



Saxton Avenue; Bessacarr; Doncaster; DN4 7AY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Doncaster Lawn Tennis Club held on Wednesday 8 March 2017 - 7.30pm

There were 50 members attended the meeting

1. Opening the meeting by the President

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. I would like to welcome you to this Annual General Meeting of the Doncaster Lawn Tennis Club for the 2016/2017 season. Thank you for making the effort to attend this evening.

Before we commence the business of the meeting, thanks are without doubt due to committee members who work voluntarily both by attending committee meetings here but also away from the club, meeting with other officials and bodies in relation to Clubspark, fund raising, coaching and other tennis related activities. Some of this goes on behind the scenes so it is not obvious to members about the time and effort involved.

Included of course in these thanks are also the Bar Manager Janette and all her staff.

Thanks are also due to Russ our Groundsman who has got the courts and grounds back where they were years ago after some years of decline before he started work here and also his efforts to keep the clubhouse and facilities within clean.

Similarly thanks are also due to all the unpaid members and friends who assist in helping to cater at events, run tournaments and generally help to keep the wheels turning throughout the year.

Thanks are also due to our coaches and their assistants for running a well subscribed and efficient coaching scheme which is producing young club players for the future and also helping some of our senior members to improve their game. The coaching programme continues to benefit the club financially, improving year on year, Friday nights in particular are extremely busy, but more details of this from Liz

The floodlights new payment system has been in operation throughout the winter and has proved easy to use and the income from this has improved substantially.



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Bonfire night this year continued to be very successful and contributes greatly to club funds but also generates goodwill in the local community which is evident by the numbers attending from the local area.

The committee are now in the process of trying to obtain a grant towards the total cost of laying 6 tarmac courts to replace the clay courts and floodlighting courts 9, 10, 11 & 12. This will give the members much more available playing time in the winter when on occasions the clay courts have been unplayable due to frost or being waterlogged.

Kevin our treasurer will update this meeting with the details of grants, loans and club funds required to finance this project which in ideal circumstances we would hope to commence in the Autumn of this year.

I will now ask our Chairman Tony Exley to continue with the business of the meeting as itemised in the agenda.

Tony thanked Dave for his report said a 'thank you' for all the efforts that he puts in around the club.

Tony then said that Dave had mentioned in his opening speech last year that Lady President June Rainey had resigned. The committee approached long standing member Maureen Marsh to take over this role and she was pleased to have been asked and accepted the role.

2. Apologies for absence

Emma Woodcock , Roger Hooper, Kate Hooper, Sarah Bayliss, Helen Talbot, Simon Stapleton, Steve Hossack

3. Minutes from AGM 2016

Accepted as a true copy
Proposed: Kevin Beaton
Seconded: Dave Penfold

Tony then handed over to Kevin Beaton to deliver his report.

4. Treasurers/ Accountants report for 2016/17

This has now been my third year as treasurer and I am pleased to be able to present the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2016.

When Tony and I met with David Middlemass, from our accountants Smith Craven, to review the accounts it was very pleasing to note that the overall results were, once again, positive for



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the club and that there is now the funding available to undertake the proposed major court and light developments for courts 7 to 12.

This proposed work will be relatively expensive and Tony will give more detail of the proposals in his presentation. It has been the positive financial results from the last three years that has allowed the club to consider this proposal. These financial results have allowed the club to seek a grant and an interest free loan from the LTA and an interest free loan from the YLTA.

The meetings that have taken place to date with both the LTA and the YLTA have been very positive and both organisations are keen for the project to proceed.

As last year, I would once again like to thank David Penfold very much for all the financial work he carries out every week for the club.

I know that you will have already looked at the financial statement. However, I would now like to highlight some aspects of this for you all.

You will be aware that the member subscription rates for the current 2017 season were once again held for now the fifth year running. This linked to the additional 25% reduction for new members has meant that despite a significant increase in membership numbers at the club the income from subscriptions (£41,522) is less now than it was in 2013 (£42,133).

