

TESTON CLUB A.G.M. 29th February 2008

CHAIRMANS OPENING ADDRESS

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the Teston Club Annual General Meeting of 2008.

I have now had the pleasure of being the club's chairman for the third year running and I would like to personally thank every committee member, officers and indeed you the members for your continued support and constructive feedback.

I really have only two points of interest to make, the first is regarding the smoking ban implemented in July last year. As a smoker I have to say I was pleasantly surprised at how different it made the club and I really enjoyed the smoke free atmosphere to the point it actually inspired me to give up smoking which I have now, for 2 months!

The second point I wish to mention was the world wide event of the Tour de France coming right by our doorstep and what a fantastic day we all had and the weather was kind too. Special thanks to everybody involved with the "Teston Club Breakfast", which attracted much interest from the members, the public and also Police and Ambulance crews, it also raised £240 towards club funds. You will now hear in detail from the committee officers of how last year performed but first without further ado I wish to now hand you over to our club President Mr. Peter Butchers who once again has kindly agreed to chair our meeting, so over to you Peter.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Peter also welcomed everyone to the meeting and duly read out tributes to those members who had passed away during 2007 and a minute silence was held in their honour. He then read out the apologies for absence.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Richard Revell, Bridget Ewart, Dawn Page, Tony Bishop, Simon Morgan, Phil Bond, Linda Martin

ADOPTION OF 2007 MINUTES

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

SECRETARYS REPORT

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

As you are all aware 2007 was rather a rocky year for our club but I would like to thank the Committee for what sometimes seems like, the thankless task of

trying to keep our club running smoothly. At times we do feel that we are banging our heads against the wall but please be assured that we are all committed to the job. In the last two years we have been well 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. Several members of the committee had a meeting with Councillor Paul Oldham regarding the Borough Council's decision to rescind our rates rebate. As a result of this I wrote to the Borough Council with our appeal. Several times after this I contacted the Council and just prior to my going on holiday in October I had a lengthy conversation with the person responsible for making a decision. I was lead to believe during this conversation that we would not be successful in our appeal and his parting comment was, "why do you think the Council should subsidise your club when clearly the majority of your members do not use the facility". Unfortunately, I had no answer to this as I felt he had a valid point.

In an effort to remind existing members and to make potential new members aware, we have continued to promote the club in the Tapestry. The entertainments committee have also, at times inserted extra notices advising of last minute special events. As well as our sign at the front we now have a purpose built blackboard in a prominent position, where we advertise forthcoming events.

The entertainments committee, that is, Ronnie, Karen and Nicky have done well this year organising functions that have been enjoyable but less expensive than in previous years. They also work very hard at the events supplying food, selling raffle tickets, buying prizes etc. with a little help from other committee members.

Our bar committee has continued to introduce new real ales, which have proved popular. In an effort to keep our patrons who smoke happy, we have erected a canopy at the back of the club and ash boxes have been installed. We also had a table and chairs donated by a member for the comfort of smokers, placed at the back door leading to the car park.

Rod has again been the stalwart on the House committee and has been largely responsible for repairs and maintenance of the building and contents of the club. He gives his time freely and works very hard on our behalf and we are all indebted to him for his continued support.

Of course you are all aware of the increase in membership fees and the introduction of a fee for senior members, which was agreed at the Special General Meeting held last year. This has resulted in a much truer picture of our membership and I have to report the following statistics:-

Our total membership as at 31st January 2008 is 278, that is 143 full members, 107 senior members, 25 life members and 3 country members. We had a record

total of 50 new members joining in 2007 but 83 full and senior members did not renew in January.

On a personal note you may have noticed that it was my intention not to stand for re-election this year but again there were no offers for the position of Secretary. I felt I couldn't be a deserter and offered to carry on, but with a proviso that the honorarium awarded to me be addressed this year. I do not feel, considering the clubs present financial position that I can accept the amount of honorarium awarded in past years and would like further discussion on this later in the meeting.

I will not itemise everything that has been achieved throughout the year, as you know anyone who is a mind can keep abreast with decisions being made on your behalf by the committee, by reading the minutes posted in the file by the front door after each monthly meeting. I feel there will be lots to get through tonight so I would just like to say thank you to all my fellow committee members.

I hope you will all agree when I say that I really don't think there was much more that any of us could have done this year in our efforts to keep the club afloat. – Thank you all for listening.

Bon Playford - Secretary.

The President asked if there were any questions of the Secretary's Report, and there were none.

Ronnie Pullen proposed that the Secretary's report be accepted, seconded by Trevor and passed unanimously.

TREASURERS REPORT.

Treasurers Report for Year ending 31.12.07 – Attached hereto.

