

# Minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting of Harpenden RFC Squash Club

Draft

Held at Harpenden RFC Squash Club, Redbourn Lane, Harpenden on June 11<sup>th</sup> 2007. The Chairman opened the meeting as soon as we were quorate at 8.05pm

## **Present**

Norman Smith (Chairman)	Ken Tune	Steve Cole
Ian Stowe	Richard Ciechan	Viv Palmer

## **Apologies**

Troy Stewart	Howard Gregory	Jerry Walsh
George Richards	Paul Harty	Chris Debenham
Tony Clifford	Jack Caldwell	Tony Lacy
David Gay	Norman Salmon	Brendon Bennett

## **1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the 2007 meeting were approved. There were no matters arising.

## **3. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman prefaced his remarks about the robust health of the club with a statement about the current status of the proposed redevelopment of the Rugby Club, as far as we know the position. The collapse of Esporta (and therefore of the re-development scheme that seemed imminent only 12 months ago) has been covered extensively in the financial press. The Rugby Club board are looking at various options to revive either the 'Esporta' scheme or alternatives and say that they will keep us informed of any progress. The view of the Squash Club committee is that at least in the current financial climate there is unlikely to be any threat to our current status again for some while; this view will drive our maintenance programme (see below).

Meanwhile the Squash Club has enjoyed another really very good year indeed, with a growing membership, the Junior Section continuing to go from strength to strength under Stephen Lloyd's leadership, our finances healthy and the First Team staying up in Div 1 after a good battle.

## **4. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer presented a separate written report, together with the Accounts for 2007/8. These documents are appended to the minutes.

Our income & expenditure for 2007/8 reflected our decision of 12 months ago to drop our subscription rates sharply in view of the likelihood at the time of impending closure in the face of the Rugby Club redevelopment; we could not see any merit in those circumstances in engaging any major programme of maintenance and we did not wish to build our cash reserves. In the event we have still broken even because membership and playing activity has been so buoyant and our reserves have not been depleted

The Treasurer thanked Graham Warner, our new auditor, for his work. Adoption of the Report was proposed by Ken Tune and seconded by Viv Palmer

## **5. Fees & Subscriptions**

As usual, prior to the AGM the committee had met to discuss spending plans and subscription rates and to agree a proposal to put to the AGM. Our proposal had been that we should move subs back up part-way towards where they had been prior to the sharp reduction last

year. The background to this proposal had been that our subs are very low anyway, that with the redevelopment now less likely we must begin more extensive maintenance over the next few years (relining a court is c£2,000 and a new floor is c£4000) and that the specific circumstances behind last years reduction no longer applied. Our reserves are still very strong, but we wanted to avoid a really big hike later.

Unusually this proposal had been posted with a proxy voting form rather than a request to come and discuss the pro's and con's at the AGM, but without any background to present the argument. Although the AGM itself supported the proposal, we received 10 proxy votes against but with no opportunity to discuss the matter of course. The committee and the AGM felt that this was a highly unsatisfactory state of affairs but that we would accept the 'vote' on this occasion. Therefore for 2008/9 our subs will remain at current reduced levels and we will fund the beginnings of the enhanced maintenance programme from reserves

## **6. Captain's Report**

The Club Captain was not available for the AGM. However, it was reported that the First Team have stayed up in Div 1 after a good struggle, and that although relegation seems likely for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> teams we still have a strong team base considering our relatively small size

The Club Competitions were played in very good spirit and Finals Night was excellent. We were very pleased that the Ladies Competition was played again this year

## **7. Election of Officers**

There have been no resignations or nominations, but a vacancy remains for a representative for the Lady members of the club. We are delighted that Viv Palmer has eventually succumbed to relentless persuasion from the rest of the committee to take up the vacancy

Chairman	Norman Smith
Treasurer	Steve Cole
Juniors Organiser	Vacancy (covered by Stephen Lloyd, supported by Steve Cole)
Leagues Organiser	Troy Stewart
Membership Secretary	Richard Ciechan
Marketing	Howard Gregory
House	Ken Tune
Club Captain	Neil Melvill
Secretary	Ian Stowe
Club Coach	Stephen Lloyd
Ladies' Representative	Viv Palmer
Auditor	Graham Warner

## **8. Any Other Business**

- Open Evenings: There was a request from the floor that these should be kept going throughout the summer. It was explained that interest has tended to wane during the summer and that the burden of organisation always falls to the same individuals. It was agreed to try summer evenings again as long as the burden could be shared
- Email addresses: We were asked if we could publicise these amongst members so that new opponents could be found more easily. There are some data protection issues but we will use membership renewal to ask members if they would like their email addresses to be shared
- Talking on the balcony: We have been asked to remind members that this can be off-putting to players (although the location of the phone means some conversation on the balcony is inevitable of course)

There was no further business and the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.53pm.