

Cringleford Tennis Club AGM
Thursday 24th November 2022
The Red Lion Meeting Room, Cringleford
Start Time: 7pm

Present Committee Members: Chris Mitchell, Holly Setchell, Rob Hall, Malcolm Clarke, Jenny Chambers, Amanda Bailey, Katie Brooks, Chris Hardwick, Paul Henery

Present Members: Glenn Earl, Thomas Tsang, Nicki Mitchell, Ralph Barker, Nick Brewin, Isobel Brewin, Neil Henery, Malcolm Robins

Apologies received: Fraser MacMillan, Sally Hardwick, David Stephenson, Nathan Dickinson, Margaret Robins

Agenda

1. Approval of previous AGM minutes:

Proposer – RB, Second – TT

2. Matters arising from the minutes:

Investing club sinking fund – we have opened a deposit account with Insignis and transferred the sinking fund monies to an interest-bearing account.

Defibrillator training – was organised and took place for 12 members. This may be something to repeat in future, suggested to survey membership in the next newsletter and organise if there is enough interest. **Action: MC**

3. Chairs Report (published to membership in advance via email):

As the report had been circulated to all members in advance CM asked if there were any questions – there were none. A thank you was expressed for providing such a comprehensive overview of the year.

4. Treasurers Report (printed copies were made available to attendees):

Highlights:

Income – Subs are up on 2021 (which was impacted by Covid). Guest fees slightly down. Court fees up due to leagues running again. Social events up as we didn't have any during the previous year.

Expenses – repairs up in 2021 due to repainting of the courts. Q - Why is there no expense for website? The website is hosted by former member of the club, who has been asked on multiple occasions to invoice the club. An invoice has not been received to date.

Income for 2021 – Q - what is the figure of £17,907? Covid grants.

5. Membership Fees for 2023/24:

Proposal from committee about the suggested changes in membership fees was circulated prior to the meeting. There has been no increase since 2019. During meeting held earlier in the year to review the possible grass court project our Auditor had suggested that we introduce an annual increase in fees to ensuring our sinking fund continues to grow in line with inflation, allowing us to continue to maintain the facilities to a high standard.

NB – Proposing an amendment to the fee changes - Before 31st March fees should be £75 and after 31st March fees should be £84. This keeps in line with 10% increase for all other categories of membership. 2nd – MR, 3rd – IB, 4th – TT. As 4 people present were in support of the amendment, discussion was opened about membership fees. Different contributions from those present who took part in the debate have been indicated below:

- i) A disproportionate increase would lead to unintended consequences that include receiving less fees in O.65 category. Floodlights and free floodlights is not a benefit as O.65 use the evening facilities less than other membership groups.
- ii) 10% increase each year will gradually increase the gap between O.65 and adult membership over time. Floodlight use argument is incorrect as many O.65s do take advantage of lights. Workers don't have as much time available for playing as O.65s so they potentially have more court usage. O.65 bracket is a dated concept when many people live longer and healthier lives. Other local clubs have age related discount for much later age brackets. Honorary membership could allow rewarding long standing members who have made major contributions to the club .
- iii) It had been previously agreed that there would be £20 gap between adult and O.65 – gap would now widen if a change is implemented based on percentages. Gap would naturally widen now.
- iv) Amending the cut-off age is not part of the amendment being discussed. There are typically more injuries in the older age bracket which means that they are not necessarily getting the same membership value as younger members. O.65 age bracket feels 'put upon' as a result of the potential disproportionate change.
- v) Issue of adult and O.65 fee differentiation was raised at 2021 AGM – it was decided that differentiation should remain and minuted that it would be 'difficult to amend'. It therefore has been debated recently so why had the committee brought forward again. Those who are O.65 are better off than those in their 20's. O.65s don't use the facilities in the same way as U.65s. Floodlight use is not even for age brackets. This AGM should respond to the facts not the emotive arguments.
- vi) How many O.65s are there in the club? 67 of a total membership of 266. They are a large proportion of our membership. There may be some members who won't renew their membership if the discount is reduced which is a concern.
- vii) Fairness would be 10% for all membership rates.
- viii) CTC has always attracted new members because it is a family club and historically had lower fees than other clubs in the area.

