

DUSTON UNITED TENNIS CLUB

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 1st November 2020 - 8pm online

1. Online – Brian Warren BW, Chair. David Barr DB, Manager.
Committee -Ian McIlwaine IM Suzanne McIlwaine SM
Elizabeth Moore EM Jan Johnson JJ
Roy Robinson RR
Andy Hudson, Darina Hudson, Ann Barr
2. Apologies Chris Bennett, Andy Law, Sophie Hudson, Yannis Sakkas
3. Review of 2019 AGM minutes Approved
4. Matters Arising
Court Cleaning – completed
Chair – Brian Warren elected
Clubhouse wooden decking – now removed
Easyfundraising – still being used and the only fundraising this year due to Covid 19
Adult coaching – programme now running.
NLTL AGM 2019 – attended by two members of DUTC
5. Correspondence – none
6. Chair's Report – A good year which was surprising as 2020 has brought the unusual situation where for a time DUTC was a tennis club with no tennis. Whilst it has not changed our future planning there have been changes to how we participate. Following the Covid19 lockdown the booking of courts, the box leagues, the junior programmes and some competitive tennis have kept us fit physically and mentally. Our manager, David, continues to promote the Club throughout the county and is inspiring a new generation of tennis players. The next project, which will now happen in 2021, is the replacement of the floodlights. This is a major investment and the technology using LED lights will give the club much improved evening play. Our Club championships took place this year in good weather and there are new names on the trophies which is good to see. The Duston Cup and junior tournaments sees participants from other Clubs in Northants and this keeps DUTC as a welcoming venue. There are many to thank and I do not wish to name people but thanks go to those that keep the facilities in good condition, the team captains, the Committee and the LTA who provide resources for us such as the Clubspark website. We have a season of winter tennis leagues at the moment and I hope that a summer season follows with a return to our social events too.

7. Manager's Report –

Membership Numbers. As we stand, we have a total of 210 members (188 – 2019). This is comprised of 102 adults (93 – 2019) comprising 48 Men & 25 Ladies (65 & 28 – 2019) and 108 Juniors, Students & Minis (95 – 2019). 30 adults out of the 102 are Parent members. Net full adult membership is up by 5 members

Facilities. Courts 1-3 were cleaned in January and are great in the wet. However, towards the park side the tarmac is starting to break up. These courts are a good 19 years old though! Court 4 and the mini courts are showing moss and getting a little slippery now but can probably wait until Winter 2021 before they are cleaned. Thanks to Nick, Jan and Phil for keeping up with club cleaning and grounds too.

Minis and juniors. We had the best ever numbers for our Summer Camps this year and there has been great numbers on the term time programme since. Adult teams. No Summer leagues for obvious reasons but the Winter Leagues have started.

Club Championships Finals Day. Some new names on the singles boards this year with 11 year old Lucy Barr winning the ladies singles and Richard Smith winning the Mens. Both finals went to a 3rd set championship tiebreak. Lucy also won the junior girls singles and Mixed doubles with Joe Harrhy. Harvey won the boys singles, Piotr the Mens Plate, Jan & Suzanne Ladies Doubles and Richard & Lee won the Men's Doubles. Great participation in the Mini tennis events too.

Duston Cup. 16 pairs contested the event this year. Clubs represented from Duston and Heyford mostly as well as Rushmere and Crick & West Haddon. Linda & Tony from Heyford beat Rob & Sue from Duston in the final

SM – thanked DB for his good work on raising funds. Agreed by all.

8. Treasurer's Report - The pandemic year! Despite the lockdown in March stretching into May and then us offering reduced annual fees to entice members back, we have still managed to amass just shy of £9500. Our best income was achieved by obtaining a total of £11845 in grants for the covid disruption (£10k from the government & £1845 from Sport England). I will give myself a pat on the back! This has more than made up in the shortfall of membership fees. Our rates haven't been charged since January. Our electric supplier was switched to Octopus and our bills have stayed low due to not much floodlight use. An impressive £400 has been achieved by selling old tennis balls to dog walkers. With the grants being obtained and little outlay over the year the coronavirus has kind of been a blessing in disguise as far as our general finances have been concerned!
9. Membership fees. *Due to Covid19 it is difficult to set membership fees for 2021. This AGM approved delegation to the DUTC Committee for decision in March 2021.*
10. Floodlighting project. Club lease
Northampton Borough Council have approved the planning permission request on October 23rd 2020 with two conditions attached to the project.

i) height of columns must not exceed 8m (*this is the current height of the columns*)

ii) floodlighting of courts is allowed between the hours of 9am and 10pm. *(already a condition)*

There are three companies who have provided quotations for the work and these are directly comparable for the LTA approved efficiency of lighting for three tennis courts. All companies are SAPCA (the professional body for sports facilities) registered

Luminance Pro - £37,586 + VAT

Highlights – £27,840 + VAT *note: hinged columns so lights can be easily changed*

Fosse / Exclusive Leisure – £32,500 + VAT

(All quotations are current pricing 2020)

Court 4 is an additional cost to change the current lights from halogen to LED – cost approx. £6000

Northampton Council are currently reviewing the Lease renewal request (28/10/20) with a decision within the next two weeks. It is critical that the Lease is renewed and that it runs for 21 years before committing to the investment in new floodlights. The LTA and other funding and loan organisations require 21 years before applications for grants or loans are considered.

The project is expected to be approved next year with working starting in Spring 2021. The courts will be out of action for one week.

IM – wanted BW to check the hinging of the columns so that there is no obstruction to play if posts have to be positioned anywhere other than against the fencing.

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| 11. Election of club committee | Proposed (en-bloc)-Chris Bennett, Seconded-Andy Hudson |
| Chairman - | Brian Warren |
| Club Manager – | David Barr |
| Treasurer - | Suzanne McIlwaine |
| Child Protection - | Elizabeth Moore |
| Other Committee - | Richard Smith, Jan Johnson, Roy Robinson, Ian McIlwaine |
| Fixtures Secretary - | Joe Harrhy |

12. Any other business

Yannis Sakkas – asked for Zoom recording to be uploaded to Clubspark but this is not practical as the file is 338Mb.

SM – team captains and teams need to be confirmed by 20/11/20 for Summer 2021. Richard Smith and EM to confirm Ladies and Mixed teams.

JJ – in the event of a second lockdown due to Covid19 then what does DUTC need to do and what notice is needed for members. BW suggested that the gate is locked and that DB should inform members once guidance is published by the LTA. A committee meeting is not needed at this point.

JJ & EM – suggested a Christmas tennis tournament but this will be dependent on playing guidelines.

EM – can Club night start earlier on Tuesday's? Everyone agreed. 5.30pm will be the new start time and see if this works and proves popular.

SM & IM & AH - noticed that sometimes courts are available when the Clubspark site denotes booked. Can all members make sure that if bookings are not being used then the booking needs to be cancelled on Clubspark asap. Message to go out on WhatsApp.

EM – Suggested cleaning the Clubhouse if there is a closure. EM – to organise.

13. Date of next committee meetings – end of November 2020 & Spring 2021

14. Date of next AGM – Oct/Nov 2021