The fact that the new court facilities will lead to a significant increase in playing time available to club members means that the committee will most likely be proposing a small increase to membership subscription rates for 2018.

However, I would clearly want to acknowledge that the increase in membership and the subsequent additional use of the club facilities has most certainly led to an increase in the figures related to other areas of income.

Linked to membership, the club is taking part in an LTA supported project to increase membership at tennis clubs within the Sheffield and District area. We are the only club from Doncaster in this scheme. This will run during the summer and will be aimed at attracting younger families to the club who will be able to get a taster by joining for 6 weeks. During the summer the LTA will be running an extensive campaign to point the families towards Doncaster LTC. In addition, the coaching team will be working in schools to help publicise the project and attract families. Experience with clubs who were in the project last year is that a large number of families took up the original 6 week taster offer but then did not become permanent members. To this end, the coaching staff are planning some further events with the new members during this period.

I will start by looking at the figures related to income.

The bar trading profit has increased this year by just under £4,500 on increased bar sales of just under £7,000. This was not as big an increase as last year but the weather throughout 2016 was not as good as the weather was throughout 2015. We missed out on the Prosecco summer from 2015. In addition it is worth noting that Carlsberg increased their prices in



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January this year by 4% but the club will absorb that price increase and will not be raising any drink prices.

There was a big increase of £2,707 in the social events surplus, which was all related to the very successful bonfire night this year.

There was no tournament this year or last year and the tournament account has now been closed and the final small amounts of money have been transferred into the main club account. This line will not appear in future accounts.

The profit from the Club coaching programme contributed a sum of just under £6,000 directly to the club this year. Another bonus for the club from the programme is the fact that there are so many children and young people either on the programme or supporting the programme. This has greatly contributed to a very positive "family atmosphere" at the club. It is disappointing that the income figure related to advertising has dropped to zero this year. This has been due to a lack of diligence by the club in both checking and issuing appropriate invoices. This will be rectified this year.

I will now look at the figures related to expenditure.

The wages costs have increased again this year by just over £2,000 which is around 6%. This increase reflects an increase in staff wages in line with wage legislation relating to the minimum wage. You will also see that the club has just started paying pension contributions as part of the Work Place Pension legislation.

There has been significant sums of money spent in the clubhouse in both decoration and furniture and in the club infra-structure such as with a new boiler.

The light and heating bills are reduced this year by both the better efficiency of the new boiler and the fact that the club managed to secure better rates for the energy supply.

The decrease in the rates and water payments can be explained by the fact that the 2015 figures were abnormally high due to the replacement of the water tank and a malfunction of the sprinkler system on a single occasion

The staff at the club have taken on some greater responsibility for the checking and logging of information with regard to Health and Safety aspects at the club. To enable them to undertake these additional roles they had to have appropriate training which cost just over £1,000.

The club finally seems to be clear of any HMRC penalty charges and so this year we were just over £3,000 better off.

At the start of the year the club moved card providers from Royal Bank of Scotland to HSBC and, despite there being an increase in card usage by members at the club, there has been a decrease of nearly £500 in credit card charges.

In 2016, the club managed to increase the amount of money either in hand or in the different accounts from £112,410 to £120,777, an increase of just over £8,300.

Next year, with the proposed project detailed by Tony, there will be significantly less money and the club will need to have a few years replenishing the coffers in order to be in a position to look at the renewal of the courts 1 to 6. This will most likely need to be undertaken in two stages.



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There is no doubt that significant money is generated by the bar and the bonfire night event. It is important that the members do make use of the club facilities and support the club

functions as much as possible. This usage contributes financially to the club and ultimately helps to keep down subscription costs as well as allowing the club to undertake projects to enhance all the club facilities.

I am sure that this coming year will see some exciting developments for the tennis club and I hope that the club maintains its current annual positive financial position.

Questions:

Tony thanked Kevin for his report and thanked him for his help and work that goes on behind the scenes that most people don't see.

Tony then handed over to Liz Beaton to deliver the Coaching report.

5. Coaches Report 2016/17

At the end of 2011, Mick Hague and I were given the joint responsibility of running the Coaching Programme at Doncaster and at every AGM since then I have told you about any challenges and success' we have had throughout the year and what projects and plans we have for the future.

This report will start a little differently because Mick is no longer a part of the Coaching Programme: he has endured a very challenging period in his professional life and, as a result, does not wish to coach for the foreseeable future.

At this point I would like to stress what a big loss to tennis coaching Mick's career change is. For over 30 years Mick has been involved in coaching and over that time literally hundreds

and hundreds of people, including myself, have benefited from his tactical insight, his patience, his ability to point out one particular area of a game which could be " tweaked" without getting bogged down with technical detail and, above all, his genuine interest in bringing out the potential talent in players rather than monetary gain.

I will miss our frequent discussions on aspects of how to develop the programme and I will miss his organisational input on court and I hope the committee recognise how lucky they were to have a coach of Mick's experience at the club for so many years.

COACHING STAFF

However, the Coaching Programme will be looking forwards not backwards and I feel very fortunate to have an enthusiastic, motivated and capable team with me to deliver my plans for 2017.



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The LTA coaching structure is such that a potential coach would start, age 16 or above, to train to become a Level 1 coach. This level of coach would be expected to work with, assist and gain experience with a fully qualified coach during squads or hit with players under specific guidelines. A level 2 coach can lead and direct sessions but would operate under the overall direction of a fully qualified, level 3 coach. Through our successful Tennis Leaders initiatives we now have several young people delivering coaching at the club who have confidence and experience above their years. They are still leaning, of course, which they should be doing for the rest of their coaching lives, but their input, particularly over the past 6 months has been very strong.

So I take this opportunity to thank Toby Mettam, Will Morley and Jacob Bennett for their loyalty and support and their input into the smooth delivery of squads. Toby will embark upon his level 3 qualification this month and Jacob will begin his level 2 in the summer. I am sure they will be successful and strive to be the best they can be. I must also thank Jayne Hale who continues, on a voluntary basis, to work with our very youngest girls every Saturday morning. Also to George Bryant who has recently achieved his level 1 and to Lucy Wright who has

delivered 2 hours of extremely well planned practical and tactical coaching to our most able older players. Finally, I thank our many Tennis Leaders who have supported the coaching sessions week in and out on a voluntary basis and who continue to act as role models to our younger players.

During our busier summer months Jake Prime will be working at the club as part of his internship at the Lake Superior State University. Jake will deliver 600 hours of tennis related activity for the club in a Programme designed by Jake and me. These extra hours has given the coaching the means to expand during the summer.

PROFITABILITY

Since last year, the Coaching Programme profit has dropped slightly, despite squad levels remaining stable. This was not unexpected as more weeks were lost due to bad weather than the previous year. It is also an increasingly thankless task to chase payments from parents and

I am hoping to develop an "easier" and less time consuming method of paying, for both me and the parents.

JUNIOR TEAMS

We have continued to promote our juniors into adult tennis matches but continue to enter teams at under 8, 9, 10, 12, 15 and 16 levels in both the Sheffield & District and regional Yorkshire leagues.

During the summer and winter seasons, our under 12 team won their league during the summer and the under 14s during the winter with the under 16s winter runners up. Our team selection was highlighted at the Sheffield Awards evening as being an example of good practise by always playing girls in junior teams. Our youngest girl player was 5 when she made her debut during the winter.



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SUMMARY OF 2016 INITIATIVES

We have continued to deliver our sessions with the Mencap group. These were expanded to cover 3 evenings. These will continue next season.

We have delivered some "Adult Drills": free taster squad sessions for adults. As the feedback was positive, we hope to run blocks of sessions this season.

We continued to provide some extra free coaching one to one sessions for selected girl players as LTA statistics show a worrying lack of girl participation. I feel this has given a couple of our girls the confidence to represent the club at junior level in mixed teams. Emily Cheetham has represented the North of England at Under 9 level and her sister Aimee has been selected for Under 12 County squad training. Both are coached by Lucy and both are part of our "supporting girls" initiative.

We have achieved our aim to fulfil our junior fixtures which, I can confirm, is a rare achievement in the local leagues where tennis is not often the priority sport and parents and children lead such busy lives.

We have continued with our Preschool tennis programme and some players are now in the junior programme.

PROJECTS & AIMS FOR 2017

I have been approached by Yorkshire LTA to deliver a qualifying tournament for the Yorkshire Junior Closed Championships 2017. Steve Prime will be refereeing this during 2 days of May half term and we will be encouraging our juniors to enter their age groups.

The club is part of an LTA Summer Membership incentive scheme, aimed at introducing young families to tennis. This initiative will primarily be led by the coaching team.

I have targeted 10 Primary schools and we will be delivering "tennis taster" sessions to over 1,000 pupils during May. There will be an Open Day on May 28th to which these children and their families will be invited along with other targeted groups.

Jake Prime will deliver an Adult beginner group during the summer as part of his Internship.

Thank you to our members for their support of the Coaching Team: we feel our promotion of Junior Tennis and communication with families has helped create a friendly and inclusive atmosphere at our club.

Liz Beaton.

Tony thanked Liz for a comprehensive report and thanked for all her for all she does for the club.



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He then went on to say “when he took over as Chairman in 2011, Coaching are was one of the first areas to sort , he took a lot of “stick” at the time but the decision what were made at the time have proved the right ones and the coaching staff have more than come up with the goods and doing us proud “ .

Tony thanked Liz again and presented her with a bouquet of flowers as a thank you.

Tony then delivered his report to the members:

6. Chairman review of the year 2016/17

Once again I have the pleasure of following very positive reports regarding coaching and Finance and I stand before you as a proud Chairman of a Club of which you should all be very proud. Dave Allen pointed out the many people who contribute to the running of the Club with most of those mentioned giving of their time on a voluntary basis; I hope this will continue as we strive to further the growth and success of YOUR Club.

On a more sombre note I would like to remember Barry Hodges, a long-time member who sadly passed away last August after playing tennis here at the Club. He had been a playing member for many years and had also done his time serving on the committee and his friendly character is already being missed around the Club. There are some members who are in touch with his wife regarding a fitting tribute to Barry and so in the future his name will be put to some kind of memorial within the Club.

Taking from Kev’s financial report, it is great to see that after significant expenditure on the Club – including Club decoration and new furniture, replacing the boiler and coin machines for the floodlights – we still maintained our profit levels and managed to increase our bank balances. We feel that we have now caught up with most of the maintenance projects for the Club inside and are now looking to improve the facilities outside.

The replacement of the clay courts has been talked about before but we are now at the stage of putting in our application for the funding of this project, the closing date has been provisionally set for the end of March. This means that we will now be looking to spend some of that money that has accumulated along with grants and loans in order to finance six new tarmac courts and additional floodlights to court 9. We had originally looked at replacing all the courts with AstroTurf but the cost was prohibitive for all six courts and it didn’t make sense to only do three courts at a time as this would have incurred extra cost in the long run and had courts out of action for a longer time.



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We felt that these new courts would then give us the all year round facility that we needed and also another surface to both play and train on, as invariably when our teams play away we often play on these type of courts. The construction of the courts will also give us an option in the future to cover them with AstroTurf if it is felt necessary, but that would only be taken up once the existing courts 1-6 had been resurfaced and so could be considered a few years down the line.

The repayment of the project is obviously a 10 year commitment for the Club but the loan repayments should only be costing us around the same figure as we are currently paying out for the annual bills for water and replacement clay on courts 7-12, so there will not be any great increases of costs to the Club for what should be a huge increase in available court time.

