

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BUSHY PARK SPORTS CLUB

DATE 11th December 2023

TIME 7:30pm

VENUE BPSC Pavilion

Chair Richard Roberts (RR)

Trustees in Attendance Brian Smith (BS, Treasurer); Maria Green (MG)

Attendees (16)

Apologies for absence

Christopher Darling (Tennis), Bert Clayton (Tennis), David Bonney (Tennis), Mike Ruddick (Trustee), Roy Eglinton (Tennis), Philippa Godden (Tennis).

Minutes of the 2022 AGM

The Minutes accepted & there were no comments.

Financial and report of the trustees 2022/23

Brian Smith (BS) gave a breakdown of the catering company accounts which have been filed & showed a profit of £3,909.

The Charity accounts were unavailable to share at the meeting, the first draft having been received by BS at 4.00pm this afternoon (11 December). The delay has been caused by NPL Youth Football unable to submit their finalised accounts to the Charity until November 2023.

Turnover for 2022/23 was £399.6k with a net profit of £16.3k. These figures included a one-off £25,000 contribution covering donations, fundraising and grants. Youth Football and Cricket both made a loss, Tennis and Hockey made positive contributions the other sections broke even. Accounts are to be reviewed by the independent examiner following completion.

BS stated that following the section fee meeting in November 2022 the overall anticipated financial targets had been achieved.

BS explained that for the current year to date i.e. the nine months ending November 2023 the Charity has made a loss of £14,000. Losses are attributed to the following:

- Reduced income from fundraising and donations & the loss of income from ESG holiday camps = £5k
- Membership reductions from the loss of the Hockey section and reduced income from senior football = £4k
- Increased costs including a 50% increase in the rent paid to Royal Parks (£3-4k increase) and larger than anticipated cost increases in utilities fees by approximately £4k to November 2023.

BS expressed concern about the sustainability of the Charity if it continues to operate at a loss. Section Fees will need to be reviewed once the budget for 2024/25 has been agreed by the Trustee Board.

If sections do not pay their fees on a timely basis, they may need to be written off which would also lead to a recalculation of section fees.

There are reserves but a continued loss is not sustainable for the Charity. It is not proposed to increase membership fees for 2024/25 but it is a possibility for 2025/26.

BS suggested that the Charity needs to undertake fundraising activities and look to make bids for grants.

Roger Clarke (RC) asked if the accounts for 2021/22 had been submitted. BS said they had but the submission was 122 days late. The auditor took time to sign-off the accounts as they had not seen the section accounts, and some were incomplete.

Mel Read (MR) asked about the Charity's gift aid declaration and the anticipated income it would produce – BS said he was unable to give a figure as the information supplied to by the sections was incomplete resulting in the gift aid claim process being problematic. It was hoped the 2021/22 claim would be submitted over Christmas period. Mel (MR) asked if the gift aid income could contribute towards any losses? BS said that once gift aid had been submitted for 2021/22, the amount received should be earmarked for specific projects as agreed by the trustees, as an example to improve the Club House buildings and facilities.

Richard Roberts (RR) said that in a recent meeting with the Royal Parks Estates Manager, Katherine Drew, and Bushy Park Manager Phil the club was commended for its'

achievements in providing a very inclusive sports offering and in this respect was far ahead of other clubs in the park.

RR said that great progress had been made on the cricket nets development project which will provide enhanced facilities for both male and female cricket. Richard asked the meeting to add comments of support for the planning application which can be found on the LBRuT planning portal.

Election of Trustees

The following trustees will continue in post as they are currently in the middle of their term of election:

Brian Smith, Maria Green & Mike Ruddick

New Trustees:

Roger Clarke - current tennis section chair (nominated by Sue Lloyd, seconded by Steve Albrecht)

James MacLeod – senior football chair (nominated by Anita Kane, seconded by Maria Green)

Naz Walji – co-opted onto the trustee board (nominated by Richard Roberts, seconded by Brian Smith)

Richard Roberts stood down as Chair of the Trustee Board in accordance with the club constitution.

Ruth Ursell has stepped down from the Trustee Board but will remain as the project co-ordinator for the cricket nets development project.

Sue Lloyd and Michael Bailey have resigned from the Trustee Board for personal reasons.

AOB

George Symm gave a vote of thanks to Richard for all his hard work. Natalie Raja BPG CC also thanked Richard Roberts for all his hard work and support of women and girls' cricket.

Natalie Raja read out the following e-mail of thanks from David Bonney, member of the Tennis Section.

“I would like to thank Richard for the years that he has worked as chair, transitioning the club into a charity, managing a very difficult financial situation over the first few years, and gradually building up the trustee base. In particular he has significantly improved our financial prospects by building the great team now running the commercial Pavillion activities”

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.