



# The Royal Melbourne Tennis Club

## Minutes of the 133<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting Held on Wednesday 4th May 2016, starting at 6.00pm

### 1. Attendance

**Those present:** R Kininmonth (President, Chair), K Arndt (Hon. Secretary), R Simpson (Vice-President), R Michelson (Treasurer), W Cockram, P Andrews, O Guest, J Hamer, G Reid, W Lorimer, V Scopelliti, M Carroll, D Hayne, J Wheeler, M O'Rorke, J Hawkins, J Snow, W Whitehead, P Stanley, G Moran, D Williams, M Williams, G Newton, P McCahey, P Rosendale, G Blundstone, B Harris, D Friend, A St Hill, A Rayward, C Wright, A Stanley, M MacKay, M Bowman, S Williams, I Buchanan, P Scally, S Shelmerdine, J Gould, L Eiera, P Payne, J Raymond, N Brand, Q Clark, L Brown, K Petaluna, F Hewson, C Trevarthen, A Gould.

**Proxies:** D Lloyd Jones, G Webster

**Apologies:** G Hiller, A Willingham, R Travers, J Baker, P Barker, N Hayne, H Turnball, J Gray.

### **In Attendance:** -

There being a quorum present, R Kininmonth opened the Meeting and welcomed members to the Meeting.

A motion that the apologies be taken as read was proposed by R Simpson and seconded by O Guest. The motion was carried.

### 2. Notice of Meeting and Minutes

Having been displayed on the Club notice-board for at least a fortnight, a motion to take the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting (which was held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2015) as read, and to take the Notice of Meeting as read was proposed by D Hayne and seconded by J Hamer. The motion was carried.

#### **4. Financial Report**

The President proposed the Meeting receive and adopt the Financial Report of the Club for the financial year ended 31st December 2015 and the reports of the Committee and Auditor thereon. In seconding the motion the Treasurer (Rudi Michelson) spoke briefly regarding the strong financial position of the club: \$1.035 million in revenue and an operating surplus of \$141,000 (after dividends), whilst holding subscriptions and fee increases below CPI. The club has a policy of investing two thirds of its available funds in blue-chip stocks and this portfolio is currently valued just over \$1.3 million.

#### **5. President's Report**

The President (R Kininmonth) referred members to the President's Report contained in the Annual Report. R Kininmonth thanked the Committee for their contribution over the past twelve months and the noted the work undertaken by K Arndt (Hon Secretary) and R Simpson (Vice President).

The President then invited various committee members to provide an update on the Club's strategic and operational initiatives.

W Cockram reported on Building and Grounds; V Scopelliti reported on Tennis; K Arndt reported on Membership.

R Kininmonth made note of the strong financial health of the Club and thanked the Club's Accounts Manager H Pritchard for her work.

The President noted that in the last twelve months Andrew Buckle retired from Committee. The President thanked Andrew for his efforts and the meeting offered a round of applause. The President reminded members that the members of the Committee and sub-committees are volunteers, and strongly encouraged members to participate and serve on committees and sub-committees, which are vital for the running of the club.

The President thanked Frank Filippelli and the professional staff for their excellent service in the past year.

#### **7. Election of Committee Members**

##### **Retirements**

Jonathan Hamer retires from the Committee effective from the conclusion of this AGM. Jonathan joined the Committee in 2009 and since held the following positions: Chair of Tennis (2005-2006)(2015-current); Chair of Management & Finance (2013-2015); Vice President (2010-2013); and President (2013-2015).

The President thanked Jonathan for his contribution.

## **Re-election**

The following retired by rotation and offered themselves for re-election: R Michelson, R Simpson, and J Baker.

A motion was put that Rudi Michelson be re-elected. The motion was proposed by O Guest and seconded by J Hamer. The motion was carried.

A motion was put that Richard Simpson be re-elected. The motion was proposed by D Hayne and seconded by I Buchanan. The motion was carried.

A motion was put that Julie Baker be re-elected. The motion was proposed by G Newton and seconded by I Buchanan. The motion was carried.

The President declared them to be elected.

## **Election to fill vacancies**

William (Bill) Cockram was appointed to fill a casual vacancy on the Committee in February 2016 and, being eligible, offered himself for election. A motion was put that William Cockram be elected. The motion was proposed by M O'Rorke and seconded by Q Clark. The motion was carried.

Vince Scopelliti was appointed to fill a casual vacancy on the Committee in March 2016 and, being eligible, offered himself for election. A motion was put that Vince Scopelliti be elected. The motion was proposed by P Stanley and seconded by J Hamer. The motion was carried.

Paul Andrews was appointed to fill a casual vacancy on the Committee in March 2016 and, being eligible, offered himself for election. A motion was put that Paul Andrews be elected. The motion was proposed by D Hayne and seconded by P Payne. The motion was carried.

## **Other Business**

There being no further business which could be brought before the Meeting, the President closed the formal part of the Meeting, and invited members to ask any questions or offer any comments.

G Newton thanked the Head Professional Frank Filippelli and his team of professional staff and the Committee for their contribution to the Club.

P Payne acknowledged the strong financial results and asked for clarification of 1) the contribution (\$) of squash membership and 2) the measure used to determine court utilisation. R Michelson responded that squash membership contributions for the year equated to approximately \$20k. R Michelson took the question of court utilisation measure on notice and confirmed that he would send this information to P Payne after the AGM.

D Hayne commented that the some of the artwork hanging in the Club was not done so appropriately and requested that this artwork be adjusted accordingly.

M MacKay spoke to concerns she had tabled with the Hon Secretary prior to the AGM regarding the rights of Non Playing Members to access courts in comparison with the rights of squash players who had joined the Club recently under the terms and conditions of Special Membership (Squash). R Kininmonth spoke to this and the following question, as set out in the following paragraph.

G Blundstone asked about the RMTC's relationship with the Grace Park Hawthorn Squash Club and the circumstances leading to the recent Special Membership Squash arrangements. R Kininmonth spoke to this, reminding Members that similar arrangements were first established in 2014 with the MCC squash section with a goal to build a strong RMTC squash pennant team. The temporary (2 year) arrangements (in the case of both MCC Squash Section and GPHSC) were put in place to encourage squash players to experience the game of Real Tennis and at the conclusion of this two year period, assuming continued interest in the club, to join the RMTC as Ordinary Members. Since 2014, 3 squash players introduced to the Club (from the original 9 of the MCC Squash Section) have joined RMTC as Ordinary Members. Given that the first GPHSC people were introduced in mid 2015, and given the level of interest currently being expressed, it is hoped that a number of GPHSC members will also join RMTC.

G Blundstone commented that in order for this arrangement to be successful, the Committee must implement mechanisms to encourage squash players on to the tennis courts. R Kininmonth advised that these mechanisms were in place and included such things as introduction nights for squash players.

G Reid spoke to one of three concerns he had tabled with the Hon Secretary prior to the AGM regarding ARTA and the role of RMTC in recent negotiations in respect of the ARTA Constitution. In particular, G Reid was of the view that RMTC sought to hold control over ARTA activities.

R Simpson, O Guest and R Kininmonth responded to G Reid's concerns with R Simpson providing a comprehensive summary of the history of ARTA and events leading to the proposed draft Constitution. Effectively, RMTC was agreeing to fewer votes than it has under the current constitution, and both O Guest and R Kininmonth indicated to Members that RMTC was acting in good faith in these negotiations with the goal of achieving what is in the best interests for RMTC Members and the game of Real Tennis.

There were no further questions.

The President then invited members to stay for the presentation of trophies.

Meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Confirmed by Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: