

# Maidstone LTC AGM - Minutes

Date:08/02/26

Time: 09:30

Location: Maidstone LTC Clubhouse

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**Meeting called by:** Alex Gipson

**Type of meeting:** Committee Meeting

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**Facilitator:** Alex Gipson

**Note taker:** Alex Gipson

**Attendees:**

**Alex Gipson**  
**Anne Marie Doyle**  
**Bob Thomas**  
**Fiona Eke**  
**Georgina Noakes**  
**Malcolm Wells**  
**Phil Eckersley**  
**Richard Bance**  
**Roger Fowle**

**Apologies**  
**Emily Watts**  
**Gill Howard**  
**Jay Lepine**  
**Kerensa McGrahan**  
**Lesley Dillon**  
**Linda Southby**  
**Sue Cooper**

Item	Agenda		
1	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b> See above</p>	<b>Presenter</b>	AG
2	<p><b>Minutes of the previous AGM</b></p> <p>The minutes of the AGM on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2024 were circulated ahead of this meeting. The attendees approved the minutes (Proposer: Richard Bance Seconder: Phil Eckersley)</p>	<b>Presenter</b>	AG

<p><b>3-7</b></p>	<p><b>Reports</b></p> <p>Reports were circulated ahead of the meeting and AG highlighted the following areas:</p> <p>Membership numbers – at all time high, boosted by significant growth in Pickleball members. Pickleball which had started c 18 mths ago, has grown well and appears to be a welcome addition to the club. Numbers participating are good and it provides a friendly and multi -generational, with sessions often including parents/grandparents/kids playing</p> <p>Finance position is fairly robust on an ongoing basis, although cost pressures do continue to be felt (the latest being the fact that it has been highlighted that the pre-school has been covering water charges for both their and our supply). If we maintain the current surplus being generated it should be sufficient to cover running costs, contingencies and setting aside funds for future investment. We are however still building up funds to meet the current investment requirements – courts/lighting and access.</p> <p>On court – the social sessions remain popular and a key aspect of the club (although work continues to reinvigorate Thurs Eve), the club championship was expanded and well received, and teams continue to compete in the Kent and Maidstone leagues</p> <p>Coaching – we remain pleased with the support provided by HotshotZ and the junior programme in particular remains popular. Their support with wider community initiatives such as International Women’s Day, local schools and a Young Carers event is highly valued. We are currently talking to them about commencing sessions to those with Parkinsons and other disabilities.</p> <p>Status – we are likely to approach members over the next few months to change the status of the club which is currently unincorporated. This provides challenges – such as our lease needing to be in the name of Trustees and does limit the number of organisations that might provide us with financial support. Kent LTA have also encouraged clubs to consider changing. The key elements of the club – a member’s club with a community focus, run by volunteers with all surpluses reinvested in the club will remain.</p>	<p><b>Presenter</b></p>	<p>AG</p>
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8	<p><b>Election of Officers:</b></p> <p>Details of existing officers standing for re-election were circulated ahead of the meeting and as there were no other nominations they were automatically elected.</p> <p>It was confirmed that Jay Lepine was not standing for re-election to avoid any potential conflicts of interest occurring due to his involvement through Ace Sports. He will continue to attend committee meetings in a non- voting capacity, in a similar way to our coaching partner HotshotZ.</p> <p>Jay was thanked for the dedication, enthusiasm and creativity shown during his time on the committee and in advance for that continued dedication that we are sure he will provide going forward</p>		
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<p>9</p>	<p><b>Any other Business</b></p> <p><b>Anne Marie Doyle raised the plans for lighting</b></p> <p>AG confirmed that we replaced three lights in the autumn but one had now unfortunately failed on court 3. Whilst disappointing it does not impact on evening matches and other evening events are not significantly affected. Due to ground conditions we could not currently replace.</p> <p>Lights remain an important aspect of our investment plans, but the aim ideally is to make decisions on all investment at the same time – which will be influenced by planning for Padel. This enables us to go to third parties with a single request for support. We do however recognise that a decision on lights will need to be resolved well ahead of next autumn</p> <p><b>Roger Fowle asked about the café, whether it was successful and how long trial would go?</b></p> <p>AG confirmed that the current licence ran for one year and the club receives a rent from Ace Sport. Obviously during the winter period numbers will be sporadic (and opening hours reflect that) but AG believes that Ace are generally happy with the level of interest seen and confident that as weather improves then turnover will grow further.</p> <p>AG mentioned a couple of other points:</p> <p>On plans for Padel we are currently in pre-planning discussions with MBC, which will hopefully benefit from the greater understanding within MBC given recent applications seen.</p> <p>Balls – we recognise that at times we have been slow to replace balls for social sessions. This is a significant cost to the club (c £1k per annum) and members are reminded that balls are only provided for the official social sessions. We will be looking to trial a new system with balls allocated to social sessions and when these are replaced they will become available to all members.</p>		
<p>The meeting closed at 8.52 AM</p>			