

**ASHBY CASTLE LAWN TENNIS CLUB**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES MONDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021**

Present:- Dave Forster, Pete Wood, Gray Hetherington, Mike Drinkwater, David Davies, Gill Mathias, Alex Guzder, Katie Higson, Ian Randon, Rob Slack, Martin Fitch, Claire Bridges

Apologies - Alex Adie, Sarah Perry, Bob Williams, Ken Ikin, Robert Shields

**Action By**

The meeting was chaired by **Pete Wood** (as Dave F was travelling and couldn't guarantee a consistent signal)

**Minutes of last meeting:** approved by all

**Treasurer's report:** copy attached. No questions were forthcoming

**Clubhouse:** **David** reported issues with the disabled toilet door lock – repair is being sorted

**Membership report:** copy attached. **Ian** had nothing further to add

**Junior/Coaching:** copy attached. **Alex** confirmed the Club Trust paperwork had been circulated

**Grounds:** It was confirmed that 5 x new nets have been purchased – those on courts 1,2,5 & 6 all need replacing. **Gray** volunteered to meet Replay on 30<sup>th</sup> July and nets could then be replaced in time for the Town Tournament.

Net winders need to be found. Muriel has one to hand back in

**Muriel**

Gray reported that he had received no response to his communication to English Heritage re their contribution towards resurfacing the lane, other than an acknowledgement of receipt of his letter. Gray will chase again.

**Gray**

One of the parents has a large quantity of stone available which could be used to fill in the holes in the lane. (**Robert S** to be contacted re use of a trailer)

**Men's Ladies & Mixed Captain's reports:** copy reports from **Gill, Muriel and Chris** attached.

Chris also congratulated the Men's 1<sup>st</sup> Team on their promotion back to the Premier League next season.

**AOB:-**

**Social Play & Club-nights**

The survey results had been circulated to the committee prior to the meeting. It was reported that 74 people responded to the survey and of these 29 advised they regularly attended club nights and slightly more preferred to book social 4s. Several members also advised they would be prepared to volunteer to help out at the club.

A full discussion was then held on all aspects of social and club-night play with a view to maximising court usage. It was also reported that organised social play on a Saturday tea time had proved popular and it was suggested that we might trial 1 Saturday a month for a club afternoon. The fact that Friday nights have always proved popular as a club night was discussed as it's the start of the weekend and the bar is also open. The trial of pre-booked Tuesday evening social play was also discussed.

**Dave** proposed that as a trial the club should continue the Fest style pre booked play on Tuesdays on 2 courts and that traditional style turn up and play Friday evening club nights should restart on 3 courts whilst also leaving courts available for those members who want to pre-book courts for social fours instead. This motion was carried by all bar one.

**The following points were also agreed by all: -**

1. All attendance at the club needs to be pre-booked and a log of Tuesday & Friday club-night attendance taken. Registers for both nights will be kept in the clubhouse next to the telephone and all attendees need to ensure they log themselves in on the register. QR codes will still be displayed and use of them encouraged in addition to the register (the club doesn't have access to the QR code data) so in this way all members will be fully supporting the NHS Track & Trace process. The register will also assist the committee to monitor court usage at all future committee meetings and make decisions based on actual attendance figures on both club nights and avoid courts being booked but not used, and also allow decisions to be made regarding the number of courts required, either more or less, based on demand.

2. To set up a Tuesday night I'm In What's App group on 2 pre-booked courts

**Mike D**

3. Tuesday & Friday Club night registers to be made available

**Claire**

4. An email to be circulated to the membership regarding decisions made at the meeting regarding all changes to the club going forward, and also to include a request that all courts booked for social fours / singles must be either used or cancelled if players are no longer able to fulfil their booking.

This will assist in maximising court usage and avoid pre-booked courts standing empty.

**Claire**

**Dave** commented that as the results of the survey were virtually 50/50 on people's preferences that inevitably some members wouldn't be happy with the decisions made, but hoped that the compromises made would be a start in ending the divisiveness shown over the last few weeks.

## **Opening up the Clubhouse & Bar**

As per Government & LTA guidelines a risk assessment has been completed regarding opening both the clubhouse and bar. The committee were in agreement with reopening the premises as long as all necessary steps have been taken, also the club will continue to provide sanitizer, bar service will restart every Friday evening with no need to pre-book tables but people will be asked to move away from the bar as soon as they are served. **Julie** requested that the email to members include a plea for members to volunteer to join the bar rota, especially as it will be open every night during the Town Tournament.

The new Wifi codes need to be circulated.

**David D & Tanya** have volunteered to head up the clubhouse refurbishment project with a budget of £8700 and an initial target completion date to coincide with the Club Tournament in September.

## **Media Officer**

**Emma Shales** has kindly agreed to take on this role and the committee unanimously agreed to co-opt Emma onto the committee. Emma is having a website training session with Katie 5<sup>th</sup> Aug.

