

Dear Member

## **CHEAM SPORTS CLUB AGM 2020**

First and foremost, I hope you and your family and friends are keeping well. I know one or two of you have lost some of your nearest and dearest and please be assured everyone's thoughts are with you and if you need to chat, your community of friends at the Sports Club will be here for you.

So, it looks as if we will be able to welcome back Members to Peaches Close very soon and start to rebuild some kind of normality. I'd like to express everyone's massive thanks to all the volunteers that have kept their own sports going (on and off) during the pandemic. Likewise, those who have kept the Clubhouse in excellent condition and the Beer Garden ready for opening on...

**MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL AT NOON!**

We want to tread carefully as re-open and please bear in mind the only access for members to the Clubhouse will be to use the toilets and this only when the beer garden is in operation. The initial plan is weekdays from about 3pm and weekends from noon. If all goes well, we can then re-open the indoor bars on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May in accordance with Step 3 of the easing of restrictions. This will all be a work in progress so please keep an eye on the website for updates.

We appreciate that your main concern is your own sport and I will spare you an explanation of how we are set up but every fully paid-up adult member of our sports is de facto, a member of Cheam Sports Club. If you are a social member, you are still very welcome to read and see of all this but you cannot vote at the AGM.

Right, on to the AGM. This our belated AGM that would normally have been held in the latter part of 2020. Please remember that the Accounts you see relate to the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

## **AGM (for 2019/2020)**

There is never going to be a perfect way of running this particular AGM but here's what we'd like to do:

- 1) Please read the following and take a look at the Accounts.
- 2) If you have any questions for us regarding the Sports Club and/or the Accounts, please forward them to your Section contact. They will then forward them to your Executive Officers and we will answer them, sharing with everyone.
- 3) In terms of your Executive Officers, I am pleased to report that Ray Ward (Vice-Chairman) Colin Hillier (Secretary) and yours truly Alan Rankin (Chairman) are happy to put themselves forward again.

- 4) Treasurer Mark Parry is stepping down and we thank him for all his work. He will still be an integral part of the Club and remains Chair of the Glyn Old Boys FC. I'm pleased to advise that Stu Savill, Chair of Cheam Squash Club, is happy (you know what I mean) to take on the role of Treasurer. He is nominated by Colin Hillier and seconded by Alan Rankin.
- 5) We'd appreciate you giving a "yes" to points 3 and 4 above. You can also say "no" but we would then expect someone doing so to put themselves forward for one of the roles.
- 6) Questions, comments and votes will be received up to and including 10<sup>th</sup> April. Please send them to your Section contact.

We will then give you any answers to any questions and the result of the vote. AGMs in recent years have stretched us very close to failing the necessary quorum so we hope this will get a bigger response. We will also be looking at different and/or extra methods of conducting future AGMs. Well done to all our Sections who have taken various approaches to their own AGMs and all seem to have been a success.

So, now you need to imagine me standing in front of about 25 people in the Boardroom on a cold winter evening. Ray is to my left, Colin on the right. David Tribe will ask a question about the Accounts, it's a tradition. Just about everyone else is a member of the Bowls Club. Here goes...

Welcome! This is the Cheam Sports Club AGM for the financial year 2019/2020. Let us start with the Accounts which you can see before you (=attached to this email)

## **ACCOUNTS**

As always, I'd like to thank Michael Gallant and Jo Bareham for their hard work in preparing the Accounts and their invaluable input to all matters financial. In summary, an encouraging set of Accounts although one month was "lost" due to the first lockdown. You will see that the reduction in maintenance costs was offset by a rise in rates following the removal of our rates relief.

However, I'm pleased to tell you that our appeal against the removal of rates relief was upheld by the Council last week and we will shortly be receiving a refund of about £7,000 covering 2019/2020. That figure is the maximum relief available and should remain in place for the next few years until the next review is undertaken.

Everything else on the 2019/2020 Accounts is just about in line with what we expected albeit Lockdown 1 did take away that crucial month of Clubhouse income, not just the bar but also hall hire.

