

Bovingdon & Flaunden Tennis Club  
**Annual General Meeting 2022**  
18th<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7.30pm  
Minutes

**Attendees**

**Committee:**

Jill Cohen – Chair, Alison Doyle, Kay Gobby, Dermot Kirk, Ali Lyons, Dave Seddon, Steve Spikings

**Invitees:**

Mike James, Everyball Tennis, Julie Cook (Dot Burgin Trophy)

*Apologies:* Jacqui Brabazon

**Members**

**Attendees:** full record taken from signed list of people present is included at the end of the minutes

**Apologies:** full list of those member sending apologies is included at the end of the minutes

**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**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented it was lovely to be meeting in person and thanked the Football Club for the loan of the room.

She read out apologies from members who were unable to be present including Jacqui Brabazon, the retiring membership secretary.

**Matters arising from previous minutes**

The Chair confirmed that there were no outstanding matters arising from the previous minutes.

**Chair's Report and Award of Trophies**

The Chair gave a full report which will be circulated to all members within one week of the AGM.

The Chair introduced Steve Spikings, Head of Tennis Activities, to host the presentation of the Dot Burgin Trophy and The Most Improved Player Trophy.

**Dot Burgin Trophy:** Steve introduced Maria Mills and Julie Cook, daughters of Dot, and asked them to come forward to present the trophy for the tournament which was initiated in memory of their mother this year. The presentation was also watched by Olivia (Julie's daughter and Dot's granddaughter). It was very special to have two generations of Dot's family present.

**The Trophy was won by Team Flaunden** (Geoff Allen, Ian Guest, Ali Lyons, Michael Fergusson, Helen Campbell, Kay Gobby, Jane Collis and Leah Jordan) and it was good to see Ian, Ali, and Helen in the room for the presentation.

**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 were a number of



members considered but it was the unanimous view of committee members that the trophy be presented to Lincoln Webb.

### **Contribution to the Club Award**

The Chair then made the presentation of the award for Contribution to the Club. This is a new award which the Committee wanted to make to acknowledge members who regularly are the first to volunteer to help. This year the Committee chose two members: **Rebecca Rose** and **Helen Campbell**. Both Helen and Rebecca have helped throughout the year in numerous ways. They have worked behind the scenes to organise tournaments, have coordinated groups of players, cleaned gutters, turned out to play in matches at short notice and cooked bacon sandwiches for the Juniors and helped with the BBQ and Club Champs. We could not have managed the year without them and they both deserved every petal of the bouquets they received! Helen came forward to accept her bouquet. Rebecca was unable to attend the AGM so was presented with her bouquet earlier in the day.

### **Treasurer's Report plus proposal on 1) Club Name and 2) Annual Subscription Fee**

Dermot talked through the details of the proposal on the alteration of Constitution. The proposed alteration is to change the name of the Club at the top of the Constitution from Bovingdon and Flaunden Tennis and Netball Club to Bovingdon and Flaunden Tennis Club. This change is requested to align the constitution with all other papers (such as lease documents, bank accounts etc.).

Dermot then presented the key elements of his report (which had been circulated with accounts prior to the meeting). He highlighted in particular

#### **Costs**

The Club (along with members) are facing a period of high inflation that may persist for 2-3 years or longer. Inflation rates are already 10%pa with forecasts suggesting this may rise to 18% pa next year.

Operating costs: likely to rise significantly. Power costs will rise in November from £1300 pa to £5000pa. We also need to predict rises in: insurance costs, ground maintenance, tree maintenance, court cleaning, balls etc.

Capital Costs: The Club is also facing the challenge to find money for some potential large capital costs including replacement of major items like courts, light, fencing as needed.

Dermot confirmed that, given this economic background, the Committee has reluctantly taken the decision to **increase the charge for the use of floodlights (floodlight tokens)**. This increase will come into effect from 24<sup>th</sup> November (when our power costs will rise). The current volatile political situation makes it hard to predict how large this increase will be but the Committee will inform members as soon as new power costs have been confirmed.

### **Dermot then moved to cover the second proposal: The Annual Subscription Fee**

Dermot explained that the decision on the annual subscription fee is complicated by the fact that members vote on it in October at the AGM but that it comes into effect 6 months later.

**It is the Committee's proposal to keep the current subscription unchanged for next year.** Given the current volatility and economic circumstances the new Committee will need to keep this under review so this proposal may potentially need to change.





## **Membership Report**

Dermot briefly covered the membership report in the absence of Jacqui. He explained that there was always a balance to be held between increasing membership vs court availability (particularly at peak times) for existing members. Numbers have fallen slightly (to 216) but there is a steady stream of new people wanting to join.

## **Questions**

Dermot asked for questions on the areas covered.

### *Replacement of Courts 4 and 5*

*Kevin Wilks asked Dermot to share his thoughts about the issues involved in updating courts 4 and 5*

Court 5 is now 12 years old and Court 4 several years older, both courts are likely to need replacing in the near future and active planning for this is likely to start in the next year. Decisions on precise timing and whether to lay a new surface as part of that process will have to take account of a number of factors:

- Our site sits on heavy clay and we will need to do a proper assessment to ensure that when we re-lay the courts drainage is adequate. This led to much greater cost than originally envisaged when replacing courts 1-3.
- We cannot just overlay AstroTurf. The probable approach would be to drill the courts, lay a new tarmac surface and then overlay AstroTurf. This nearly doubles the cost compared with sticking with tarmac.
- When we do relay courts 4 and 5, we need to address the flooding issue which will add further to the cost.

