

**Minutes from the Annual General Meeting
Bovingdon and Flaunden Tennis Club
14th October 2024**

1. The meeting was opened at 19.39 hours and brought to order being quorate with more than 20 adult members entitled to vote being present. A list of attendees has been retained together with those offering apologies.
2. No matters arising from previous minutes were noted.
3. The Chair made a statement which is summarised below.

Thanks were given to the football club for hosting.

There have been Improvements to the club. Practice wall repaired, tree work completed, gates between the tennis courts and football club amended. We have started to modernise coaching bookings and payments. Lighting and court 4 and 5 remain under consideration. There is no change in LTA stance to provide additional funding.

On 19th October a new junior coaching morning for 9 - 12 year olds is starting. Adult leagues have been organised by Ali heartfelt thanks were given to Ali for her commitment in arranging these. All team captains were thanked for their hard work. Phil, the club coach, resigned in May and David Gray started in September 2024. Thanks were given to Laura and John Bain for commitment and dedication to coaching the juniors. Approximately £3,500 was brought into club funds from junior coaching there was however no profit from coaching. We are looking for juniors to mirror the adult coaching sessions going forward. Laura is getting the junior coaching back on track. In 2023 there was however no profit from coaching.

Thanks were given to Andy, Ali, Kevin & Laura for their help organising the Club Championships event. Scouts sold burgers and hot dogs and we hope they will be involved in future events.

We are in a solid financial position, thanks to Kevin for his dedication and expertise. The external financial environment does however remain challenging.

Thanks to Andy F for his outstanding work on membership this year, particularly in the trialling of the online booking system and integrating new members into the club. Family memberships are down slightly. We believe the grounds are looking fantastic. Thank you to Martin A and your team for the hard work in leaf sweeping, rubbish sorting, and organising the court cleaning and changing of the mini court into a pickleball court, which is a growing trend. Thanks also to HACRO for widening the base for the new shed. Anybody who'd like to join the facilities team, please contact Martin Allen.

Safeguarding and Pickleball - Thank were given to Jo Alden who stepped up into the Safeguarding role, so the club didn't need to close. He's also been instrumental in introducing pickleball to the club. - this is proving very popular.

Jill noted that she has been in post for 3 years and plans to step down at next year's AGM, as in July 2025 when she returns home to South Africa. On her return home to SA she will lead remotely and guide the transition for the new chair as appropriate. She noted she believes her aims have been achieved; for everyone to enjoy tennis in a safe environment and a welcoming place for all.

In closing thanks were given to all the volunteers, past and present, for all their work over the last 45 years. Please continue to enjoy playing village tennis and welcoming players of all abilities and have fun as part of the club family.

4. The Treasurer outline the report offered in the AGM papers.
5. Awards were presented as follows:
 - a. Most Improved junior Girl Julia Golan
 - b. Contribution to our club Team Hacro
 - c. Most improved junior boy Alex Rolfe
 - d. Most Improved Adult player Laura Campbell

Thanks were noted to Laura & John Bain for all the help and continuing with the junior coaching program. Jax B and Matt C received the award on behalf of HACRO.

HACRO have completed a lot of work around the club especially in the car park and grounds. It was note that free membership would be offered to both Anton & Tommy for their work with the club. There are about 56 members in the team and the Monday tennis session plays a massive part in the rehabilitation of offenders. Further thanks were given to John Bain who has volunteered his time and continues to offer free coaching on a Monday.

It was noted that Anton is seeking to draw up a business plan to string rackets and members were invited to support the initiative.

6. Committee reports, as set out in the AGM papers were summarised by:
 - a. Head of Facilities
 - b. Head of Tennis
 - c. Head of Safeguarding
 - d. Head of Membership

Jo Alden offered thanks to Brian S for his help during the last 12 months and dealing with matters with respect, dignity and care.

7. Questions raised and answers given are summarised below.

Q - rotate court usage on a Sunday morning between men's and ladies?

