

Minutes of the 18th Annual General Meeting

East Grinstead Sports Club Ltd (Charity Company Limited by Guarantee)

Thursday 17th September 2020 – 4.00pm

Chairman of the Board of Trustees – Gary Needle

Board of Trustees – Kevin Ellis (Treasurer), Richard Leman, Rebecca Thornley-Gibson, Lee Farren, George Christopherson, Chris Gregory, Nigel Fish.

Administrator – Fiona Humphreys

1. Attendance & Apologies for Absence

Members Present : Gary Needle, Kevin Ellis, Rebecca Thornley-Gibson, Lee Farren, George Christopherson, Chris Gregory, Andy Hayes (Cricket & Table Tennis), Andy Polley (Netball), Jan Johnson (Netball), Jackie Burditt (Badminton), Dave Thomson (Hockey), Michelle Chappell, Steve Phillips (Football), Gavin Lisle (Wave).

Apologies for Absence

Richard Leman, Nigel Fish, David Eves, Arthur Rackstraw (all by proxy of Gary Needle). Kristian Hunt and Geoff Border (by proxy of Andy Hayes). John & Lottie Gregory-Young (by proxy of Chris Gregory). Wes Jackson (by proxy of Dave Thomson).

The Companies Articles of Association states that 20 members present, or by proxy, and entitled to vote constitutes a quorum. This was met.

GN warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Gavin Lisle from Wave for attending.

GN paid tribute to Arthur Rackstraw, Trustee, who sadly passed-away on 7th September after a short illness. Arthur was a member of the club from the mid 1960's when he played for all XI's and captained 2's, 3's and Vets. He took up umpiring for a while before moving to Nottingham to support the 1's when they played in the Midlands. Arthur project managed the building of the original squash courts and the building of the Clubhouse and Sports Hall.

With this wealth of knowledge Arthur became a Trustee at the last AGM and was instrumental in obtaining planning permission for the new hockey floodlights.

Arthur has left an indelible mark at the club and will be greatly missed.

Chris Gregory and others will be working together to commemorate Arthur's life with a suitable legacy.

2. Approval of minutes from 2019 AGM

A copy of the Minutes of the last AGM held on 26th September 2019 had been circulated prior to the meeting. The minutes were formally approved by all members as a true and accurate record of the meeting with no objections. There were no matters arising.

3. Annual Accounts to 30th September 2019

GN said that the MSDC grant awarded in 2019 had been spent wisely and all projects were completed just before the pandemic hit. Areas that have been improved include - gym changing rooms, reception area, gym equipment, LED lighting around the building, café/bar area, car park, children's area and CCTV. A separate grant was received by the Cricket section from MSDC to improve drainage of the pitch and to buy some equipment.

KE said that in the year ending 30th September 19, club assets grew by £96k, most of which came about through the gifting of land from a neighbour. KE thanked the clubs for continuing to grow their sinking funds by £28k, most of which came from the Hockey section. KE explained that the MSDC grant awarded last year covered 85% of agreed project costs and the charity found the other 15% from funds. Another major project that was completed this year was new LED floodlighting for the hockey pitch. The Hockey Club invested £40k into the project from their sinking fund and will gradually be repaid through reduced maintenance costs and utility costs.

There were no questions from the floor and the accounts were adopted unanimously.

4. Election of Committee members

GN said that due to rotation rules, it was necessary for himself, Lee Farren and George Christopherson to stand down, but that they were all happy to stand again for election. All three Trustees were appointed (Andy Hayes proposed and Steve Phillips seconded).

GN said that he was delighted to introduce Michelle Chappell for election as she has a wealth of commercial experience. Michelle said that she had been coming to the club for 8 years with her children and was happy to use her skills and experience for the good of the charity. Michelle was duly elected (Chris Gregory proposed and Lee Farren seconded).

GN said that new Trustees would be welcomed in the coming year.

Jackie Burditt asked if it might be possible to hold next year's AGM earlier in the year as the accounting period runs 1st October to 31st September and it felt like we were reviewing old information. GN said that he would defer this matter to the Board.

This item closed the formal part of the meeting and GN invited people to take part in a Questions & Answers session with the help of Gavin Lisle from Wave.

5. Any Other Business

GN thanked Gavin Lisle and Wave staff for doing a sterling job in very difficult circumstances this year. All outdoor sports are up and running now.

KE is spending a great deal of time and effort in order to establish a business model going forward, so that overheads are apportioned fairly at club level.

Gavin Lisle thanked all clubs for their cooperation during this stressful period. He said that Wave was working hard to maximise revenue by filling any empty time slots indoors and on the 3G pitch. He said that he was working with each sport and their Governing Body guidelines and over-arching Government guidance to bring back sports safely. He said that the back-drop is that approximately 60% of leisure centres in Britain will be closing for good before Christmas without support packages from the Government.

LF said that the Operations Working Group, formed at the start of the pandemic, had facilitated good working partnerships between the sports and a “can do” attitude.

KE said that Wave needed to prioritise their efforts on the gym with their reduced staffing levels and said that it would be the responsibility of the clubs to cover overheads going forward as well as their own individual facility costs.

Andy Hayes said that the Wave staff had been helpful and upbeat throughout the pandemic and he thanked them on behalf of the Cricket section. Steve Phillips seconded this vote of thanks and said that Matt, Gavin and Natalia had all gone above and beyond what was expected.

Andy Hayes asked if there might be some potential for EGSC to absorb new bookings if other leisure centres in the area were sadly closing down. Gavin Lisle said that the 3G pitch is completely booked out during the evening slots and that they were growing gym memberships steadily. He said that we are clearly the best sports facility in Mid Sussex and wanted EGSC to be a hub for excellence.

KE said that planning permission was being considered by MSDC for a change of use on Dave’s Field to sports and that we were hopeful for good news to extend our junior football facilities. The club has been contacted regarding new sports, including paddle tennis, tape ball cricket and pickle ball.

Andy Polley queried whether spectators could watch netball matches taking place in the hall in October and there was some discussion around distancing and track and trace apps. Gavin Lisle and Andy Polley agreed to discuss issues away from the AGM.

The meeting closed at 4.45pm.

GN again thanked everyone for all their efforts to date, for attending the AGM, and for everything they would continue to do to facilitate sporting activity.