

MOTE SQUASH CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on Friday 21st October 2016 @ 20:00.

Present: 32 Members.

Apologies for absence received from Joe Wheatley, Andy Baker.

1. Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Dave Verga, submitted his annual report, which had previously been circulated ahead of the meeting on 17th September with an addendum added on 13th October confirming Dave's decision not to stand for re-election at the AGM.

Please see appendix 1 below for a copy of the report and addendum.

2. Treasurer's Report

The Balance Sheet and P&L for the year ending 31st March (examined and approved by Alan Veal, Honorary Auditor) was submitted on 23rd September, with copies circulated at the AGM.

Members' questions about options to increase revenue and membership, the financial viability of the Kent Open tournament, club shirts, table tennis equipment, sponsorship etc. were answered with nothing left outstanding.

Following this discussion, the new committee will consider placing more emphasis on links with other sports clubs and local organisations, such as the scouts, in a bid to attract more junior members rather than relying solely on contacts with local schools.

3. Membership subscriptions for 2016/17

It was proposed by Dave Verga and seconded by Richard Coward that the subscription rates for the forthcoming year be unaltered.

After some debate among members about the wisdom of a possible increase to help club funds versus a loss of competitiveness compared with other sports clubs, the proposal to hold charges at the same level as the previous year was carried unanimously.

4. Election of Officers and Committee

After proposal and seconding, the following were elected unanimously:

Officers:

Chairman:	Alan Thatcher
Vice-Chairman	Steve Hazzard
Treasurer	Joe Wheatley
Secretary:	Richard Coward

Committee:

Club Captain:	Jason Goodayle
Membership Secretary	Lloyd Chinsen
Social Secretary	Bernie Dodd
Members	Claire Goodayle Tim Casey Paul Adams Jnr Andy Baker

N.B. Prior to this election, Dave Verga stood down as chairman after 10 years of service. Following some warm words of appreciation from Richard Coward and Alan Thatcher it was proposed that Dave should be granted honorary life membership in recognition for his service. This was seconded and approved unanimously.

5. Any Other Business

Questions were asked about the following:

- possible sources of funding for future developments and the latest discussions with the cricket club
- a credit card facility to purchase vouchers online
- ability to vary court heating
- refunds for cancelled courts

Answers were provided on the night, but the new committee will review again at the next available opportunity (i.e. first committee meeting now scheduled for 19.30 on Monday November 14th 2016.)

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.10

Appendix 1 - Chairman's Report & Addendum:

Chairman's Addendum (sent on 13th October)

Following on from my Chairman's report I now confirm that I will be standing down as your Chairman at the AGM on the 21st October.

I am pleased to report that Alan Thatcher will be standing as Chairman and I trust that you will give him your full support.

Mote Squash has come a long way in the last 10 years, the majority of this is due to the dedication of the Committee members that I have had the privilege of working with. I believe that a Committee member must be prepared to put themselves out for the club, attend the regular meetings and club functions.

Hoping to see a good showing of members for the AGM to welcome in your new Chairman (and enjoy half price drinks).

David Verga
CHAIRMAN

Chairman's Report 2016 (sent on 17th September)

You may have heard that it was my intention to stand down as your Chairman after completing 10 years in this position.

I will be proposing Steve Hazzard as my replacement. Steve and his family have been members of the Mote Squash Club for nearly 30 years.

Steve is due to semi-retire from work towards the middle of next year. With this in mind, Steve has asked me if I would mind continuing for a further year when he would then be in a better position to take over and give his full attention as your Club Chairman. With your approval as Mote members I would be prepared to stand for a further year.

I can report that the Club is financially buoyant, however we are about to have a 3 yearly rent review with our Landlords the Cricket club in the next few weeks which no doubt will see an increase in our rent.

It is still the Committee's recommendation that the annual membership fees remain unchanged for the coming year.

This year the AGM will take place on Friday 21st October commencing at 20.00 hours.

The AGM is your opportunity as a member to voice your opinion on the running of the Club and any suggestions that could improve things.

Once again drinks from the Bar will be half price from the commencement of the meeting.

The Club membership is slightly up on previous years in both Full and Junior members.

CLUB NEWS

This year's PSA World Challenger 10 Select Gaming Kent Open was packed for the eight consecutive days of the tournament.

Once again the Tournament attracted Professionals from all over the world with nationalities represented from Australia, Pakistan, Czech Republic, Bermuda and the Home Nations.

The final was a well fought match between Tom Ford and Joel Makin. Tom came through in the end beating Joel 8/11, 12/10, 11/13, 11/5, 11/9 in 83 minutes.

