

**Minutes of the Woking Leisure Centre 50+ Club AGM
Held at the Leisure Centre on Monday 17th April 2023**

There were around forty 50+ Club members present including the members of the committee.

Alan Gibbs (Chair) welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked them for their support.

Apologies were received from Marilyn Frame, Val Challis, Kathy Peat, Michael Eden.

The minutes from the 2022 50+ AGM had been circulated to members and displayed on our notice board at the Leisure Centre. Approval of the 2022 AGM Minutes was proposed by David Hill and seconded by Chris Taylor. Alan Gibbs duly signed a paper copy of the Minutes for our records.

Matters arising - None

Chair's Report

I welcome you all to today's Annual General Meeting of the Woking Leisure Centre 50+ Club. We nearly resorted to conducting this AGM by e-mail in view of the Woking Borough Council's recently imposed restrictions on the free parking available here at the Leisure Centre, but I am glad that we finally took the decision to address you in person in keeping with tradition. With the new parking restrictions in place, time for this AGM is working against us especially for those members who want to go on afterwards to attend the usual Monday afternoon session sports events, so we will make this AGM as brief as possible.

I look back on the last twelve months as another challenging year for both the 50+ Club and the Leisure Centre. Attendance at last year's AGM held on 25 April 2022 was well down compared to previous AGMs and attendance of members at some of our sessions, particularly the Tuesday afternoon session has also, except for the Badminton players, been well down so that we no longer hold a briefing meeting on Monday afternoons and Tuesday afternoons, or a warm-up session on Tuesday afternoons. The usual flow of our sporting activities at the Leisure Centre has also been interrupted on numerous occasions, particularly during school holidays and half term breaks while the Leisure Centre run a series of children's activity camps, admittedly a valuable and much needed income source for the Leisure Centre. We have also witnessed a significant turnover of management and operational staff at the Leisure Centre which resulted, on occasion, in equipment or timetables or meeting rooms not made ready for us as we were used to. We have however been working closely with the Leisure Centre management team to resolve these settling in problems and also to update the 50+ club membership forms and produce some publicity material to promote the 50+ club.

Outside our sporting activities at the Leisure Centre, the Wednesday Walks program has continued throughout the year and we have also offered members a number of interesting excursions and tours which included the three day excursion to Gloucester and the Cotswolds in May 2022, the Spring Break stay at the Manor House Hotel in Oakhampton in May 2022, and the day trip to the Military Intelligence Museum in September 2022, which were all greatly enjoyed by the members who went on these tours. For the current year 2023, two new tours have been organised – a three-day trip touring Kent in May, and, just announced, a three-day trip to Somerset in September. Making the arrangements for these excursions is a lot of hard work for our committee member, Diann Arnfield, and if any 50 + Club member is interested in assisting with the development and organisation of the Club's excursion program, please do get in touch with us.

During the winter of 2022 a successful Quiz Night was held at the Leisure Centre on 03 December and our traditional Christmas Lunch was held at the Sutton Green Golf Club on 16 December. From the proceeds of the Quiz Night we were able to donate £200.00 to a local charity, the Woking Lighthouse.

The number of members attending the Christmas Lunch in December 2022 was well down compared to previous years and as a result we incurred a small loss overall for the event. As you are aware the Sutton Green Golf Club is in the process of being sold for re-development into a retirement village, but completion of the transaction was delayed due to planning issues and therefore we were able to use the venue for the 2022 Christmas Lunch. It is possible that the 50+ Club Committee may have to search for a suitable alternative venue for any 2023 Christmas Lunch.

There was no REACT games meeting in 2022, and we have recently learnt that the REACT organisation has folded for good. A number of similar 50+ Clubs that we used to compete against at these annual games have reported losing members and were no longer wishing to participate.

A friendly challenge match, in badminton and short tennis, against Winchester 50+ Club, at Winchester, arranged between our Committee member, Stan Craven, and the Winchester representative took place on 26 January this year, and was enjoyed by all who took part. Plans are being made for a return match, in the near future, to take place here at the Leisure Centre. It is hoped that in the future we might be able to expand these friendly matches to meet with one or two other similar clubs.

