

AGM 2022 – member ideas

Idea
Investment
Small court for juniors & wall to hit against
Two new mini red courts – Guy
How about having a hitting / practice wall (I know some clubs have them). David Hopkins (e-mail address supplied)
Sports Association
Club fees to include a £20 bar levy to ensure all members use and support the club's bar. If the bar fails the club will pay to bailout the bar so introduce a levy
Sports Association to review the location of the defibrillator i.e. to place outside easily accessible in an emergency – Astrid
Please replace door key code with a legible new pad. Not a paint job by Bob – Angela
Membership fees
Can someone do a peer group analysis of other tennis club fees to see if we are too cheap. Need to keep on top of court replacement provisions.
The gap of some £80 between senior members & OAP members is too much. Need to revisit the pricing of subs Review every year and have noted for 2023/24
Social tennis
Make a bit more of social tennis by more regularly (not always) putting people of similar abilities / age groups together as well as deliberately separating
Social should be timed 25 mins and then swap around
To start social use a random method. Cards would work quite well. Then after a time period winners move up, losers move down and split to play opposite previous partner
Please could you review tennis balls for Saturday club afternoon. Why can't we have new ones every 6 weeks – not hand me downs. Surely club subscriptions be used for this.
Team tennis
Monday & Wednesday should be for team practice not socialise and mixing. Play 1 up or 1 down in teams
Consider a new member link scheme i.e. someone from 4 th / 1 st team contacts to see if would like to play 3 months after joining
Website – more info about teams and who to contact and what division they are in. To encourage new members to get involved.
Tennis competitions
Celebrate the handicapped tournament with a finals evening
Ladder singles and ladder doubles

Response
Club funds are currently allocated towards other upcoming capital projects. Paul Foster researched the costs of a hitting wall and the experience of other tennis clubs in their use. This report is posted separately in the AGM 2022 area of the club website.
We have addressed each of these suggestions with the Sports Association. The latest Sports Association committee meeting minutes included a discussion of the location of the defibrillator and their conclusion was that it will remain in its current location for now.
This is done every year. The 2022/23 fees were discussed at the December committee meeting and were circulated to the membership in the new year. A similar exercise will be conducted this year.
This point has was noted and discussed at the December committee meeting. Research with other local clubs suggested that BBCTC give a larger discount to OAPs relative to senior members than other clubs and this was taken into account in setting 2023/24 fees.
A member of the committee was assigned responsibility for the social tennis structure. The whatsapp group set up for Tuesday night tennis appears to have been a success and attendance has been very good. Attendance on Saturdays has been lower this year than it has in the past, not helped by regular poor weather. We will continue to monitor attendance going forward.
This was discussed and agreed at the December committee meeting.
Club captains organise Mondays and Wednesdays and they will decide when it's important to structure practice into teams prior to season and when they are looking to develop younger / newer members that are looking to move forward
The committee is happy that the current pathway for new members (joining social tennis initially followed by being invited to join Monday / Wednesday sessions if they play at a league standard) works well. The suggestion about putting more on the teams on the website is a good one and is on 'to do' list.
This is up to the tournament organiser (Sam). We will pass on the idea.
This was set up by Matt Q.

Expansion of the club championships by the introduction of age-related men's and ladies' singles events as part of the annual club tournaments. Perhaps adopting the Warwickshire league vets' basis of over-45 for men and over-40 for ladies may be appropriate. The current open age basis of the current singles events has led, in recent years, to somewhat predictable outcomes and effectively closed events. They are extremely entertaining and high quality finals but seem somewhat removed from the bulk of the club membership. More senior age singles events would perhaps be more inclusive, more closely reflect the age demographic and composition of the membership and probably be less predictable and more even in competition. There are ample courts available on finals day to accommodate two further finals. – Graham Mather (e-mailed prior to the meeting)
Amend the basis of the annual mixed doubles championship to enable free and open choice for pairings. Perhaps there are other opportunities during the tennis calendar and/or social sessions to have more 'American' style tournaments or other fun competition events where pairings can be randomly put together, but for the club championship it seems more appropriate to have it on the same basis as all the other championship events. – Graham Mather (e-mailed prior to the meeting)

Attracting new members

Promotion of club membership at Heart of England, Bablake, KHVIII and other schools in the areas to attract new members
Advertise outside of Balsall Common as clubs are much more expensive than us
Engage with new members to understand the good / bad elements of the joining process. – Phil Kelly (e-mail address provided)
Ask new members where they heard of the club to guide where to advertise the club more effectively – Phil Kelly
Perhaps advertise through estate agents who are already attracting people to the area / community – Phil Kelly

Other

Read out the ideas at the AGM or e-mail to all members after
These ideas should be made public with reasons as to action or not action
Committee member for the juniors – Guy
Best court manners cup – on & off court
Paul Foster to get free membership
More tangible recognition for Paul Foster. The amount of hours contributed by Paul in the maintenance and upkeep of the club, together with court clearing probably saves the club at least £5,000 pa (based upon paying labour costs for 10 hrs a week on minimum wage). As a gesture he could be offered free or honorary membership but he would probably refuse! Perhaps a more tangible benefit that he would accept is free use of the bar, where his tab is settled via club funds each month / quarter (an I'm sure this would still represent a significant saving for the club... unless we were deemed to be encouraging him to increase his alcohol intake!) If not this then some other benefit or gesture should be thought about. – Graham Mather (e-mailed prior to the meeting)

Two issues with this suggestion were discussed at the committee meeting.
Firstly - there are already challenges around there being enough courts available in the run up to finals day to get all matches completed. Secondly, based on results in recent years it's highly possible that some finalists would be in both the main and senior finals, which would cause scheduling issues on finals day.
On that basis, this suggestion was not actioned.
This was discussed at the December committee meeting and it was agreed that we are happy with the current arrangement.

The club doesn't currently have the capacity to accommodate more junior members in coaching sessions. This suggestion was noted should that situation change in future.
We use Facebook and can select the mileage range this advertising goes to. It is difficult to attract and retain members outside of the area.
These suggestions were noted and discussed at the December committee meeting. An action was raised to reach out to new members, which yielded only two responses.
This has been tried by the club previously and unfortunately wasn't successful.

Agreed. The suggestions were published on the website following the AGM and an e-mail was circulated to advise the membership. These responses will be similarly posted on the website and an e-mail circulated.
Matt Dunn joined the committee at the AGM and has been assigned responsibility for being the committee contact for any issues relating to the juniors.
This was discussed and it was concluded that this would be difficult to organise in an impartial manner.
We on the committee very much appreciate the amount of time and effort Paul puts into the club.
Members are welcome to show their appreciation to Paul when they see him in the bar!