

**Present: Committee: Gordon, Martin, Dermot, Emma & Nick**

Karen Ferguson, Jan Empson, Barry Fitzgibbon, Colin Chamberlain, John Bain, Wendy Dixon, Brian Stone, Stephen Spikings, Tim John, Andy Tripp, Patty Taylor, Richard Taylor, Gary Briggs, Rebecca Rose, Andy Ferguson, Dave Seddon

**Apologies:** Ann, Sarah & Greg, Barry Fisk, Maureen, Wendy West, Geoff, Jill Cohen, Gill Fisher, Diana, Margaret Allen

**Chairman's Report - Gordon**

This has been the year of most change since I have been Chair. The club structure is now project based divided into 3 strands: Tennis (Emma), Finance & Admin (Dermot) and Maintenance (Martin) with Rebecca- membership, communications & website.

Thanks to all and those who have assisted them. Main

events this year:

- Monday night floodlit league- increased participation now means one league before Xmas and (probably) one after- thanks to all for making this an enjoyable, but not too competitive evening.
- GBTW - over 70 people attended- kind weather and good day all round. It resulted in 2 new adult members and a few junior members plus many contact details to increase our database.
- Teams- see below in Emma's report for results. We are still waiting for final confirmation of the Men's B because the final table is controversial.
- Saturday morning tennis continues to make a major contribution to club funds- thanks to Nick & Emma and those that help.
- Rusty Rackets on a Saturday morning run by Geoff continues to be successful and a way for the club to encourage new members.
- Most Improved Player award this year goes to Ann Mudd- her stats for the Ladies B, helping them to promotion, makes her an obvious choice. Rebecca to award the trophy at social.

Looking to the future:

- We are coming to the end of our lease. We are beginning discussion with DBC but there will be no major investments until we have security of tenure.
- A meeting with DBC planners with regards to extending the hours of our floodlights and also lighting courts 1 & 2 were very encouraging. We hope to have news on lighting courts 3 - 5 seven days a week soon.
- We need to remove the 100mm of tarmac on our courts when we next relay our courts and put down a new 40mm concrete base. We are unsure about whether to go down the hard court or Astro route in the future but this will be discussed thoroughly before a decision is made.

- As a club our membership is aging and we need to ensure this does not have an adverse effect on our subs. We continue to try and grow our membership but this is not easy.

### **Finance Strand report- Dermot**

Please find attached the Treasurer's report.

#### **Questions raised for Finance:**

- Do we know the cost of new courts?

The ball park figure is £45,000 but this will no doubt go up, plus £20,000 for additional lights

- Who will make the decision on whether we go for hard court or Astro?

Once the lease is secured we can look at the pros & cons of both and discuss. Court 3 is currently our biggest problem as it does not drain effectively and moss builds up which means it needs cleaning annually.

- Barry Fitzgibbon offered to meet with Dermot as he is one of the trustees on the lease.

- Richard Taylor is helping in his capacity as a Parish Councilor.

### **Membership – Rebecca**

Adults: 2017/18 = 76\* 2016/17 = 76

We have 4 new adults this year. Those who have left from last year have either moved away or no longer play tennis with the exception of one.

\* out of this only 18 females are full members playing tennis.

Juniors including students: 2017/18 = 79 2016/17 = 47 (approx)

Increase due to work by Emma, Nick & Rebecca and now the challenge is to keep these.

Initiatives:

Juniors: Events such as Pizza night & Halloween night/ Box Leagues/ attracting Scout groups

Ladies: Big issue at our club – in spring/summer we intend to run Ladies only tennis sessions  
e.g. chocolate/ Pimms tennis days

Rusty Rackets- continue to promote this as much as possible

“Long Distance” membership @ £150 for those who live over x (to be decided approx 20 miles)  
to try and attract those who work but do not live in the area. No weekend play included.

### **Tennis Strand report- Emma**

Teams WDTL League:

Congratulations to the Ladies B team who have been promoted to Division 5

Mixed A – remaining in Division 4

Mixed B – moving down to Division 6

Men's A – remaining in Division 5  
Men's B – to be clarified  
Ladies A – moving down to Division 4  
Hot Rackets League:  
Ladies Doubles remaining in Division 2B

Club Champs- Thank you to all those who made it a success this year and for all the feedback. Next year's format will be announced next year.

GBTW- This was a great success in terms of promoting our club with over 70 attendees. Thank you for everyone's hard work. We will aim for the next one to be in 2019. Next year we will look at alternative events e.g. Ladies events.

