



Royal Tunbridge Wells Croquet Club

Minutes of the AGM held on 9 March 2024

Present

Jon Diamond (Chair), Dave Grimshaw, John Greenwood, Trevor Houghton-Berry, Paul Gamba, Peter Player, Derek Crocombe, Dan Crocombe, Jack Ingle, David Pratt, Kate Sander, Michael Sander, John Moore, Jeff Chapman, Angela Chapman, Mike Gentry, Derek Owens, Denis Cruse, Ruth Wallwork, Christine Tomkins, Barney Lewis, Jim Flanagan & Simon Bartley.

The AGM was declared quorate.

1. Apologies for absence

Liz Strang, Victoria Moll, Chris Barham, Carole Mackenzie, Mike Mackenzie, Adrian Phillips, Sheila Phillips & Tim Luke

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous AGM held on the 11 February 2023 were approved. There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's Report

Jon Diamond presented his report for 2023.

Jon confirmed his retirement as chairman and thanked the past committee members for their support.

Over the years of chairmanship from 2007, the club membership has grown from 45 to the current 85. The club's reserves have increased and we are in a good financial position to replace our mower.

The club facilities have been upgraded and we have additional sets of hoops and balls that allow the club to put on external events.

He thanked Ray Kemp, our groundsman, for his excellent work on the lawns which enabled us to host heats of the World Golf Croquet championships in 2019.

Once again the club had only limited success in the SECF competitions although we did win the SECF (now CSE) A (AC) league.

4. Treasurer's Report & Approval of Accounts

Dave Grimshaw presented his report for 2023.

Dave started by thanking Richard Mann for his assistance in the handing over the role of Treasurer and to John Timmis for preparing the accounts.

Dave referred the AGM to the report that he had sent out with the statement of accounts. He noted that the financial position of the club was sound although he anticipated he might need to propose an increase in the membership fees for 2025.

After a couple of queries from the floor of the AGM, the Statement of Accounts was unanimously approved by the meeting.

5. Lawn & Facilities Maintenance

Jeff Chapman gave his report on the club facilities.

He thanked David Pratt for all his assistance with work on the club house.

Jeff reported that Ray Kemp was bringing on a new groundsman with a view to him taking over from him when he retires in the next two or three years.

The lawns are being extensively renovated for the coming season with deep scarification, spiking and reseeding. Ray has been working on levelling the boundaries of the lawn.

6. Tournaments, Competitions and Events

The club hosted three tournaments in 2023, one GC one-day tournament and two AC weekend tournaments. Jon Diamond will manage all three tournaments in 2024 with Mike Gentry taking over management of the GC tournament in 2025 and volunteers requested to take over the future management of the AC tournaments.

Jon Diamond encouraged all members to enter the club competitions and make themselves available for CSE leagues and competitions.

Mike Gentry spoke about external GC tournaments, that there were classes of events for different handicap ranges so all could find good, friendly competition.

Paul Gamba managed the private events and will do so again this year. Jon Diamond encouraged all to consider volunteering to help run these events.

7. Coaching

The club won't be running any formal AC or GC coaching programmes, but the CA Academy will, again, be running courses which are available to club members at a reduced cost. Some of the coaching will be at RTWCC, the rest at Southwick.

Jon Diamond and Chris Barham will be holding some club coaching sessions through the year. Rob Fulford has kindly agreed to run a couple of AC coaching sessions in 2024.

Jon Diamond will be running two, possibly three, Introduction to Croquet courses which members are encouraged to mention to friends and family.

8. Subscriptions for 2024 membership

The meeting approved, unanimously, the Committee's recommendation that all subscriptions remain unchanged and the green fees be increased a little as follows:

Full membership: first year £50 and £35 after 31 August, subsequent years £100.

Student, Second Club and Social memberships £35.

Corporate memberships at the committee's discretion, but not less than £100.

Green Fees (for a maximum of 3 sessions/days) half day session £7, full day £10.

9. Election of Honorary Officers, Committee and Trustees

The AGM unanimously elected the following nominated trustees, honorary officers and committee members with immediate effect.

Trustee nominations

Jon Diamond (proposer John Greenwood)

David Grimshaw (proposer John Greenwood)

Honorary Officer nominations

David Grimshaw (Treasurer) (proposer Jon Diamond, seconder John Greenwood)

John Greenwood (Secretary) (proposer Kate Sander, seconder Paul Gamba)

Note: there is no nomination for Chairman.

Committee Member nominations

Chris Barham (proposers Jon Diamond & John Greenwood)
Jeff Chapman (proposers Jon Diamond & John Greenwood)
Paul Gamba (proposers Jon Diamond & John Greenwood)
Kate Sander (proposers Jon Diamond & John Greenwood)
Ruth Wallwork (proposers Jon Diamond & John Greenwood)
Mike Gentry (proposers Kate Sander & Dave Grimshaw)

10. Resolutions

1. Election of Honorary Life Member
Jon Diamond
Agreed unanimously.

Following the election of Jon as Honorary Life Member, John Greenwood presented Jon with a glass bowl to mark his election and with his CA Diploma, awarded for his many years' service to the club.

2. Resolution 1
"That the club adopts the new Club constitution as proposed by the committee."

After a brief introduction by Dave Grimshaw, the meeting voted unanimously to adopt the proposed new constitution.

3. Resolution 2
"That from 2025 onward the membership fees agreed by the committee are adequate to cover all costs of running the club as well as future contingencies." (Mike Mackenzie).

After some discussion, the resolution was defeated 2 votes for, 20 votes against and 1 abstention.

11. Presentation of trophies

Jon Diamond announced the trophies winners of the 2023 season and presented them to the winners attending the AGM (*).

Association

Spa Salver: Thomas Cullis

Lustau Cup: Thomas Cullis

Lewis Shield: Barney Lewis*

Calverley Cup: Tim Luke

Howell Cup: Jack Ingle*

Miriam Reader Memorial Doubles: John Greenwood* & Peter Player*

Golf

Hunter Plate: Dan Crocombe*

Kitching Rose Bowl: David Pratt*

High Bisquers: David Grimshaw*

Handicap Doubles: Dan Crocombe* & David Grimshaw*

Fraser Tankard (Teams): Carolyn Gunstone + team

New Members Competitions

The winners of both the AC and GC New Members competitions was Jason Ambers.

12. Any Other Business

Derek Crocombe said he will stand down as the organiser of the Fraser Tankard club GC team competitions so a new manager would be needed.

There was a discussion on the continued minor vandalism at the club. Particularly worrying was the recent scattering of metal items on the lawns. The possibility of installing CCTV was mentioned. The committee will consider the proposal.

12. Closing of the meeting

The meeting was closed at 12.25pm.

John Greenwood
Honorary Secretary

David Grimshaw
Honorary Treasurer