

Binfield Tennis Association
AGM 3/11/22 6.30pm at Foxes Den
Minutes

Attendees

David Harper (DH), Richard Nichols (RN), Tim Usher (TU), Jacqui Wright-Terry (JWT), David Danson (DD), Jon Pascoe (JP), Tony Williams (TW), Steve Gardner (SG), Nigel

Apologies

Clare Dewbury (CD), Joyce Dargie (JD), Trudy Inge, Lisa Nichols, Jo Foster, Angelique, Sue.

Minutes of Last Meeting and Chairman's Report

The minutes of Last Meeting were accepted.

DH provided a summary of his report (available in full on request). The committee was thanked for its support, with main points being the continued drive to encourage younger players through our coaching program and relationship with the primary school. The Club remains in a healthy position and will continue to look at ways to improve facilities. The club participates in the Berkshire league for men's, ladies and mixed. Our mission remains to be a community-focused club.

Treasurer's Report

SG took us through a summary of his report (available in full on request). Our year runs from 1/3 to 28(29)/2. For the current year, membership income (our only significant source of income) is up from last year, £10,095 compared to £8,910 the previous year. Our current in year expenditure is £4,279 which includes £2,677 payment to the Parish Council for use of the courts and £360 to the LTA. We expect to spend a further approx. £1500 this financial year for leaf clearance and court maintenance. It is expected we will end the year with approx. £15,000 of net assets.

Membership Report

DD took us through a summary of his report (available in full on request). It is somewhat difficult to determine the exact number of players and members due in part to the membership categories, but we do know we have 74 family memberships, 87 Adult members, 3 student, 5 junior and 24 child members. We have 176 contact email addresses.

Secretary's Report

RN took us through a summary of his report (available in full on request). The main item discussed was our continued association with the LTA. Whilst the cost (£120 per court) is significant, the benefits of association, such as full insurance, access to leagues,

safeguarding and individual right to access the Wimbledon ballot, means we will continue to be associated.

Welfare Report

JWT provided a summary. We have had no reported incidents. We are fully compliant with current requirements and will follow any new safeguarding processes introduced by the LTA

PR and Communications

CD produced a report before the meeting as she was unable to attend. It is available on request. Formal communication is through the web site and email, with use of Whatsapp for arranging games (please see AOB). We have had 4-5 articles published in the Binfield Beacon which reaches most of the local community. Looking forward, we will build our social media presence to reach a broader audience.

Coaching Report

TW took us through his report. In addition to the hugely successful School program, which will continue to run for the next 2 years and cover all 3 year groups at the primary school, the Autumn Program has seen around 20 participants, the Summer around 30 participants and the summer camps 15-25 participants.

TW has also arranged for the juniors to engage in local, more competitive matches, as well as suggesting a junior club night (starting next Spring). The committee fully supports this.

Captains' Report

- Ladies and Mixed. In Joyce Dargie's absence, DH provided a summary. The Ladies had a difficult year in Division 7 summer league, but managed to field a team for each of their matches thanks to the flexibility of the Binfield and opposing teams. We will stay in division 7 for the season 2023. Joyce has decided to step down as captain and Jacqui has kindly offered to take over. We started the mixed season in division 5B but will be moved down to division 6 next year. We should be well placed for both.
- Men's. JP provided an update on both the summer and winter leagues. For the Summer, we had a mixed bag of matches but will remain in Division 6A. The Winter league has recently begun with a loss and losing draw (2 matches each), but we feel we are well placed in Division 6

For all teams, we thank those who have represented the club, and we continue to look for new talent. We welcome Neil Greet and Marko Jergic to the men's squad.

It was agreed that we will no longer ask participants to pay to play as part of a team. The club can afford to provide new tennis balls for home matches for the teams. It is also acknowledged that home teams have to provide food and beverage for visiting teams at their own cost. This will remain the case.

Flood Lighting Project

DH gave an overview of a current feasibility study to look at the installation of flood lights. Initial indications suggest that to install floodlights will cost approx. £30,000 plus VAT plus the charge associated with provision of electricity to the courts. The feasibility study team of DH, SG, RN, and JP will continue to gather further costs and understand the process for gaining planning consent. The project cannot go ahead unless significant funding (>= 90%) can be secured through the Parish Council.

Club Objectives and event dates for 2023

The objectives for the club remain the same, ie to encourage junior participation and be community-focused. The event dates will be discussed at the next meeting in early March.

Election of Committee Members.

All members of the committee have agreed to stand again for 2023. The committee always welcomes members who wish to join the committee.

AOB/Actions

- Date of Next Meeting to be scheduled for First two week of March 2023
- The committee will look at a lower cost solution for the provision of a practice hitting wall
- It was agreed that the noticeboard outside the courts is a great asset in providing information, but needs renovating or replacing. The committee will look into this.
- A project team headed up by DH and JWT will look at how we can encourage more local schools and colleges to play
- We will look at how to communicate more effectively with members. It is thought the BTA Whatsapp group can be used to encourage more play, but email will still be used for more formal communication.
- The committee raised a concern over the durability of the current tennis ball we use (Slazenger). We will review options to ensure we are getting best value for money.

Meeting closed at 8pm.