

Minutes of AGM 2019

Present: Committee- Gordon, Dermot, Martin, Craig & Rebecca

John Bain, Margaret Allen, Ian Guest, Brian Stone, Dave Seddon, Gary Briggs, Helen & Paul Campbell, Kevin Wilks, Dot Burgin, Wendy West, Jan Empson, Barry Fitzgibbon, Tim John, Graham Dore, Andy Tripp, Maggie McHugh

Apologies: Nick Leighton, Maureen Grant, Jane Gilmore, Jill Cohen, Dawn Briggs, Colin Chamberlain, Geoff Allen

2018 Minutes agreed

No Matters Arising.

Chair's Report:

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to our 2019 AGM.

Looking at this season from tennis team perspective – it was a year of consolidation, from a coaching perspective - we saw more group sessions and 1:1's than ever before - and from a facilities perspective a year of never ending work, but I will not steal Martin's thunder.

This season was our second operating under the new committee structure - with the primary focuses, being: Tennis, Finance & Admin and Facilities, under the stewardship of Craig, Dermot and Martin respectively, with Rebecca working tirelessly on the website and communications. My thanks to all of them, and to all of you who assisted with the hard work that goes into making our Club so successful, I would like to add my special thanks to people working in the background, Pat Lane who keeps us stocked up with tea, coffee and cleaning stuff and Liz Amin who produces bacon rolls every Saturday morning and generated £100 surplus for the Club and Chris Wood who does our cleaning and grass cutting. The new structure appears to be working well.

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, wellbeing or safety issues and concerns need to be directed to Colin in the first instance.

As Chairman I get to highlight some of our achievements this year:

- Firstly, the 'most improved player' of the season – at 17 the talented Thomas Brook who has played at the Club since the age of 4, this year played for both Men's teams and won the Men's singles. Despite this - this year the trophy goes to Andy Stutely who is now a regular fixture in the W&D and Hot Rackets teams and a regular at all our social sessions.
- In the W&D league all teams held their positions with the exception of the Ladies A who having gone up last year went back down. The Men's Vets were promoted and in answer to the request for more winter team tennis we have entered teams in the Aylesbury & District Winter league.
- Club finals day saw more matches than ever before as the Club played two competitions in the same timeframe. A special mention to Jill Cohen who played in 4 matches!

- Craig continues to do an excellent job growing our coaching program, our Saturday morning junior sessions continue to be very well supported, and it great to see more group and 1:1 sessions taking place, he also runs the 'after-school' tennis clubs at Bovingdon Academy which acts as a feeder to our Saturday program. Feedback from the school is excellent! Finally, special thanks also to Natalia for coaching the Ladies B and Nick the Ladies A.
- Geoff continues to run Saturday morning adult Rusty Rackets and once again numbers are very encouraging in both profit to the Club and participation levels, which hopefully means more new members next season.
- Gal-on has run a very successful series of LTA junior tournaments throughout 2019. Whilst these make the Club a little money more importantly it ticks a lot of boxes for the LTA. We plan to continue with these events in 2020.
- The Club is in the final stages of signing a new 25 year lease with DBC which secures our tenure for the long term.
- On the facilities front, I don't know where to start so I will leave it to Martin to remind us what he and his team have achieved this season.

Looking to the future our vision remains unchanged:

Facilities

- To maintain our facilities to a high standard
- Those observant members will have noticed new floodlights have appeared on courts 1 & 2 and weather permitting the relaying of courts 1 – 3 starts this Friday.

Tennis

- To build on this season's team successes
- To deliver more group and 1:1 coached sessions
- Continue to run LTA events

Membership

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

Social

- Whilst its early days, the Club together with the Football and Cricket Clubs have been invited to host a musical evening next Bank Holiday Monday with profits split 3 ways. Patti and Ali are representing the Club on the project team.

Finance report - Dermot

Summary: 2018/19 has seen the club continue to build funds while still investing in the club's facilities. Our operating surplus of £37,373 was significantly boosted by the receipt of grants from The Boxmoor Trust (£1835), WDTL (£200), Herts LTA, (£1000), and a private foundation (£20,000) together with sponsorship payments of £792. Stripping these out our total surplus for the year was £13,546. This was a modest improvement on the previous year, even allowing for income and costs incurred in 17/18 but only received in the cash book in the current year. Our cash position improved by £11,803. Adult membership numbers have been maintained, while junior memberships have grown to possibly their highest ever level.

