

MINUTES - Grantham Squash and Fitness Centre, 62nd AGM, 12th October 2022.

Apologies - James Truman, Mandy Knowlton-Rayner.

Minutes - of 61st AGM have been published and distributed.

Proposed as a true record by Peter Berry. Seconded Damian McEntegart.

Matters Arising - None.

Chairman's Report - David Goodridge.

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, our loyal members for their continued support.

Many thanks to our morning staff, Paul, Pauline and Jackie, our bar staff - Jo, Natalie, Sabrina, Alison, Claire, Pam, Christelle and Jane - who retired last year.

A big thank you to our Team Captains for running and organising their teams. Damian & Alison for arranging and running the monthly Quiz. Volunteers John Baldwin, Dave Locking, Helen Rees and the irreplaceable Vic Skier. Coaching staff involved with running the Junior Development program - Nigel & Rae Truman as well as Helen Rees and Colin Gibson, which has really been successful. Pacie for managing the gym, as well as my fellow Committee members.

Finally, to the outgoing club managers Keith Paddock and Sonya Toulson a big thankyou and at this point I would like to invite our Club President - Peter Sears to say a few words . . .

Peter Sears reflected back to the year 2000 when the club was in crisis and £80,000 in debt. Paul Elliott became chairman and prevented the sale of the club to cover the debt. With Keith's shrewd negotiations along with Sonya's balanced and continued support they were able to turn the club round. Peter voiced his gratitude for the years of loyalty and commitment and wished them both a long and happy retirement. He presented them both with items of cut glass crystal in appreciation of their loyal service to the club, supported by members present, before handing back to Dave.

David then went on to discuss the improvements made within the club.

Replacement of key pieces of gym equipment, along with new ceiling and lighting as well as air conditioning units. Major refurbishment to both Courts 1 & 2 including new floor on court 2, as well as maintenance throughout the club for the benefit of our members. I trust all members are happy with the improvements being made and it is our intention that this program will continue over the coming year (subject to grants and clubs finances) including a Lift (giving access to all) as well as Electric Charging Points (x4).

For me though the most exciting and much needed forthcoming project is the social side, headed by Sarah Brown, with the task of promoting and improving social events, functions, kitchen and bar usage etc., and finally the continued push on Junior Development lead by Nigel, Helen, Rae and Colin introducing juniors to playing league games and becoming an integral part of our club.

Thank you.

Treasurer's / Secretary's Report - Keith Paddock.

Keith reported that this was his last year as secretary and treasurer after more than 20 years and boy what year. When Sonya and I started working together, the club had debts to the bank of over £75k and we had to pay for our beer before delivery. We couldn't afford to replace the hand-dryer in the men's changing rooms and Sonya had to wait for her wages.

However, in the past financial year Bar takings up £42k, Lights up £8k, subscriptions up £18k and Slimming World who are new to the club bring in £4.5k. Membership numbers are up to 530 (an increase of 86 - primarily Squash / Racketball).

The only thing that was down was Covid grants £59k. All of these results reflect the fact that was a year of recovery from COVID-19. Without the tremendous support of our members and government grants we may have not got through the pandemic.

There are of course concerns shared by everyone for cost of living and the cost of running the club will increase in the months ahead. Again, we are fortunate to have gas prices fixed until 2024 and sufficient credit on electricity to ease us through this winter. There are however, significant increase in wages and materials, in fact in virtually all aspects of running the club. The club is also aware of the need to save for a new roof within the next 10-15 years.

During my 20 odd years, I have enjoyed working with 6 Chairmen, Paul Elliott, Peter Sears, William Murdoch, Simon Loveridge, John Baldwin, and recently David Goodridge, and I know all them appreciated the contribution made by Sonya towards the smooth running and the success of the club as indeed do I.

We have over the past 20 years spent close on half a million pounds on improving facilities. This includes new bar area and carpets, men's and ladies showers and toilets, new upstairs toilets, boilers and central heating. The upstairs gym, 5 air conditioning units, LED lighting with PIR's, court refurbishments and lighting as well as a fully equipped manned gymnasium. Of course the club continues to benefit from solar panels as well as being a member of CASC. I no longer have access to the accounts detailing future income and expenditure but no doubt will be covered later. I would like to say that I'm very proud of the clubs achievements during my time here and I would like to say that with the bank balance of £40K will help towards any future projects. This is something I will leave to others to present to you. Thank you.

Approval of Accounts.

Proposed Keith Paddock, Seconded Peter Berry.

Approval of Accountants.

As Jayze retired from doing our accounts earlier in the year, it was agreed (in committee) that Burgins (of Grantham) would become the clubs accountants.

Squash Report - Mark Oakes.

See Squash notice board for copy of report.

Peter Sears (President) raised the point that he was NOT aware of the clubs 1st teams fantastic achievements - Winning Notts league. He feels that our club is missing a golden opportunity promoting it's achievements, and any future success must be advertised via all social media stream's available.

Election of Committee.

Again, as in previous years, current Committee was re-elected 'en bloc'.
Proposed Peter Sears, Seconded Martin Elliott.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 19:27.