

Castle Hill Tennis Club

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Minutes of Annual General Meeting 5th April 2023 at 7.45pm
Community Link meeting room, Saffron Walden

In attendance: Total 18 including Pete Smith (Chairman), Ronnie Rip (Treasurer), Frank Palmer (Secretary), Mick Lench (Captain), Valerie Mitchell (Vice Captain), Paul Willmott (Welfare Officer), Mark Anderson (Committee Member), Steve Tapping (Committee member) Peter Riding (President), Debbie Thorp, Dave Griffin, Colin & Anne Taylor, Deb Lench, Alan Wells, Andrew Tomlinson, John & Sarah Pickthorn.

Apologies: Nigel Appleby, Dave Hancock, Michael Buckle, Alex Hooper, Dave Lewis

- 1. Approval of Minutes of 2022 AGM and matters arising:** Summary read by the Chairman. Approved and signed by the Chairman and Secretary.
- 2. Chairman's Report:** The Chairman presented his report, a copy of which is available from the Secretary, covering the various projects undertaken by the club during the year and his thanks to Frank, Ronnie and Mick for their work. His report was approved by all present.
- 3. Treasurer's Report:** RR ran through the detailed Income & Expenditure Report for the year ended 28 February 2023., which shows a closing balance of £23,011 of which £20,000 is allocated to the sinking fund. RR explained the costs of the major projects undertaken during the year (planning fees for top grass court changes, hard court fencing and clubhouse painting). The Chairman thanked RR for his work, and the Report was approved by all present.
- 4. Captain's Report:** ML presented his report and acknowledged the help received from Dave Lewis, Dave Hancock and Dave Griffin in preparing the grass courts. He reported that the top court may need a little extra time and play may be delayed a week after the centre court opens. Mick also confirmed that he will run the singles cup and plate and other competitions as they come up. The Chairman thanked ML for his work, and his Report was approved by all present.
- 5. Election of Officers and Committee Members:** Steve Tapping and Valerie Mitchell notified the Committee that they would be standing down from the Committee. The Chairman thanked them for their contribution over recent years. The remaining existing committee members expressed their willingness to continue and were re-elected en bloc. Dave Griffin and Debbie Thorp had expressed a willingness to join the committee. Proposed by PS. Seconded by RR, and approved by all present.
- 6. Membership Fees for 2023/24:** the new rates proposed, as set out in the agenda, were agreed by all present. Compared to fees for 2022/23, first set in 2018/19 these represent a £10 increase for both the senior and a parent plus child categories and a £20 increase for 2 parents plus child. Juniors and student remained unchanged.

Category	Proposed subscription for 2023/24
Senior	£120
Parent plus child	£135
Two Parents plus child	£240
Junior	£35
Student	£45

It was highlighted that the club needs a revenue of approx. £7,000/year to meet normal running costs and be able to add £1,500 into the sinking fund. The target income equates to 58 - 60 members paying senior rate.

7. AOB

- a) Peter R: suggested that this year we focus on the maintenance and tidying of the clubhouse interior and shed. ML commented that replacing the shed requires planning permission and PR suggested the club explores grant funding to help with costs.
- b) Anne: Suggested reinstating the quiz night in July. Usually a Friday evening.
- c) MA: Asked if we should we try to encourage junior members? Discussion followed that this would need a coach and parking for parents and the club has limited parking. The Grove offers more facilities for Juniors. Castle Hill offers something different.
- d) Alan: asked about current membership levels. FP gave some example years to show gains and losses of members is typical. Adult membership for 2022/23 = 57
- e) FP: read an email just received from the curator of the Museum raising concerns about parking, with a reminder that members should only park outside of Museum opening hours. It was suggested that we counter by not using the carpark during school holidays and avoid parking on grass when wet.
- f) Next Committee Meeting proposed for Wednesday 3rd May 7.30pm at the Saffron Walden Community Link meeting room

VM thanked the Committee for their work.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20pm.