- ix) If fees are equal for different age groups then it sends a message publicly that you are encouraging younger people to join.
- x) The Committee have a 40 year plan to ensure regeneration of court facilities. The 10% increase was to maintain sinking fund.
- xi) O.65s won't be benefitting from the sinking fund. Lack of cohabiting couple membership is also a discrepancy in membership structure. More suitable bandings could be junior, student, ordinary adult, older adult. The committee to consider whether current categories are still relevant. **Action: Committee**
- xii) The Committee decision to change fees wasn't designed to penalise one group. The question of O.65 discounts was posed to an LTA supported forum by a committee member. 40% of clubs have O.65 discount and 60% don't. Facility usage should not be a big argument as individuals have a choice as to whether they play once a week or more.
- xiii) Overall membership is so cheap for the club so why would members leave?

The AGM attendees voted in a secret ballot 'Yes' to support amendment of O.65 fees proposed by NB and 'No' to oppose amendment.

No = 5

Yes = 10

Abstention = 1

The amendment was therefore carried and the proposed membership fee structure amended, as below.

CTC Membership Fees 2023 - 2024		
	Early payment rates if paid by 31st March 2023	Full rates from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024
Adult	£96	£106
Adult over 65	£75	£84
2 Adults living at same address	£182	£200
Family- 1 Adult & up to 4 juniors /students	£115	£127
Family -2 Adults & up to 4 juniors /students	£206	£227
Student over 18 on 1 st April	£60	£66
Junior under 18 on 1 st April	£24	£26

Can the membership form be amended so that those O.65 who wish to have an opportunity to pay full fees? Members can buy 100 club tickets to donate further money to the club.

The AGM attendees voted in a secret ballot ' –Yes 'to approve the membership fees and 'No 'to oppose the proposed membership fees.

No = 4

Yes = 11

Abstention = 1

6. Re-election of the current committee:

Existing Committee Re-election (with the exception of NM who is standing down) : NM proposer, RB – seconder, and supported by unanimous decision.

Re-election of John Stanley as auditor: MC – proposer, JC – seconder, and supported by unanimous decision.

7. Any Other Business

- Proposal – committee should consider no guest fees for U.10s. **Action: Committee**

This would become problematic on the booking system as we don't record the age of guests. U.10s rarely make full use of the time whereas parents do. This is something that will be discussed at committee.

This should be U.6, rather than U.10. Either don't charge or don't list them on the system.

Agreed using a younger age would make it easier for membership management.

This would need to be different from the concept of junior membership.

- What was the purpose of the coaching survey?

To understand what the coaching needs were within the club. The AGM attendees heard the results from the survey (as per minutes Feb 2022). Is there sufficient coaching time available? We could allocate more time to coaching but we need to balance all the needs of users of the courts, especially as pinch points generally arise when league fixtures are running (May-June/July).

- Grass courts – what is the latest update?

We are seeking support from Cromer TC to try and improve the quality of the grass courts. Updates will be shared once we have any. **Action CM**

Has one all-weather court been considered? Yes – financially this was not considered viable, upon advice from our auditor.

Would an LTA loan help? In principle yes, but we need to pay that money back and our 40 year plan does not factor in any financial surplus to pay back any loan, whilst also maintaining the current standard of the courts. The Committee have considered this at length to ensure that they have balanced the risk on this.

- One attendee commended the Committee for having a long-term financial management plan - in light of recent facility improvement, it is reassuring that the club have maintained a financial surplus.
- In terms of local housing development, how many courts would we need in the next 40 years? It is a 40-year plan to maintain our current facility with our membership flow staying consistent.
- A further sinking fund could be developed to raise funds through extra-curricular fundraising events if this is something we wanted to pursue.
- General discussion around membership - when and who plays each week. The overall positive club atmosphere was commended. The club has tried to adapt to the needs and wants of the membership. It would be nice to encourage teenagers into playing more in future.
- Vote of thanks for the Committee for doing a good job in running the club and Nicki who is standing down for all her efforts over a number of years managing the club communications and web site.

Date of next AGM Meeting: TBC

Meeting closed at 8.16pm.