# West End Lawn Tennis Club (Pinner) Ltd

**AGM**

**Sunday, March 9th 2025 at 4.00 p.m.**

**Minutes of the Seventy – first Annual General Meeting of the Company**

**(being the one hundredth and fourteenth Annual General Meeting of the Club)**

**Present**

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| Katherine Pinching | Chair |
| Peter Joseph | Treasurer |
| Susan O'Toole | Secretary |

Graham Gold, Amit Kumar, Catherine Pain – all members of the Management Committee

Also present were the members of the General Committee:

Bailie Harkness, Jo Burch, Aleka Gong, Swamy Pulavarnathan, Aga Pieczykolan, Sarah Jones, Tony lawrence, Ian Waddell and Nita Pattni.

Vish Gupta was unable to attend.

Altogether there were approximately 55 members present at the meeting.

- All members present at the meeting were offered a document with questions submitted by members and with answers from the Management Committee. It was also sent electronically.

**Agenda**

1. **Apologies for Absence**
   Anne Barker, Val Matthews, Naina Kanabar and Vish Gupta forwarded their Apologies for Absence.

2. **Approval of the Minutes of the 70th Annual General Meeting of the Company that was held on Sunday, March 17th 2024 and Any Matters Arising.**
   The Minutes were approved and there were no Matters Arising.

3. **The Chair's Report on the Year 2024 – 2025 and relevant reports from Members of the General Committee.**
   **3.1 The Chair's Report – Katherine**
   Katherine's report is enclosed with these Minutes.
   **3.2 Clubhouse Secretary – Jo Burch**
   Jo thanked Bob Hamments, until 2024 a club member, for his help with dealing with the many problems that crop up.
   Jo has dealt with organising all the electrical and fire safety issues, the fire alarm has been checked and the club room lights are now LED lights. There has been a

problem with the balcony light which will be sorted out. A friend of Bailie is going to supply flowers for the balcony.

**3.3 Communication Secretary – Vish Gupta**

Vish was unable to be present but sent a report:

Vish took over the role from Nik Harta. He is assisted by Nita and works with the General Committee and the Management Committee to publish information to the members through the WhatsApp Announcement group and by the email distribution list.

Vish is also working on a brand-new website with a stronger community section and one that is easier to navigate for information on events, socials, coaching (junior and adults) etc and any feedback to Vish is welcome. Vish would very much appreciate new blood to help with this role. Any assistance in finding a company, or knowledge of a company, to work with Vish on the website would be helpful.

Vish requested that any member not on the WhatsApp and email distribution list to contact him directly if they wish to join.

**3.4 Social and Catering Secretary- Amit Kumar**

Amit said that the Christmas quiz, organised by the quiz master Adam Gilchrist, was very successful with over 60 people present and there will be another one later in the year. There have been more Wednesday evening socials. Nita has been working with Amit to try and encourage the table tennis. In the summer it is planned to start the club's main tournament earlier this year. There will be a summer BBQ.

Amit would welcome any suggestions or help with social events.

**3.5 External Tennis Secretary – Aleka Gong**

Aleka is organising the match schedule for the Middlesex Summer League. There will be no Tuesday (Junior Evening) or Wednesday (Social Session) home matches. There are 4 men's teams and 3 ladies teams. M4 are a "new" team and are doing well and climbing up the divisions. Information about the teams will go in the newsletter and it is hoped that will encourage spectators to come and support the teams and are also encourage more use of the bar.

**3.6 Bar Secretary – Swamy Pulvarnathan**

The Bar is open on Saturday afternoons and on Wednesday evenings. It is also open on match nights but is often poorly attended. The next event will be a Guinness evening on the nearest Wednesday to St. Patrick's Day i.e. Wednesday 19th March. Swamy said that he would welcome any suggestions for an event, open to all members, in the Bar. He would also welcome any suggestions for "favourite" drinks. Last year Swamy, as a results of members' requests, improved the quality of the Rose wine. Ideally, Swamy would like members to use the Bar more.

**3.7 Junior Secretary – Aga Pieczykolan**

During the Winter Aga ran 4 teams and in the Summer there will be 5 teams. Aga thanked the parents who helped and made this possible. Aga has also entered the club in The Road to Wimbledon. There are lot of opportunities for Junior coaching by both Bailie and Gee and, during the AGM, Gee was coaching some of the more advanced junior players.

Ian Jones suggested the possibility of a M5 team made up of Juniors but, as Aleka pointed, out there would be difficulties in scheduling. Some of the more advanced Juniors have been attending some of the Wednesday evening Social Sessions.

**3.8 Welfare Officer – Sarah Jones**

Sarah's report is attached to these Minutes.

Members expressed their sympathy to Sarah concerning the disrespectful treatment of her photograph on the club's noticeboard.

**3.9 Courts and Ground Secretary – Tony Lawrence**

Tony explained that he was retiring from the role after 6 years in the post. It was reported that Richard Wilkinson has expressed an interest in taking over from Tony but has not yet confirmed that he will. No one has yet been appointed.

Tony has quotations for replacing the fence alongside Cuckoo Hill Road and it is hoped to proceed very shortly with this.

There has been a problem with the floodlighting on all courts. The floodlighting on the upper courts is now working. There remains a problem with the lighting on court 1as the poles are very high and Tony is hoping that this will be sorted very soon. The annual court maintenance has been booked for August. Tony will apply the moss spray to the court edges very shortly. Tony said that the court nets cost upwards of £300 and winders also have to be replaced occasionally. The gardener comes to the club 20 times a year. The paving alongside courts 1 and 2 needs repairing.

**3.10 Membership Secretary – Ian Waddell**

Membership renewals are underway. The membership numbers remain fairly static. So far, 5 members have said that they are leaving but the reasons are nothing to do with WELTC. 1 other person was unhappy with the subscription rate, the lights and wanted some hard courts.

