

**BERKSWELL AND BALSALL COMMON TENNIS CLUB
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)**

Date Monday, 9th November 2020
Time 1930
Location Zoom meeting
Invitees All BBCTC Members

1. Opening of Meeting and Apologies

Chris Rhodes opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to all attendees.
No Apologies were received.
The Register of Attendees was as attached.

2. Agreement on Minutes of AGM held on 11th Nov 2019

Minutes were agreed by all members in attendance on this basis.
Approved by Dave Green
Seconded by Jackie Bland

3. Matters arising

None

4. Reports on activities for year ended 31st August 2020 – All reports are on the club website

4.1 End of year accounts

Judith Thomas Treasurer

It has been a challenging year, but I am pleased to report that the club finances remain in a good position.
Income - Our main form of income is subscriptions which have increased by just over a £1,000 on last year.
We received a £10,000 grant from Sport England which was secured by Stuart for coaching. There is a large reduction in social and fundraising due to the lack of a race night and the cancellation of other events due to COVID-19.

Expenditure - Court maintenance costs have reduced due to expenditure in the previous year including benches, line sweepers and floodlight items. There has been a reduction in subscriptions due to COVID-19 from both the LTA (full refund of £660) and the Sports Assoc (25% reduction being £2,025). The Sport England grant of £10,000 was spent in the year on coaching.

Surplus - £18,821 which has been transferred to reserves.

Balance Sheet - We have reserves of £54,676 the majority of which (£30,000) is intended for the refurbishment of Court 3 next spring. We have a constant rolling plan of renewal across all courts, floodlights and other infrastructure and the vast majority of our funds are allocated against this.

Approved by Alan Dick
Seconded by Craig Nash

A question was raised by Anthony Morris with regard to whether the Tennis club believed they would have sufficient funds to pay a full contribution to the Sports Association next year. Both Judith Thomas and Chris Rhodes confirmed that there were currently no plans to request a reduction to our subscription to the Sports Association for next year.

4.2 A Summary of club activities was presented by following

Members	Chris Rhodes
Infrastructure	Paul Foster
Sports Assoc	Dave Green
Coaching and Juniors	Stuart Davoile
Teams	Sarah Kirk
Social	Chris Rhodes

Questions arising

Bob Harris asked if we really needed to replace the fencing on Court 3 when we replace the court surface. Paul Foster advised that the fencing would have to be removed for the work to be carried out and that we currently had four different types of posts and fencing on Court 3 with different mesh, numbers of restraining wires and post distances. Generally, it was in poor condition and needed replacing and would be cheaper to do it as part of a complete court renewal.

Anthony Morris wanted to know if the electrical survey and the subsequent planned works would have any impact and cost implications on the clubhouse and Sports association. Paul Foster replied he did not believe so.

Chris Rees expressed concerns over the Bar Manager and viability of the bar in the current COVID-19 climate. Bob Harris replied on behalf of the Sports Assoc confirming they were working with Anthony in these difficult times.

Karen Morris gave details of the planned virtual wine and cheese tasting evening on 21st November.

5. Question and Answer session

The questions below were raised by members and asked to be raised at the AGM.

I.) Will members be compensated for the time that the club has been closed due to lock downs?

Chris Rhodes replied that we have discussed some form of compensation in Committee however no amount had been agreed due to the potential for further restrictions and how this would be given was open to discussion.

II.) If Court 3 is being replaced, what surface will we have on it? Can we have tiger turf as on 4 and 5?

Paul Foster advised that the Committee had discussed this and following informal feedback from members were going ahead presuming that tiger turf would be the preferred surface, although no final decision has yet been made. Chris Rhodes confirmed that we did not need the same surface as court 6 for league matches.

Chris Rees said he would like to see a different surface to ones we already had.

III.) If lines are difficult to see on courts 1 and 2 why can't we just paint them on?

Paul Foster gave a detailed description of the actions he had taken to make the white lines on courts 1 and 2 more visible and said to his knowledge no paint was durable enough to give a satisfactory result. Chris Rees said they were discussing the same issue at Warwick tennis club and he would provide any relevant feedback.

IV.) The village is going to grow dramatically, and we are increasing our membership, so should we be thinking about planning a court 7.

Chris Rhodes advised that he believed that court utilization meant that we had a lot of spare capacity on existing courts and that currently our 5-year plan had no provision for a new court 7. However, as we know the village will expand significantly although exact timescale and how this will impact the tennis club is unclear.

Anthony Morris said that perhaps a 10-year overview would be useful as this could be shared with the Sports Association for strategic planning purposes. CR agreed to look into this.

6. Constitutional Change proposals and vote

Paul Foster presented the proposed constitutional change regarding conflict of interest and Judith Thomas presented the change related to electronic banking. Paul Foster also presented some minor changes to update the wording of the constitution.

The changes were approved by all of the twenty people present in the meeting at that time.

7. A tribute to John Green

One of our vice presidents, John Green, very sadly passed away earlier this year and I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words about him.

John had been a member of the club since 1960 - that's 60 years! In that time, he was Chairman for 10 years (1977-1987), President for 8 years (1996 to 2004) and has been a Vice President ever since. He also fulfilled many other roles within the club over those years - even winning the first mixed doubles championship with Pam Brown.

John had a great enthusiasm and was a great driver for change within the club, especially when he was Chairman. In 1979, two brand new courts were laid, doubling playing capacity and expanding the membership. When John took over as Chair it's fair to say children were tolerated rather than encouraged and he wanted to change that. So, we saw the club open up and encourage junior members and children under 11 and then the appointment of the first LTA registered coach. John was also keen on developing the social side of the club and in 1984, he oversaw the rebuilding and large extension to the pavilion and bar area. All the time, John was constantly running social events to raise money to fund these activities and turning the club into a social as well as tennis hub.

However, the thing he will probably be remembered for most is the Maud Watson Day. In 1884, Maud Watson was the first Ladies singles champion at Wimbledon and was the daughter of the rector of Berkswell. In 1982, the house she was born in was still there and it even had a grass tennis court. So, John got it into his head that it would be a great idea to celebrate the centenary by recreating the day on that court. John persuaded the owners and after 18 months planning and hard work by a dedicated group, the re-enactment was performed by two of the Ladies team with 70 club members in period costume, with croquet, maypole dancing and afternoon tea. The day was a stunning success. In fact, it was so good that Central TV asked them to re-enact the event so they could film it.

So, a 60 year association with the tennis club: he met his wife, Brenda, there all the way back in 1960, he encouraged his sons to play there and Dave still does, it's fair to say, without John's lifelong contribution the club would not be where we are today. We are a village tennis club and we have always been very heavily reliant on the voluntary contribution made by John, his peers and previous members who built this club into the fantastic club it is today. We are not a soulless commercial enterprise but a place where you not only play tennis but can socialize with neighbours and friends. I think that a lot of today's members may take all this for granted, but the longer I'm a member here the more I realise this is more than a Tennis club, it's an intricate part of village life. It's not just the tennis but the social interactions with the rest of the members which enhances the wellbeing and enjoyment of all - we are a little tennis family. For being an integral part of building that, I think we all owe John a debt of gratitude. So, on behalf of all members, thank you very much, John!

8. Election of Officers and Committee:

8.1 President

Nomination is Pam Brown

Proposed: Dean Henry

Seconded: Craig Nash

8.2 Vice-Presidents

Nomination for a new Vice-President – Bob Harris

Proposed: Anthony Morris

Seconded: Paul Foster

Remainder of Vice- Presidents Nominations en-bloc:

Peter Nurse
Astrid Westall
Jane Hare-Scott
Barry Standley
Brenda Green
Alan Dick
Maureen Milnes

Proposed: Chris Rees
Seconded: Dave Green

8.3 Chairman (Pam to Lead)

Nomination is Chris Rhodes

Proposed: Dean Henry
Seconded: Alan Dick

8.4 Vice-Chairman

Nomination is Paul Foster

Proposed: Anthony Morris
Seconded: Alan Dick

8.5 Secretary

Nomination is Craig Nash

Proposed: Dean Henry
Seconded: Paul Foster

8.6 Treasurer

Nomination is Judith Thomas

Proposed: Chris Rees
Seconded: Dave Green

8.7 Membership Secretary and Junior Coordinator

Nomination is Jackie Bland

Proposed: Dave Green
Seconded: Harry Malone

8.8 Ladies Captain

Nomination is Sarah Kirk

Proposed: Karen Morris
Seconded: Harry Malone

8.9 Men's Captain

Nomination is Harry Malone

Proposed: Craig Nash
Seconded: Chris Rees

8.10 General Committee Members

Existing members Nominations en-bloc –Matt Quinn, Dave Green, Karen Morris

Proposed: Anthony Morris
Seconded: Paul Foster

9. AOB

Chris Rees raised a concern that on a number of occasions court bookings had been made but not taken up and courts had remained empty. Chris Rhodes explained the committee was aware of this and that a

number of emails had been sent to members to remind them that they needed to cancel courts if they don't intend to use them. If certain members persist with this behavior, we will ultimately be forced to stop them booking courts. Paul Foster advised that we had moved to half hour slots and members had made 1378 cancellations of court bookings.

Anthony Morris raised the fact that the tennis club were not using the NHS QR code. Paul Foster replied that we have three different areas recorded, the online booking system, social tennis where we keep a manual book and coaching where coaches keep a record and confirmed we could provide details for at least 21 days previous.

Andy Dick commended the committee for the way the club had been managed in the extraordinary difficult circumstances of this year and thanked them for all their hard work.

The meeting was closed at 21.20 approx.

Meeting Attendees

Chris	Rhodes
Chris	Rees
Harry	Malone
Judith	Thomas
Jackie	Bland
Juliet	Mather
Paul	Foster
Alison	Lowe
Karen	Quinn
David	Green
Dean	Henry
Anthony	Morris
Jon Webber	
Craig	Nash
Karen	Morris
Alan	Dick
Pamela	Brown
Hilary	Brattle
Nikki	Paton
Bob	Harris
Stuart	Davoile
Bryan	Riemer
Sarah	Kirk
Matt	Quinn
Graham	Mather
Paul	Morris