MINUTES OF THE WOKING LEISURE CENTRE 50+ CLUB AGM

                                                          HELD AT THE LEISURE CENTRE ON MONDAY 12th MAY 2025

There were 29 Members who attended the AGM. This included 7 Committee Members.

ALAN GIBBS  (Chairman) Welcomed everyone to the Meeting and thanked them for coming.

APOLOGIES  Were received from Pam Bedder (Joint Secretary), Jackie Lambert and David Lambert

THE 2024 AGM MINUTES  Which had been displayed on our noticeboard and emailed to our Members

were proposed by David Hill, seconded by Philip Bennett and agreed by the remaining Members.

There were no matters arising from the 2024 Minutes.

CHAIRMANS REPORT

WOKING LEISURE CENTRE 50+ CLUB

Committee Meeting, Thursday, 22 May 2025

Chairman’s Report

50+ CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

At our Annual General Meeting held on Monday 12 May 2025, I was somewhat concerned to note that in total only 25 members of the Club attended, made up of 18 General Members and 7 Committee Members, even with a wide range of refreshments available before the start of the meeting, In my recollection this is the lowest number of attendees that we have had for any Annual General Meeting for many years.

 It is difficult to know what the reason for this is – is it the impact of the current restricted free parking time at the Leisure Centre so that members who want to go on to attend the usual Monday afternoon sessions of the 50+ Club feel that by also attending the AGM they are losing time for their participation in the normal Monday afternoon 50+ Club session, or are our present membership becoming apathetic to the administrative affairs of the Club? Is there any point in exploring if we could get special one day parking permits from the Woking Borough Council that would allow our AGM attendees to have free parking from say 11.45 am to 4.45 pm?

Or, should we consider abandoning physical AGMs and instead, subject to the provisions of our existing Constitution conduct AGMs by e-mail, i.e. sending out to our members written reports from all the sections of our activities, such as Chairman’s Report, Walks Co-ordinator’s Report, Outings Co-ordinator’s Report, Leisure Centre Report, Treasurer’s Report etc. together with a list of nominees for election as Committee Members and a request for any member’s comments and questions.

As Chairman, I did, at the AGM, voice my personal concerns as to what I saw as the diminishing number of attendees to our normal sessions, particularly the Tuesday afternoon sessions and to some of the events on the social side of our activities, such as the Quiz Nights, the Christmas Lunch (the 2024 lunch had only 38 attendees) and even some of the trips organised by the Committee.

A brief report on 50+ Club session attendance numbers prepared by the Leisure Centre for the AGM seems to echo my concerns –

3553 attendees from April 2022 to March 2023

3402 attendees from April 2023 to March 2024

3013 attendees from April 2024 to march 2025

It is difficult to know exactly how many members the 50+ Club actually has at the present time. A recent request sent out by e-mail to all members to update, for the Leisure Centre, the details of their emergency contacts seems to have resulted in only 95 replies being sent to the Leisure Centre. If this is correct, then it would appear to suggest a significant reduction in our membership base compared to a previous e-mail response exercise carried out by our Secretaries which suggested that at that time we had somewhere in the region of 146 registered members.

I appreciate that our existing membership base is aging, and that other factors such as ever-increasing costs all around, limited free parking, grandparenting duties, less fitness because of age, disturbance to normal 50+ Club sessions at the Leisure Centre due to children’s holiday activity camps and other events such as antique fairs, beer festivals etc, may be resulting in members attending less often than before.

I am also concerned that we are not attracting sufficient new members to keep the 50+ Club a s a vibrant and active Club.

Following the Chairman’s Report delivered at the AGM, there were a number of questions raised by the General Members present as to what the 50+ Club was intending to do promote the Club and its activities. Many members felt that outside the Leisure Centre the 50+ Club was not known in the community, and that it was only by the occasional word of mouth that the existence of the Club was made known.

In particular, Steve Cook suggested –

* Placing flyers on local supermarket and library notice boards
* Greater presence on the Woking Leisure Centre Website
* Approaching local tennis/badminton etc clubs to advertise to those who don’t feel they can contribute to those clubs, but still want to play in some capacity, that they might wish to consider the 50+ Club
* Open Days/sessions at the Leisure Centre

Philip Bennett, referring to the attendance numbers prepared by the Leisure Centre, thought that there may be some under-recording of actual attendances at check in by people who have concession membership paying monthly or annually where the 50+ Club is included in the fee but who may use the gym or some other activity first and do not bother to mention 50+ Club when arriving.

