

Bovingdon & Flaunden Tennis Club  
**Annual General Meeting 2021**  
20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7.30pm

**Attendees Committee:**

Martin Allen – Chair, Jo Alden, Craig Blythe, Dermot Kirk, Colin Chamberlain.

**Invitees:**

Ali Lyons, Jax Brabazon, Alison Doyle, Tyrell Diaz Stevens (Evolve Tennis).

*Apologies:* Stephen Spikings

**Members – record taken from signed list of people present**

Ian Guest, Gordon Bettis, Brian Stone, Kevin Wilks, Dave Seddon, Gary Briggs, Dawn Briggs, Maureen Grant, Wendy Dixon, Margaret McHugh, Diana Mills, Karen Ferguson, Andy Ferguson, Sue Mundy, Leah Jordan, Kay Gobby, Jane Gilmore, Julie Cook, Caroline Walker, Helen Campbell, Melanie Guy, Anne Alderton, Richard Doyle, Matthew Rolfe, Andy Stutely, Chris Sparkes, Rebecca Rose.

**Voting By Proxy**

A full list of those members who had registered to vote by proxy is included at the end of the minutes.

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**Welcome and thank you**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and remarked that he was delighted to see such a good turnout. He then gave the Committee's thanks (plus a small gift) to Helen Campbell who had organised the hall at short notice and then arrived early to ensure all was prepared for the AGM.

**Voting Process**

JA ran through the voting process that would be used to allow yes/ no votes to proposals

- to approve the 2022/2023 subscription fee
- to approve the revised constitution
- to appoint Committee positions

CC handed out printed ballot papers for all present to use.

*Questions on voting process*

GB asked a series of questions to clarify why voting was required on committee positions given that none of these were being opposed.

JA and DK clarified that the formal wording of the existing constitution required that for a person to be elected they need to achieve a majority of votes cast. DK read out the exact words of the constitution for the information of those present.

JA suggested that any committee had the freedom to amend the constitution in the future to clarify or change this. Any member may suggest an amendment to the constitution and all changes would be considered. All amendments to the constitution would be put to a member vote at AGM or EGM.

JA clarified that MM had to withdraw her nomination at short notice and therefore the position of Head of Safeguarding and Welfare would not be voted for. The new Committee would appoint an interim position while they clarified next steps. CC noted he would fill in in the short term.



## **No Matters Arising**

## **No Conflict of Interests noted**

## **Committee Reports**

*Reports were circulated to all members ahead of the AGM.*

### **Chair's Report**

The Chairman read out his full report on the previous year. He closed by wishing the new Committee all the best.

*Members present showed their appreciation with a round of applause.*

### **Treasurer's Report**

DK confirmed that he would not be running through the detailed figures and encouraged members who had specific questions to get in touch with him directly (contact information is on the Committee tab of the website). He then covered off a few key points:

- The Club remains in good financial health, the best seen for years.
- There has been a great success in growing membership and a high level of renewals (thank you to JB)
- The club took a hit on coaching but DK believes figures will return to normal, particularly with added benefit of new coaching approach.
- Current loans from the LTA will be repaid in February 2024 releasing £3600 pa.
- DK expects Utility expenditure to rise by up to 50% in November when the Club renegotiates.
- Overall advice is to hold subscriptions at current level unless something significant happens.

### **Facilities Report**

JA chose to focus on a few key points/ the larger items requiring future focus:

- The lease of the Club runs out in 2 years. Negotiations with the council are ongoing and have been for the last year. The current focus is on access to land that surrounds the Club.
- Floodlighting (and the order of it) remains a concern but there is reason for cautious optimism that this may be resolved with further discussions with the planning authority.
- A number of capital projects could be considered once the loans to the LTA have been paid. Drainage of courts 4 and 5 remains a concern and this is an area that could potentially benefit. There is potential while addressing this to introduce an alternative playing surface however this received a mixture of responses in the recent member survey.
- JA finished his report by wishing the new committee all the best and stated he was happy to support the new Committee with any expertise on planning specifically if this would be useful.

### *Questions and comments on the facilities report*

- A member questioned if the lease was linked to the football club.
- JA clarified that the lease arrangements were distinct but that access arrangements are linked. There are 5 old conveyances relating to this and the council is currently looking into the detail of each of these.



- GB stated that he is happy to offer the Committee whatever help he can in terms of expertise and any contacts within the council.

### **Membership report and Safeguarding Report**

Both these had been previously circulated and members were asked for any questions relating to either of these reports. No questions were raised.