The President asked if there were any questions of the Treasurer's report and there were several as itemised below:-

- 1) A Member asked where the amount of £15,000 is held and Bob informed us that it is held in a deposit account, the member then asked if this could be invested somewhere where it could earn more. Bob was of the opinion that it would only earn minimal elsewhere.
- 2) Trevor Sidley asked for a definition of the £8,000 deficit and Bob was able to answer this.
- 3) Bob Underhay spoke of his concern that the accounts had not been audited and there were offers of help from Tony Edwards and Trevor Sidley with this, which the Treasurer accepted.

4) Ronnie Pullen voiced her concern that should the club have to close, any outstanding debts would have to be met by the Management Committee. There was disagreement within the Committee members as to whether this is in fact correct or whether any debts should be met by the whole membership. This will need to be clarified.

5) Tony Edwards asked how much extra income in memberships amounted to and Bob informed him that it was approximately £1,400. Bob has done a calculation for the first two months of this year and once again the figures are not encouraging.

6) Roger Levett suggested making the club a charity and both the Treasurer and President assured him that we had investigated this possibility and that it was not an option.

7) Michael Messer voiced his concern that all should be done to prevent our club from closing and our President assured him that this would not happen.

8) It was proposed that a Special General Meeting be held after our Treasurer has submitted his accounts to Trevor Sidley and Tony Edward, say in two months time, to discuss the club's options. All agreed that this should happen.

9) Vicky Williams wished to thank our Treasurer, Trevor Sidley and Tony Edwards for all their input.

During this question, discussion and proposal time our President had called the meeting to order several times and he now asked the meeting to finally vote to accept the Treasurer's report. This was accepted by Chris Roser and seconded by Anita Goodwin.

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	R. Pullen	K. Loughlin
CHAIRMAN	J. Wood	V. Williams	A. J. Roser
TREASURER	B. Harker	V. Williams	A. J. Roser

As there were no other nominees Roger Levett 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	Nominee	Proposer	Secunder
	P. Bond	V. Williams	D. Newick

	N. Wood	V. Williams	S. Morgan
	Trevor Vince	J. Wood	N. Wood
	Rod Thornton	D. Newick	F. Miles
(one year only)	S. Worcester	V. Williams	D. Newick

Steve offered to do just one year and to stand for re-election next year to obtain balance within the committee of eight members.

As there were no other nominees, Karen Loughlin proposed that members should be voted in en bloc, this was seconded by Tony Roser and carried unanimously.

HONORARIA

The Secretary offered to reduce her honoraria to one quarter of that previously awarded and this was accepted, proposed by R. Levett, seconded by T. Edwards and carried. There was subsequently a further proposal from D. Playford that the Secretary's post be awarded the same as the Treasurer i.e. £620, this was seconded by a member and thrown open to vote. The vote was 20 for and 17 against with 5 abstentions. The vote to award the same amount to the Secretary and Treasurer and was therefore carried.

ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Ronnie thanked her fellow entertainments committee members for their help during last year. She said that they had managed to keep the budget down for last year by having more in house functions, i.e. Bingo, Karaoke, Quizes, Race Nights etc and this would be the basis of the current year's entertainments. She also proposed that entertainment evenings and refreshments should carry a small charge. There was some discussion regarding this and Trevor Sidley pointed out that the price of entertainments is paid for by bar sales. Another member suggested that with regard to the club's present financial situation perhaps paying a small amount would in fact be appropriate. Bob Underhay suggested that the Entertainments Committee should investigate setting up a football pontoon. Bob Wilson suggested that there should be a function of some sort every Saturday night, such as Bingo, Quizzes, Race nights etc. Our President again called the meeting to order pointing out that the correct place for such suggestions was in the suggestion box for discussion at the monthly meetings. He then asked that a proposal be made to accept the Entertainments report and this was so done by Terry Smith and seconded by Nicky Wood.

PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES

Peter said that the revival of the Teston Club Golf Society had been a success and Tony Edwards was asked to award two Trophies as follows:-

Singles Golf Trophy – Rod Thornton

Pairs Golf Trophy – Ken Ivey and Bob Harker.

PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED BUSINESS

A letter outlining three suggestions, attached hereto, was received from Mr. G. Marchant. Our President pointed out that these suggestions should be dealt with at a monthly Committee meeting rather than at the AGM and Mr. Marchant accepted this. This will therefore be discussed at the meeting of the 5th March 2008 and Mr. Marchant will be notified of any decision made.

There was a proposal from Mr. A. Roser as follows:-

That children should be allowed to stay until 11pm on Friday and Saturday nights and also be allowed to use the dance floor all evening on social nights.

There was a vote of 20 for the motion and 25 against. The proposal was therefore not allowed.

The Chairman then gave a few words of thanks and closed the meeting at 9.50 p.m.