views on the matter:*

*I called a Management Committee meeting to discuss sectional nominations and other proposals being put forward at this AGM. They were debated at length and a significant majority view reached on this and other matters.*

*The Management Committee discussed nominations because of the unheard-of attempt by two people affiliated to tennis to represent tennis without going through the sectional AGM process.*

*I put the view of the Management Committee on its behalf.*

*The long-standing custom and practice of our club is for the sectional AGMs of each of the playing sections to vote on and elect who they want to represent their section on the Management Committee. I personally attended the three playing section AGM meetings, in my capacity as an ex-officio member of all sub-committees and observed this well-known and long-standing custom and practice being carried out.*

*The tennis section made all those affiliated to tennis aware of the date of the tennis AGM, the agenda, a list of positions to be filled (including Management Committee representatives) and a list of the jobs to be filled.*

*It should be noted that neither Dean nor Gilles attended the tennis AGM, nor did they send apologies. They had every opportunity to attend, let members know their ideas and put their names forward.*

*Instead, they legitimately cross nominated each other with the same seconder under 9C) of the constitution.*

*This enables all members, irrespective of playing section and including social members, to vote on who should represent tennis. The current Management Committee are of the opinion that this is not what our constitution intended.*

*The Management Committee welcomes any playing member who wishes to be involved in club management to join a sectional committee to put their name forward to be on the Management Committee. There are no bars. There never have been.*

*The Management Committee strongly recommend that you endorse the four nominees from the tennis AGM.*

Dean Parkin was given the floor to state his and Gilles case for election. Dean confirmed that his and Gilles nominations were legitimate in line with the constitution. He had nothing further to add.

Noel Hillman a representative of the Tennis Committee, read a statement on their behalf:

*Hello everybody. For those I haven't met, I'm Noel Hillman, a club member as well as being the Coaching Liaison for the Tennis section.*

*Before I begin, a hard copy of the following statement has been given to Matt Guest, as Club Secretary, to confirm what I say is the same as what I've provided in writing.*

*I am speaking on behalf of the Tennis Committee, who were unanimous of those present at a recent Annual General Meeting (AGM) proposal response meeting, to distribute this following Tennis Committee statement.*

*The Tennis Committee published an agenda and held the Tennis AGM in November 2022. This included a request for all Tennis Section members to attend, should they wish, to participate in the organisation of the Tennis section, and to vote for those to fulfil specific roles in the running of the section. A list of roles and responsibilities was attached to that request to attend, to give members an insight into what each role entailed. Two members, John and Noel, agreed to join the Tennis Committee and have taken up roles. This is much appreciated by the existing committee members.*

*At this November Tennis AGM, four sitting members of the club Management Committee – Colin, Louis, Ray, and Reza – were unopposed to stand as the Tennis Section representatives on the club management committee, and thus elected, thereby keeping continuity and working as a team, to promote tennis section interests.*

*Dean and Giles did not attend this AGM. The TC are unaware of the reason for their non-attendance.*

*If they had, they could have both taken on roles to assist with the running of the tennis section and, should they wished, put themselves forward to represent the tennis section at the club management committee. This would have triggered a vote which would have been decided by the Tennis Section members present, a democratic process voted by the concerned tennis section members to confirm their will.*

*It is technically possible under the club constitution for anyone else to be nominated at a club AGM to represent any section on the club management committee, the process Dean and Giles have legitimately employed to be representatives for the Tennis section. This, however, will now lead to cricket, squash, and social section members having the right to vote to install alternative representatives for the Tennis section, to those the tennis section members voted for themselves.*

*We ask when you consider your vote, how would you feel if tennis section members were voting for representatives to the club Management committee for the Squash Section or The Cricket Section, who were not elected at their respective AGMs to stand for the club Management committee?*

*We therefore urge all section members, to vote for the four Tennis AGM elected section representatives – Colin, Louis, Ray, and Reza – and not Dean and Giles.*

A representative of both the Cricket (Fred Blassberg) and Squash Committees (Diane Weaver), confirmed that their section committees had nothing to add to the statement read by Tennis and supported those views.

A question was asked if MC representatives sat on the section committees. The Chairman confirmed that they did. Tennis went on to say that their MC representatives are de facto members of the Tennis Committee as it is vital that the MC reps understand what is going on in the section.

A query was made regarding the constitution and the process of electing Management Committee representatives. The Chairman stated that for at least the last 25 years the rules have been interpreted that sections elect their representatives via the sectional AGMS. This is the culture and custom of the club.

The following representatives were put forward by their respective sectional AGMS and were unopposed.