### **Tennis Activities Report**

Apologies were given on behalf of Stephen Spikings. Members were asked if there were any questions. No questions were raised.

### **Voting**

Members were asked to complete their voting slips while CB set up for the Coaching Report.

NB: JC and DS had kindly provided details of the approach they would bring to their roles and these had been given out as members arrived.

*Anyone who was not at the meeting is welcome to contact JC and DS directly (contact details are on the website)*

### **Coaching Report**

The Chairman introduced Craig and Tyrell to the meeting. Craig gave a presentation on the new approach to coaching including details on the new booking system

The presentation is available on the website for member who wish to see more details

#### *Questions on the coaching presentation*

A number of members raised questions which are listed below:

- Does the new booking system integrate with our court booking system?

There is no direct link. This is something we will have to work through. At the moment the plan is to allocate coaching court blocks ahead of time and the Evolve coaches will be aware of these times when they book sessions. Any block booked courts not required will be released back and freed up for members to book.

- Will level 1 and 2 coaches have adequate insurance to coach?

The LTA does not state that level 1 and 2 coaches cannot coach for insurance reasons however Evolve Tennis has its own insurance in place and level 1 and 2 coaches receive additional training each week.

- How do members access the coaching system?

The coaching website and booking system will be accessed easily via a link on the Club website.

- Will members still be able to share lessons?

Yes, this will still be fine. For group coaching Evolve will ensure a ration of member: coach ratio of generally no more than 8:1

- Do members have to have completed coaching for selection onto a team?



Coaching has the benefit of allowing coaches to improve their understanding of individual skill and ability level to inform decision making however this is only part of the overall decision on who plays in Club teams. Club and Team Captain will continue to be closely involved.

#### *Questions on fees*

There were a number of questions relating to fees. The points that were clarified are:

- Non-member fees will be higher than member fees. The initial fee that will appear on the booking system will be that for non-members. Once members select a click box for membership the price will reduce from the initial one shown.
- Adult coaching fees will rise slightly in line with VAT that has to be paid (around 10%) but Junior fees will not rise.
- Prices for drills will be standardised.
- Coaches will not pay for courts. If non-members book coaching the Club will get the court fee.

This concluded the Coaching Presentation.

#### **Award Most Improved Player**

CB stated that the award had been won by Lynsey Allen.

#### **Voting Results**

JA and CC announced that all votes had been counted including Proxy votes and the results were:

#### **Proposals:**

- to approve the 2022/2023 subscription fee: **passed with majority**
- to approve the revised constitution: **passed with majority**
- to appoint Committee positions: **the following were appointed (all with majorities)**

|                                  |                         |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Chair</b>                     | <b>Jill Cohen</b>       |
| <b>Honorary Treasurer</b>        | <b>Dermot Kirk</b>      |
| <b>Head Coach</b>                | <b>Craig Blythe</b>     |
| <b>Club Captain</b>              | <b>Alison Lyons</b>     |
| <b>Head of Tennis Activities</b> | <b>Stephen Spikings</b> |
| <b>Head of Facilities</b>        | <b>Dave Seddon</b>      |
| <b>Head of Membership</b>        | <b>Jax Brabazon</b>     |
| <b>Head of Club Admin</b>        | <b>Alison Doyle</b>     |

**Head of Safeguarding and Welfare:** in the absence of a nominated candidate, it was agreed this will be covered as an interim position by Colin Chamberlain

#### **AOB / Questions raised in advance**

JA reported that the Committee had received a limited number of questions. These had been responded to directly in advance of the meeting.



GB queried a question concerning the 'need for a single club pulling in one direction'. MA referred GB to the document JC had circulated at the meeting in which she had highlighted her vision for a Club that 'welcomes all standards of ability and ages.....for everyone to welcome any player to our club and make them feel part of our Family'

A final concern was raised about how we ensure that floodlight keys are available for Wednesday eve social play. This was scheduled to be discussed at the new Committee's first meeting

The meeting closed.

**Appendix: Proxy Votes:**

Sonal Patani, John Wareham, Ivan Inchenko, Ann Mudd, Vince Brabazon, Zara Briggs, Isabel Briggs, John Bain, Jill Cohen, Andy Morris, Hatun Morris, Elise Edwards, Joan O'Connor, Barry Fitzgibbon, Michelle Perkins, Geoff Allen, Stephen Spikings, David Morgans, Angela Morgans, Rajesh Patel, Lincoln Webb, Helen McBarnet, Gill Fisher, Halina Tosar, Ania Rzemieniecka, John Walker.

Chair



27/10/2021