The new Committee will need to ideally carry out work over the Winter (to minimize disruption to play) and seek accurate pricing quotes ahead of work.

### *Current issues with Court 4, previous work on Courts 1-3*

Gordon Bettis (previous Chair) stated that unfortunately Court 4 has started to subside again which he believes may be due to issues with tree roots. The approach taken to relaying Courts 1-3 may have been different to Courts 4 and 5 and this needs reviewing. The fencing around courts 4 and 5 also needs repairing.

### *Question around financing available for Court Replacement.*

John Walker asked a series of questions concerning the existence of a sinking fund and costings for Court Work

Dermot confirmed there were in fact two funds. The fund for courts 4 and 5 is currently at £26k, the fund for courts 1-3 is at £7200.

There was a debate about likely cost of work, Dermot believes the likely cost is in the region of £13k per court for laying over tarmac.

### *Cost of Court Replacement and Subs*

*John asked Dermot if the Committee believed that the Club could finance the necessary repairs without increasing subs*





Dermot said he believed that it was possible. The experience of the Club was that when we had previously increased subs then membership levels declined meaning an overall loss in revenue. He emphasized that it was harder to attract new members than retain existing members.

Jill said she fundamentally believed in making tennis affordable for members particularly during times of economic stress. The concern was also that increasing subs would mean tennis membership was seen as a luxury item that was no longer affordable.

John stated that 'something had to give' either plans or subs.

Jill reassured the meeting that once we had accurate figures available the (new) Committee would be able to make an informed decision.

### **Proposals for Committee Positions and Voting**

Alison briefly ran through the members who had been nominated for Committee positions together with the members proposing and seconding them.

Voting papers were distributed and those present then voted on the two proposals put forward plus committee members

Paul and Laura Campbell then kindly went into a huddle to count votes.

### **Committee Reports**

Ali Lyons, Kay Gobby, Alison Doyle, Dave Seddon and Steve Spikings covered very briefly key elements of their reports (which have already been circulated to all members)

### **Everyball Coaching Plans**

*Mike James gave a short informal presentation. Key points were:*

#### *Progress to date*

Main contact for the Club (Phil) is currently devoting two days (Wednesdays and Saturdays) to the Club Phil is very open to increasing this should the need arise

The two Joshes are running after school sessions on Mondays and Thursday and these are well attended

Laura and John are working with Everyball and providing fantastic support on Saturdays

The first block of Junior Coaching has been successfully completed with no cancellations or postponements.

The second block will commence after 2 weeks and links will be available shortly on the website.

We are about halfway through the adult blocks

Team coaching is in place on a Tuesday eve. with Nick Leighton, Phil is also carrying out individual adult coaching.

#### *Future Plans*

Future plans will depend upon demand and Everyball will work to balance need and court usage.

Ideally it would be good to see some mid-week Junior play plus potentially some form of holiday camps over the Easter and Summer period.

Phil lives locally to the Club so is keen to migrate more work over and is enjoying working with the Club as are the whole Everyball team.

### **Questions**

*How the Club can best work with Everyball*





Andy Ferguson stated that he had seen a marked improvement in coaching at the club and wanted to understand how the Club ensured that the partnership with Everyball was successful and was supported to develop

Mike responded that Everyball had ensured that they were in a good position to be able to take a staggered approach to growth and were currently breaking even i.e., covering costs and paying coaches. He stated that the critical elements to success were that the Committee and Club were flexible in their approach and were committed to working closely with Everyball. He felt that this was happening and he and Phil were looking forward to the next year.

A number of other members commented that they had heard very good feedback on the coaching being delivered.

There were no further Questions

### Results of Voting

Alison announced the results:

### Propositions

Proposition to update the Constitution and change the Club's name (from Bovingdon and Flaunden Tennis and Netball Club to Bovingdon and Flaunden Tennis Club)

**CARRIED**

Proposition to hold subs for next year at this year's level (with caveat about volatility)

**CARRIED**

Nominations for all Committee Positions: **CARRIED**

### New Committee Elected

Role	Member Elected
Club Chair	Jill Cohen
Treasurer	Kevin Wilks
Head of Safeguarding and Welfare	Kay Gobby
Club Captain	Ali Lyons
Head of Facilities	Martin Allen
Head of Membership	Andy Ferguson
Head of Admin	Alison Doyle

### AOB

NONE

The meeting closed.





**Appendix:**

**Attendees (non-Committee)**

Richard Doyle, Ian Guest, Danny Brennan, Helen Campbell, Paul Campbell, Laura Campbell (Junior), Caroline Walker, John Walker, Sarah Blesson, Gordon Bettis, Maureen Grant, Matthew Rolfe, Kevin Wilks, Mike James, Nick Leighton, Maria Mills, Dawn Briggs, John Bain, Brian Stone, Jo Alden (part) .

**Attendees Guest:** Julie Cook

**Apologies Committee:** Jacqui Brabazon

**Apologies Members:** Ann Mudd, Martin Allen, Margaret Allen, John Wareham, Vince Brabazon, David Morgans, Angela Morgans, Andy Tripp, Jane Gilmore, Wendy Dixon, Karen Ferguson, Gill Fisher, Philippa Burch, Barry Fisk, Rebecca Rose.

**Proxy Votes:**

John Wareham, Martin Allen, Margaret Allen, Jacqui Brabazon, Vince Brabazon, David Morgans, Angela Morgans, Jo Alden

**Signed**



**Jill Cohen, Chair BFTC**

**Date**

24/10/2022

