



The Wanderers Squash Club



Minutes
of an
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
in the CAPTAIN's Room at the Wanderers Club
at 17:45 on FRIDAY the 2nd of November 2018

1. Welcome, apologies and signing of attendance register.

The Chairman, Chris Hughes, welcomed the squash members to the meeting.

- 1.1 Confirmation of a quorum.

13 members in good standing attended the meeting. (See attached attendance register).

Having given notice of the AGM at least 14 days prior to the meeting and having the minimum requirement for a quorum of ten members (in accordance with Sections 4 and 6 of the Constitution), the Chairman declared the meeting open.

- 1.2 Apologies.

Seven members submitted their apologies.

2. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the 2017 AGM held on 25 January 2018 were proposed by Kevin Eborall and seconded by Keith Willows.

3. Matters arising. No matters were raised at the meeting.

4. Financial report by the Treasurer.

4.1 The Report of the Treasurer was read out by Tony Marks (copy attached).

Areas highlighted by the Treasurer were:

- Squash club membership has dropped by 10% to 211 members, from 2016 to 2018.
- The accumulated surplus has fallen over the last two years due to reduced sponsorship income and the non-recovery of Gauteng League fees from the players in 2017.
- An operating deficit of R13 200 is forecast for financial year ending February 2019, resulting in an accumulated surplus of R22 383. This is below the recommended strategic minimum of R30 000.
- It is recommended that the Squash Club raises its levy for 2019 to counteract the forecast operating deficit for next year.

4.2 Keith Willows asked about the Club Shirt Sales (line R3 in the budget and expenditure sheet). Tony Marks replied that the budget to February 2019 is based on current sales rates. Gary Plumstead currently has 57 shirts in stock at a selling price of R250 to members and R300 to non-members. Current value of stock at members' selling rate is R14 250.

4.3 Kevin Eborall asked about the recovery of Gauteng League fees from players. Chris Hughes replied that the fees were not recovered from the players in 2017 due to late invoicing and the fact that some players had left the club. It was decided that the Club would cover the cost of the 2017 league teams as a gesture of goodwill.

[Footnote: CGS invoiced Wanderers R22 500 for six league teams in 2018 at R3 750 per team. This was paid on 18 July 2018. All players were invoiced R640 each and 85% payment was received by the end of July 2018. Full recovery of league fees will be completed by the end of November 2018].

4.4 Tony Marks stated his appreciation for the help given by the outgoing committee members and Wanderers personnel and wished the new committee well on his departure from the position of Treasurer.

5. Chairman's report – (Attached).

6. General

6.1 Motion to amend the non-members' playing fees.

The meeting agreed to raise the non-members' playing fees.

All fees for outside parties will be aligned to a standard rate based on R1 per minute, off-peak. i.e. R45 per 45 minute session or R60 for one hour.

Visitors playing in peak hours (16:45 – 19:00) will pay R60 per 45 minutes.

The use of courts by accredited coaches will be charged at R25 per 45 minutes.

6.2 Motion to agree on increasing the sub-club levy for 2019.

The squash levies for 2018 were R400 for adults and R200 for juniors.

In terms of Section 6 of the Constitution, sub-clubs are authorised to raise levies for the furtherance of the sport (squash). The levy must not exceed 20% of the Club's annual subscription for an Ordinary Member plus affiliation fees. The majority at the meeting agreed that the levies should be raised. The final amount will depend on the Main Club membership fee increases, to be decided at the Main Committee meeting on 28 November 2018.

6.3 Motion to request the Main Club to change the official name of the squash club from "The Wanderers Squash Racquet Club" to "The Wanderers Squash Club".

This motion was passed and the change will be ratified at the next AGM of the Main Club in June 2019.

7. Election of new committee

7.1 The following office holders are prepared to stand for re-election:

Chris Hughes, Phil Louw, Gary Plumstead.

Eric Chang, Kevin Eborall and Tony Marks resigned.

7.2 The following nominations were received for new committee members:

Gavin Duffy, Martin Cowper.

