

Minutes of the 19th Annual General Meeting

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

Thursday 22nd July 2021 – 7.00pm

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, Michelle Chappell.

Administrator – Fiona Humphreys

1. Attendance & Apologies for Absence

Members Present: Gary Needle, Kevin Ellis, Lee Farren, Nigel Fish, Michelle Chapell, Chris Gregory, Andy Hayes (Cricket & Table Tennis), Kristian Hunt (Cricket), Dave Thomson (Hockey), Roger Hanspal, Alan Bailey, Duncan Kerr (Wave), Fiona Humphreys.

Apologies for Absence

Richard Leman, Rebecca Thornley-Gibson, George Christopherson (by proxy of Gary Needle). Phil Coote, Carolyn Burchell, Donna Sadler, Katie Wood, Wes Jackson, Julian Mogg, Mike Lewis (by proxy of Chris Gregory).

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 everyone for giving up their time to attend.

2. Approval of minutes from 2020 AGM

A copy of the Minutes of the last AGM held on 17th September 2020 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.

GN said that we had been asked at last year's AGM if future meetings could be held earlier in the year. Due to the way that accounts are produced, audited, and approved, KE said that July was probably the earliest that we could hold meetings. GN thanked KE for facilitating an earlier date this year.

3. Annual Accounts to 30th September 2020

GN said that the last 18 months had been a period like no other before. The Annual Accounts included a long period of closure due to the pandemic. However, he said that key actions had been taken – to maintain facilities, to apply for grant funding, and to facilitate the safe reintroduction of sports.

The MSDC grant for £97k, awarded in 2018, had been spent wisely and all projects were completed just before the pandemic hit. Areas improved include - gym changing rooms, reception area, gym equipment, LED lighting around the building, café/bar area, car park, children's area, and CCTV. There was significant investment in the club when the Hockey Club floodlights were replaced in December 2019. The benefit will be reduced utility bills and maintenance costs in the future.

GN said that one unexpected outcome of the pandemic had been the improvement of communications between the affiliated clubs through regular operational zoom meetings. He said that critical decisions were made in collaboration and offered thanks to Duncan and the Wave team, the Chairs and members of the affiliated clubs and the Trustees of EGSC for their diligence over the last 18 months. He said that the Charity had managed to stay afloat, mitigating losses with grants.

GN said that the Charity had been successful in obtaining planning permission to enable football to be played on Dave's Field. Although the Neighbours' Group were largely opposed to the decision, they were consulted with properly, and the aim was to foster good relationship with neighbours going forward.

GN said that it was brilliant to see so many sports being played at the club again and thanked everyone for their efforts to get us to this point.

KE said that all in all the financial state of the club was better than could have been expected. Net assets fell by just over £37k over financial year to 30 September 2020. Total income was £219k of which £106k was grant funding for restricted expenditure, £49k was donations, and £52k was rental income and affiliation fees.

Wave paid rent until June 2020, at which point we stopped issuing invoices. The Charity has just started collecting rent again. The suspension of rent will impact upon this year's accounts.

KE said that £256k had been spent during the year to 30 September 2020, mainly on work under the MSDC grant and the hockey lights, with a £28k depreciation charge. Ongoing insurance payments amounted to around £11k and there had been some leaks in the roof to mend.

The sinking funds collectively amount to £64k, substantially less than the year before but this was due to the Hockey sinking fund being reduced by the LED light project. KE said that it is important for the sinking funds to be built back up over the next 5 years. At some point the 3G pitch will need to be replaced at a cost circa £200k.

Andy Hayes asked what the Charity owed in loans, as it might be necessary to take out a large loan in the future for a project like the 3G pitch. KE said that all loans were due to be paid back last year. In 2017, Dave Brown agreed to defer his loan to the Charity. £50k is still owed but monies are sitting in reserves should the loan be called in.

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

GN thanked KE and the Finance Committee for their work through the last year. KE said that unless there were objections, RPD would be appointed again to audit this year's accounts.

4. Election of Committee members

GN said that due to rotation rules, it was necessary for Rebecca Thornley-Gibson, Richard Leman and Kevin Ellis to stand down, but that they were all happy to stand again for election. All three Trustees were reappointed unanimously.

GN said that new Trustees were welcomed and that it would be advantageous if there could be more diversity on the Board.

GN said that KE would be standing down as trustees and treasurer at the next AGM, after 12 years in the role. GN intends to step down as Chair next year, but is likely to be available for re-election as a Trustee. He said that there is, therefore, the need for a succession plan. GN is likely to be available for re-election

5. Current Business

GN thanked Duncan Kerr, Gavin Lisle and the Wave team for doing a sterling job in very difficult circumstances this year. GN invited Duncan to share his thoughts.

DK said that the pandemic had caused horrendous problems for his organisation. Each lockdown had been difficult to handle due to the changing nature of restrictions. Although Wave are looking forward to the further easing of distancing measures, the next phase would be challenging as it was very difficult to recruit experienced staff and there was significant threat due to staff needing to self-isolate. DK said that they were aiming to open the bar each night and to operate a full staff rota. He asked for patience from club members during the next phase.

All present thanked DK and the Wave team for the hard work and flexibility in a very challenging working environment.

Kristian Hunt thanked Wave and asked if there was a contingency plan should Wave be forced to close the club due to staff isolating because of notifications through the NHS app. DK said that Wave would endeavour to operate core hours and move staff around the Wave estate if crisis hit. LF said that the Operational Group were meeting on Tuesday and would discuss the need for a contingency plan.

There was a short discussion about the need to establish a maintenance list with Mick (Groundsman) and Gavin Lisle going forward. Kristian Hunt said that important economies of scale could be achieved through a more coordinated approach.

6. Any Other Business

Andy Hayes asked if there had been any new approaches from sports clubs in the area for club facilities. Saint Hill Table Tennis Club is still thinking about becoming an affiliated member, but this is dependent on restrictions being eased so that play can resume as before. Basketball and Lacrosse bookings are healthy, but no discussion around further affiliated clubs at this time.

GN said that NF had been liaising with local schools to encourage usage during off peak times.

Alan Bailey (Neighbour) asked if it was possible for him and other neighbours to receive advance notification of events that would have an impact on parking in and around the club. FH said that she would arrange for this information to be shared.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

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.