Bovingdon Primary Academy- Currently running after school sessions on a Tuesday for 19 and on a Friday for 12 younger children. We receive very good feedback from this.

Kids Parties- a new venture for us as a club and we have had two so far this month with good reviews. One for 18 nine year olds and the other for 9 five year olds.  
Thanks to Bovingdon Pre-school for the free loan of table and chairs for our parties.

Junior social events- free for members to try and give them more for their membership. These include 1.5 hours of tennis and food!

Box League ladders- there is currently a men's singles one running and we will begin the doubles ladders in the spring.

If anyone ever has any tennis ideas for juniors or adults, please let Emma know.

It was noted that Emma is a great asset to the tennis club and there is now more tennis on offer to everyone. Thank you for all her work.

### **Facilities Strand report- Martin**

Martin is ably supported by Gordon, Brian (and son Adam), Dave Seddon, Tim Baldwin, Kevin, Steve Spikings & Chris Sparkes. Any more help is always gratefully received.

Works completed and to be done:

Chris spent a great deal of time changing the cupboards to accommodate our new (donated second-hand) dishwasher. Jacques Cohen (Jill's husband) kindly plumbed it in for us – he is available for plumbing quotes- please ask if interested. And it is now connected to electricity and ready to use. We envisage it will only be needed for matches.

Chris also lowered the table. A big thanks to Chris for all the work he has put in.

Trees are now trimmed and the area around the hitting wall has been cleared. We intend to repair the hitting wall.

An LTA grant of £1000 was secured which was put towards fencing our car park. Signs are due to be made to try to keep the footballers out.

Bent posts behind court 1 have been straightened/replaced and other wires repaired.

This Sunday (29<sup>th</sup>), the path to the clubhouse is being relaid- slabs have been donated FOC by EH Smith. Any further volunteers would be great.

Courts 1 -4 are due to be washed next Monday and Tuesday (30/31 Oct) so these will be closed.

The road into the tennis club/ football club needs attention and we are considering road humps to slow traffic down which makes it worse.

The oven will be professionally cleaned.

Questions/Suggestions from the floor:

Colin suggested solar power lights on top of the clubhouse roof to light up the new fencing and make it more visible. Strand will look into this.

Is the security light working over the path from the car park? No- probably just the bulb that needs changing. To be done on Sunday.

Could we use our grass area for anything for the junior members?

### **Re-election of Officers**

Everyone currently standing is happy to continue. This was proposed by John Bain and seconded by Dave Seddon

### **AOB**

#### **Men's C Team:**

We have enough men for another team but even if the Men's B team do move up from the bottom division, we do not have enough courts for all the Men's home matches to be played due to them having to be played on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.

It was agreed that we will continue to try with Men's friendlies (Dermot will again raise at the next Herts LTA Satellite meeting) and Emma will look into a Men's Hot Racket team- these are usually played on Sunday afternoons and cover quite a large area. However there aren't many games in a season and there are only 2 doubles pairs needed.

### **Floodlights**

Currently we can only light Court 3 three times a week. It was agreed that this will now be a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Hopefully soon we'll have 7 days a week.

Signs will be changed and the website has been updated.

### **Lost property**

Any lost property hanging around for longer than a few weeks will be taken to a charity shop. Rebecca will monitor this.

### **Tokens**

Can there be more access to buying tokens? Gordon, Rebecca & Dermot have tokens. Would it be possible for Brian to also hold these? For now tokens will remain will just these three.

### **Midweek Membership**

Could our current midweek membership currently (for over 65s) also include Weds social? This is something to be discussed (again) on the Finance strand and a recommendation made to the full committee as we need to make sure it's fair to all members.

### **Signage**

Our current sign on the fence isn't very welcoming as it says Members only Club. Martin will look to getting this changed.

### **Social**

Do we have any socials planned? Not currently because no-one has offered to organise anything. Tim Baldwin has a proposal which will be e-mailed out to members.

### **Bench**

There has been a request to put a bench on Court 3- facing courts 4 & 5 for spectators – also useful for bags etc. Martin is looking into this or place next to court 5..

### **Decision making**

Karen asked who makes the decision about things now there is the new structure e.g. the trial format change to social. It was explained that unless it is a major club decision, it will be down to the Strand heads in discussion with the rest of their strand members (more volunteers welcome to join each strand). Other major decisions would be made by the full committee and by consulting members. Dermot reminded everyone that we are still feeling our way with this new club structure and learning from mistakes. The dates for the full committee meetings (4 times per year) will be published on the website and the first half hour of each meeting will be open to anyone who wants to attend.

