



AGM Minutes 2021

18 November 2021

Meeting started at 2000

Apologies from: Louisa Malcolm, Paul Copeland, Roger White, Hans Lansbergen, Debbie Malins, Jenny Frost.

Attended: Tessa Walder, Helen Windwood, Neil Cochlin, Donna Copeland, Maggie Allingham, Nigel Allingham, Glyn Jukes, Graham Gandy, Jon Eatwell, Elaine Cloy, Ian Gibson, Andy Spriggs, John Inman, Rosie Inman, Chris Wassell.

Chair: Glyn Jukes

Secretary: Paul Sweet

Treasurer: Neil Cochlin

1. Minutes of the 2020 meeting were approved (one typo spotted and corrected in the meeting). Put forward by Paul Sweet and seconded by Maggie Allingham.

2. Chair's report was read by Glyn and was available at the meeting; brief summary as follows:

- Court utilisation has improved and is increased on last year
- Membership numbers remain around the 300 mark, so very good
- Ground staff have been superb all year, and kept the courts in great condition
- Hans Lansbergen has done an amazing job on fund raising and improvements to the courts
- We have accessed roughly £10k worth of grants
- The new lights are going to be funded and this is thanks to Chris Wassell and the main club committee who will fund 50%
- We will be doing more fundraising at a committee level, and this will help future projects

3. General discussion points raised by members:

- Retention of members is key – we need to be aware that people will have other pressures as things return to normal post COVID. This is important as we need to keep the subscription fee income coming into the section.
- Can a list of Club Captains be published (names were discussed at the meeting).
- The quality of the balls used for club sessions was queried. Can we look at alternative options for the club sessions to improve the quality of the balls used.

- How we pay for lights is under scrutiny and may be needing a review.
- The position of the women's competitive team was discussed – in particular how to bridge the gap between the social sessions which are well attended and the difficulties in getting competitive women's teams together. Ideas were discussed how to improve this situation (including changing some of the club session times, entering a 2nd team into a lower league and widening the invitation to the Ladies Night on a Tuesday).

4. Treasurer's Report

Neil Cochlin covered the Treasurer's Report. Broad points as follows:

- Direct comparisons year on year are difficult due to COVID
- Courts 1-3 have been re-bonded and 4/5 resurfaced
- £24k of costs have been met by the main club
- LED lights are the next priority project, but the cost is looking like c£27k
- However, fixing the lights would be better for the environment, ongoing costs and better for players so we need to do it
- Fundraising targets therefore need to be ambitious, and we need to bring in as much as we can
- Member numbers are positive, but we need to keep an eye on Youth section numbers are these are the full paying members of the future
- Proposed fee increase varies by member type but falls in a range of 10-12% and this is to help fund the sinking fund better in future years. All sections are being asked to increase fees this year.
- Chris Wassell from the main club committee added that the main club wants to support the Tennis section more in coming years and the increased fees will help it to do that. This will help to avoid large capital charges in single financial years as the large projects like resurfacing can be covered more from the sinking fund.
- Point made that Direct Debits cost more as the club is charged an admin fee for using the facility.
- The members were asked to vote on the proposed increase to fees: **Majority in favour.**

5. The Committee.

The Committee is looking for new members so speak to one of them if you would be interested.

6. John Ivatt Award

This was agreed that Hans Lansbergen should be the worthy recipient of the award. He has become completely immersed in the needs of the club, has been a champion for the fundraising and has contributed a huge amount to the section this year.

7. Chris Wassell comments from the main club.

The Tennis section are recognised as having done a lot of work this year, member numbers are very healthy and they are leading the way on sustainability. Question was asked on what else we could do on the improvement front, e.g. grass courts.

Meeting Closed at 22.00.