One way to perhaps take a detailed look at what we can do about publicity, promotion, new member recruitment, new member reception and introduction to the Leisure Centre and our activities, etc. is to set up a task team comprised of interested committee members and perhaps one or two interested general members to hold discussions with the Leisure Centre Management on marketing and promotion and coming up with proposals that we can act on.

In the meantime, I have made enquiries about advertising in a local free magazine called Round and About. A version of this for Woking and Chobham is put through my letter box regularly and according to their advertising department is distributed to some 29,160 residences in the GU21 to GU24 postal zones. There is a section in the magazine titled “Spotlight On” where local organisations can, **for free**, enter text of between 50 to 70 words publicising and promoting their activities, subject to the text being approved by the magazine. A full-page advertisement will cost £620 plus VAT with a 10% reduction for voluntary organisations. A half page advertisement will cost £365 plus VAT also with a 10% reduction for voluntary organisations.

I believe that some time ago, the Marketing Manager of the Leisure Centre, Trevor Cullum, was working on a possible poster for the 50+ Club. Now that we have adopted a new logo for the 50+ Club. I will check with Trevor on what the status of the poster is and whether the Leisure Centre will arrange and pay for the printing of the poster.

OUTINGS

I had previously reported that I would look into arranging a 50+ Club day trip to Oxford for a tour of the BMW Mini Assembly plant. I was hoping to progress this for a date this month but have been unable to marry up the availability of a coach from local coach companies, Gastonia, Safeguard and Falcon with the available plant tour dates advised to me by BMW. It seems that the available tour dates, once published periodically by BMW, sell out very quickly. I will look again at the possibility of this trip in the early autumn once BMW publish new tour dates.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2025

In view of what I consider to be the disappointing number of attendees for the 2024 Christmas Lunch at the Hoebridge Golf Centre, I asked the members attending the AGM whether or not they would be interested in continuing the event this year. Although there were very few members present at the AGM, the response from those present and who had attended previous Christmas Lunches was positive.

I have therefore made enquiries at Hoebridge Golf Centre and Sutton Green Golf Club. Hoebridge have advised me that as of this moment, Friday, 12 December 2025 is available for a Christmas Lunch party and have sent me a copy of the Menu which indicates the cost of a three-course lunch at £35.95 per person and a two-course lunch at £30.95 per person

Sutton Green Golf Club, where before the last two years, we held our Christmas Lunch for six or seven years in a row, advised me that the Club’s continued existence was safe for at least the next two/three years and were open for Christmas parties. Friday, 12 December 2025 was available at the present time, but they had not yet finalised a Menu and costs. Their 2024 Christmas Lunch prices were £39.95 for a three-course lunch and £33.95 for a two-course lunch. Committee members should be aware that to the actual lunch costs published, we have traditionally added £2 or £3 to the venue published costs to cover incidentals such as place card printing costs, raffle prizes, possible gratuities if necessary etc.

Following the 2024 Christmas Lunch, Jay Jones suggested that we look at Pyrford Lakes, but their package including an exclusive event room, welcome drink on arrival, and a three-course meal was priced at £47 per head.

TREASURERS REPORT  Paper copies of our 50+ Club Funds were distributed to everyone present. A

paper copy will also be attached to these Minutes. Ian reported that the branch of the bank we use in

Woking has closed, but he is able to pay money into our accounts via the Post Office. The accounts

were proposed by Jane Gibbs, seconded by Philip Bennett and agreed by the remaining Members.

LEISURE CENTRE REPORT  Our Leisure Centre Representative Jay Jones was unable to attend our AGM

in person. Instead he sent a report which has been included within the Chairmans Report.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS  All the Committee Members were re-elected back on to the

Committee.

A.O.B  The following remarks/questions were raised by Members: Would it be possible to have a water

fountain on each floor within the Leisure Centre ?  Would it be possible for Freedom Leisure to give out

details of the total number of people who attend the Leisure Centre, excluding 50+ Members ? What action

is being taken to improve 50+ Club Membership ? We could advertise in local Supermarkets, Doctors

surgeries and Tennis & Badminton Clubs. Place adverts in local papers, magazines and Facebook. During

public holidays a Bouncy Castle is inflated in the Leisure Centre main hall on Courts 6 to 10. Members

report that the accompanying music is too loud. Some of the nets used when playing Short Tennis are too

small to cover the court between the posts. A toilet seat in the disabled toilets needs to be repaired, it has

been broken for some time. There was positive feedback for the new Table Tennis Tables.