Our fees are competitive with other clubs in the area. Ian reminded members that there is a deadline of 1st April for paying subscriptions.

There was a question about the joining fee which was thought to be very expensive. Ian said that it was usually waived but it will be discussed in a committee meeting.

**3.11 Baillie Harkness – Club Coach**

Bailie reported that all four Social Sessions at the club, Wednesday evenings, Friday mornings, Saturday and Sunday afternoons, are busy. The club is also busy during the week.

Bailie presented the Bert Waugh Trophy for the Most Improved Player to Mark Kendall.

Katherine thanked all the members of the General Committee for their reports and all the work that they undertake for the club.

**4.**

**a. Resolution 1 – Annual Report and Accounts**

The Annual report and Accounts for the Year ended 31st October 2024 (together with the reports of the Directors and Auditor) were presented to the meeting for approval.

Peter presented his report which is attached to these Minutes.

Following the report, one member was critical of the report saying the club could have increased its revenue considerably with more investments. Peter explained that the club currently has two accounts with 4% interest and one instant access account. It was suggested, by a member, that it would be advantageous to look at

Flagstone to see if there were any accounts suitable for the club and Peter agreed to investigate.
A member also asked why we had not considered being registered as a Community Amateur Sports Centre (CASC). The Committee has looked at this in the past and a committee member checked the requirements today. Despite the relatively small tax relief benefit, there are many very strict requirements in order to be registered as a CASC. It was pointed out that the administrative burden for this is very high. A few of the many requirements were highlighted such as: in order to meet the requirements of reaching all the community it might be necessary to enable disabled access and toilets, possibly a lift and to ensure that all members were actively involved at the Club there would need to be monitoring of all the people coming and going to ensure that those low attenders were picked up. In addition, were the Club dissolved under a CASC registration of the Club, less any offset liabilities, the Club could only be passed on to a charity. The Club would no longer belong to the members but would be a charity.
These were identified using the Gov.uk website and the guidelines for CASC registration.
Vince O'Toole proposed and Gary Burch seconded acceptance of the Accounts and a vote was taken. There were 41 For. There were 15 Against and there were no Abstentions.

b. **Resolution 2 and 3 – Appointment of the Auditor and authority for the Directors to determine their remuneration, if any.**
   The Company must appoint Auditors at each general meeting, at which accounts are presented, to hold office until the conclusion of the next such meeting.
   Resolution 2 seeks approval to re-appoint Lawrence Hurst FCA as the Company's Auditor, who independently reviews the Accounts.
   In accordance with normal practice, Resolution 3 seeks authority for the Management Committee to determine, if appropriate, the Auditor's remuneration.
   Lawrence Hurst has been the Auditor for several years and is willing to stand for one more year.
   Sean Gong proposed and Kate Tann seconded that Lawrence Hurst should be appointed the club Auditor.
   There were 38 in Favour.
   There were 2 Against.
   There were 5 Abstentions.

   Katherine clarified that there is no remuneration. There will be a vacancy for the position of Club Auditor next year.

c. **Resolution 4 – Appointing Members of the Management Committee and other Officers in place of those retiring by rotation or otherwise.**
   Members of the Management Committee retiring by rotation are Graham Gold and Amit Kumar and both are willing to stand for re-election. Other Members of the Management Committee are: Chair – Katherine Pinching, Honorary

Treasurer – Peter Joseph, Honorary Secretary – Susan O'Toole and Catherine Pain. None of these are retiring.
One member asked Graham to give an account of himself. Graham did so and there was appreciation from many other members present for Graham and his enormous contribution to the club over many years.
Some members asked about the constitution and, particularly, how a member could become a member of the Management Committee. It was explained that members of the Management Committee had formerly been, or were still, on the General Committee and therefore had a lot of experience on club matters. It was also explained that it was current practice that the Chairman/Woman, Treasurer and Secretary would not have to rotate. There were a few members who would like to be on the Management Committee. It is encouraging that people would like to contribute to the club and perhaps serve on the Management Committee which can have up to 7 members. There are 6 at present and the Management Committee agreed that it could increase to 7 as there is provision for this in the Articles. The process for increasing the number will be decided and co-option is one suggestion. Katherine Pinching repeated that the Club's constitution would be reviewed during the year. A group will be set up to review the current constitution and make suggestions for change and this would go to the committees and then to an AGM for approval and ratification.
The appointment of both Graham and Amit as Members of the Management Committee was then put to the meeting
For Amit, Sean Gong proposed and Philip Escoffey seconded the motion and there were 45 For, 0 Against and there were 4 Abstentions.
For Graham, Sarah Jones proposed and Heather Purchase seconded the motion and there were 25 For, 11 Against and 2 Abstentions.
Several members expressed an interest in taking part in the constitution review.
The Management Committee were appointed for 2025 – 2026.

The Officers of the General Committee are: Katherine Pinching, Peter Joseph, Susan O'Toole, Bailie Harkness, Sarah Jones, Ian Waddell, Tony Lawrence*, Aga Pieczykolan, Swamy Pulavarnathan, Aleka Gong, Amit Kumar, Vish Gupta, Jo Burch and Nita Pattni.
*Tony Lawrence is not standing for re-election.

There is vacancy on the General Committee for Grounds and Courts Secretary. Vish would also like assistance with his role as Communication Secretary. No one at the meeting offered their services.
The proposal to appoint the above Officers to the General Committee was proposed by Hazel Kann and seconded by Sean Gong. There were 46 For, 0 Against and no Abstentions. Thus, they were duly elected.

Katherine Pinching, Chair, thanked everyone for attending and the meeting finished at 6.15 p.m.