



Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting, December 8, 2019

The Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club (RLTC) was held at the Richelieu-Vanier Community Centre (300 des Pères-Blancs Ave., Ottawa) on Sunday, December 8, 2019, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Tony Stikeman, President of the RLTC.

1. The proposed agenda was approved.
2. **Motion:** Charles Belanger moved to approve the minutes from the 2018 AGM, which was seconded by Bill Clark. It was approved unanimously.
3. **President's report:** The President summarized his report. He observed that it has been a very good year, with a healthy net surplus and an increase in membership to a level not seen since 2011. Activity on- and off-court increased and there was a real social buzz around the club. He acknowledged the hard work and commitment of the manager, Chris Hannant. Tony thanked the Directors for their contributions throughout the season, and specifically thanked the four retiring Directors, Allan Culham, Anders Jeppsson, Paul Henry and Mike Teeter. His full report is attached.
4. **Junior programs:** Louise Malhotra emphasized the need to attract more juniors which in turn brings in more families. With this objective in mind, a competitive junior training program was introduced to complement the recreational program and the usual after-school and summer programs were strengthened. The fall program once again struggled to attract sufficient numbers and it will be necessary to reconsider its role. Nonetheless, junior programs continued to make a profit. Her report is attached.
5. **Clubhouse and Grounds:** Gill Kirkwood focused his comments on the quality of the clay courts and the problem with the hedge beside court 1. He noted that there continues

to be a problem with damp conditions on the side of court 4 due to shade. There is a more general concern about compaction of the clay on all courts, which reduces the rate of drainage after rains. The court 1 hedge is affecting that court and may puncture the underground reservoir. It will have to be removed at some point. On the plus side, the water bill was reduced this year, confirming that water leakage has been reduced if not eliminated. He was asked about the need to replace the clubhouse deck. It was explained that this is included in the draft capital investment plan, and should probably be done next year if the lights are being installed. John Taylor commented that the clay courts are in need of new clay, which he estimated may cost \$80K. He underlined concerns about the clubhouse, notably signs of sagging foundations and ant infestation. It was agreed that the new Board should consider getting a professional assessment of the condition of the clubhouse. Gill's report is attached.

6. **Adult tennis programming:** Julie Smyth summarized the range of activities which provided many options for adult players – round robins, clinics, drop-ins, tournaments, interclub competition, and tournaments. A ladder was introduced mid-season and proved popular. Recognizing the need to reach out more to young adults, a few evenings with pizza were organized for them. Her report is attached.
7. **Social activities:** In the absence of Fiona Murray, Erica Leslie presented the report which highlighted the success of the family nights and the annual social. The report is attached.
8. **Membership and Sponsorship:** Tony repeated the positive news on membership. He also noted the important contribution made by sponsorships which, at \$17.7K, are equivalent to much of our net surplus. As we have room for one more sponsor, there was some discussion of potential new sponsors along the Beechwood St corridor. His report is attached.
9. **Financial Operations:** Allan Culham briefed the meeting on the financial status of the club. He noted the substantial increase in the net surplus from \$2K in 2018 to \$22K in 2019. The 5% increase in fees was a contributing factor, and he noted with satisfaction that it was accepted by the membership without complaint. A concerted effort by the manager to control staff costs and the management of revenues from lessons was also important. Court rental to Ashbury College was helpful but may not be replicable in the coming years. Allan emphasized the existence and role of the Ali Khan Fund in supporting junior tennis and encouraged members to contribute to it. In conclusion, he thanked Christa Ramonat for her work as bookkeeper and recommended that the club maintain its conservative approach to financial management. His report is attached.

Motion: Allan moved that the financial report be approved and forwarded to the auditor. This was seconded by David Clendenning and approved unanimously.

10. **Lights:** There was a lively and extensive debate on the proposal to install lights on courts 2 and 3. The history of this proposal, which dates back some 10 years, was reviewed and the recent efforts to find a technical solution and contractor were described. The receipt of a letter from the President of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association was noted and discussed. It was agreed that further consultation with neighbours would be appropriate, while noting that we have obtained a permit from the city and have already made concessions to meet the concerns of neighbours, namely limiting the lights to two central courts (2 and 3) and turning off the lights by 10:00 p.m. The general sense of the meeting was that these are sufficient and that further limitations on the use of lights would render the project unjustifiable. There is however some room for further discussion on the type of lighting to be used.

There was also some question as to whether the full membership of the club had been properly consulted. It was pointed out that all members were invited to the AGM and were encouraged to write in any concerns they might have. Only a few messages were received (4) and they were all supportive.

The motion proposed by Tony was amended to delete reference to “accommodation” of neighbours, and a line was inserted to confirm that the members have been adequately consulted. The amended motion to purchase and install lights is attached. It was moved by Tony Stikeman, seconded by David Clendenning and unanimously approved.

11. **Motion:** Tony Stikeman moved that Andrea Poole be retained to continue as club auditor. This was seconded by Bill Turner and unanimously approved.
12. **Motion:** Tony also moved to approve and ratify all action taken or authorized by the Board of Directors and the Officers of RLTC during the previous financial year. The motion was seconded by Gill Kirkwood and unanimously approved.
13. **Nominating committee:** Paul Henry has identified five new Board members: Phil Anido, Michel (Mitch) Bouchard, Jackie Douglas, Thierry Harris, and Jordan Samaroo. As the by-laws only permit 4 new Directors to be approved at any one time, Jordan’s name was dropped. He will be invited to join at the first meeting of the new Board. Louise Malhotra will serve as the new President, Phil English will serve as Treasurer, and Julie Smyth will take over as Secretary. The new Board members were unanimously approved.

14. **Other business:** Michael Teeter and Tony Stikeman acknowledged the special contributions made by Paul Bernier and Gill Kirkwood respectively. Gill was presented with a card and gift. Paul will receive his upon his return to the city.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.