A - Noting the need for diversity and equality the men's / ladies captain, dependent on numbers and court conditions should be able to rotate, with the greater numbers remaining on courts 1-3 with rotation allowed to ensure both had a fair chance to play when adverse weather affected courts 4/5. It was thought that common sense would prevail, and the Head of Tennis was asked to discuss and communicate this with club captains. It was noted that everyone needs to be reasonable and a solution should be found.



Q - Is it possible to live stream the AGM?

A - It is not possible at this time. The club does not have the facilities and it would make voting more complex. All members do have the ability to vote by proxy if they cannot attend.

Q - There are Issues with booking system for membership and coaching.

A - Andy will be present for a time on a Saturday morning at the start of the next coaching block to assist the coaches and parents with any booking issues. Andy will try and be present around the start of the membership year too.

Q - Question on Committee visibility

A - In addition to the safeguarding photograph, we will organise a photo of all committee members with their names and contact details on a notice board in the club house.

Q - Can Club committee and others come and watch matches for the juniors?

A – We will look to publish dates on the website so that all teams can receive support. Consideration to publish dates on WhatsApp group too. In addition Jill will liaise with the team captains re juniors participating in the adult teams. Consideration in conjunction with Dave G, John B, & Laura for juniors to attend some social sessions by invitation.

Zion has already played in the Men's B team.

Q - Why is coaching charged £40/hour as a level 3 coach? Old coach was a level 5 coach and charged £40/hour too.

A – Our old coach reduced his prices to make coaching affordable and encourage more participants. There currently is not enough demand for coaching at Bovingdon and it was acknowledged that our coach has a loyalty rate at his other venue. We need to support our up and coming coaches and Laura is hoping to get her next coaching level soon. In Summary, other level 4 coaches charge a similar amount or more.

Q - Can we consider CCTV? It has been considered and there are no privacy issues. Safety of members, court coverage, and general clubhouse.

A - This promoted healthy discussion, but it was agreed that it was worth looking into. The Football club would be pleased to see if something could be done together so Kevin W, Dave S and Martin A would discuss. Dave S kindly offered to get some quotes.

Q - Block booking coaching - If a person books 3 sessions of coaching and get injured after the first do they get my money back or can they re-assign a session?

A - This needs to be considered on a case-by-case basis, discussing over swapping with another team player if an individual can't make a particular week may be possible by arrangement. It is a challenging issue regarding accounts and clubspark. Terms of cancellation must be agreed too and the coaches should expect a level of commitment so they know attendance numbers and that sessions will be worthwhile. To be further considered.

Q - can we consider adding Vets Doubles to the Club Champs?

A - This would be 3 additional groups of: Women's, Men's & Mixed. With 20 events this year, would increase to 23 events in 2025 across the same day. Committee will consider although it was felt vital that juniors were held on same day as Adults.

8. Proposals for Committee positions received were noted. There was no proposal from the nomination process or the floor for the post of Safeguarding and Welfare. As such Jo Alden agreed to be appointed to the post if a vote were carried. Votes on all nominations were undertaken by show of hands and all were passed by majority. A vote for the subscription fee set out in the Treasurers report was also carried. The committee is therefore recorded as:

- Chair Jill Cohen
- Membership Andy Ferguson
- Facilities Martin Allen
- Club Captain Ali Lyons
- Treasurer Kevin Wilks
- Safeguarding and Welfare Jo Alden

A Member made a statement over the position of Chair. The position of Chair is an important role and this needs to be filled before Jill leaves for South Africa.

The Chair noted It is important for members to come forward and fill these roles and Jill is happy to have a leading role and then to be replaced when she moves away, having had guidance to ease the transition for all.

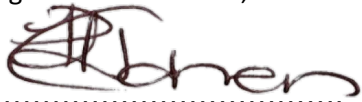
A further Question was raised.

Q - Can there be a Vice Chair position

A - A new informal role may be considered. Formally the Vice Chair role would need to be added to the constitution. The Committee will consider.

Final thanks were given, to all who couldn't make it this evening: cleaners, gardeners, HACRO and to all the members. Also to Laura Campbell for her coaching report already heard this evening, and to John, Anton & Zion. The club is fortunate to have them.

9. There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 21.42 hours.

Signed.....

Name Jill Cohen.....

Date 14/10/2024.....