As part of the application process the LTA want us to sign up for Clubspark, an initiative that will give us Club management via a new Club website and so this will mean a change to our existing site. For those of you who use our site for court booking, it will mean a different way to book and pay for the courts. Behind the scenes work has already started on this project and we will obviously keep you in touch with the dates for the system going live.

This current project and any future ventures can only be funded with your continuing support of the Club through membership and social events and it is good to see that member numbers are already up on this time last year. As mentioned previously, Bonfire Night was again a huge success with everything seeming to come together in our favour on the night. However this does bring its problems and there was a debrief of the event soon after so that we could consider what might need to change for this year whilst everything was fresh in our minds. It was clear that we will need extra volunteers on the night if numbers are going to be anything like what we had last year and so this is an early request to keep Saturday the 4th November in your diaries to either help out or come and support.

Social Tennis has cropped up a number of times in committee meetings and we hope that the new WhatsApp group that has been started will help to get members talking to each other regarding coming down to Social night on a Tuesday and Thursday. This group is in its infancy and we would appreciate any feedback regarding how it is set up and how it can help you. As a Club we need to keep the Social nights going as it is a way of giving a less formal introduction to tennis for new members so that they can find their feet and also give a night for members where they can just come down and join in. Our new committee member Michaela Pinchard will be keeping an eye on progress so please contact her or Issy if you have any ideas.

Talking of Issy.....you will have had a number of emails recently regarding your BTM membership and how you need to opt in each year so that the Club can get a good allocation of Wimbledon tickets. I'm pleased to confirm that we have now increased opt in numbers



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significantly this year but we still only have less than half of the membership helping us in this area. Issy has to put a lot of work in to get you to comply with this request and we are looking at ways to make the process a bit simpler in the future. I appreciate that not all of you will want to go to Wimbledon but it gives you a chance to help other Club members with only a little input from yourselves, please react to the mails that will be sent out later in the year regarding how we look at opting in in the future.

It only remains for me to thank you all for your continued support of the Club and its Committee and wish you all the best for another good year of tennis.

Tony Exley.

7. Election of club officials

Nominations received:

Chairman	Tony Exley
Secretary	Isobel Hossack
Committee	Kevin Waller
Committee	Ged Salisbury
Committee	Michaela Pinchard
Committee	James Milligan

All the above were elected on block.

The above will accompany:

Dave Cole	Vice Chair
Kevin Beaton	Treasurer
Gill Ross	Committee

8. Open discussion

- Tony: Further training on the defibrillator has been arranged for Saturday 18 March at 10amall welcome
- Kevin Beaton brought to the members attention that we will need to seek grants and loans for the court replacement project - this was approved by the members at the meeting.



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- Andrew Green: Have we considered applying for a grant from South Yorkshire Sport? Liz confirmed we have received some small levels of funding in the past from this source.

Kevin explained that SYS wouldn't be able to give the level of funding we are looking for with the court replacement project. He also explained that we are governed by

the LTA and their guidelines / recommendations on the route we have to take for the grants and loans

- Andrew McDougall: Have we looked at any other playing surface apart from Tarmac. He said that he realised that finances have to come into this. Kevin Beaton explained that the surface we are looking at is - "painted macadam", which is the same as that at the US Open Tennis at Flushing Meadows. Andrew was quite pleased once he knew this. Kevin also explained that we would only give a grant for tarmac surface and not astro. Kevin also confirmed that we are laying this with a view, if we feel necessary, in the future to changing to
- Astro as this would be a recognised base surface. There was also a query about the drainage problems. It was confirmed that this will be addressed with the contractor's recommendations.
- Kevin Waller : "Can we let the members know the plans we have in place to address the existing drainage issues we have on courts 1-3" Tony explained that we have decided to install 3 sumps at the back of the courts and 2 further pumps to help drain any surface water.

No further questions were raised, Tony thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.30pm