

Minutes of the Aldershot Tennis Club Annual General Meeting

Friday November 27th, 2015 at the Clubhouse.

Present: All Board members plus approximately 30 members

1. The meeting was called to order by the President, Steve Gray who introduced the Board members.
2. The notice of meeting was read by the Secretary, Jean Crowe
3. The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting was read by Jean Crowe, passed based on a motion by Jean, seconded by Steve Knight.
4. The treasurer's report and financial statements were presented by the treasurer, Neil Mackenzie.
 - a. Neil clarified that bubble up and down costs have risen by 18%, and utilities have also increased. The financial report was passed after a motion by Neil, seconded by David Dixon.
5. The President's report was read by Steve, the president and will be appended to these minutes. Questions were taken from the floor.
 - a. A member asked whether the board had considered electronic fee payment. One year ago this was investigated and members were surveyed – the membership at that stage did not wish the additional charge which would have occurred. This will again be investigated.
 - b. A member asked why the ball / league fees were eliminated and said that was a mistake. The answer was that in order to simplify fee payment and registration and reduce the different amounts being paid, the ball fees were eliminated.
 - c. Members asked whether Pros are using more court times and whether they are allowed to book 2 courts at a time (eg Friday at 10 am). All pros are allowed 15 hours/week and this is monitored. The Board will re-evaluate.
 - d. A member asked about the issue of "no shows". Gerry Blake contacts the members when he is alerted to this. Please email Gerry at courtbooking @ aldershottennis.ca to report.
 - e. A member asked why only the ATC ball machine is allowed. Members were told that because of liability issues, the fact that some machines are very noisy, and that they are only allowed on court 4, this decision was made. The Board will re-evaluate.
6. The slate of officers was presented by the Past President.
 - a. President – John Korosi
 - b. Vice president -
 - c. Past president – Steve Gray
 - d. Treasurer – Neil Mackenzie
 - e. Secretary – Dot Knight
 - f. Tennis Programmes Director – Malcolm Harris
 - g. Membership Director – Christopher Duque
 - h. Marketing Director – Susanne Reimer
 - i. Social Director – Hilda Cirotto, Margaret Steiss
 - j. Maintenance

Oliver Barkovic offered to stand as Vice President, Neil Mackenzie was ratified as treasurer. A vote was held for the position of Social director and Hilda was elected. The position of Maintenance Director remains unfilled. Liz Sutherland offered to assist Ken B in maintaining/ programming the Proximity cards.

7. Outgoing board members were thanked.
8. The meeting was adjourned.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Good evening everybody. Here is my report as of November 27th 2015 as current President of Aldershot Tennis Club.

The club has had a very busy and challenging year, which started with our 25th anniversary party in January 2015 celebrating the formation of ATC's all season facility, to honor 25 years of the bubble being in operation here on Gallagher Road at the club. The event was very well attended with Rick Craven our local councilor supporting the function, ex-club Presidents in attendance; Lynda Turvit one of the founder members wives flying in from the US to attend, and over 100 current players from membership joining the board members.

Work has continued extensively on the club improvements with regards to the new washrooms, shower facility, airlock integration to the main club and disability access. I will update you on this later in my presentation.

I am pleased to report as of the year ending Sept 30th 2015 Aldershot Tennis Club has continued to remain in a strong financial position despite the last 12 months expenses where several extraneous costs have affected the profitability level we have typically enjoyed in previous years.

The club has a total equity value of \$444,876 after a 'soft year' where our net excess of revenue over expenses, & investment income totaled \$21,574.00. Neil McKenzie has already outlined the general club financial reports and we continue to build on the substantial reserves ATC has proudly maintained for many years. This is important at the club for a number of reasons that include:

- 1) The well-being of the club and the knowledge that if we were to have any emergencies such as a bubble issue, flood light or court issues we have funds to action a repair or replacement quickly.**
- 2) The new City Joint Venture contracts due for issue shortly will insist the local Burlington Joint Venture sports facilities have and maintain reserve funds.**
- 3) The extension project with new washrooms, showers and changing facilities + disability access will need funding during 2016 when work is expected to start in earnest.**

As I mentioned last year at the AGM from November 2014, Aldershot Tennis Club remains one of the most respected and revered community tennis clubs in the area not only by the City of Burlington but also the OTA due to our strong financial position and good management of the facility & funds.

The current year has not been without its challenges and costs. The continued issues with the female washrooms and subsequent rental of an exterior portable washroom has not been popular with many members who dislike the outside access and at times unsavory odor and this situation alone has added a \$400.00 a month cost to the club although we have introduced a communal shared washroom inside the building now to act as a temporary answer until the new washroom facilities are built.

The design, drawings and initial work for the architect working on the club improvements have cost \$8439 this year; the 25th anniversary party increased our social expenditure for the year by \$2000; hydro fees to the club have doubled over the last 5 years; gas charges are up 17% from \$18,970 (2014) to \$22,245 (2015); bubble up and down has increased 18% from \$8,083 (2014) to \$9,580 (2015) due to contractor and crane cost increases, telephone and internet is up 7.7% , general repairs and maintenance is up 2% mainly due to floodlights being replaced during the summer season and tournaments and league expenses are up 23%. We are also paying a snow removal contractor now because we cannot rely on enough membership participation to help Gerry Blake and his team when we need to move snow from around the bubble and the walkways.

