

TESTON CLUB A.G.M. 2nd March 2007

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING ADDRESS

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the Teston Club Annual General Meeting of 2007.

I have unfortunately or fortunately have little to say in my opening remarks as I am sure, most of the events of 2006 will be covered by my fellow officers.

I have now had the pleasure of being the club's chairman for the second year running and I have really enjoyed the day to day running of all areas and not just entertainments which of course many of you will know was my back ground. I wish to highlight one particular event, which we held last year and that was the televised showing of the 2006 World Cup. Ok, we are not going to talk about Ronaldo getting Rooney sent off or even England's inability to take penalties because that was just one match and the event was over 4 weeks and what a response we had to the attendance of these matches and they were not even England's games!

We had people coming in who indirectly were not really interested in England and even football in general but came along because we had created the right atmosphere and to me personally that was all I needed to hear because if we have the right atmosphere then we have the right temperament to take this club forward.

I wish to thank all my fellow officers and committee members for all their hard work and support to my role and now without further ado I wish to now hand you over to our club President Mr. Peter Butchers who once again has kindly volunteered to chair our Annual General Meeting.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Peter also welcomed everyone to the meeting and duly read out tributes to those members who had passed away during 2006 and a minute silence was held in their honour. He then read out the apologies for absence.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Viv & Dick Williams, Shirley Jepson, Phil Bond, Dawn Page, Bridget Ewart, Tony Edwards, Tony Roser, Phil Bond, Tim, Simon & Martin Morgan, Jackie Marfell and Paul Maitland.

ADOPTION OF 2006 MINUTES

Rod Thornton proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record, which was seconded by Nicky Wood and carried unanimously.

SECRETARYS REPORT

Good Evening ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Teston club's Annual General Meeting and thank you for attending.

Firstly I would like to thank the Committee for what they have achieved during 2006. As last year we have all been aware of the need to keep spending to a minimum whilst trying to think of things to attract new members as well as encouraging existing members to use their club. It has been a bit of a balancing act but I feel that the committee has done its best to achieve good results.

To this end we have stepped up our advertising, firstly early in 2006 a colour leaflet showing the interior of the club was inserted in copies of the Tapestry as well as being delivered to houses in Wateringbury. During the year leaflets showing our entertainments calendar as well as last minute special evenings, have also been inserted in the Tapestry. We also write a monthly item for the Tapestry in an effort to keep members abreast of news and forthcoming events. Also our website which carries information as well as an on line application to join the club has been arranged by Phil. This also helps put our name in front of new people to the village. But I do feel that our piece de resistance is our super new sign outside, there is certainly no excuse for anyone not knowing where the Teston club is now. We have to thank Rod and Bob for this. Rod for initially getting permission from the Parish and Borough Councils then for organising the manufacture of the sign and the final erection of the post and sign, with help from other members and Bob who was largely responsible for the content and artwork. I am sure you will agree that the end result is attractive, blends well in the village and does a really good job of advertising our club.

Our bar committee has introduced various real ales during the course of the year, which have proved popular. The winter Sunday opening times seem to have been received well by most members, that is 12 noon until 5pm and closed in the evening. These times will continue until Summer time begins on Sunday 25th March.

We have also investigated the possibility of erecting some sort of protection outside to accommodate our smokers for when the official ban comes into force in the Summer. We have not made a decision as yet, but smokers please rest assured there will be something to keep you dry during the showers.

On the House committee as always Rod has worked very hard throughout the year carrying out repairs etc to the fabric of the building and its contents with help from Steve. A risk assessment had to be carried out, during which some items came to light, that needed attention. One of which was the question of a fire risk in the games room when members are still present after the bar staff have left, when the only exit is through the lounge bar. There is now a key kept in a glass box in the main porch for such emergencies.

There will be a report later from the entertainments committee, but at this point I would like to thank Vicki, Nicky and Ronnie, who have all worked very hard to provide a varied programme as well as organising refreshments and raffles all through the year. In particular the coverage of the world cup with the large T.V. and the Barbeque on final day proved very popular and even non footy people, like me enjoyed the excitement. Thanks again to all who made it so enjoyable.

Thanks should also go to Ronnie who has organised impromptu Bingo evenings, and singsongs with Nesta playing on our donated piano, a big thank you to Nesta. In fact the entertainments calendar for 2006 was varied and less expensive than some years, but still very enjoyable. Also our President has revived the Teston Club Golf Society, so any enthusiasts amongst us should speak with Peter.

