



Brucehaven Tennis Club

AGM Minutes

 25th February 2021, 19.30

Attendees

Chic Reddie (Chairperson)

Stephen Ching (Secretary)

Larry Young (Court Convenor)

Hilary Donnelly (Treasurer)

Alan Russell (Head Coach)

Sophia Ward

John Ward

John Charge

Agenda

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Approval of 2020 minutes
3. Chairman's introduction
4. Treasurer's report
5. Court Convenor's report
6. Tennis report
7. Subscriptions for 2021
8. 2021 Committee
9. Any other business



Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

Chic Reddie opened the meeting thanking each member of the committee for their contribution throughout the year. He highlighted the work done by Larry to keep the courts and facilities in great shape, including the benefits of a new brush that had been purchased; to Hilary for taking over the role of Treasurer and looking after our financials during a tough year; to Alan for the incredible work to run a programme of activity within various levels of restrictions leading to the courts remaining busy; and to Stephen for the work to transfer and improve our internet site via the ClubSpark platform run by the LTA

2. Approval of 2020 minutes

Stephen explained that his hand written notes were in his office which he hasn't been allowed back to since the Covid outbreak last March (a couple of weeks after last year's AGM). It was noted that the only decisions that were ratified last year were in relation to membership pricing which were subsequently put on hold as we entered various levels of restrictions throughout 2020.

3. Chairman's introduction

Brief introduction by Chic highlighting that although it had been a challenging year there was a lot to be proud of this year, in particular the tennis programme, including coaching which had increased the usage of the courts during a challenging period

Minutes



4. Treasurer's report

Hilary talked through, in detail, the club's 2 bank accounts. The key points highlighted were as follows.

- In the absence of membership income this year, we needed to make use of some funds from our 'court replacement' account to cover our out-goings.
- Our out-goings included the purchase of a mechanical brush. This purchase, whilst expensive (c.£1,300) should help preserve the life of the courts by 5-7 years.
- It was also noted that we still have £1,536 from the Willie Wardlaw fund and, as tennis life hopefully returns to some normality, that we should re-consider how Willie would have wanted us to invest those funds for our young players and the club, via Hilary, will stay close to Lynne Wardlaw to review options.

5. Court Convenor's report

There were two main areas covered by Larry 1) The courts and 2) Clubhouse

- The purchase of the brush, as previously mentioned, is already proving a good investment with the courts, anecdotally, playing well and lengthening the life of the courts being the main benefit.
- Larry mentioned the Clubhouse beginning to look a little tired on the inside so some cosmetic work required in the near future, along with a repair in the gents toilet area.

6. Tennis programme

Alan described the ambitious plans that the club had at the start of the year and how those plans were flexed throughout the year to cope with changing restrictions which ended up resulting in a successful programme across the year and increased court usage.

Please read the full report in the attached appendix but at the meeting Alan called out specifically the number of BTC juniors who had subsequently been invited to take part in Central and West Fife Cluster coaching. Well done to all.

Minutes

7. Subscriptions for 2021

Stephen covered off 3 things. 1) Some context around the pricing proposal 2) The key changes and 3) The pricing proposed for 2021

Stephen described how in 2020, with the circumstances difficult for many, that the committee felt tennis could provide a great opportunity for our community, within the guidelines, to get physical exercise. A decision was taken early on to suspend memberships, open the gate and make tennis available to help our community.

The club proved last year, even with some significant restrictions, that tennis could still thrive (supported by the work of Alan and the tennis activity programme) and the court usage increased at different times in the day than we have seen before.

With this in mind, and the need to get back on to a stronger financial footing, we will be re-introducing fees from 1st April 2021 within a simplified membership model.

- **Move from 8 categories to 4** (in 2019 nearly 85% of the memberships were from 3 categories).
- Offer, roughly, **a 20% discount on fees** to reflect the fact that the club wants to encourage more people to play and the fact that the club might not be able to do everything it wants all of the time, including access to the clubhouse or certain restrictions on doubles as examples. This discount is consistent with other clubs.
- Whilst the club had hoped to move to monthly payments and house our payment system on Clubspark it felt prudent to defer that until 2022 so **the payment methods will be the same as 2019**

There was strong support for the following pricing plan.

Category	2019	2021
Adult	£75	£60
Child / Youth	£20 / £30	£20
Family	£155	£125
Senior	£55	£45

Minutes



Stephen also raised a couple of other points around a longer term strategy for the club and shared a working document to lay out a number of outcomes and goals that the club would like to aim for and for which we get our club members and community behind.

