**Minutes of Sweffling Tennis Club AGM**

**27th February 2023**

**Present:**

Steve Ashurst, Chair; Lynda Newson, Treasurer; Sue Rusack, Secretary; Caroline Stanley, Lucy Rickett, Beth Franklin, Hilary Havard, Hugh Kemp, Deborah Dann, Anthony Bailey.

**Apologies:**

Jonathan Franklin, Katie and Geoffrey Boult, David and Melissa Robertson, Sarah Cole, Nick and Jeannie Barker, Willy Rickett.

**Minutes** from the 2022 AGM had been circulated and read. As there were no matters arising, these were passed as fair and accurate by Hugh Kemp and seconded by Caroline Stanley.

**Accounts** were drawn up by Lynda Newson and circulated prior to the meeting.

Steve noted that the unpresented cheque for £2300.00 now needs to be included in the annual Tennis Club bank/building society balance.

The higher subscriptions in 2021 were due to 2 x lifetime memberships and some temporary memberships due to Covid.

The lower subscription receipts in 2022 was partly caused by the delay in collection due to the necessary change in the club’s banking arrangements, from HSBC to Lloyds.

The new court surfacing was also a factor, and this together with the banking issues, prevented the club from promoting new membership.

The club is delighted that after all the costs incurred in 2022, there is still £4,407 in the accounts.

Lynda is arranging for the accounts to be verified. The cost will be £ 25.00.

Accounts accepted. Proposed Beth Franklin. Seconded Hugh Kemp.

**Officers Reports**

Sue Rusack, Secretary, commented that 2022 was a year of two halves, with the court and bank account out of action for much of the early season, and then the long hot summer which also impacted the new court surface, play didn’t start in earnest until the autumn.

Sue thanked Steve for all the work he had put in on behalf of the club to get the court re-surfaced. It was commented on how good the court looks and how great it is to play on.

The two main users - The Martinas (Sundays) and The Rusty Rackets (Mondays) have both had a good year with regular games, and the latter group having a few coaching sessions.

Steve, Chairman, is delighted with how good the court looks. His concern is keeping the court in good condition, even a re-paint from time to time is very expensive, so we need to preserve the surface. Steve will talk with the Townlands Trust about trimming back the trees. Steve also feels that we should encourage a younger membership, the Club has a significant senior demographic and in order to keep going we need to attract new and more youthful members.

**Election of Officers**

All officers were re-elected for the coming year 23-24.

Proposed Hilary Havard, seconded Caroline Stanley.

The officers ask if others will consider taking over in future years as they have all served on the committee for some time. Steve felt important to engage new, younger people onto the committee with fresh ideas in order to encourage a younger membership.

**Subscriptions and Membership Structure**

After discussion it was decided to keep all the subs the same for the forthcoming year. To encourage new members the joining fee will be discontinued.

Standing orders are encouraged and the annual renewal date remains as 1st June.

**Court Maintenance**

This was touched upon by Steve in his Chairman’s report.

The trees will be trimmed around the perimeter. The court gutter and edges need to have weed killer applied periodically. There will be some dates for court maintenance during the year – all volunteers are welcome. The first session will be early April, date to be circulated, for weeding and clearing round the edges.

**Promotion of Club**

Little was done in 2022 for reasons previously stated, so this year we need to increase our membership and if possible, lower the age demographic.

Steve will contact Airbnb to arrange for tennis court to be promoted in the local properties.

Sue will put notices on all local village websites and in parish magazines.

Posters and flyers can be printed for display and distribution.

Any other ideas appreciated.

**Start of the season BBQ**

2nd June 2023, at 5 pm. Sue will arrange a coaching session for children on the day. BBQ details will be circulated in May.

Discussions regarding Club Nights and coaching often take place at the BBQ.

**AOB.** There was no AOB and the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.