## **Club Policies**

**Sarah**, as Welfare Officer, has raised a set of new club policies – the committee agreed to adopt these amended policies - copies will be circulated to the committee and displayed at the club asap.

**Sarah/Claire**

**CPR / Defib training sessions** – to be organised by **Gill** with team captains being encouraged to participate if possible.

The meeting closed at 20.48

## **TREASURERS REPORT for Meeting 26/7/21**

### **Cash**

Current bank balance	C/A	£48,403
	Sinking Fund	<u>£55,000</u>
		£103,403

*Comparison from same date in 2020*    £81,416

*(NB figures prepared on 22/7/21)*

Strong cash position which is due to the significant Covid grant income we have received without which we would be showing a cash deterioration.

We have allocated £8,700 of the above cash balances to the clubhouse 'upgrade' which hasn't been spent yet.

### **Items of significance since the last report**

None.

A relatively quiet period with membership renewals having all been received but a steady trickle of income from new members is very positive and we are likely to finish the year with membership income being flat, or thereabouts, year on year.



## ASHBY CASTLE LAWN TENNIS CLUB

### Membership Report – 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021

To date we have 363 active members which is 18 short of the peak of last year's membership.

We have 85 non-renewers and 65 new members in this membership year.

The Membership breakdown is detailed below:-

	<u>Not Renewing</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>%</u>
Junior Under 10	15	14	49	13.5
Junior 10-22	24	21	103	28.4
Parent	4	3	8	2.2
Social	0	2	11	3.0
Special Team Members	0	4	5	1.4
Senior	42	23	187	51.5
	<b>85</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Over 80	0	0	8	4.3
Over 70	9	0	21	11.2
Over 60	4	2	42	22.5
Over 50	0	7	50	26.7
Over 40	8	5	29	15.5
Over 30	8	6	21	11.2
Over 21	10	3	16	8.6
	<b>39</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Injured	10			
Lost Interest	19			
Moved Away	18			
Not enough time or not playing enough	22			
Not responded	16			
	<b>85</b>			

Thanks to everyone who was involved in the Sports Open Day as this generated 6 new members to date.

**Ian Randon**

## LADIES CAPTAIN REPORT 26.7.2021

Lady Captains have been very supportive to me and in abiding by the restrictions to play the matches with some challenges during the months of April, May, June and early July.

### Ladies Team Tennis (formally Aegon) - Captain Katie Higson

Won all 5 matches and will be promoted from Regional to National league next year! Some really great results for the team and individuals. It will be a tough challenge next year!

### Leicestershire Ladies 1 - Division 1 - Captain Katie Higson

Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> team won 4 matches over the season including Leicestershire who we have not beaten in recent history! 1<sup>st</sup> Team look to be finishing 7<sup>th</sup> (one more match has to be played by the team below in the division which will put them in 6<sup>th</sup> place)

This has proved to be a truly pleasing result given the uncertainty at the start of the season when there was some self-isolating and car sharing restrictions.

Thanks to Julie Guzder, Kerry Whyte, Esther Sleigh, Hannah Smith, Sally Turner, Bethan Davies, Sarah Perry, Claire Bridges, Sue Arrowsmith, Kathryn Cook, Lottie Whyte and Fiona Jackson who have all represented the team. Availability has been a bit of a mixed bag with some 8 "regulars" being available down to 4 other weeks.

Katie comments that "It would be good to think about a more coordinated Ladies structure next year by which players are selected based on standard and there is more flex through the season whilst not trying players unnecessarily."!

### Leicestershire Ladies 11 - Division 3a - Captain Pat Drinkwater.

The Ladies team have had a pretty good summer with a regular squad of reliable players. Currently mid table in Division 3a having won 5, lost 2 with 2 matches still to be played due to weather cancellations.

The first of which is this coming Tuesday v Rothley with Hinckley still to be played towards the end of August. The team had 2 8-1 wins against Victoria and Birstall but suffered a heavy loss against Oakham with a reduced strength team due to availability and a clash with a Vets 1 team on the same night.

Ladies 11 are likely to finish 4th in the table.

### Ladies Vets 1 – group 1 - Captain Claire Bridges

One match v Gynsil was adjourned due to a clash with the Mercury Cup and another v Hamilton which clashed with Wimbledon Men's Final. So currently 4 matches have so far been played with 3 to go and the team are currently in 4<sup>th</sup> position in the table.

### Ladies Vets 11 – group 5 Captain - Gill Mathias

5 matches played with three very close losses, one tie and 1 strong win. 4th in the division. There is a wide variety of standard of play with Ashby members in this group. However, I am keen that everyone who showed interest is being given the opportunity to play in matches.

Katherine Pilbro has been a huge support in Co-Captaining this team when I have not been able to do so.

### Burton A – group 1 – Captain Muriel Bouttier.

Only just started matches. The first match against Church Broughton was rescheduled due to track and trace with the second match unfinished. More matches in next few weeks.