The Clubspark site will also now be our preferred space to not only house content but will also be how members book courts going forward. After some initial introductions to some people on it's features, including court booking, we will promote this as part of a package of improvements and forward looking plans in the run up to the season going fully live on 1st April 2021.

John Charge asked if it was possible for the Clubspark booking system to identify other members who may wish to play. Alan and Stephen agreed to follow this up.

8. 2021 Committee

- The committee were re-elected for 2021 with all existing members keen to continue in role.
- Sophia Ward agreed to join the committee, in part, to help be a voice for our junior members and an advocate for the club within the younger members of the community. A warm welcome was given to Sophia and the committee is delighted that she's joined and excited about her future involvement.
- Larry raised the point that we will need to replace our Welfare Officer in November as the current incumbent's certification will elapse in November and no longer wishes to continue.

9. AOB

John Ward thanked Larry for his efforts in running the fun tournaments and acknowledged that there should perhaps be more support from other members to help in this regard. He also mentioned how much he enjoyed them.

Appendix

Tennis Report 2020

Alan Russell (Head Coach)



Tennis report



Introduction

At the beginning of 2020, we had ambitious plans for the year's tennis. Although COVID-19 restrictions forced us to reduce the planned tennis activities, we can still look back on a successful year that saw healthy growth in the tennis programme.

The main highlights were:

- Coaching for juniors in Summer holiday, Autumn term, Autumn holiday and Winter term
- New adult coaching programme – for beginners, improvers and 'workout warriors'
- Eight successful competitions for all junior age groups (8U-16U)
- Increased court usage, initially during the first lockdown period and sustained throughout the rest of the year; the introduction of an online booking system in the autumn helped to smooth court usage

On a personal note, I have thoroughly enjoyed my first full year coaching at the club and look forward to building on last year's successes to deliver a great programme in 2021.



Coaching

Juniors

Junior coaching groups for children in the 8U, 9U, 10U and 16U age groups ran in Autumn term. Some extra sessions were offered in Winter term when the weather was reasonable.

Because of the clubhouse closure, we decided not to run typical holiday camps (where children are at the club for up to three hours each day). Instead, we offered one-hour 'fun and games' sessions in Summer and Autumn holidays.

Numbers were very encouraging, with a total of 54 children taking part in group sessions.

For the first time, several Brucehaven juniors (11 players across five age groups) have been invited to join Central & West Fife Cluster coaching squads in 2021.

Adults

Coaching for adults catered for three groups:

- Beginner - one five-week course was delivered in July
- Improver - 11 lessons were delivered during August - November
- Cardio Tennis - 18 workout classes were delivered during July - December

A total of 23 players took part in adult group coaching and Cardio Tennis sessions during the second half of the year.

Social Tennis

After restrictions were eased, weekday sessions for adults continued at their established times:

- Ladies – Tuesday (10am - 12 noon)
- Men – Wednesday (10am - 1pm)

Larry Young ran two very successful Fun Doubles events, in October and November.

We planned a number of other social tennis events (including 'Girl Set Match', Family Tennis Cups, 'Monster Smash' Halloween Festival) but only the girls' event went ahead in October. Although the others had to be cancelled because of restrictions and/or bad weather, they are 'on the shelf' for delivery in 2021.



Competitions

We ran competitions for young players in the 8U, 9U, 10U and 14U age groups in the second half of the year. Brucehaven players competed really well and gained great experience. Congratulations to all winners:

Event	Winner
9 & Under singles (July)	Cameron Green (Dunfermline)
10 & Under singles (July)	Matthew Kilbank (Dunfermline)
14 & Under singles (July)	Will Turner (Brucehaven)
8 & Under singles (August)	Adele Niven (Dunfermline)
8 & Under singles (September)	Kian Kochfar (DL Edinburgh)
9 & Under singles (October)	Arthur Munro (Dunfermline)
10 & Under singles (October)	Rosie Turner (Brucehaven)
14 & Under singles (October)	Will Turner (Brucehaven)

Schools and Community

Open Afternoons planned April and July had to be cancelled because of government restrictions.

Limekilns Primary School visits were planned for April but also had to be cancelled. We hoped to be able to rearrange the visits for Autumn term but that wasn't possible.

I delivered a tennis course to 32 sports leaders at Queen Anne HS. The course is now available for Active Schools Fife to offer to other secondary schools.

Coach Development

Sophia Ward, who achieved the Tennis Leader award in October 2019, gained valuable experience of organising competitions and running fun tennis events. She plans to complete the Level 1 Coaching Assistant qualification in 2021.

Alan Russell
February 2021

Footnote from Secretary:

Alan was awarded 'Coach of the Year' at the 'Active Schools Fife' awards this year. Well done and well deserved Alan!