

# GRACE PARK HAWTHORN CLUB

## Minutes: Annual General Meeting – Sunday 4 December 2022 at 4pm

### 1. OPENING & WELCOME

Jane Nathan opened the meeting at 4:05pm and welcomed all guests who attended. Jane welcomed all members to the meeting and gave thanks to the original custodians of the land the Club is on. Jane noted apologies from;

- Gaurav Gupta (Treasurer)
- Noel Fidock
- David Allison
- Frank Field

The apologies were moved by Steven Cuff and seconded by Angus Henderson and carried.

Jane recognised the Past Presidents in attendance;

- David Barrie
- Bill Hunt
- Terry Stone
- Austen Diggle
- Colin Davis

Jane advised that as both the Secretary and Vice President were standing unopposed, there would be no vote required for those positions. Jane thanked the members for the voting for the General Committee positions and advised the results would be made available at the conclusion of the meeting.

### 2. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The 2021 AGM meeting minutes were presented with no questions and proposed by Tim O'Loughlin as a true and accurate record and was seconded by Gyver Huang and the motion was carried.

### 3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jane Nathan stated that following the pandemic, the Club had put the lockdowns behind it, was again open more regularly and were forward to a brighter future. The past year was a successful re-opening and the Club remains in a financially solid position. The Club had employed Kirsty Walsh and Sterling Tuik to assist Julian in increasing member engagement and develop connections to the community.

New initiatives were planned for the club, including the recent opening of the Café. Another included systems being upgraded with assistance from Bill Haebich to improve operational capability and allow more data to be collected to improve decision making.

The Club membership increased over the past year, particularly social membership so regulars to the club could also enjoy members bar prices.

A review of the Club strategy was carried out in early 2022 with a strong focus on being highly competitive and community engagement. The snooker room was identified as a great, underutilised opportunity.

A number of events were held through the year including the hugely successful gin night (Four Pillars), a wine night (Blue Pyrenees), AFL finals, etc provided great social events for members and revenue to the Club.

Capital works continue with planning for the refurbishment of Courts 6 & 7 to bring them up to competition play standard. The project was being led by Bec Xuereb who had initiated with Metro rail, the removal of the trees adjacent to the courts. The project was waiting on council approval before commencing.

The Club now has new uniforms for purchase and the new year looks very promising

Jane Nathan thanked our Business Partners for their ongoing support over many years;

- Terry and Sandra Stone – tennis coaching
- Selena Shaikh and Mike Wilkinson – squash coaching
- Deb Welsh – Absolute Tennis and Leisure
- Steve and Emma Pouniotis – Fitness Complete
- Michelle Peric – Absolute Delicious

Jane Nathan, on behalf of the Club, gave thanks to several members who gave exceptionally of their time throughout the year.

- Frank Field for his volunteer work as a lawyer.
- Daniel Xuereb who as an architect brought great project management skills to the leaving of the Court 6 & 7 project.
- Gaurav Gupta – as Treasurer has had the worst job through the pandemic and providing his financial updates every month.
- Angus Henderson – the Secretary for his assistance and help with club contracts.
- Steven Cuff, Club Vice President – for the huge amount of work he puts into the club, is always the first to assist and is the beating heart of the Club.
- The General Committee (Adam Hubble, Tim O’Loughlin, Rebecca Xuereb, Gyver Huang, and Paul De Ieso) for their work throughout the year in all manner of activities.
- Geoff Sanders for organising all squash activities as the squash convenor.
- Adam Hubble for organising all tennis activities as the squash convenor.

The President’s report was moved by Jane Nathan and seconded by Sam Brown

#### **4. TREASURER’S REPORT**

Julian O’Donnell presented the Treasurer’s report on behalf of Gaurav Gupta. Key highlights were:

- The Club finished FY22 slightly stronger with an annual surplus of \$22k and a stronger cash position of \$392k.
  - Club revenue from bar and functions and business partners was significantly stronger than the pandemic influenced FY21
  - Membership subscriptions also increased by 20%.
  - However bar and function expenses were higher due to the increased activity associated and employment expenses higher due to the employment of the Club Manager and increased casual staff.
  - The only loan (Tennis Australia) the club has, has an outstanding balance of \$32k.
  - The FY23 Forecast is projecting a forecast of \$26k, barring any further capital initiatives.
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- Proposed: Julian O’Donnell

- Seconded: Tim O'Loughlin

## **5. CLUB MANAGER'S REPORT**

Julian O'Donnell thanked the members and committee for being so welcoming since the re-opening of the club which returned to operational status in November 2021. He noted that staffing has been a challenge since reopening.

The development of the Club Strategy was the focus of the year with a strong emphasis on member engagement. Julian referred to the many new social initiatives around the Club.

Staff changes at the Club saw Mick, Elizabeth and many of the casual staff moving on to other ventures. But that was complemented by the engagement of Kirsty Walsh to assist with membership, finance and administration and more recently, the appointment of Sterling Tuik as Bar and Functions Manager.

Capital improvements around the Club included CCTV upgrade to improve Club security, automation of tennis court lights, improved storage capabilities, tennis scoreboards, replacement of the main bar TV and commencement of construction of a cool room in the kitchen. The planned major project upgrades include Court 6 & 7 refurbishment and solar panel installation (with co-funding from Sustainability Victoria).

Other initiatives included creating the GPHC foundation to improve junior Tennis and Squash.

There has been a renewed push to better utilise the snooker room and to fulfil its potential, with exhibition and training by World Champion Robby Foldvari followed by an inhouse social snooker competition.

Julian thanked the enormous support, involvement and direction from the Committee provides.

Terry Stone commented that Steven Cuff should be noted for his maintenance efforts.

The Operations report was proposed by Julian O'Donnell, seconded by Rob De Luca and the motion carried.

## **6. ELECTION TO OFFICE RESULTS**

The following committee members were re-elected to the General Committee:

- Adam Hubble
- Gyver Huang
- Rob De Luca

Jane thanked the other nominees for standing for election and showing their support to the Club and hoped they would find other avenues to invest their time in the Club.

## **7. GENERAL BUSINESS**

Sam Kennedy congratulated the Committee on maintaining the club during the pandemic. He stated that the questions were developed with Graeme Ostberg. He asked how capital projects are identified and priorities by the Committee and do they seek members input. Suggestions for projects included bike racks, installation of solar panels, the use of reclaimed

water for watering of courts. Sam also suggested the club should consider proposing Tennis working bees, like Squash.

Jane responded that the committee has looked at these projects and were reviewing a solar installation in the coming year. Water reclaimed from the storm water drain is currently not used as the Club is waiting on works from the Council for this to be completed and acknowledged that the proposal for a working bee was a good one.

#### **8. MEETING CLOSURE**

Jane Nathan reported that the recently completed audit noted no issues. Jane thanked the auditors for their assistance throughout the year.

Meeting closed: 4:40pm