

Bovingdon & Flaunden Tennis Club
Annual General Meeting 2023
16th October 2023 at 7.30pm – Venue Bovingdon Football Club
Minutes

Attendees:

Committee: Jill Cohen – Chair , Kevin Wilks, Ali Lyons, Kay Gobby
Coach : Phil Hill.

Apologies: Andy Ferguson, Martin Allen.

Members: Steven Spikings, Jo Alden, Jamie Daden, Dave Seddon, Dawn Briggs, Gary Briggs, Joseph Onwudiwe, Maria Mills, Juilie Cook, Jane Gilmor, Marueen Grant, Wendy Dixon, Kai Halliday, Gregg Blesson, Sarah Blesson, Tim Baldwin, Danny Brennan, Helen Matthews, Tim Baldwin, John Bain, Chris Sparkes, Helen McBarnet, Helen Campbell, Andrew Stutley, Dermot Kirk, Caroline Walker, John Walker

Apologies: Ian Guest, Jax Brabazon, Ann Mudd, Leah Jordan, Lincoln Webb, Michelle Perkins, Raj Patel, Halina Tosar, Joan O'Connor, Elise Edwards, John Wareham, Gordon Bettis, Tim John, Louis Shoesmith, Ivan Inchenko, Chris Guerin, Andy Tripp, Isabel Briggs, Francesca Myers, Zara Briggs, Andy Ferguson, Karen Ferguson, Michael Ferguson, Amy Bater, Ania Rzemieniecka, Steve Brooks, Diana Mils Martin Allen, Margaret Allen, Nick Leighton, Brian Stone

Voting By Proxy

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

Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Football Club for the loan of the room. Apologies were read out from members who were unable to be present.

Matters arising from previous minutes:

- **None**

Chair's Report

The Chair gave a full report. A copy will be made available via the Website. Including a presentation of some very well-deserved flowers to Kay as she stepped down from her role as Safeguarding/Welfare Officer. The Chair gave thanks to Alison Doyle who stepped down from her role as Admin earlier this year.

The Chair proposed Nick Leighton as Honorary Club President, agreed by those present.

Treasurer's Report

Kev gave a summary of the financial position of the club during the last 12 months. Full details of the costs may be found in the report which has been published in full on the website.

Headline items as follows;

Courts 4&5 were repaired and repainted instead of resurfaced; there is still the issue of drainage of these courts which still need to be addressed. Another survey will be forthcoming in due course.

Current LTA loans will be repaid in the Spring, the LTA have potential loan money available to replace the floodlights with LED floodlights. Members will be consulted.

Coaching – no income to the Club from the coaching for 12 months since Phil took over, this will now be addressed as the Club new financial year begins. Token use has reduced year on year, however the cost of tokens has increased which might offset the reduction.

Expenditure – maintenance costs have increased as a result of exceptional maintenance items – e.g. Club House Gardens, replacement fence posts into /out of the Car Park, resurfacing of Courts 4&5 as well as the legal costs to secure the lease for another 25 years.

Anyone who would like to become involved with fundraising for the Club please let Kev know.

Proposed to increase all membership types by 5% which members will be able to vote on later.

Award of Trophies

The Most Improved Player Trophy: This trophy is presented to the player who, in the view of the Committee, has been seen to make the most measurable progress. As in all years there are a number of members considered but it was the unanimous view of committee members that the trophy be presented to Felicity Bertin. Unfortunately, Fliss wasn't present at the AGM – the trophy will be presented as soon as possible.

The Most Improved Junior: These are new awards to Juniors who in the view of our Head Coach, Phil Hill, have improved during the last year.

- Yasmin Mills
- Rowan Bocker

Contribution to the Club Award: This award is to acknowledge members who always volunteer to help

- John Bain – for his dedication to the club and for him Volunteering to assist the Saturday Junior program for the past 20 years.
- Matt Cannon – for all his help with facilities

Toast

Members present enjoyed the toast to celebrate the achievement of 25 years lease.

Facilities Report

Unfortunately, Martin couldn't be present, but his report will be made available on the Website.

Membership Report

217 Members – adult membership generates the most income. Non-member income relates to 8% of the overall income.

Club Captain Report

Full report will be made available to all members on the website. Thanks to Steven Spiking's for all his hard work in the previous year and a request for volunteers to help with internal opportunities for play during the next 12 months.

Safeguarding/Welfare Report

Kay gave a brief summary of the role and requested volunteers to come forward.

Chair gave a summary of the reason behind the need to amend the Constitution, which all members will be asked to vote upon. Guidance was sought from the LTA before the amendment was drawn up. The aim of the amendment is to protect the Club, the Committee and all Members.

