

**Minutes of Ipswich Sports Club AGM
held at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 11 June 2014**

Present:

Maggie Lipscombe (MLi), Geoff Sheldrake (GS), Vanessa Penn (VP), Keith Palmer (KP), Mark Ledger (MLe), Andy Yorke (AY), Tony Cookson, Kevin Brazier, Sylvia Khan, Clive Johnstone, Dick Partridge, Alec Livingstone, Kristian Day, Emily Ison, Claire Gould, Claire Webb, Andy Isles, Pippa Sheldrake, Wendy Palmer, Mike Downey, Adrian Howell, Alistair Livingstone, John Gordon, Debbie Sheldrake (minutes)

Apologies: None received

1. Welcome, introduction to the meeting and apologies for absence

MLi welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked them for attending. She advised that membership through the year has been between 1600 – 1650 and encouraged everyone to introduce one new member during the coming year. She thanked AY and his staff for their hard work and commitment and reported that since the appointment of James Biancu Andy has had more time to concentrate on attracting corporate memberships. She was very grateful to the volunteers who help the management team. The new caterers were thanked for their enthusiasm and for helping to make the club busier recently. She also thanked GS on behalf of the Council for his huge efforts during his time as Secretary.

MLi paid tribute to four members of the club who have passed away over the last year, Brian Hicks, Rob Wrinch, Tom Edgar and Elena Baltacha.

2. Minutes and matters arising from the minutes of the last AGM

GS advised that at the last AGM members asked Council to re-visit the constitution and to set up a hockey working group. GSf thanked KP, MLi and Mike Downey for their hard work in putting together the amendments to the constitution which would be up for adoption at the meeting. He also thanked Claire Webb and Judy Wright for their efforts on the hockey working group.

3. Club Constitution

KP advised that under the old Constitution a lot of power was vested in the Council and this has to some extent been altered so that only an AGM or EGM can change the Constitution and will need a 2/3 vote in favour which protects members more. Other changes had been covered in a briefing note to members. We were also required to sign up to the LTA Code of Conduct within the Constitution.

Agenda item 7 was deleted as there is no need to elect Trustees.

KP formally put forward the resolution that this AGM approves and adopts the proposed revised Constitution for Ipswich Sports Club (final draft dated 14/05/2014) subject to amendment to rule 5 so as to omit rules 5.1-5.3 of that document and retain instead the contents of the equivalent provisions in the existing Constitution (in rules 6.1-6.3)

In addition, the words “any trustees required under rule 5.1” in rule 4.3 (iv) of the proposed revised Constitution be omitted.

GS seconded the resolution. A vote was taken and all bar one member were in favour. None were against, one abstention.

4. Chairman’s report for the coming year

VP reported that results were disappointing for last year but we had managed to pay off our loans which now stand at approximately £236k. We are now back in profit. She thanked Kevin Brazier and Seamus for the functions they have organised which have brought in huge income. VP also thanked sponsors who support the Club and was very grateful to all staff for their efforts and for sticking with the Club when salaries had to be frozen this year. Money had been slashed off of the maintenance budget thanks to work carried out by James Biancu and Graham Fretwell. We have re-engaged with EBAT, who will be hiring off peak courts.

A finance committee has been set up headed by Tony Cookson who meets regularly with MLe and AY.

A steering group, headed by GS, has been set up to look at our 5 year plan to ensure the future sustainability of ISC. Our location in the middle of the new north Ipswich development presents a huge opportunity and we need to make sure we are considered.

VP highlighted the sporting achievements and thanked all the committee members for the work that they do. She thanked GS for all his support.

Andy Isles asked why membership is up but income is down. VP advised that we have a lot of junior members who pay a much reduced membership fee and corporate members pay a discounted rate. There was also a discount for hockey members. Income had also been hit since the life membership offer in 2011.

Clive Johnstone suggested that we should invest in solar panels and energy saving light bulbs in order to reduce our high energy costs. VP advised that an external company had audited the Club and suggested replacing light bulbs with LED bulbs and it is planned to do this as bulbs need replacing.

5. Treasurer’s report and financial statements for 2013

MLe reported that we were aware early on that 2013 was going to be difficult year due to exceptional items which weren’t budgeted for. We had looked at

rescheduling loans but the penalties were too great to justify doing so. The deficit impacted on cash flow. Our objective is to have a sustainable business plan to re-establish our reserves. 2014 budgets allow for a break even situation. If we continue as we are there should be a £20K surplus for the year. Ali Livingstone asked why squash floor was put under the squash budget and wanted to clarify that this was club expenditure. MLe confirmed this.

Ali Livingstone proposed and Dick Partridge seconded accepting the Treasurer's report and financial statements for 2013.

6. Election of Council officers and President for 2014/15

GS asked for a show of hands to propose and second the Club President for re-election this year

Club President – Maggie Lipscombe – GS proposed, Claire Webb seconded

MLe continued by asking for a show of hands to propose and second the following positions for election this year

Chairman – Vanessa Penn
Vice Chairman – Tony Cookson
Secretary – Keith Palmer
Treasurer – Mark Ledger

All four positions were adopted by the AGM.

There were nominations for Vice Presidents for

Geoff Sheldrake - proposed by Tony Cookson, seconded by Dick Partridge and Claire Webb – proposed by Claire Gould, seconded by Mike Downey

GS was presented with a gift of thanks for all his work.

7. Election of Trustees

Item deleted.

8. Business items of importance to the AGM

i) Subscriptions level changes for 2014/15

MLe advised that standard individual membership would be increased to £47.50 per month. There would be a general increase of 2% for all other memberships. Annuals would receive a 5% discount.

Pippa asked if this will affect off peak membership and MLe confirmed it would. Dick Partridge said we should remain aware that we need to be competitive.

ii) Members' resolutions for discussion/vote/agreement

MLe advised that none had been received.

7. Appointment of Club Auditors for 2014

It was proposed by MLe and seconded by GS to continue with GMS Francis Clarks accountants, who were re-elected.

8. Any Other Business acceptable to the Chairman

No AOB was raised.

MLi thanked everyone for attending and the members continued support

The meeting closed at 8.25pm