My personal thanks go to Alan Thatcher (Tournament Director) who was at the club from early morning to late at night organising and preparing reports on the evening's play.

Joe Wheatley as ever manned the kitchen every day, preparing various food delights for the players, referees and members.

There was also the committee and volunteer members who assisted with transportation and general assistance.

Without Sponsorship it would be difficult to provide such an excellent Tournament.

For this I wish to thank our sponsors Select Gaming, Shepherd Neame, Lashings, Craft Insure and Harrow Rackets.

There was also the in-club fund raising Quiz night, Navine's Barn door challenge and Newvy's curry night.

Planning is already underway for our 9th Tournament in 2017.

The 10th October was World Squash day. Mote Squash helped raise in excess of £500 for UNICEF.

Arrangements are being made for this year's event, details will be displayed on the notice boards.

In January the club held its first Graded Tournament organised by Joe Magor.

There were over 90 entrants which was well supported by Mote members.

When Alan Veal moved away, and apart from providing us with half price drinks for a month, he wished there to be a memorial board for members who have passed away. This has now been fitted above the Bar.

In July this year, one of the club's long standing members who had been a Club Captain, Geoff Leach passed away.

Our club Captain Jason Goodayle arranged this year's successful Club Championships.

The Finals were all arranged to be played on the evening of Friday 8th July and all preliminary rounds were finished for this day.

The Results were as follows:-

Men's main.....Darren Heathfield beat Ryan Duke

Men's Plate.....Richard Green beat Steve Brewer

Ladies Main.....Lily Taylor French beat Lotti Taylor French

Ladies Plate.....Annabel Williamson beat Judith Sloan

Junior MainBen Goodayle beat Joe Casey

Junior Plate.....Noah Hammett beat Annabel Williamson

Well done to all winners and runner ups and special thanks to Jason for keeping it all on track.

The Mote club Website can now be found on the online booking site.

SOCIAL NEWS

Unfortunately this year's Dinner Dance had to be cancelled due to a lack of response. As the Band had been booked it was decided to hold an evening at the Club with the Band and a Buffet. It was a good evening enjoyed by those who were able to attend.

Dave Ealham arranged a Golf Day at the Weald of Kent which was won by Cameron Green.

Bernard Dodd is looking to arrange a tour of the Shepherd Neame Brewery which I understand there will be some tasting involved.

Our next Quiz night will be on **Saturday 8th October** commencing at 19.30. Cost will be £7 per person which will include a fish and chip supper.

JUNIORS

This has been another year of sustained growth for the Mote Juniors. The club has now over 40 Junior members, our highest ever figure.

One of the significant steps towards the Junior's success was the appointment of Chris Tomlinson as club coach. Chris's involvement has attracted new members.

The monthly Mid-Kent Juniors league continues to flourish with more than 70 Children of varying ages competing at all levels from beginners up to county players.

Our thanks go to Claire and Jason Goodayle for their continued hard work that makes this the most successful innovation in Junior Squash.

Three teams of Juniors were fielded in the Kent leagues, the teams of which are managed by Jason, Chris Cox and Liane Morris; thanks go to all that assist in this work.

Several Juniors are now playing in the Club boxes and men's teams.

Juniors are the future lifeblood of a club so it would be good to see more members giving them their support.

MAINTENANCE

Once again the biggest expense to the club is the ongoing maintenance.

This past year court maintenance i.e. - floors, walls and minor repairs have cost in excess of £4K.

The renewal of the ceilings in the men's showers and the installation of a new extract system was also in excess of £4K.

The courts heating systems could be our next big expense. This is something we will be looking at carrying out in rotation over the next few years.

One of the ways we have been able to obtain additional funding is by selling advertising space on the court walls.

There is still space available, so should any member be interested or knows of a company that might be, please contact a member of the committee.

MOTE DEVELOPMENT

At present the proposed Development by our Landlords the Cricket club has collapsed. This follows a stalemate between the Cricket and Rugby clubs. The Cricket club continue to look for a development partner. The Rugby club are looking to move to their own ground within the next five years.

On behalf of the membership I wish to thank our Bar Staff, volunteer helpers and John Burbridge for preparing the monthly boxes.

My personal thanks goes to our committee : - Richard Coward, Joe Wheatley, Alan Thatcher, Jason and Claire Goodayle, Lloyd Chinsen, Bernie Dodd and Steve Hazzard. It's the committee's responsibility to see to the smooth running of the club which I am sure you would agree is the case.

Hoping to see you at the AGM?

DAVID VERGA
CHAIRMAN
SEPTEMBER 2016.