Membership numbers are slightly down on last year when we had 297 in total. New members in 2006 were 28 and 39 members did not renew in January 2007, making the overall membership as at 31st January 2007 – 286, that is 11 down on last year. The final breakdown of our overall membership of 286 is, 120 full members, 3 country members, 25 Life members and 138 Senior members. Incidentally on a happier note, 16 new members were accepted in February of this year, which was something of a record for applications received in one month. So already membership numbers are improving.

Lastly, I would like to thank Dave for keeping me on the straight and narrow, computerwise - and thank you all for listening.

Bon Playford - Secretary.

The President asked if there were any questions of the Secretary's Report, Trevor Sidley pointed out that in his opinion all advertising of the club should carry the fact that new people to the club should be informed that they would be expected to join and become members. The President suggested that this be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

Ken Ivey proposed that the Secretary's report be accepted, seconded by Don Newick and passed unanimously.

TREASURERS REPORT.

Treasurers Report for Year ending 31.12.06

Good Evening

As usual I will start by saying that the books have been audited and all was found to be in good order. There is a draft copy on the notice board for those of you who wish to study them in detail. I apologise that they were not available sooner, our auditors only completed their work this week and we didn't receive the draft until Tuesday.

I will give you a brief summary of the resulting figures.

Starting with income, the bar generated £28k as it did in 2005, assuming the mix of sales were similar this represents a loss of volume as prices were increased by approx 5%.

The fruit machines including the Lotto generated £11.7 up 0.7k on 2005, but still nearly £9k down on 2004.

Subscriptions and the income from the snooker table were down £600.

The net result for income, no change.

Expenditure, overall it was down, the saving being in repairs and renewals where we had no major works. Obviously we had the usual inflationary increases in rates, power etc, but the net result was a spend of £2k less than 2004.

Once depreciation has been taken into account we ended the year with a deficit of £3,700, compared with £4,400 in 2005.

The result was disappointing, as until the last third of the year income was suggesting that we could almost break even.

Obviously this situation cannot continue for ever, somebody once said if income is £20 and expenditure is £19.06 result happiness, if income £20 and expenditure £20.06 result misery.

To conclude my report I must mention that our council have decided to remove the discount we enjoy on our council tax and that from 2008 we will have to find, at current rates, a further £2,350. I will be recommending to the committee that they propose to the membership that we should fund this by an increase in subscription, and that this should include withdrawing the free membership enjoyed by the retired. In effect it would mean the 'working' member paying £20 and the retired £10.

This news and our current position paints a grim picture and eventually we may have to radically rethink how we operate if the club is to survive.

I hope I haven't depressed you too much and thank you for your attention.

The President asked if there were any questions of the Treasurer's report and a member suggested that perhaps Seniors and Life members could be asked to contribute rather more than the Treasurer suggested. The President suggested that this be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

Mr. T. Sidley asked if Mr. Paul Oldham, our local Councillor, had been approached to come to our meeting, in the light of the recent cancellation of the club's annual rate rebate. He had not been asked.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The nominee for the position of club officers are as follows:-

POSITION	NOMINEE	PROPOSER	SECONDER
SECRETARY	B. Playford	Rod Thornton	Don Newick
CHAIRMAN	J. Wood	Don Newick	E. Gower
TREASURER	B. Harker	Don Newick	Rod Thornton

As there were no other nominees Karen Loughlin proposed that the officers should be voted in en bloc, this was seconded by Steve Worcester and carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

The nominee of committee members are as follows:-

MEMBERS	T. Smith	Don Newick	E. Gower
	R. Pullen	Rod Thornton	Don Newick
	K. Loughlin	V. Pullen	Bon Playford

As there were no other nominees, Nicky Wood proposed that members should be voted in en bloc, this was seconded by Dave Morris and carried unanimously.

HONORARIA

Ken Ivey proposed that following the Treasurers report and the parlous state of our finances the Honoraria should remain the same as last year, this was seconded by Steve Worcester and carried unanimously.

ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

The President called upon Ronnie Pullen to give a brief report. Ronnie thanked Nicky and Vicki for their help during the year. She hoped that members had enjoyed the entertainments arranged for last year and said that this year's entertainments had been planned and hopefully would be equally well attended. She did not feel that the impromptu Bingo evenings were sustainable although were well supported initially. She thanked everyone who had contributed to the various functions during last year.

PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES

Trophies were awarded as follows:-

Darts ---	Runner Up	Tony Roser
	Winner	Chris Roser
Snooker ---	Runner Up	Jim Wood
	Winner	T. Smith
	Runner Up	Bob Harker
	Winner	Jim Wood

PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED BUSINESS

There was no previously notified business.

The Chairman then gave a few words of thanks and closed the meeting at 8.55 p.m.