#### Burton B – group 3. Captain Katherine Pilbro

The season has started without 2 key players but have managed to put out a strong team for the first 3 matches. We have played 2 wins and 1 loss to date with one match rescheduled. Currently 5th in the table.

#### Burton C -group 4 - Captains Lisa Sayner/Gill Russell

Gill Russell and Lisa Sayner have supported me with the Captaincy of this team. We have one match rearranged due to rain, drawn 2 matches, won 1 with 1 loss to date. At the moment we are 4th in the group. This has been a very enthusiastic team with varying standards, but they have greatly enjoyed the matches.

Gill Mathias LADIES CAPTAIN

# JUNE 21 Mens Report

The Euros started and so did our efforts to push to the top of our respective leagues .More importantly the weather improved

## **Mercury Cup Final v Carrisbrooke**

A fabulous afternoon of very high spirits and quality tennis .We welcomed a number of their supporters and the home support was also strong With three matches going to tie breaks we lost a tightly fought encounter Congratulations to Talia Julie Katie Alec Harry and Tom on the day and all those other players that got us to this final

In the Leicestershire leagues we played a total of 18 matches and a creditable win ratio of 80%

The first team continue to top the league and have had conclusive home wins with good support on a Friday evening .They also played a number of juniors for their inaugural matches and performances for Harry Dylan and Ethan were excellent proving match winners

The two key games at home took place Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> a convincing win against Loughborough and Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July with some high quality tennis and another excellent win and will go a long way to determine the league champions with Ashby as top of the league and hoping to secure premiership tennis next season .

## **UPDATE 14.07**

**Congratulations to the first team in gaining promotion to the Premiership for next season Great effort form all involved and excellent standard of match play tennis**

The second team continue their winning ways again with an excellent group of juniors led by Alex Adie .The league has proven to be a good stepping stone and we believe despite others attempts to derail us we have a strong chance for promotion

The thirds saw back to back wins raising us to third in the league and we have been able to play a wide variety of players across the season

The 4ths took a strong stand (despite football commitments) and had a commanding win against Hinckley which secure s us in the division followed by a consecutive win and this has been a good learning experience for all involved

Mens Vets-1 as we stand are undefeated with a draw and win in the month despite not knowing who we played ☺...

Mens vets -2 Ian is doing a great job rustling up players and we have one of each a win a loss and a draw as we are comfortable in the division

The national summer league-

Div 3 played our second game and were outclassed by a strong Loughborough team.

Division 1 had a good draw in the month

The opening matches of the Burton league have started and Mike has played a number of First timers which bodes well for the future in the Mens B team

## **Mixed Teams**

At the time of writing the mixed season has just begun and a full report will be given as the season moves on at the end of July

In the mixed Burton we have two teams in Div1 with the first match a win for the A team followed by a second win against Litchfield

As the Leicester leagues begin to draw to conclusion we look forward to the Burton league going full swing and the start of the mixed matches with a great first match with a thumping 9/0 win for the Mixed seconds against Rothley

A huge thanks to Alex Adie and Toby for supporting the Open day on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July Despite the weather a good turn out and we certainly have a fabulous reputation locally and attracted lots of potential new players Also a note to thank Rob and Gail for stepping in to help over a busy lunch period

Stay safe and stay positive

Chris Hawkins

A list of the Mens captains is below  
**Leicestershire Leagues**

1 <sup>st</sup> team-	Alex Guzder
2 <sup>nd</sup> team-	Alex Adie
3 <sup>rd</sup> team –	Chris Hawkins
4 <sup>th</sup> team-	Patrick Poon
Vets-1-	Dave Forster
Vets -2-	Ian Randon
(Winter)-	Ian Randon

**Burton Mens**

1 <sup>st</sup> team	Clive Slater/Wayne Brown
2 <sup>nd</sup> team	Mike Drinkwater

## Junior committee report 26/7/21

- 14&U boys team won Midlands division so competed in Roehampton at the national finals, finishing 4<sup>th</sup> best team in the country after losing the semi against Reeds on a shootout, a great effort from Ben, Harry, Dylan, Harry, Joe and Will.
- Since the last meeting, Oscar, Toby, Seb, Dylan and Ffion have represented their counties at 11&U county cup
- Alex and Alex travelled to Edinburgh for 14&U nationals, 4 Ashby players involved, Harry, Joe, Harry and Ben
- Road to Wimbledon county finals, Joe Harris won so will compete at Wimbledon for a week, 8-14<sup>th</sup> August, Sophie Ashford runner up in the girls so will go for a training day at Wimbledon in August.
- Town tournament deadline is Thursday, junior entries are good, seniors low at the moment but have sent several reminders this week so will hopefully increase.
- Junior open tournament was successful last week and included the Ikin trophy event, Ken presented the trophy and it sounds like a successful day
- Summer camps are underway and going well, this week and next week.
- Men's first team promoted and used several juniors: Harry, Dylan, Ethan and Noah. A further 7 juniors played senior team tennis