

**Minutes of the Woking Leisure Centre 50+ Club AGM
Held at the Leisure Centre on Monday 17th April, 2024.**

There were 31 members in attendance at the 2024 AGM including 7 committee member.

Alan Gibbs (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming.

Apologies were received from Jackie and David Lambert, Carole Baker, Barbara Waldron, Lynne Hayter, Diann Arnfield,

The 2023 AGM minutes which have been emailed to members and displayed on our notice board were proposed by Chris Roberts seconded by David Hill and unanimously voted for by all those present.

There were no matters arising from the 2023 minutes.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Following your approval of the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held here in the Leisure Centre in April 2023, and there being no Matters Arising from the Minutes raised by members present, or sent to me by e-mail prior to this meeting, we can now proceed to the Chairman's Report. I welcome you all to this the 2024 Annual General Meeting and while looking around at the number of seats taken by attending members I note that we have somewhat fewer members attending compared to previous AGMs but nevertheless I thank you all for making the effort to attend, and I hope that you have enjoyed the refreshments set out by our two Secretaries, Pam Bedder and Elaine Bailey.

At last year's AGM one issue that was on everybody's mind was the then recent restriction on the free car parking time at the Leisure Centre imposed by the Woking Borough Council. Following our representations on the matter to our Member of Parliament, Jonathan Lord, he started an on-line petition through the Woking Borough Council website which had a finish date of 31 March this year. Regretfully, it seems that only 847 members of the public signed the petition by the expiry date, and this does not seem to have had much influence on the Woking Borough Council re-thinking their decision. Jonathan Lord did tell me over the telephone that he was hoping to have further discussions on the matter with the Chief Executive of the Woking Borough Council, but I have heard nothing further from him on the matter. Unfortunately, it looks as though we will have to live with the situation. One positive decision by the Woking Borough Council following the responses received on a survey on public and community facilities sent out to residents in the borough, was the continuation of the operation of the Leisure Centre Swimming Pool, which was under threat of closure as part of the proposed measures to shore up their finances.

Due in some part to the parking restrictions we no longer hold briefing meetings for members at the start of our sessions on Monday afternoons, Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings, and I hope that members are happy with the information that they receive on our activities by e-mail, or see on our website, or on the 50+ club notice board on the wall in the lower ground floor of the Leisure Centre.

Due to cost pressures, the Leisure Centre operators have increased the admission fees for the 50+ club sessions earlier this year compared to previous years. I know that we all hate price increases but I still feel that we get good value for the range of sporting facilities on offer at one session price.

The challenges to keeping the 50+ Club an active and vibrant club remain, with the very low attendances at our Tuesday afternoon sessions a continuing source of concern especially as the reasons for this are not particularly apparent. The usual flow of our sporting activities at the Leisure Centre have continued to be interrupted on numerous occasions, particularly during school holidays and half term breaks when the Leisure Centre holds profitable children's activity camps using the huge inflatable activity structure in the main sports hall. Recently, the Leisure Centre management have offered us alternative short tennis and badminton court space at the Sports Box Centre to cover these holiday periods and I thank them for offering us these alternative arrangements.

A new additional sports session for 50+ Club members is to be trialled on Sunday morning, 28 April, 2024, starting at 9.00am at the Eastwood Leisure Centre in Sheerwater, where initially Short Tennis, Badminton and Table Tennis will be available, and I hope that as many members as possible will give it a go. Car parking is free and is not restricted to two hours at this Centre.

Apart from our sporting activities at the Leisure Centre, the Wednesday Walks program, organised by our Committee member, Hilary Thomas, has continued throughout the last year, although one or two had to be cancelled due to bad weather. Numbers of attendees were somewhat down compared to previous years, but nevertheless these researched and organised walks were enjoyed by the attendees as evidenced by the photographs appearing on the 50+ Club notice board from time to time. My thanks to Hilary and all the individual walk leaders for keeping this activity flourishing.

