

DUSTON UNITED TENNIS CLUB

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 26th October 2022 - 7pm via Zoom

1. Present Brian Warren (Chair) BW David Barr (Club Manager) DB
 Elizabeth Moore EM Ian McIlwaine IM
 Suzanne McIlwaine SM Joe Harrhy JH
 Jan Johnson JJ Richard Smith RS
2. Apologies Ann Barr, Pam Draper, Chris Bennett, Athos Kyprianou, Simon Yiannaki, Barbara Masters, Ann Bills, Andy Hudson, Andy Law
3. Review of 2021 AGM minutes. Agreed as on DUTC website
4. Matters Arising
 Floodlighting project completed. DUTC Lease – West Northants council in discussion with our solicitor. Chris Bennett now awaiting response from West Northants council (26.10.22)
5. Correspondence
 Barry Searle (former NLTA chair who has referred DUTC to Carol Pawlusek – Sec. NLTA)
 Sports England – Fund matching to fund raising. Details may change in 2023.
6. Chair's Report
 A lot of this year has been spent preparing for the years ahead. The major project was the installation of new floodlights which are vastly superior to our old lights. We have thought ahead and invested into extended warranties on the lights for ten years and they will last many more years than ten. We have chosen hinged columns which will make maintenance much easier in the future. Negotiations are underway for a new lease of 25 years with West Northants Council to secure the future of the Club grounds. Our Club Manager has also invested his time in the next generation of players and there have been many successes for our juniors. The AGM is the starting point for planning the resurfacing of courts 1-3 and details of companies and costs are on the Clubspark website. The intention is to resurface next year which will require some fundraising activities for everyone to be involved with. 2022 has provided lots of opportunity to play tennis with amazing weather, albeit too hot on a couple of days, whether that is on our social days, our match days, tournament matches, individually arranged, box leagues and mini tournaments. We have also welcomed many new members to the Club and long may this continue as we approach 100 years of tennis at DUTC in a few years time. There are many people to thank and all those who have helped the club are very much appreciated
7. Manager's Report
8. Treasurer's Report – DB
 1. Membership Numbers. As we stand, we have a total of 235 members (280 – 2021). This is comprised of 71 adults (72 – 2021) and 138 Juniors, Students & Minis (184 – 2021). A quite big decrease of 45 members on last year but this is mainly down to mini members leaving after a post lockdown boom boosted the numbers last year.

2. Treasury report. The norm for membership income in an average year pre lockdown was around £13k. It went up to around £16.5k after lockdown in 2021 and the positive thing is that this is roughly the same this year. This is helped by a good number of adults staying on as well as attracting new members to replace the ones that didn't rejoin.

The biggest increase in income has come through the coaching programme. David stopped taking his annual £3k Coach retainer in January and now contributes 10% of all group coaching to the club (up from 5%). So, despite David being compensated by lack of income during the floodlights installation (£558.50), this has resulted in the club finances being better off to the tune of around £3800!

Pay and play court hire income has gone up £100 from last year.

We sent the final payment of £32,382 to the floodlights contractors (Highlights). Despite this we have a healthy bank balance of around £26k.

It's worth noting that if we exclude the floodlight expenditure we net around £15,850 this year.

3. Facilities. The floodlights are finally finished! They are a massive improvement to the club and huge thanks must go to Brian for his sheer perseverance, especially with the teething problems that occurred regarding failed lamps etc.

4. Minis and juniors. With Coach Ed leaving, so did quite a few children, however many of these children had patchy attendance so most likely would've not stayed on much longer anyhow. We've gone from 154 children to around 100 children having coaching per week. David has taken on as many children as he can but has to be mindful of the ratios of coach to pupil. He now enlists the services of a few teens to assist larger groups.

It was a great year for the quality of our coaching programme as 2 of our minis, Esa Ali and Everly Burton, became the boy's and girl's County champions for 8 years and under! There are currently 9 children in County training which I believe is the highest number from Duston ever.

5. Adult teams. Congratulations are in order for the Mixed A team captained by Joe who won Summer Division 2 and return to the premiership. All teams with the exception of the Men's D team (relegated to Div 5) kept their places in their respective divisions.