7.3 The following members were elected to the committee for 2019.

Chairman: Chris Hughes*. cphughes@mweb.co.za 082 453 5298.

Treasurer: Gavin Duffy. gavin.duffy@za.pwc.com 083 410 2923.

League Reps: Phil Louw. buphillouw@gmail.com 072 468 9027.

(Keith Willows seconded as Masters League Rep.

kgwillows@gmail.com 083 281 4996).

Court Manager: Gary Plumstead. gplumstead@gmail.com 073 791 2851.

Ordinary members:

Bruce Macmillan. bruce.macmillan4@gmail.com 083 305 5618.

Martin Cowper. martin.cowper@absacapital.com 082 468 8254.

Development Squash: *Chris Hughes represents the "Thusong Development Squash" component of the Club.

8. Closure of meeting.

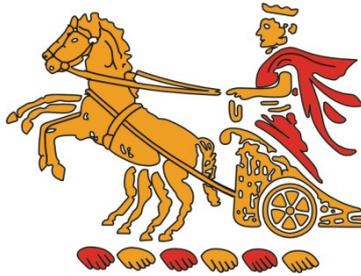
With no remaining matters to discuss, the meeting closed at 18:40.

CP Hughes, Chairman – Wanderers Squash Club.

REGISTER OF ATTENDEES

(Required quorum is TEN members present at the meeting)

	Membership number	Name	Signature
1	036138	Chris Hughes (Acting Chairman)	<i>Present</i>
2	035752	Tony Marks (Treasurer)	<i>Present</i>
3	035802	Phil Louw (League rep.)	<i>Present</i>
4	009876	Kevin Eborall (Committee member)	<i>Present</i>
5	041092	Gary Plumstead (Court Manager)	<i>Present</i>
6	005439	Keith Willows	<i>Present</i>
7	043843	Brady Wen	<i>Present</i>
8	030408	Bruce Macmillan	<i>Present</i>
9	044776	JP Strydom	<i>Present</i>
10	016638	Shamus Donoghue	<i>Present</i>
11	027250	Mish Wentzel	<i>Present</i>
12	025531	Antony Cohen	<i>Present</i>
13	039986	Terence Moore	<i>Present</i>
14			
15			
		APOLOGIES	
1	044180	Martin Cowper	Apology
2	036845	Dino Petrarola	Apology
3	043037	Eric Chang (Committee member)	Apology
4	035724	Francois van der Merwe	Apology
5	036448	John Irving	Apology
6	001028	Veronica Goulding	Apology
7	030772	Gavin Duffy	Apology



Wanderers Squash Club

Chairman's Report for 2018

Presented at the Wanderers Squash Club AGM

on Friday 2 November 2018

2018 has been a challenging year for the squash club with membership declining approximately ten percent over the last two years and a commensurate increase in costs of at least ten percent over the same period. But, before delving into the serious stuff, I'd firstly like to make mention of some of the individuals who have positively impacted on the club in 2018.

Recognition of Individuals

Dave Grant

I'd like to thank our previous Chairman, Dave Grant, *in absentia* for his commitment to the squash club over the period of 24 years he has been a member. As Chairman of the club since 2008, he has committed his time to improving the facilities, obtaining sponsorship and encouraging the use of the Wanderers Squash Club as a prime tournament venue.

One of Dave's biggest ambitions during the ten years he was Chairman was to see the complete transformation of the seven conventional plaster-walled courts. With the help of an architect he developed a plan for back-to-back glass-backed courts within the existing historic structure. Courts 5 to 7 would be designed to enable the inner walls to be moved apart, providing a full-size doubles court. Dave put a lot of effort into lobbying the Wanderers Club to invest in this scheme but unfortunately the economics of the project were not considered viable in comparison with other projects competing for funds from the Club.

Dave has now relocated to his homeland of Wales. If we don't see him out in South Africa again, we certainly hope to see him on court at the 2020 World Masters Tournament in Wroclaw, Poland.

