



## **HORSHAM LTC – AGM Minutes**

**Thursday 28 November 2024, 20:00**

**Chair:** Glyn Jukes

**Treasurer:** Neil Cochlin

**Minutes taken by:** Paul Sweet

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### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Nigel Harvey, Dan Smith, Helen Windwood, Mark Williams, Donna Copeland.

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### **2. Minutes from the Last AGM (16 November 2023) and Matters Arising**

The minutes were proposed and agreed. No questions were raised.

**Updates on last year's actions:**

- a. The court noticeboard has been updated and refurbished.
- b. The welcome letter is currently being rewritten.
- c. Booking system changes – teething issues acknowledged. The system is attached to squash rather than being tennis-specific, which has caused confusion. GJ is liaising with the office to resolve issues such as access codes and squash-related labelling.

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### **3. Chair's Report (read by GJ)**

GJ noted the sad passing of Sheila and acknowledged her legacy. Thanks were given to Paul and Donna Copeland for their fundraising and to Alex for his extensive work on the grounds. Additional thanks went to Nigel, Tessa, Martin and Josh for their work with the juniors. Congratulations were extended to Billy and Josh for achieving Coaching Level 2.

The committee is developing a five-year funding plan to ensure that the required maintenance schedule is fully supported, in collaboration with the main club.

Thanks were given to all team captains and players. Special mention was made of Dom Hall, the new 1st Team Captain.

The new box league has launched successfully, with 32 members now playing regular competitive tennis following requests for such a structure.

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## 4. Treasurer's Report (read by NC)

Headline figures have improved versus last year:

- Operating profit of **£43.5k**, a **14% uplift**.
- Profit margin has been maintained and continues to contribute strongly to the club.
- Subscriptions increased by **6%** to just over **£40k**.
- Match fee collection has improved and increased.
- Visitor fees have risen, partly due to the new booking system capturing non-member usage.
- Light token revenue has increased to **£2k**.
- Mini tennis income is up **11%** year-on-year.
- The sinking fund is healthier and now receives 10% of sales, totalling just over **£5k**.

Expenditure now includes a new cost for an improved standard of jet washing to remove moss and algae from courts.

Overall, the tennis section performs well compared with cricket, hockey and squash, and is the largest contributor in gross profit terms.

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## 5. Membership Fees for 2025/26

The committee proposed a **3% increase** in membership fees.

A notable change is the introduction of a new **18–25 membership category**, set at 50% of the full adult fee.

A member queried whether discounts should apply to family members who are not married. The committee will discuss this at the next meeting and report back.

**Vote on proposed fee increases:** Carried by majority.

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## 6. Election of Officers

No existing committee members were due for re-election this year.

**Ben Sheppard** was proposed (GJ) and seconded (Andy Spriggs) to join the committee representing the social section. Motion approved.

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## 7. Grounds Update (presented by Alex, Chief Groundsman)

This year has been challenging due to the weather. A separate roller has been hired to improve the playing surface. The wetter conditions have also affected the court lines, which are water-based.

Last year the courts were cut at 8mm; this year at 10mm to reduce wear, particularly at the baselines. This was also the first year the lines were marked at the correct width of 2”.

A monthly maintenance day will be scheduled next year to allow sufficient time to cut both courts and surrounding areas. Dates will be notified in advance.

Questions were raised regarding tree pruning. Alex is liaising with Highways about the oak tree, and the holly tree will require professional work due to its height.

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## 8. John Ivatt Award

There were a pleasing number of nominations this year.

**The award was presented to Lisa** for her excellent work representing and developing the social section. Congratulations!

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## 9. Any Other Business

### a. Team Captains' Roles

The committee is considering how to evolve this role, potentially treating captains as committee members with a structured three-year term and a clearer selection and support process.

## **b. Saturday Social Tennis Times**

A request was made to move social tennis from 14:30 to 14:00. However, several constraints prevent a simple change:

- Junior league runs 12:00–14:30.
- County league matches must book 10:30–14:30 without exception.
- The constitution requires one court to remain available for coaching until 19:00.

If still needed next year, the junior ladder timings could be adjusted for winter. A sign may be introduced advising players not to enter courts during matches in progress.

Dates and times of social tennis will also be set and published on the website.

## **c. Tennis Club Car Park**

Parking is becoming difficult in summer, partly due to increased use of the beer garden. Non-tennis users are sometimes blocking tennis parking.

A request was made to consider reserving Saturday parking for tennis players. Kevin (main committee) was present and noted the issue.

## **d. Advertising Boards by the Tennis Courts**

Concerns were raised about:

- Impaired viewing during finals day and league matches
- Shadows from boards encouraging moss growth
- Potential safeguarding issues when juniors walk to bathrooms

The boards generate income, so there is a conflict of interests. The matter will be taken forward with the main club, who are, in principle, open to lowering the boards.

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# **10. Meeting Close**

The meeting concluded at **21:06**.

APPENDIX – Record of Attendees from the written register taken on the night:

Josh Dunford Smith

Martin Shuttleworth

Lisa Harrison

Tesa Walder  
Debbie Malins  
Ben Sheppard  
Paul Copeland  
Neil Cochlin  
Peter Sibley  
Susan Sibley  
Andy Spriggs  
Dominic Hall  
Nigel Allingham  
Rachel Sadler  
Roger Smith  
Kevin Handley  
Diana Sprules  
Sarah Peay  
Paul Sweet  
Glyn Jukes