6. Club Championships Finals Day. Joe Harrhy secured a first hatrick of titles this year with the singles, men's and mixed titles (partnering Liam and Lucy). Jan and Suzanne also secured a 3rd title in a row for the ladies doubles.

We had over 100 people attend the Presentation Evening this year thanks largely to David's successful junior championships and new Star Awards. It was a club record and the new SumUp card machine was a success in making payments easy for drinks.

7. Duston Cup. 16 pairs contested the event this year. Thanks to Richard for organising. As a result of smaller prizes the club took more profit. Clubs

represented included Duston, Heyford, Towcester, Brixworth, Kettering and Crick & West Haddon. Max and Katie won an all-Duston final beating Liz and Liam in the final.

Court resurfacing. This is the major project to be financed over the next year and possibly into 2024. BW has received estimates from four court laying companies and the cost range is between £40,000 and £50,000. DB does not foresee the Club funds increasing to this amount before September 2023 and so cannot proceed with the project until that date unless there is a large fundraising effort and LTA loans. **BW to pursue LTA loans with the NLTA and finalise the new 25 year West Northants Lease.** IM recommends retaining an amount of £5000 in the Club funds after payment for the court resurfacing and ideally 5% for budget overrun. RS was not sure how much costs would increase over the next year. EM and DB were in agreement with IM. DB wanted to know if the tennis court contractors had a payment option other than the full amount paid on completion of the project. BW was not offered this option as terms of payment is usually an initial amount at the start of contract and then 30 days to pay the final instalment. DB stressed the importance of getting an LTA loan.

9. Membership fees – 2023/24 (2 year membership available at the cost of 2x2022 fee for relevant membership)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS	Annual Fee 2022/2023	1 yr Direct Debit	2 yr Direct debit
Adult	£185/£195	£24.99	£49.98
Adult Couple	£355/£375	£44.99	
Young Adult (19-22 yrs)	£145/£155	£19.99	
65 years +	£160/£170	£21.99	
Family 2 adults from same household and children	£385/£405	£49.99	
Family One Adult 1 adult and children	£225/£235	£29.99	
Parent & Junior* 1 parent and 1 junior aged 10-18 years	£145/£155	£17.99	
Junior/Student 10-18 years	£70	N/A	
Mini & Me* 1 parent and mini 4-9 years. Extra minis £24	£65	N/A	
Mini Age 4-9 years	£30	N/A	
Coaching (anyone accessing club coaching only)	£30	N/A	

10. NLTL AGM. NLTL Leagues and Teams – Summer 2023

NLTL AGM – Mon Nov 7th (BW to attend)

NLTL Teams Summer 2023

JH to register 4 Mens teams, 2 Mixed teams and 1 Ladies team by November 7th 2022

11. Election of Club Committee – voted En-bloc. Proposed by Andy Law. Seconded by Andy Hudson

Chairman –	Brian Warren
Club Manager –	David Barr
Treasurer –	David Barr
Child Protection –	Elizabeth Moore
Committee -	Ian McIlwaine, Elizabeth Moore, Jan Johnson, Joe Harrhy, Roy Robinson
Fixtures Secretary -	Joe Harrhy
Team captains –	Summer 2023 (to be decided at next Committee meeting)

12. Any other business

Court cleaning – there was a general opinion that the courts have become more slippery. DB attributes this to the moss building up as the south end of the courts does not get enough sunshine to dry out. RR reports more slipping on DUTC courts than other club courts where we play matches. EM agreed. BW noted that there had been three falls by players in the last four days. DB was convinced that this was also due to wearing the wrong footwear and they were not appropriate tennis shoes. BW did not think that we had so much slipping in the past. JH, RS, RR and JJ were in favour of getting the courts cleaned asap. RS recommended taking the south end windbreakers down to see if this helps. DB said that the conifers in the bowls club add to the problem with courts not drying and that taking down the windbreaks will not make any difference. BW agreed, prior to this meeting, that he would speak to the Chair of West End bowls club about lopping of the conifers.
DB to organise the cleaning of the courts.

13. Date of next Committee meeting – tbd but usually in March prior to the new season (1st April)