Graham Prior

On a sadder note, we were shocked to hear in July of the passing of Graham Prior. Graham suffered a heart attack while in India managing the South African team at the World Junior Team Championships. Graham was Court Manager at our club for several years and used his experience and skills from his younger days as a Rhodesian National player to coach young and old at our club as well as nationally. His enthusiasm for coaching the development youth in this country will be missed.

Club Awards

In recognition of club members who have made an impact on the playing scene this year, I would like to announce the following awards.

Club Champion - Phil Louw, for beating Nic van der Bos in the Club Championship finals.

Team of the Year - The Third League, comprising Eric Chang (C), Rahman Mohammed, Nic van der Bos, Nuno Xavier and Bruce Macmillan, for winning 61% of their matches, putting them in first place.

Most Improved - Nic v/d Bos (3rd League) who played all 13 matches in the season, with a win rate of 59%.
A close second was Kyaran Pillay (8th League) who played all 16 matches in the season, with a win rate of 81%.

Member of the Year - Seamus Donoghue for his perseverance, attendance, enthusiasm, reliability and participation in club activities.

Unfortunately, we have now lost Eric Chang as he has relocated to Cape Town. Eric had a great season in the Third League and also contributed to the club as a member of the committee this year.

Leagues

Gauteng League

Wanderers had a strong showing in the Gauteng League this year. We fielded six teams, ending up top in the 2nd and 3rd leagues and second in the 5th league.

We had two teams in the 8th League, with Lionel Slowe's team coming through from 9th League last year to end up in third position in the 8th League this year; narrowly beating Chris Hughes' team which came in two points behind in fourth position. The 9th League, captained by Seamus Donoghue, held their ground in seventh position out of ten teams.

Good luck to our 2nd League team, captained by Phil Louw, who intend to make a big impact next year in Reserve League with the able assistance of Gary Plumstead.

Masters League

We fielded five Masters teams this year, maintaining a strong position in each category. Our two 3rd League teams and one of the 6th League teams achieved positions in the top half of their leagues, while the 2nd League and the other 6th League teams held their own in the rankings.

My thanks go to Phil Louw for managing the Gauteng League teams and Keith Willows for managing the Masters teams.

Tournaments

Club Tournaments

At the beginning of the year we had some successful club tournaments with Sheena Worwood winning the Handicap Tournament and The Senseless Squashers winning the Summer League.

In October we had three tournaments, the first of which was the Club Championships in which Phil Louw beat Nic van der Bos a convincing 3-0. JP Strydom won the Plate position.

The Chamber Challenge tournament was held at Chamber Exiles this year, a week later than the traditional 13th of October, World Squash Day. Unfortunately, we broke our winning run for the last few years, losing to Chamber 26-28. We can only put it down to John Shannon hijacking the tournament by introducing a doubles component; we won the singles 21-18!

The "Dave Grant Century Doubles" tournament was well attended with 13 teams entered. Madelyn & Charles took top position, Paul & Quinton were the runners up

with Kevin Eborall & Phil Louw taking the Plate. The Biggest Age Gap went to Sheena Worwood & JP Strydom and the Oldest Couple were Mervyn & Richard King. Father & Son team, Chris & Alan Hughes, with a combined age of 101 just managed to avoid coming bottom; the poor performance was put down to lack of experience by the youngster!

The annual Movember tournament is due to be held at the club on Saturday 24 November and I'd encourage everybody to take part in this worthy fund-raising event.

External Tournaments

The highlight of the year for several of our members was attending the World Masters Squash tournament in Charlottesville, Virginia, USA. 750 players participated from countries world-wide, including 78 from South Africa.

Wanderers' members Des Sacco and Sheena Worwood formed part of the South African 15 player squad. Sheena won a hard-fought match in the finals of the 70+ age group Consolation Plate to win 3-2.