Safeguarding: As noted last year 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. The requirements grow year on year and place a considerable burden on smaller clubs such as ours. Compliance is a requisite for LTA affiliation and we will be subject to a safeguarding audit by the LTA in 2020; we are working with them ahead of time to ensure we fully understand and comply with requirements.

Income: Aside from the grants and sponsorships noted above, headline income rose by £5,560, the significant movements being in membership subs, higher by £2,025 and coaching income, up by £3,739. LTA sanctioned tournaments, as well as providing some very attractive tennis to watch, contributed £565 in court fees to the club.

Operating Expenditure: Insurances, LTA fees and loan repayments were at the same levels as in 17/18. Utility costs rose as a result of increased lights usage and a slightly higher tariff locked in when we moved suppliers at the end of our last contract. Of the original £41,000 borrowed from the LTA, £18,200 remains outstanding; in November 2020 we will pay off the final instalment of our clubhouse loan, freeing up £1,000pa of cash flow. Nick having provided junior coaching at no cost to the club for some time, coaching costs, as expected, rose substantially as Craig took over. Within Maintenance, the most significant items were grounds maintenance and tree cutting at £2739, and court cleaning at £1,000.

Capital Expenditure: Aided by grants we invested £3,100 in landscaping in front of the clubhouse, installing a new bench and dropping the fencing to improve the view from the clubhouse. For the first time we sought sponsorship to fund investment and £972 was raised to cover the cost of installing scoring posts on each court. The much needed new road has been built at a very low cost of £6,000 shared equally with the football club. Over the next few weeks we will see the fruition of our project to instal new lights on courts 1 and 2, and to resurface courts 1-3 at a cost of nearly £90,000. This is somewhat higher than originally hoped as the project scope changed to ensure we address the issue of court flooding that has been a significant issue. We have already paid a deposit of £16,776. The lighting project was made possible by a generous donation of £20,000 from a private fund. In preparation we have agreed the key terms of a new lease with Dacorum at a cost of £1200. Once signed our rent will rise by £250pa.

Funds Position: At year end our bank balance plus a small amount of cash stood at £86,521. This impressive sum is the result of the club building its sinking fund in preparation for the work now about to begin and we are able to fund this major project

from our own reserves. Once completed we will have drained our sinking fund and need to start rebuilding. As noted above, next year we will pay off one LTA loan (£1000pa) and in Feb 2024 make the last instalment of our lights loan, freeing up an additional £3600pa. Meanwhile, as long as we can maintain our thriving junior coaching programmes and hopefully build our membership we expect to maintain a healthy surplus. 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 2020/21

Further to Dermot's report, Rebecca also mentioned that since 1st April until today's date we have had (now confirmed) 95 hours of court bookings from non members. We keep the rate low @ £5 per hour so that we are benefiting the local community, so at that rate that equates to £475 (less admin fees approx 8% for online bookings are deducted). These bookings were made by 39 different people (with at least one person playing tennis with them). We welcome all these new people to the club, many of whom have found our website by searching on the internet.

Membership- Rebecca

Figures for this year exclude social and lifetime members

Adults: 2019/20 = 80 2018/19 = 79

This year we have 6 new members. Four of these members came via our "Free February/March taster" Those we lost included: two from injury and most of the others were spouses on the family memberships who weren't using their memberships.

All of those who were on last year's half price deal joined in full, bar one.

This year's half price deal has only resulted in one new member which is disappointing. We are looking at ideas for next year.

Dave Seddon raised the idea of having the half price deal for any brand new member, whatever the time of year. This is something that Rebecca & Dermot have already discussed and are exploring because other clubs are also doing this.

Juniors: 2019/20 = 84 2018/19 = 78

Considering we always have movement with juniors, this reflects many new junior members and this is the first time juniors exceed adults at the club. The challenge now is to get these 84 juniors to rejoin from 1st April next year.

We are continually trying to think of ways to enhance both adult and junior memberships. More on this in Craig's report. With regards to junior members, Gordon and Rebecca have been running a junior "social" on Fridays 4 - 5.30pm once a month. We would like to run this more often but need more volunteers who are DBS checked to help if we are going to be able to offer this.