Proposals for Committee Positions and Voting – All current committee members apart from Kay stood for re-election. Volunteers were sought for absent posts. No volunteers were forthcoming for Admin or Welfare; however, Danny Brennan has volunteered to take on the role of Admin but not to join the Committee. The posts of Head of Safeguarding and Welfare and Admin will remain vacant and be filled by the committee under the constitution as soon as possible.

Statement from Karen Ferguson – read by Dawn Briggs

Karen's statement was in support of the constitution change.

Questions

Changes to Sunday Morning Tennis – Following the introduction of a Women's C team means there is congestion on a Sunday and may affect court availability on a Saturday. Men/Women play 9.00 – 11.00 on a Sunday and the Sunday social starts at 11.15 – 13.30. Discussion was held over the start time of Men/Women Team Practice, Sunday Social Tennis Start times and the start time of Sunday Matches. Decision taken to keep timings as they are.

Membership: All membership types have increased since 2022, family membership is down due to children having moved away from Parents etc.

Attendance at Wednesday Social: Numbers are down, its unclear why. Members will be asked via WhatsApp with regard to start time – suggestion 6.30 – 8.30.

Plans to increase Court Use in the evenings: Floodlit league & other opportunities for internal competition will be explored.

Court Surfaces: Can members be given the opportunity to state what surface they would like regardless of any increased costs – it was agreed that a sub-committee will be created to look at court surfaces.

Statement from Steven Spiking – Raised concerns about the amendments to the constitution and requested that the Committee withdraw the proposed amendments. The proposal was not withdrawn, resulting in a subsequent statement from Steven. The Chair clarified the intent, further discussion followed – agreed to withdraw the disciplinary process from the constitution and refer to the LTA process in its place.

Results of Voting

- 1. Increase membership fees by 5% across the board - Agreed**
- 2. Amendment of the Constitution – withdrawn to be revisited**
- 3. Proposal for Committee Positions – All positions re-elected**

Role	Member Elected
Club Chair	Jillian Cohen
Treasurer	Kevin Wilks
Head of Safeguarding & Welfare	Vacant
Club Captain	Ali Lyons
Head of Facilities	Martin Allen
Head of Membership	Andy Ferguson
Head of Admin	Vacant (with volunteer in place)

Coaching

Phil gave a presentation of coaching to date and proposal for future coaching, including a brief overview of his coaching background in the UK and overseas with Juniors and Adult players. As a county performance officer, a Level 5 coach, working with HACRO, Wheelchair Tennis, Disability Tennis and playing county Tennis for Bucks – oh and an LTA Coach for Coaches. Also works at Stony Stratford 2 days a week. Phil has been in post for the last 10 months working with John Bain and 3 other assistants helping with the Junior Programme, would like to increase the Adult Programme and individual coaching. Phil gave an overview of the Summer Junior matches and how the Junior Programme is expanding for team players on a Monday and Tuesday evening. A toddler's session has been introduced on a Tuesday 5 – 6. Saturday's coaching starts at 9.00 with the youngest players leading up to the elder players who are encouraged to undertake a level 1 or 2 coaching qualification to encourage them to coach the younger players.

Junior involvement has increased over the past year, and Phil is looking to increase the opportunity for the Juniors to compete.

For the Adults there is a midweek daytime Rusty's programme, Adult Drills and Ladies Team (B) practice /coaching sessions – there are opportunities for more sessions to be added e.g. Mixed. Phil is available Mon/Tues/Wed.

Challenges -covering for Phil when he's unavailable (where possible).

Club could be made more available for disability tennis.

Babolat sponsored days could be arranged where it's possible to try out new rackets etc.

Phil is also happy to organise tennis coaching holidays where there is a demand. A full copy of Phil's report will be made available on the website.

Open days to be arranged – there needs to be practical support from the Members.

Voting by Proxy

Ian Guest, Jax Brabazon, Ann Mudd, Leah Jordan, Lincoln Webb, Michelle Perkins, Raj Patel, Halina Tosar, Joan O'Connor, Elise Edwards, John Wareham, Gordon Bettis, Tim John, Louis Shoesmith, Ivan Inchenko, Chris Guerin, Andy Tripp, Isabel Briggs, Francesca Myers, Zara Briggs, Andy Ferguson, Karen Ferguson, Michael Ferguson, Amy Bater, Ania Rzemieniecka, Steve Brooks, Diana Mils.

Signed..........

Name.....Jill Cohen.....

Date..... 27/10/2023.....