Of the six individual players from Wanderers, Mike Barnard (Men's 80+) got through to the semi-finals of the Consolation Plate. Chris Hughes (Men's 65+) reached the third round of the Consolation Plate. Dino Petrarola (Men's 50+) was knocked out in the Plate 2, round-of-16. Bruce Macmillan (40+) finished in the finals of Plate 2, taking the match 3-0. In the 35+ age group, Russell Adams got through to the Quarter Finals of Plate 2 and Phil Louw reached the Quarter Finals of Plate 3.

The event was very well organised and enjoyed by everybody. It would be great if we could get another good Wanderers contingent at the next tournament at the Hasta-La-Vista club in Wroclaw, Poland in August 2020!

The Masters Inter-provincial Tournament (IPT) was held in East London this year. The Gauteng 65+ age group was represented by a team of five players comprising two from Wanderers Club; Keith Willows (Captain) and Chris Hughes. The opposition comprised of four teams; Eastern Province A & B, Western Province and Zimbabwe. The Gauteng team beat all four teams outright to win the tournament in this age category – despite the Zimbabwean team having one of our top 8th League players in its team – Martin Cowper!

Squash Development

The Thusong Squash Development coaching continues to take place every Tuesday afternoon. I would like to thank my sponsors for supporting this scheme, in particular WorleyParsons for hiring the courts. The Sports Trust has been of great help in administering the finances. Being a Section 18(a) company, companies and individuals can make tax-deductible donations for the benefit of Thusong Squash by donating via the Sports Trust. Without the substantial donations it would be impossible to cover the cost of transportation of the kids from the township of Alexandra to the courts at Wanderers.

Egoli Squash have also assisted in coaching, supporting tournaments and giving advice. And our own club members must also be thanked for their tacit, if not always active support in allowing the use of the courts so close to peak times.

A "Thusong / Egoli Challenge" tournament is being held at Wanderers Club on Saturday 3 November. This is an inaugural tournament, intended to be an annual event in the future. Fifteen players are being fielded by Egoli Squash with a matching number of 11 to 18 year-olds from the Thusong team.

Membership

Although membership has dropped slightly to around 211, the outlook is good with several new members providing “fresh blood” and new opportunities for the club, including a contingent of 24 players from Nike joining in June.

Court Maintenance and Management

Gary Plumstead, our Court Manager, has done a sterling job throughout the year organising tournaments, managing the day-to-day care and maintenance of the courts and controlling court usage. Misuse of the courts is a serious issue and I would call upon all members to look out for marking of the court floors. If you witness anybody on court without non-marking shoes or if you see scuff marks on the floors, please report it immediately.

Unfortunately, the floor boards on courts 5 and 6 and the front wall on Court 3 need some repair work and this will need to be included in the club’s budget for 2019.

Code of Conduct

Some recent, unfortunate incidents within the Wanderers Club have brought to management’s attention the need to address members’ conduct on the sporting field and generally within the club. It is important for everyone to be aware of South Africa’s diverse cultures, religions, races and genders and to be sensitive to individuals’ feelings. As a result, the Squash Club will be publishing a Code of Conduct. In the meantime, please refer to Squash SA’s code of conduct for the sport, which can be found at: <http://www.squashsa.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/SQUASH-SOUTH-AFRICA-CODE-OF-CONDUCT.doc>.

Conclusion

Maintaining a good balance in our club funds is becoming a problem. Sponsorship is not as forthcoming as it has been in the past and expenses are escalating almost monthly. The new committee will have a challenge next year to boost the funds and to carry out necessary repairs and improvements at the courts.

Members may have noticed the absence of open tournaments this year. This is another point of contention which I will not go into detail on here. Suffice it to say that we are extremely keen to see better utilisation of our facilities, especially the only permanent, full glass court in South Africa. Unfortunately, the financial models presented to us do not provide sufficient benefit to the Wanderers Club to hold some of the big tournaments that happen throughout the year. With the right motivation, energy and innovative thinking, maybe the new committee can bring some of these tournaments back to the Wanderers.

CP Hughes.
Chairman – Wanderers Squash Club.