

# MINUTES OF TENNIS SUSSEX ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7.30pm

Via Video Conferencing

## THOSE PRESENT:

Elaine Philips (Angmering)	Rod Danes (Trustee)	Liz Foster (Badgers)
David Kislingbury (Chichester)	Vanessa Prosser (Chichester)	Libby Swaine (Chichester)
Rhys Hanger (Comptons)	Deana Nelson Smith (Crablands)	Grant Broadley (Crawley)
Tim Laine (Crawley)	Steve Godfrey (Devonshire Park)	Toby Lott (Hurstpierpoint)
Steve Bloomfield (Pav & Ave)	Kate Bloomfield (Pav & Ave)	Neil Moss (Pav & Ave)
Jemima Turner (Pav & Ave)	Paul Mitchell (Plumpton)	Simon Lindfield (Preston)
Annabel Trent (Preston)	Brenda Brady (Rye)	Jim Anderson (Seaford)
Brian Bodsworth (Seaford)	Stephen Day (Seaford)	Martin Carpenter (Southdown)
Jane Scampton (Storrington)	Urszula Tompsett (Tennis Café)	Christine Greenwood (The Green)
Gill Anderson (Weald)	Mick McCarron (Weald)	Carole Naunton (West Worthing)
William Naunton (West Worthing)	Colin Sweeney (West Worthing)	Carolyn Loveless (Wickwoods)
Liz Bartlett (TS Disability Co-Ordinator)	Nikki Palmer (TS Co-ordinator)	Phil Latham (TS Co-ordinator)
Keith Pullin (TS Performance Manager)	Amanda Atkins (Management Board)	Alison Cash (Management Board)
Anne Clark (Management Board)	Jean Cooke (Management Board)	Sue Foott (Management Board)
Julie Goldin (Management Board)	Julie Hobbs (Management Board)	Brian Kreel (Management Board)
Chris Neighbour (Management Board)	Steph Trill (Management Board)	Mandy Tyler (Management Board)

Minutes taken by: Jean Cooke (TS Secretary)

Anne Clark (TS Chair) opened the meeting at 7.35pm and welcomed everyone in attendance with an introduction in which she paid tribute to John Barton. A minute's silence was observed. AC explained that break-out rooms would not be used for voting as attendees would be relied upon to vote only if they were authorised to do so.

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Ken Pollock and Jo MacGovern

### 2. MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2021 / EGM 20 May 2021 / EGM 2 Aug 2021

The Minutes of the previous AGMs and EGMs were accepted. Proposed by Alison Cash; seconded by Steph Trill

### 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were none.

### 4. TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020/2021

Anne Clark thanked Steve Godfrey for his reminder that Dan Little had also achieved significant success and apologised for not including this in the Annual Report. The Annual Report was adopted, proposed by Mandy Tyler and seconded by Christine Greenwood

5. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE ACCOUNTS OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR 2020/21 AND THE REPORT ON CHECKS MADE

Anne Clark handed over to Mandy Tyler (Treasurer).

Mandy apologised for a couple of typos and reiterated Anne's comment that Tennis Sussex had had a good financial year, thanks in part to the pandemic. The Accounts were adopted by a majority vote. Proposed by Amanda Atkins and seconded by Chris Neighbour

6. TO ELECT A SUITABLE INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT TO COMPLETE THE CHECKS REQUIRED BY RULE 17.9

Mandy proposed remaining with Wilson Sandford. Proposed by Annabelle Trent and seconded by Steve Godfrey

7. TO DECIDE ON ANY RESOLUTION SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 12.4

Anne handed over to Jim Anderson (Rules) to speak on Item 7. Jim reminded the meeting that a lot of time had been spent on Rules over the past year with two EGMs and one forum specifically to discuss the Rules. He mentioned that the Resolutions were ones that had been requested by Clubs, rather than by the Rules Committee. He also reminded the Meeting that they needed to be accepted by more than a 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s majority. Jim talked through the Resolutions as follows:

Resolution 1: Currently Clubs have votes dependent on the number of courts and there are some 18 or 19 individuals with rights to vote. A comment had been made that the Management Board have too much influence with too many votes. It was originally suggested that there should be no individual votes but Rules Committee suggested that instead it should be proposed that the Management Board as a whole should have 3 votes only

Resolution 2: That nominations be reduced to only two from the MB, in line with large clubs

Resolution 7: That the Management Board should only have 3 votes

Jim invited comments. There was discussion over the issue of board members carrying unlimited liability (with the suggestion that this could be insured against); the amount of time that had been spent on amending the Rules (with the suggestion that the rules remain in place until Tennis Sussex become a CLG when the rules would need to be comprehensively amended); whether more votes should be given to Clubs rather than taking them away from members of the Management Board; and whether more should be done to increase attendance and engagement at the AGM by the 100+ registered clubs.

A vote was taken on Resolutions 1, 2 and 7. The vote was tied (5 abstentions) so was not carried because a 2/3rds majority was required in order to be adopted.

Resolution 3: Jim explained that this Resolution was proposed in order that Members might be given more time to consider documentation relating to the AGM and to extend the timescale for notice of an AGM. A vote was taken and was carried by a 68% majority.

Resolution 4: This was carried by a 72% majority

Resolution 5: This was carried by a 79% majority

Resolution 8: This was carried by a majority show of hands

Jim gave a public thanks to Rod Danes. Anne thanked Jim, Rod and Brian Kreel for all the work they had put into the Rules

## 8. ELECTION OF THOSE NOMINATED TO SERVE ON THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Anne introduced each new member that had been nominated and explained that there would be no need for a vote:

Martin Carpenter was elected as Chair

Mandy Tyler was elected as Treasurer

Brenda Brady was elected as Secretary. It was noted that Jean Cooke (current Secretary) would continue her involvement, acting as a Minute Taker during a handover period.

Additional Board Members that were elected were: Amanda Atkins, Alison Cash, Julie Goldin, Julie Hobbs, Brian Kreel, Anne Clark.

It was noted that Chris Neighbour remains as President and Steph Trill as LTA Councillor

## 9. TO DEAL WITH ANY SPECIAL MATTERS WHICH THE MANAGEMENT BOARD WISH TO BRING BEFORE THE MEMBERSHIP

Mandy Tyler (Treasurer) explained that the Board propose to move to become a CLG (Company Limited by Guarantee). Amongst other benefits, it would help towards attaining charitable status for the future which would bring opportunities for more funding sources and open tennis up to a wider group of participants. Other counties/associations are being encouraged to go this route. Mandy asked for any questions or comments.

In answer to a question from Gill Andersson about tax liability Mandy responded that CLGs are not for profit companies so there is no future tax liability unless TS had extensive trading activities. There was a question too about whether charities might lend money to clubs. Mandy responded that this could be included in the Articles of Association as part of the charitable purpose.

There was a show of hands to support progressing this further.

## 10. AOB

Christine Greenwood asked if anyone had had problems sourcing green and orange balls. Julie Hobbs agreed that many coaches are having this problem.

Anne recommended joining the Tennis Volunteer Facebook group and asking this as a general question.

Mick McCarron asked whether LTA insurance covers public liability. It was confirmed that it does. It was acknowledged that it was a different issue from the issue of the Management Board needing liability insurance. It was suggested that the Board should look for insurance.

Steph Trill thanked Sue Foott, Jean Cooke and Anne Clark for all that they had done for Tennis Sussex. Thanks were received from various members.

Anne mentioned that there were issues over the Seaford courts. Meetings are to be held with the LTA regional teams and the relevant people. Brian Bodsworth (Seaford) confirmed that a meeting with the LTA had already been set up.

There was then a presentation from the LTA setting out the LTA's vision and objectives. Unfortunately technology issues prevented the slides from being shared virtually and arrangements were to be made to make the presentation available through another means.

Anne Clark gave a short presentation on LTA Seniors. Again, the slides were unable to be shared.

Martin Carpenter joined the meeting late having been on a delayed flight. He thanked Anne for all that she had done for Tennis Sussex and said he was looking forward to joining the team.

There being no further official business the AGM was officially closed at 21.00

CHAIR .....

DATE .....