**Cricket**

Fred Blassberg  
Tom Davey  
Dan Gillman  
Josh Hockridge

**Squash**

John Grimble  
Joy Hunt  
Diane Weaver

A vote was then held to elect the 4 Tennis section representative from the 6 put forward. Each member was given a voting paper with the 6 nominated persons. Members were invited to select up to four persons they wanted to represent the tennis committee. The votes were collected and then counted by the club Secretary and Treasurer in the presence of Diane Weaver and Steve Downing. All four persons agreed the count which was as follows (elected persons in bold):

<b>Louis Burtuzzo</b>	<b>37 votes</b>
<b>Colin Dunn</b>	<b>36 votes</b>
<b>Reza Parizi</b>	<b>41 votes</b>
<b>Ray Sefton</b>	<b>39 votes</b>
Dean Parkin	19 votes
Gilles Ward	16 votes

A total of 51 voting slips were counted with a further 1 given in abstention.

**9. To Vote on Proposal 1 – Sectional Membership**

It is proposed by Dean Parkin and seconded by Matthew Guest: -

*From the 01 April 2023 that the wording set out on line 4 of rule 6A of the constitution, “playing members may belong to one or more of these sections” be interpreted as follows: -  
Any fully paid playing member with a regular active participating interest in either or both other playing section is entitled to apply to the membership secretary of either or both other playing sections to become a member of that section.  
Any such application is not to be unreasonably denied.  
In the event of a dispute the member whose application has been denied has the right to appeal in writing, setting out the reasons for the appeal, to the Club Secretary within 14 days of receipt of the denial. The Club Secretary will bring the matter to the next Management Committee meeting and will advise the appellant of the decision of the Management Committee within 10 days of said meeting.*

The proposer presented the above reiterating that those who actively and regularly participate in more than one section should be able to have a vote and a say in how each of the sections they participate in are run.

The tennis committee stated that the constitution was written for a time when to join/participate in more than one section you had to pay extra. By passing this proposal they believe it will have an impact on the committees. Tennis have no issues with any persons raising matters with them. Both the cricket and Squash committees echoed these sentiments.

It is noted that at the Squash AGM the Squash section voted in favour of this proposal.

A vote was taken and the results were:  
For – 21, Against – 28.

**The proposal was therefore not accepted.**

#### **10. To Vote on Proposal 2 – AGM Minutes**

It is proposed by Nigel Kleinfeld and seconded by Matthew Guest: -

*For this AGM and any future AGM, it is incumbent upon the Club Secretary, on behalf of the Management Committee, to publish the minutes of said meetings no later than 60 days after the meeting is held.*

A vote was taken.

**The proposal was accepted unanimously.**

#### **11. To Vote on Proposal 3 – Management Committee Structure**

This proposal was withdrawn by the proposers before the AGM. The Chairman did explain that social committee would be set up and would be supported by himself, the Secretary, and the management committee.

#### **12. Any Other Business**

The first question enquired as to either or not parents or guardians of junior members are allowed to vote on the junior's behalf. It is believed that it is not allowed. It was stated that there is nothing in the constitution that says either way, tennis allows it at their sectional AGM. This is something to be discussed by the MC going forward.

A notice was given out regarding a St Georges Day fundraiser from 4pm on 23<sup>rd</sup> April with food being sold. This was being provided to the club free of charge by a social member.

The next issue raised was regarding the trees that were removed a couple of years ago. It was asked when they would be replaced or what the plans were.

The Chairman explained that the neighbouring site developers had the trees taken down before they had planning permission for the site to assist with that process. The club has held fire in replacing them as it is believed once the site development starts any trees planted might have issues if building work commenced. The MC were looking at native shrubs to replace the trees but this has slipped. The MC will take this forward.

A further query was asked as to why the neighbouring develops dictate what we do on our land and that they should have to accommodate us. The Chairman believed we were not being dictated to but merely did not want to put plants in that might have issues if building work commenced.

A point was raised that Squash only had 3 representatives on the MC and what would happen. The Chairman explained that the Squash committee would fill the vacancy with a person of their choice who would join the committee with immediate effect.

A final word was given by Neil who gave thanks from the floor to the committee and reiterated that sections need to continue to work together. He went on to highlight the works carried out around the club conducted by both him and others voluntarily, these works include recladding, clearing of rubbish and improving drainage around the squash courts. He has also attended meetings at the club regarding the drainage. He also noted the amount of work Geoff Weaver has done around the club.

The club notes and gives thanks to Neil and Geoff for their efforts.

Meeting closed at 22:18hrs.