The issue that is on everybody's mind at the moment and the impact that it is having on our activities at the Leisure Centre is the new restriction on the free parking time at the Leisure Centre imposed by the Woking Borough Council. Members may ask what your Committee has been doing to protest this action on behalf of our members. What I can report is that certain Committee members and Members have written to their local Borough Councilors, and your Chairman has written to both the Chief Executive of the Council and to the Woking Member of Parliament, Mr. Jonathan Lord and has had subsequent telephone conversations with him. Jonathan Lord informed me that while he was very sympathetic to our cause, he could not really interfere with the operations of the Council, but was prepared to hold further discussions with the Chief Executive of the Council after I formed him of the unlimited free parking available at the newly opened Eastwood Leisure Centre in Sheerwater, a project that he championed. In the meantime, he has started a petition for signature by members of the public and I urge 50+ Club members to sign the petition if you have not already done so.

At the moment the Woking Borough Council remain intransigent on their position on the matter, citing the enormous debt pile that has accumulated over recent years, and the measures they are being forced to take in an effort to reduce the debt.

Before we move on to the next item on the Agenda, the review and approval of the financial accounts of the 50+ Club for the year ending 31 March 2023, I would like to express my thanks, and I am sure your thanks as well, to all our serving Committee members for their hard work and support over the last year, and their dedication to the cause of keeping the 50+ Club going as an active and friendly sports club with an added range of other activities as well. My thanks also go to the management team of the Leisure Centre for their close support of the 50+ Club.

Thank you also to all you members for attending this AGM.

Treasurer's Report

Ian Wilson gave out paper copies of the audited accounts and these will be attached in paper form with these minutes when they are filed.

Ian reported that we have received £821.73 into our 50+ account being our share of the funds remaining after the REACT organisation closed down. This will show in the 2023 account statement.

Approval of the accounts was proposed by Jane Gibbs and seconded by Paul Thomas.

Leisure Centre Report.

Chris Sexton our Leisure Centre Representative was unable to attend the meeting but Jay Jones attended on behalf of the Leisure Centre.

Jay thanked members for continuing to support the Leisure Centre in these difficult times and acknowledged the extra difficulties with the new parking charges and confirmed that this is out of the L.C.'s control and it's not only 50+ who are finding it a problem.

He gave us some attendance figures April 2021-22 - 3548, April 2022-23 - 2409. Before this the 2018 -19 figures were 6812.

Jay was then asked the following questions by the members in attendance -

When will Heatwaves open again? Jay could not say when/if this facility will re-open as it's considered a luxury it was one of the first to go when cost saving measures had to be made.

Jay was asked about the general shortage of staff at the Centre especially in the Gym where some of the exercise machines were out of order.

Jay replied that there will soon be a new Fitness Manager in place who will be responsible for improving the Gym generally, but Jay reminded everyone that all users of the Gym are responsible for themselves.

How many 50+ members are there? We believe, from a recent e-mail reply exercise, that we have about 176 at the moment. As there is no joining fee or annual renewal fee for membership of the 50+ Club, it is not possible to have a more accurate figure. We are aware that there are some members who have not registered any e-mail address and so have not responded to the recent e-mail reply exercise. In years gone by, we used to have around 300 members and sessions at the Leisure Centre and our organised outings were always full.

Do we advertise on social media? The Leisure Centre are looking into this at present.

Election of Committee Members

All present committee members were willing to stand again and were unanimously voted in by the members present.

Alan Gibbs.	-	Chair
Ian Wilson.	-	Treasurer
Elaine Bailey	-	Joint Secretary
Pam Bedder	-	Joint Secretary

Stan Craven. - Leisure Centre Representative
Hilary Thomas - Walks Co-ordinator
Diann Arnfield. - Outings Co-ordinator
Alan Sandell - Web site, photos & Auditor
Maggie Stapley – Committee Member

REACT GAMES

Stan reported on the closing down of the REACT organization decided at a meeting held on 28th March, 2023. This is due to lack of clubs taking part. There used to be 11 clubs involved, now only 4 and numbers of members are down at these 4 clubs. The remaining clubs have decided to compete amongst themselves in friendly meetings and we have already been to Winchester and played short tennis and badminton against them. We are now waiting for them to be able to make a return visit. Stan thanked the Leisure Centre for their support over the years especially financially with cost of transport of our teams to previous REACT games and the entry fees for these games being funded by the Leisure Centre.

A.O.B.

There was some discussion regarding the present position of the parking charges, and the possibility of making an offer of some sort of annual permit per member vehicle to the Woking Borough Council was mentioned. At the moment we will wait to find out any results from the current e-petition which we believe has up to 400 signatures at the present time.

Alan Gibbs reminded everyone that outdoor tennis takes place in the park on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings. We have lost a number of former players due to retirement and injury, but we wish to remind members that the facilities are available on the recently renovated courts in the park. Maybe members have friends who would like to try their hand at outdoor tennis – all are welcome.

There being no further business raised, the meeting closed at 2 p.m.