Tennis report - Craig

I have had a year at the club to reflect on things and can see that Bovingdon Tennis Club members are passionate about their tennis.

Junior Programme: Junior coaching on a Saturday continues to go very well: we only had one week where it didn't go ahead because of the weather. I'd like to thank all the helpers chipping in with the bacon rolls.

Junior teams have played summer matches. It was quite difficult to get juniors to commit, as well as scheduling these matches. During the winter, there will be mini tennis (u10s) playing matches during the winter until April. Matches are new to these youngsters and the process of playing is good for them. I had a chat with Jan Empson, one of the founder members, earlier this evening I am proud to continue to maintain the history of junior tennis at Bovingdon Tennis Club.

After school tennis at Bovingdon Primary Academy continues on a Monday and Tuesday. Lorah Wilson who is a 19 year old coach working with us, has taken over the Monday after school session, with the help of Laura Campbell (Helen & Paul's daughter). I will be asking the school if they would be interested in any other days. I also looked around at the possibility of approaching other local schools but I do not currently have the available time to pursue this.

Adult Programme: We have the beginners adult group going on a Thursday evening 7 - 8pm which is mainly non members. This has been busy with up to 15 attendees. The idea is to also run an 8 - 9pm intermediate session for existing members and anyone who is ready to move up from the beginners group.

Ladies B coaching run by Natalia, is going well. And similarly Ladies A coaching run by Nick. There was a Mens Weds 8pm evening tennis for a while which was weather effected. If anyone would like this to restart, please let me know.

The LTA Tournaments run by Gal-on has been mentioned already by Gordon. As a result of these, I have received good feedback about the club.

During Club Champs, I noticed how keen members were to improve their tennis for the matches, which resulted in some individual coaching. Thanks to Ian for organising this event so well.

Tennis Strand: Please speak to me if you can help with any of the following which I would like to be part of the tennis strand:

- Social Media - a big part of the way we can take the club forward
- Juniors Secretary to help run the kids coaching and competition programme
- Social Secretary- if we can raise funds it will keep our subs down. This position would be for ideas on social events, fund raising events and tennis events such as American Tournaments, Parent & child tournaments which I would like to run

My thanks to Nick. It has been very easy to take over from him. My goal is to increase the membership, in particular the adults, and to help improve the club.

Facilities report- Martin

Lots is going on behind the scenes.

Garden area: Thanks to a grant from Herts LTA, we were able to do the garden/ gravel area. Thanks to Dermot for the design and the working party for doing the planting and hard work, supervised by Brian. Also to Viv Cox for donating the Olive tree.

New bench: This was purchased with a WDTL grant.

Trees: These have been cut back which helps with light and fallen leaves.

Drive: This has been a huge improvement and we're looking at the possibility of putting speed bumps into this.

Club House: The big table has been cut in half to make it more manageable and new legs which fold down have been put on.

Future: We need a clear out of areas e.g. car park. We need to improve the hitting wall area - solutions are being discussed at committee level. If anyone else has any further ideas, please let Martin know.

Re-election of Committee

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

AOB

Brian asked what opportunity we might have in the future to change the order of how we use our floodlights. Currently these must be used on court 5 first, followed by court 4, 3, 2 and then 1. Gordon explained that there has to be a period of time with no complaints, maybe 3 years, and then we can apply for permission.

Brian suggested that the coaches/ helpers who go into Bovington Primary Academy should wear t-shirts/ sweatshirts with the club's name on. Gordon said that he had a couple of spare t-shirts from years ago that could be worn. We also reminded people that Mapac are providing us with Club Team kit- available to all (the link is under PLAY> MATCH FIXTURES on the website). Craig is also looking at another clothing company which could be used as an extra supplier- more to follow.

Wendy West wanted to say what a great and happy day the Club Champs Finals day was. Dot Burgin said that as a founder member from 40 years ago, she is very proud to see how the club has progressed. Jan Empson was thanked once again for the club's history board which is now up in the club house.

Graham Dore brought up the subject of our membership price and how he feels it is too expensive for the facilities we provide. Dermot read out some comparisons and said that Rebecca, as membership secretary, does make the same case. He confirmed that the club will sit down at a future committee meeting and discuss the topic of membership fees but that it is unlikely that the club will be able to drop the rate.

