

Minutes of AGM 2018

Present: Committee- Gordon, Dermot, Martin & Craig

John Bain, Wendy Dixon, Geoff Allen, Diana Mills, Margaret Allen, Rebecca Rose, Ian Guest, Tim Baldwin, Stephen Spikings, Brian Stone, Dave Seddon, Gary Briggs

Apologies: Nick Leighton, Andy Tripp, Maureen Grant, Jane Gilmore, Jill Cohen, Dawn Briggs, Wendy West, John Wareham, Jan Empson, Karen Ferguson, Kevin Wilks

2017 Minutes agreed

Matters Arising:

Facilities:

The oven was professionally cleaned

Road humps were considered but the cost is prohibitive

Solar panels suggested for the clubhouse roof- we do not use enough electricity to make this worthwhile

Signage saying "Members only" needs changing- this has not been done but Martin has it back on his list of things to do

Decision making:

We are unable to publish the dates for full committee meetings too far ahead but will put the date on the website for the next one as soon as we have one

Chair's Report:

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to our 2018 AGM.

I hope you will all agree that this has been an outstanding season on many fronts, the weather, our team results and general standard of play. But more platitudes later ...

This season was our first operating under the new committee structure - with three primary focuses, being: Tennis, Finance & Admin and Maintenance, under the stewardship of Craig/Nick, Dermot and Martin respectively, with Rebecca working tirelessly on the website and communications. My thanks to all of them and those of you who assisted for all the hard work they and you have done as the new structure appears to be working.

I would also like to remind everyone of the importance of providing 'a safe and welcoming' Club to both members and visitors. To ensure this happens, the LTA requires each Club to appoint a Welfare Officer. Can I remind everyone that Colin Chamberlain is our Welfare Officer, any health, well being or safety issues and concerns need to be directed to Colin in the first instance.

Clubsmark/ Tennismark is no longer: the standard for tennis clubs is now the "British Tennis Venue Registration" where we have to meet certain criteria.

- Have and display Safeguarding/ Diversity & Inclusion policies (on our website)
- Have a trained Welfare Officer
- Criminal Records Check for all those who need them
- Annual risk assessment

All these have to be completed by the end of November and in return we get insurance,

access to the Wimbledon Ballot and use of Clubspark including our website.

Safeguarding is a very important and key issue in all organisations and clubs now. Any concerns at all must be reported to Colin (or Gordon in his absence).

I have no intention of stealing my colleagues thunder - but as Chairman I want to highlight some of the matters this year, and also look to the future:

- Firstly after more years than I can remember Nick is letting go of the Head Coach mantel. Nick has been responsible for the development of our Saturday morning junior program and its substantial financial contribution to the Club funds. He has agreed to continue on the committee in an advisory capacity and as a Saturday morning coach. Even though he is currently on holiday, I would like to recognise his contribution with a small gift from us all when he returns.
- As Chairman I get to present a trophy for the 'most improved player' of the season - there were a few candidates, Ian Guest/ Andy Stutely were both in the mix but stats don't lie and checking out the W&D results and for his support of our junior program - this year the trophy goes to Will Roe.
- A summary of our Team results - In the W&D summer league: the Ladies A, Mens A, Mens B have all been promoted and in the winter Herts league the Mens Vets were promoted, well done to all, a first in my memory, let's look to stay up....
- Club finals day saw more matches than ever before as the Club played two competitions in the same time frame. We have asked for your feedback and the outcome will shape our plans for next year.
- Craig has been working as Head Coach since joining us, but from September took over the Junior Saturday morning coaching. Craig is offering induction coaching for new members and also running improver squads on Saturdays and midweek, he also runs the 'after-school' tennis clubs at Bovingdon Academy which acts as a feeder to Saturdays. Everything I hear is good!
- Geoff continues to run Saturday morning adult Rusty Rackets and once again numbers are very encouraging in both profit to the Club and participation, which should mean more new members next season.
- We have been successful in securing a small grant from Boxmoor Trust to cut down the fence between court 1 and the Clubhouse to offer better viewing and to purchase individual court scoring systems. This work will be underway soon.

Looking to the future - we need to ensure we continue to offer value for money and appropriate facilities, Dermot and Martin will update you further. But my thoughts around next season and beyond are:

Facilities

- Put in place a new lease with DBC 2018/19
- Light courts 1-2 during the winter of 2019/20

- Resurface courts 1-3 during the winter of 2019/20, the committee are currently looking at surfaces options and costs

Tennis

- To build on this seasons teams success
- Continue with our Winter intraclub Monday night Floodlit league
- Explore weekend leagues for improving players

Membership

- Grow our membership through continuing promotions to Bovington and surrounding areas
- Make new members feel welcome and continue an induction program

Should you have any questions please raise them under AOB when you have heard from everyone else.

Finance report - Dermot

Summary

From a financial perspective, 2017/2018 saw the club continue to build reserves ahead of major commitments to replace the playing surfaces on courts 1-3. Our operating surplus of £10,600 was lower than the previous year, the difference being exaggerated by the timing of payments in the cash book. Adjusting for this the year on year surpluses would be similar. Our cash position improved by £8,400, after cheques written in 2017/18 were cashed in the current year. Adult and junior membership numbers have been maintained.

Like other organisations, small and large, the club has to deal with increasingly detailed demands on issues such as Safeguarding and data handling. New policies have been developed and old ones updated to take account of GDPR requirements. We are following LTA guidelines on policy and process around Safeguarding; these are reflected in information on our Club website and members are encouraged to check routinely for updates and key information.

