

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS CROQUET CLUB

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY JULY 3rd 2005 AT 1.45pm AT THE CLUBHOUSE

Present: Richard CLARK (Chairman), Mick BELCHAM (Secretary), Margaret BUCKLAND, Paul BUCKLAND, Pamela CLARK, Derek CROCOMBE, Jon DIAMOND, Theo FARLEY, John GREENWOOD, Derek HEATH, John HOBBS, Raquel LLORET, Dan LONG, Colin MABEY, Sue MABEY, Roger MORRIS, Pauline MORRIS, Hazel MOSS-DAVIS, Stan OXENBURY, Jane WARD, Brian WARE, Janice WARE.

Apologies for Absence: Chris BARHAM, Ray CARTER, Richard ELLIOTT, Frank GUNSTONE, Jean HEATH, Barney LEWIS, Ray MEECH, Chris STURDY, John TIMMIS and Selwyn WARD.

PRELIMINARY

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly new members and Hazel Moss-Davis (at her first meeting as an Honorary Member). Apologies from those unable to attend were listed.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Chairman summarised the background to the Lawn Improvement Project and the sources of funding that have made it possible. The club has been fortunate to receive £15,000 from outside bodies, all of its grant applications being rewarded with success. The generosity of members in achieving almost the same level from our own funds has been remarkable. He also highlighted that we are a registered CASC (Community Amateur Sports Club) that, effectively, gives us a tax benefit of 28% of any donations made to the Club by its members.

The project has thus far been a team effort. He specifically thanked Roger Morris for all his work in preparing the work specifications and contracts and for being prepared to act as Project Manager as the work proceeds, and the Secretary for his support. He also thanked the Committee for their efforts in ensuring that all the Club's "ordinary" activities continued to prosper.

A very considerable amount of work has been done learning from other clubs, from contractors, from the Sports Turf Research Institute, and from Internet sources before proceeding. It has been a steep learning curve for everyone involved.

Recent events include an agreement on a new 21 year lease, the extension of our grounds to include an area to the east of our current fence line, the agreement of the Borough Council to our use of the Bowling Green both later this year and for the whole of next season and the development of the necessary tendering and contractual documentation for both halves of the project – the lawns themselves and the irrigation system.

2. THE RESOLUTION AND MINUTES

The Chairman read out the Resolution on which voting was required as follows:

“This Meeting authorises the Committee to continue with the Lawn Improvement Project (as detailed in the Briefing Document distributed to all members prior to the Meeting) and to commit to the necessary expenditures and works on behalf of the Club (also as detailed in the Briefing Document)”

He also read out the proposed Minute that he hoped the Meeting would endorse, as follows:

“The Club at this Extraordinary General Meeting:

1. Formally approves the steps taken by the Committee to date in planning lawn refurbishment
2. Commits itself to supporting the Committee in pursuing the measures outlined in the Briefing Note including the extension of the Club’s lease, entering into contracts and disbursing the necessary amounts
3. Calls on members who pledged money in support of lawn improvement now to fulfil their indicated promises
4. Calls on others to respond with donations as they feel appropriate
5. Empowers the Committee to pursue the purchase of appropriate maintenance equipment and to report to the AGM on proposals to house such equipment
6. Supports applications for grant aid in respect of Item 5 above
7. Appoints Roger Morris as Project Manager with full authority to manage the contracts on its behalf
8. Agrees if necessary to accept offers of short term interest free loans from members to cover any temporary shortfall of funds.”

The Secretary identified 9 Members who were unable to attend the Meeting but who offered their full support. The only concern that had been expressed by any absent member was that we should avoid using the new lawns early in the season to avoid damage to the new grass. This will now be avoided because of the availability of the Bowling Green.

Questions were asked on the following topics:

- The Finances: the Chairman reiterated the details in the Briefing Document
- Responsibility for On-going Maintenance: we are evaluating the appropriateness of continuing with our current Groundsmen and approach. We do know that we must seek professional advice on maintenance schedules. We also feel that, with new lawns, we must make more effort to keep the banks and edges less overgrown.
- Permission to put Hoops in the Bowling Green: we are meeting with the Bowling Club to discuss.
- Closure of Bowling Club: this looks likely at the end of this season.
- Irrigation System Type: this will be an entirely buried ring main and will use pop-up sprinkler heads. The necessary piping and electrical cabling will be installed during lawn levelling.

Voting on the Resolution and the Minute then took place. **Both were passed unanimously with no abstentions.**

3. CLOSE

The Chairman then declared the Meeting closed.