All in all the board have navigated a fairly expensive year relating to operating fees and unavoidable costs by showing a \$21.5K profit but compared to the year before this still represents a 45% drop in income. Unfortunately a smaller reduction could perhaps have been mitigated by ensuring full membership numbers were maintained at all times but at one point 5-6 members were left missing from the usual 138-145 roster and this impacted on revenue in to the club.

The board decided this year after nearly 7 years without a membership fee rise we needed to increase our member fees to cover the rising club overhead and in particular the bubble up/down, hydro, gas, portable washroom and snow clearing increases amongst others. While this came at a time when the ATC extension project was being agreed by the membership, the membership fee increases were not related in any way and part of the increase included the abolishment of league fees which saved some members a further cost. However I still personally believe ATC is still great value for money playing tennis compared to any other local facility, and the fact we charge no court fees is a huge bonus that is often lost on people who complain about our fees.

On line league registration which was introduced this year by Chris Duque and Ken Burlock first in the summer term as a pilot scheme, & then across the club for the winter season has been hugely successful and will be used as our standard procedure for the future.

Two other important changes the membership section of the board have implemented during 2015 is a simplified registration system which provides an initial members form to cover the tenure of your membership with no requirement to submit forms in subsequent years; and secondly the introduction of a 'sabbatical policy' for ATC which several members had enquired about. This policy assumes you will not be a paying ADULT member from Oct 1st to Sep 30th of the following year for any reason. You may chose to play 5 times during the winter as a guest, and at any time join as a summer member at the prevailing rate, but the winter season status would see the member put back on our waiting list (albeit they would be at the top of the waiting list the following season - not the bottom). This 'sabbatical offer' is limited to one year and a one-time usage and again is only for full adult membership.

The membership level continues full and strong with 336 full time members (20 people on medical leave), 6 students, and over 100 people currently waiting to join the club on our wait list. The junior section which the board all recognize are the future players for the club, is also strong and active with 29 members, and our coaching staff under the excellent management of Criag Lomas continue to serve the club well with their coaching and drill camps. The board extends its thanks to Craig, Peter and Paula for their efforts at the club.

The club extension plans which I have personally been involved with together with a small select team of board members and general members at ATC is making progress but unfortunately at a slower pace than we perhaps hoped. This is due to City legislation and their process' as this type of project requires detailed cost analysis; a site plan which looks at environmental, drainage, impact on existing services, the changes the building may have regarding the park and local residents etc, and the final architect drawings and designs which have to meet provincial and Federal legislation with regards to the disability accessibility codes. Our team includes John Korosi, Ken Burlock, Tejay Monga who has tendering process and contract experience and Derek Shrubsole who has experience with general contractor management and valuation process' through his own business experiences.

We have a good team and the City have appointed a team to directly manage our project and co-ordination.

Today the current schedule we hope we can keep to is this

/ Final designs will be submitted to the City prior to Xmas 2015

/ Site plan application, tree preservation and landscape plans should be submitted to the City just after Xmas

/ A full cost analysis by a third party should be finalized late Jan 2016

/ Tenders for the work which the City oversee and manage should be out in Feb/ March 2016

/ An application for the ATC loan from the City will be made to council during first quarter 2016 once the detailed cost analysis suggests where our designs and plans leave the budget compared to the value the membership voted the club could afford (\$472K)

/ Construction would begin around May 2016 after bubble down with a completion around bubble up time later in 2016

Let me assure everybody here the board are trying to progress this at the fastest pace we can and have attended at least 10 -12 different meetings to date just to reach the point we are at now.

Two topics the board have not pursued any further while the extension plans continue is the unresolved parking issue at the club, and a possible upgrade of the flood light bulbs to LED type design which would save a vast amount of dollars in hydro running costs. As I mentioned earlier our hydro fees have doubled over the last 5-6 years! We could probably also obtain an ieso hydro incentive to help fund this lighting project of approximately \$12000 but in order to make the change funds of approx. \$80K are required upfront, and with the extension plans we just cannot do everything at one time.

I would like to move on to the final topic which is the fact ATC is run as a volunteer club. Despite a membership of over 330 people the fact is the volunteers who operate the club really represent a very small percentage of overall membership. It is crucial for the good operation of the club we fill the vacant board positions and if this appears too onerous, even help with other events we run or maintenance tasks is greatly appreciated. Please give some thought to this request and ask your friends and playing partners at the club if they can help too. The old saying “many hands make light work” is very apt here

Lastly thank you the members for making my tenure as President over the last 2 years a very enjoyable one, and one that has really opened my eyes as to how much goes on here to run a small club and how a small band of ‘die-hard’ volunteers keep our club ATC the best community tennis club in the province. Thank you to all my board colleagues, the coaching staff and you the membership – I appreciate the opportunity.

Steve Gray

President