Income

Our headline income this year fell by £10,900. £1,000 of this is accounted for by the Small Facilities grant we received from the LTA in 2016/17. Coaching accounted for £8000 but approximately £4700 of this is to do with end year timing of cash receipts. Very poor weather in Winter and Spring depressed takings but with a commensurate fall in coaching costs the overall coaching surplus on the year of £4,900 was only slightly down on the previous period. We must again thank Nick for his generosity in donating his services to the club free of charge. Subs were lower than in 16/17 but provided that we can maintain or grow our current membership there is good reason to believe that we will see an improvement in the coming year.

Expenditure

Headline operating costs fell by £7,700. As noted above the most significant fall was in coaching costs, down by £6,200. At £4,600 maintenance and repair costs were £1,700 lower. The most significant expenditures were £1875 on court cleaning and repainting and £1,350 on repairs to fences. We continue to pay off our LTA loans at a rate of £4,600pa. The outstanding balance is now £21,800.

Funds Position

The club is in good financial health. Our year end bank balance plus a small amount of cash stood at just under £75,000. As always there is pressure on costs: early renewal of our lease with Dacorum - essential to underpin investment in new courts - will incur one off charges of £1600 and an annual increase of £250 pa in rates. Coaching costs will return to a more normal level as Craig takes over and we are seeing inflation in utility costs and, for example, the cost

of balls.

We are in the process of obtaining and assessing quotes for replacing Courts 1-3 from a technical and financial perspective with the objective of undertaking work late 2019/early 2020. Timing and project scope will be determined once costs and competitive bids can be finalised.

As always we have to balance investment with the need to be competitive and offer value for money and, given the general health of the club we propose leaving subs unchanged for 2018/2019.

There followed a discussion on the lease going forward and surface costs

Question from Brian Stone: Will the surface be decided before the lease renewal

Answer: No, the lease is priority

Planning permission is being sought for 5 courts to be floodlit 7 days per week.

Membership- Rebecca

Figures for this year exclude social members

Adults: 2018/19 = 79 2017/18 = 78

This year we have 10 new members and a further 2 have moved from midweek only membership to full membership. Those we lost included: two who moved away, one is injured, one is not currently playing, one joined another club, three joined on the half price deal but didn't renew. We have 7 currently on the half price deal so one of our priorities is to try and convert these to rejoin next season.

Juniors: 2018/19 = 78 2017/18 = 80 (2 of these joined after last year's AGM)

Tennis report - Craig

I joined at the end of March and is still settling in and meeting members. A big thanks to Nick, and I am amazed at Nick's work with the juniors and the great village feel there is around the club. I intend to build on this.

I would also like to thank Emma for growing the links with the school- she did a great job. I am currently pursuing other possible links with other schools.

I would like to improve member's tennis in terms of being there for any suggestions about anyone's own personal tennis, improving coaching and anything else anyone would like. Ladies B coaching on a Sunday has also begun. My intention is to help grow the membership. I have a few newbies at the moment who I am developing with a view to them becoming future members and playing at social.

Club Champs

A summary of feedback for this year's event can be found under PLAY > Club Champs on the website. The Sunday final was a good event with a lot of matches. Ian is happy to organise this next year.

Junior Competition

We have held one internal event so far for junior members which was good fun and I intend to do more of these. There are also external LTA junior tournaments which are open to various age groups. We have had excellent feedback and these are well worth watching. More information can be found in October news and the dates are under

EVENTS.

Martin raised the fact that he hadn't known about these as he doesn't use the website much. Craig would like to use the clubhouse boards more and this will be something that will be looked at in his tennis strand

Junior Social Events

Rebecca noted that Emma and her organised both a Halloween junior tennis social and an Easter one last season but numbers were too low to go ahead. Craig suggested doing some social events around the Grand Slams so he will look into that.

Open Days

The plan is to hold two open days a year. We will need volunteers for this both on the day and to get the event advertised both locally, in schools and on social media.

Winter League

This is under way with around 40 people taking part. Rebecca would like a break so we need a new volunteer to take over the running of the Feb- April tournament.

American Tournaments

The last two have included a BBQ and have gone down very well. The next date will be announced soon.

Tennis Strand

That comprises of myself as Head and Rebecca helping. My thoughts are to include one Ladies Team player, one Mens Team player and one non- team social player. If anyone is interested, please contact Craig.

Facilities report- Martin

Path finished by Gordon.

New benches put in for better viewing and putting bags on. The feedback has been very good.

Dishwasher courtesy of Rebecca . saves so much time after matches.

Drive holes were filled but as always have appeared again.. we have some material left so will fill a few deeper ones.

Thoughts are that whatever is decided on court surfaces that at that time we will do something more permanent with road with the tarmac that is dug up from the courts

Fencing was installed for enclosing Car park.

New Boxmoor Trust Grant

Monies used to lower the fence on Court one over the middle section and put in a small gate then improve the viewing of courts

And acquire scoring posts for all courts for ease of seeing scores during matches.

It was noted here that there were specific guidelines on what the funds awarded could be spent on.

Need to get a work party to help cut back trees etc and take down screens
Any other suggestions ? I had a few the other week..
Spa / Jacuzzi /plunge pool - Bar - Pool table - not all sensible!

There followed a discussion on the best place to house the defibrillator as it needs to be somewhere that everyone can access in an emergency. Ideally it would be on the outside of the clubhouse but there are concerns about possible theft or vandalism in this case. This will be on the agenda at the next committee meeting.

Re-election of Committee

Everyone is happy to remain in their current post.
John proposed and Geoff seconded this.

AOB

There was no other business.