So, although this "AGM" is all about 2019/2020, I know you will want to know where we are now, particularly as we near our financial year end for 2020/2021.

I'm pleased to advise that we are in a decent place. We have used the furlough scheme to look after the staff, both permanent and our group of casuals. The removal of business rates has been essential and we have also applied successfully for several grants.

I would like to pay a huge thank you on behalf of us all to Mike Gallant (our finance guru) Jo Bareham (our fabulous book keeper) and Colin Hillier (Secretary) for all their hard work on this and helping us look to the summer with peace of mind on the financial front. Derry Brophy (Chair of Cheam Hockey Club) has also done some excellent work with regards to some of our utility bills and that should kick in very soon.

If you have any questions about the Accounts, please let your Section contact know.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

2020 was the Sports Club's centenary and much was planned. For any Club to reach 100 years is quite an achievement. We made it but I guess it will be a year none of us will forget for different reasons.

We would have also normally enjoyed several huge global sporting events which draw in members to watch in the Clubhouse. It was not to be and please don't even start to think about the takings we lost. Okay I will tell you. We conservatively estimate over £125K for the first three months of lockdown alone, please keep that in mind. However, when we could reopen last summer, the Beer Garden was a huge success and when we could open inside and out last year, the support of members was fantastic.

Vice-Chairman Ray Ward (now known as Lockdown Ray, country and western album coming out soon) has been an absolute legend in doing so much behind the scenes for the benefit of the Sports Club and all our sports. Septic tanks, tree removals, you name it, Ray has sorted it out. Thank you Mr Ward.

I must thank Chef Adam for creating quite the best Scotch Egg I have ever had in my life. Adam and his team have been working hard and thank you to all our members and friends who have used and supported his business. His team, Josh and Leigh in particular, have become part of the Club's family.

However, this slightly weird AGM is of course about 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

We know there was success and achievement in all our main sports (bowls, cricket, football, korfbal, squash and tennis) and well done to all concerned. However, there was one achievement which I think trumps everything else...drumroll please!

Cheam Cricket Club. Wow! All 4 Saturday XIs won promotion in their leagues, two teams as champions.

As I said, lots of success in all our sports but I hope you'll agree Cheam CC deserve a special mention. Congratulations also to Cheam Hockey Club who, like the Sports Club, has reached its 100<sup>th</sup> year. Few party like our hockey players so we'll gauge the feel for a belated

centenary celebration for us all in the next few months, let us know what you think. I sense we're all in need of some kind of party when the time is right.

I'll end now because we need to start looking forwards and I think this coming year more than ever we need everyone and every sport to work together. Please always bear in mind that much if not most of what you see at Cheam Sports Club is down to volunteers and everyone is doing their best. It's not always perfect but it's not bad is it?

Thank you for managing to get this far, I hope it wasn't too painful and of some interest. If you want to vote (items 3 and 4) or if you have any questions for this AGM, please let your section contact know. All being well, we can get back on track with the 2020/2021 AGM later this year and a healthy set of Accounts.

### **RESTART!**

As things stand, we hope to have a couple of weekends of football at the start of April. Players will need to arrive ready, play and then leave. The field will be unlocked for the duration of the games only. On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April, the Beer Garden opens and cricket starts on 17<sup>th</sup> April.

Tennis and bowls should be back as normal and we hope for the same with squash. Your own sports will let you know what can and cannot be done. Please bear in mind that the main Clubhouse has to be closed until 12<sup>th</sup> April. Assuming we can open then, the Beer Garden will be open and there will be access to the toilets during opening hours. The indoor bar, changing rooms etc. remain closed until we get the green light in mid-May.

All of us who look after the Sports Club look forward to welcoming YOU back. Why not bring a friend or neighbour down to Peaches Close if they are interested in any of our sports or becoming a social member? It's all down to you to make this place tick and thank you for your ongoing support.

Keep well, keep safe and hope to see you very soon.

Alan

Alan Rankin  
Hon Chairman  
Cheam Sports Club