



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

APRIL 4th 2016

HELD AT THE CIVIC OFFICES GRAYS

Present

Chair Les Hughes, Vice Chair Glenda Stephens, Jenny Hurley, Alec Hurley, Chris Jessener, Cliff Cansdale, Geoff Appleton, Alec Berry, Mick Maxwell, Peter Madgewick, Cllr Joy Redsell

Apologies for absence

T Rawson, T Hills, M Lee

Matters arising from 2015 Minutes

No matters arising and the minutes were accepted as a true record.

Treasurer's Report

We had £6888 grant for the year. A balance of £400 will remain after the auditors have been paid.

About £3500 was sponsorship for elite athletes and cricket and £2388 for coaching for 4 sports and some individuals.

The accounts have been prepared for auditing.

Chairman's report

A slow start to the year, not helped by the grant delay until August, however the second half came to life, so much so that we exhausted the grant of £6888 by the end of March.

Support given to individuals by way of sponsorship has exceeded that of coaching awards, although the coaching grants given will reach a good amount of sports people.

I would prefer to concentrate on coaching awards for the very reason of numbers reached, perhaps the sponsorships could be reduced or more vigorously applied.

Thank you to the regular attendees, the Council members for their support, and Glenda Jenny and Marie for ensuring the Sports Council keeps going.

Election of Officers

Chair	Les Hughes
Vice Chair	Glenda Stephens
Treasurer	Marie Wilson
Communications	Jenny Hurley

Minutes Secretary post vacant

AOB – to include April meeting

1. Cllr Redsell explained the work the Friends of Blackshots have been doing to replace the old buildings at Blackshots with a new sports hub. They have met the strategic team of the Council to discuss ideas. Veolia have promised funding to use as match funding. A grant from the Council will fund the feasibility study which will be finished by the end of July. Bowls, cricket, football and athletics clubs are involved.

2. Tennis

A fun day was held last Tuesday which 140 children and adults enjoyed and some have signed up to join. Members are now preparing for championships. Summer school will be held for 3 weeks in the school holidays. The Tennis Club are in partnership with St Clere's School and now have floodlit courts so coaching can take place in the evenings.

3. The revamped tennis court facilities at Blackshots are well used. Corringham have included dog training sessions on their courts. It is hoped to organise a firm to collect litter/dog mess dropping fines at Blackshots.

4. Model Aeroplane Flying

Now settled on the new site which is Veolia land between Grangewaters and the Mardyke. It is on the flood plain but has not flooded this winter. New members are making enquiries to join.

5. South Essex District Cricket Board

Belhus won the National Indoor 6 a-side competition which included 920 clubs. Mike Gattling presented the trophy.

Discussion followed about the rare occasions when Thurrock has won national titles. In 1912 we won quoits! Bowls have won a number of competitions but not many other sports.

Indoor cricket has now finished and outdoor starting.

Cliff Cansdale felt that the Sports Council should prioritise minority sports such as sports for women and disabled. Lack of funding for the Sports Council means we must review how the money is spent.

Cricket and Rugby clubs find it hard to field female teams. Cricket is bringing together girls from a number of clubs to play as a South Essex District Cricket Board team. Indoor cricket needs 6 girls so it is easier to field a team.

6. Clubs should remember that The Thurrock Community Chest gives them an opportunity to raise money.

7. The VSDF (Voluntary Sector Development Fund) grant is now open for applications.

8. Bowls

The Council is encouraging bowls clubs to recruit new players by not charging them green fees for their first season.

Working with Veolia all clubs have had their ditches and banks improved at a cost of £250,000. New electric fox wire goes live at Blackshots. By working together the clubs at Blackshots have been able to make improvements to facilities.

The Lifestyle Group play at Blackshots with specialised equipment.

More short mat bowls is required but it is difficult to find buildings large enough to accommodate it.

Serena Madgewick is the ladies county champion at just 23 years of age.

9. Football

The football development at Lakeside has had some planning issues although the 3G pitch is complete. There has been an extension to the changing rooms. The facility will be mainly for youth football with professional clubs interested in youth training there. The cost of the pitch was £500,000. There will be a grand opening.

10. Radio Yacht Sailing

The UK rules in this sport. The local group meet on Wednesdays and Sundays at Coalhouse Fort and they have over 30 members. They are self funding but it is not too expensive to take part. They have had 3 national champions in the last 4 years.

11. Athletics

The Harriers have champions in various events and age groups. However it is hard to get coaches. Many of the coaches are parents who have become involved through their children. They have some funding to clear the mound at the track.

12. Thurrock Hockey Club

Mixed results this season with one team promoted and one relegated. The club is still trying to secure its clubhouse as they cannot obtain a lease. They cannot access funding without a lease.

Meeting finished at 9.15pm