

Bob Taylor Statement for Election as Treasurer

I have held the position of Club Treasurer for almost 12 years and have been willing to do this to serve the club. Over this time the club has required significant input from the treasurer starting with the major developments in 2012, the reconfiguration of the artificial grass courts in 2013, the clay surfaces in 2017, the installation of lights on the artificial grass courts in 2019, the conversion of the grass courts in 2020 year and the recently completed upgrade of all of the remaining tennis surfaces. All of these developments have been facilitated by the effective managing of the club's cash flow. I have had a good relationship with the club's lenders and have been able to deal with raising additional funding when necessary in the past. The club is now, however, in the fortunate position of being able to pay off the remaining member loans over the next twelve months.

My background is that I am a chartered accountant and thus had auditing experience in a range of organisations, a career with a respected chain of wine bars in the city and was subsequently in the financial services sector for four years. My experience before becoming involved with Coolhurst means that I have extensive expertise and all levels of accounts processing and controls and am also very familiar with the way larger organisations are structured and run.

Some feel it is less desirable to have a treasurer who is also employed on a weekly basis to look after the finances of the club, the argument being that there is conflict of interest. As accountant I am line managed by the Chairman. It has been my view since taking on this additional role a year after originally becoming treasurer, that there are distinct advantages to the club with this arrangement, as it facilitates a very close understanding, management and scrutiny of this critical area.

Another argument put forward to separate the two roles is that the treasurer looks after the strategic financial aspects of the club, while the accountant ensures that controls and policies are adhered to and prepares the accounts. The counter to this argument is that, in a club such as Coolhurst, often the elected Treasurer gets very involved in a number of areas, becomes overburdened and then resigns suddenly and leaves a vacuum. Alternatively, they are not interested in any detail and contribute very little.

When Barry Knight was elected unopposed as Treasurer in 2007, he resigned a few months later. Between that time and the time that I was appointed there were a couple of short-lived successors. Paul Harris who stood against me last year left the club shortly after the AGM.

I believe it should also be pointed out that Barry's membership was suspended in 2017 following financial misdemeanours in relation to transactions with the club. He is therefore a highly inappropriate candidate for the role of Treasurer.

If elected I shall serve out the full term. Whilst I do not intend to go on forever I feel this is an inappropriate time for me to step down.

Bob Taylor
4 May 2022