



Annual General Meeting: December 8th @ 1800/6pm.

Eastlink Badminton Stadium, 60 Old Farm Road, Hamilton East

Present: Stu Morgan (President), Dominic Buckell (board member), Karyn Walters (board member), Kate Whitten (board member), Andy Lui (board member), Aloha Sisson (board member), Thomas Walther (CEO), Samuel Smith (WBA Event manager), Jonas Kramer-Nissen (WBA Head Coach), Joe Webber (WBA Coaching and Development Officer), Life members Alicia Urlich, Carol Leydon Davis, Phillip Paterson, members and representatives from Cambridge Badminton Club, Code D, Formosa, Hamilton Badminton Club, Hamilton Malayalee, Happy Family, Horsham Downs, Masters, Novice, Punjabi, Saturday Club, Tamil Society, Te Awamutu, Thozhar, Waikato Filipino Badminton Club.

Apologies: James Davidson (new board member), Maurice Smith (life member). Jocelyn Silvester

Absence: 21st badminton club, Hamilton Junior Training Club, Trabajador, BC, Zero Gravity

The meeting started 1815/6.15 PM.

MINUTES OF MEETING AGM 3 December 2022 to be approved. Moved by Stu, Seconded by Cleo Sagin (Hamilton Malayalee).

1: The receipt from the Board of statements of financial position and financial performance for the preceding financial year. Noone against. (The current financial rapport are available on WBA's website: <https://waikatobadminton.co.nz/about/>).

2: The election of any vacancies arising in the positions of Elected Board Members.

Rupinder Virk has resigned as board member.

Cui Zhou has resigned from the board.

The board suggests Aloha Sisson to be appointed as new board member. Unopposed.

The board suggests James Davidson to be appointed as new board member. Unopposed.

Dominic Buckell agreed to continue as board member. Unopposed.

Karyn Walters, Kate Whitten, Andy Lui (have all been appointed to fill voids throughout 2023, so all are up for re-election) have agreed to continue as board members. Unopposed.

3: The election of the President and Vice President;

Stu Morgan (President) agreed to continue as president and board member. Unopposed.

Dominic Buckell agreed to be elected vice president. Moved by Stu Morgan, Seconded Alicia Urlich.

4: Appointment of an honorary solicitor;

Philip Paterson was suggested by the board and have accepted to take up patronage after Alicia Urlich.

5: Membership fees for the forthcoming year – all membership fees to remain the same. Court hires to change according to updated prices sent out with AGM invitation. Unopposed.

6: Any motion(s) proposing to alter the Constitution:

Changes suggested:

2.2 – update the address to 60 Old Farm Road. Unopposed.

4.1 b - add "Eastlink Badminton Society", instead of just "Eastlink". Unopposed.

Carried. Noone against.

7: Any other items of business?

None had been submitted for consideration prior to the AGM.

@1829PM: Meeting was almost closed when Thomas (WBA CEO) stood up and encouraged people to ask questions, comment on current events or suggest improvements. This is the time to address issues and get them filed in the official minutes, talk directly to the board and get answers or suggest ideas. WBA can only improve if there's feedback from the community.

Ben Parkinson asked what was being done with the profits and if it would affect funding going forward. Thomas replied that the money was spent on the new courts. Thomas didn't believe that it should affect funding/grants going forward. Thomas mentioned that funding wouldn't be likely to grow in the future though as the different funding options seem to be getting tighter. Ben Parkinson mentioned that we shouldn't have too much money sitting in funds account. Thomas agreed and said that it was mainly due to previous accounting principles and that WBA are working on improving the flow around accounts – especially fund accounts.

Aloha Sisson asked if there was any price increase and why? Thomas answered that the new prices have been circulated to all clubs in October, and price information have been hung in the stadium since then also. It's important to note that WBA was 18 months away from bankruptcy when Thomas started, so making sure WBA is financially secure allows badminton to be enjoyed by the entire badminton community in Hamilton. Also, it's important to note that WBA is a non for profit – so no one is getting rich from the price increase but that the income are to pay for bills, improvements and maintenance of stadium, development programs, and interclub events. The reasons for price going up are that ooperation cost, interest, general cost/shuttles/insurance rates are all up.

During 2023 WBA discovered unpaid and unbudgeted bills from previous years totalling more than \$60k on top of that there's was unbudgeted cleaning cost of 10k+/year during 2023.

In 2023 we had to fix emergency doors, toilets, gutter, roof, which has drained reserves.

WBA committed \$4k to Eastlink Community Hub for drawing up a masterplan for potential expansion of the hub and the Eastlink Badminton Stadium and there's plans from Eastlink Hub that they need another \$5-10k for more studies in 2024.

Prices of coaches/admin/affiliation fees and payments to BNZ are up. WBA have started providing shuttles for our t1 and senior trainings. WBA have invested in courts, painting the stadium, gym which are draining reserves. If we want to keep the stadium standing and have money for repairs, we need money to keep it standing.

As funding is drying out it is necessary to take a financially sound approach.

It's also important to note that Eastlink Badminton Stadium will continue to be one of the cheapest places to play badminton in New Zealand.

Thozar badminton club asked if there was any flexibility on the new demands for the clubs (25 members+ and 150 court hours booked/club night). Thomas said that there would be minimal flexibility and that the small clubs consisting of 4-6 people, or clubs that doesn't welcome new players, or allow walk-ons wouldn't be accepted going forward, as the beforementioned behavior isn't fair to the general community. If clubs were interested in merging that would of course be welcomed and could be facilitated on request.

Thozar then asked if they could set up a community group/society and if societies would be prioritized differently than clubs. Thomas answered that to set up a community group/society, you have to register with NZ government/incorporated societies, and it's not related with or to WBA business or regulated by WBA in anyway. Thomas also answered that no one is intentionally discriminated against in WBA.

Phillip Paterson made a statement that the stadium is owned by the clubs and that Thomas should be careful of running WBA as his own commercial operation. Thomas replied that all money is going back into the stadium maintenance, development programs, financial reserves and that most of the clubs were definitely not a bother.

Phillip Paterson then mentioned that WBA shouldn't be run as a Danish club. (As 99,9% of all Danish clubs are non-profit, completely run by unpaid volunteers and can't possibly run court hire – that would be both impossible and/or ridiculous). The statement was left unanswered as it was not a question and it was mistimed, factually wrong, unwarranted, against the WBA board and CEO's current direction and development, as well as the wishes of the large majority of the badminton community in Waikato. The statement seemed aggressive and in support of the few small clubs

were ~20 people are blocking 20% of the bookings to the huge disaffection of the other 1980 people that would also like to use the stadium. Thomas thanked Phillip for his input/statement.

Stu Morgan thanked the WBA staff for the huge work they have put into upgrading the stadium.

Meeting closed 1842/6.42 PM.