We have not had as many 50+ Club excursions as we used to do in previous years, but the four-day excursion to Somerset in September last year, organised by our Committee member Diann Armfield, was very much enjoyed by the 26 members who went. Diann is organising another 4-day excursion, this time to Norfolk to take place from 6th to 9th June this year.

Regretfully, one day excursions planned by your Committee members, to Chichester town in December 2023, and to Chichester again in August this year to visit the Chichester Festival and see the latest production of Oliver, had to be cancelled due to the lack of take up of tickets to make the excursions viable.

The 50+ Club 2023 Christmas Lunch was held, for the first time, in the Hoebridge Golf Centre, a departure from the many previous years that we have held the function at the Sutton Green Golf Club. This change was largely due to meal cost differences between the two clubs. 52 members attended the Christmas Lunch, and I gathered, from my later verbal enquiries to some members, they enjoyed the food served. I was abroad on date of the lunch, and I believe that there were a few minor teething problems such as the absence of the promised, at least to me, mince pies at the end of the meal, and a missing PA system. We will bear these in mind when considering the next Christmas Lunch.

I now come to the time when I have a special job to do. As many of you will have heard, Stan Craven who has been involved with the running of the 50+ club for well over 30 years and has reached the noble age of 90 years has decided to retire from the 50+ club. If I ever reach 90 years and look as fit and trim as Stan does, I will be a happy person. On behalf of the Committee and all the members of the 50+ Club, I would now like to make a presentation to Stan in recognition of all his years of front-line support of the 50 + Club not only in his liaison role between the Club and the Leisure Centre management but also for the organisation of the indoor and outdoor bowls activities and handling our participation in the past REACT games.

Before we move on to the next item on our Agenda, the review and approval of the financial accounts of the 50+ Club for the year ending 31 March 2024, I would like to express my thanks, and your thanks as well ,to all our serving Committee members who do their best in your interests in keeping the 50+ Club going as an active and friendly sports club, and keeping you informed, through numerous e-mails and our web site, of our activities and important notices. I am pleased to say that all the present Committee members, with the exception of Stan Craven who has retired, have agreed to stand for re-election.

With the retirement of Stan Craven, we will be one Committee member short of our usual compliment. If any member is interested in serving on the Committee to help in furthering the activities of the 50+ Club, please let us know as soon as possible.

Finally, I would like to thank the management of the Leisure Centre for their close and active support of our Club.

Alan asked the members present if anyone would be interested in learning/playing pickle ball as the L C have all the equipment needed. The general consensus was no as it's too noisy.

Treasurer's Report

A statement of WLC 50+ Club Funds was distributed in paper form to all those present and a copy will be attached in paper form at the end of these minutes. Ian stated that our funds are up from last year and no event has seen a loss. These funds are needed to cover various items such as Public Liability Insurance. The accounts were proposed by David Hill and seconded by Mike Eden and agreed by the members.

Leisure Centre Report

Jay told the members about the new session due to start at Eastwood Centre in Sheerwater on a Sunday morning. There are courts available for short tennis and badminton also table tennis and use of the gym and pool.

This may have to run during the summer only, due to cricket using the centre during the winter.

Jay was asked by a member if there was any news of Heatwaves opening up again but there is no confirmation yet.

Jay was also asked if water fountains could be provided in places other than the gym and Jay agreed to put this question to the centre management.

Election of Committee Members

All committee members were voted back onto the committee with the exception of Stan Craven who has decided to stand down

This means the committee is one member short now and Alan Gibbs asked for any nominations from the floor. None were forthcoming.

Alan Gibbs then presented Stan Craven with a gift on behalf of the 50+ Club for all the service he has given over the years to the club and thanked him profusely.

Jay also presented Stan with a plaque on behalf of the Leisure Centre.

A.O.B.

As the REACT games no longer take place we were hoping to have a re-match with Winchester Club but this is not happening at the moment.

Maggie stated that the proposed trip to Chichester in August this year has not had enough interest so has had to be cancelled.

The meeting closed at 1.50 p.m.