

Elmwood Lawn Tennis Club AGM 17th November 2019 Minutes

1. Apologies: Mindy Burzdzius

Minutes of Annual General Meeting November 2018 circulated and approved.

Matters arising from previous minutes: none

2. Committee reports

Secretary

New Website

A big thank-you to Richard who transferred our old website to the Clubspark Platform. This platform is free to LTA registered venues. We have continued to publish the monthly minutes on our website.

There is a membership option and all renewals and new applications can be done on line once this is activated. All bulk out-going emails can be handled from the website by administrators and GDPR validation is automatic (once people have logged in when we go live with the membership). It also offers the future possibility of court booking (including an APP). It also offers the future possibility of payment on-line - which costs about 2.5% and for which we would have to put the membership fees up.

New gate: A new Entry Gate was installed in January – it took a while to finalise the style but the feedback is that it was worth waiting for.

Wimbledon Tickets: Wimbledon draw was held on Friday 26-April-19.

We were allocated 30-pairs of tickets.

Welfare Officer Role

The LTA wrote to club welfare officers in February to let them know that they had issued a media statement following the publication of the Independent Review into the events at Wrexham tennis Centre. Jackie circulated this to our committee for discussion. The report is 128 pages long. One of the recommendations from the report is that all registered venues should adopt the LTA's Safeguarding at Events, Activities and Competitions 2018 as policy immediately. The only external tournaments that are held at our club are the Middlesex Tennis ones and these are run by LTA accredited coaches. We wrote to the LTA and offered our club as a venue to host a Forum around the new safeguarding guidelines and invite other local clubs.

Coaching Non-members: Children

In light of this report plus the new gate code entry/ exit safety it was unanimously agreed in February that this was a good time to make it a requirement that all children must be members. Junior and Cadet membership fees have purposely been kept low to make tennis affordable for all. Louisa discussed this with the coaches. The rationale behind introducing this was clear and committee knew that coaches and parents alike would understand and expect the club to comply with LTA safeguarding requirements. The LTA made it crystal clear that they expected to inspect 80% of registered clubs and that safeguarding is an essential part of this. We were notified in September of the LTA's Regional Safeguarding Officer for the south east region's intention to visit our your venue and conduct the physical audit in November. His role is to conduct audits of LTA registered venues, to ensure that not only are the minimum safeguarding standards being met, but that venues are supported to identify areas where they can further improve. Jackie is registered to attend the Welfare Officer forum on Saturday 23rd November at Roehampton on behalf of the club. Together with the coaches the committee tried to recruit a parent volunteer around February for support and did inform the LTA safeguarding team at that time who said they would be keen to know how we got on.

Quorn Tournament: Faraz ran this for the club on Saturday 6th April – enjoyed by all who took part.

Recycaball. Money generated from recycling of the tennis balls was used to purchase new mini nets: Thank-you to Rose Heaney who has championed this recycling initiative.

Middlesex Tennis Grant: We applied for and were successful in receiving a grant for £250 run seniors GB grant to support activities that will get more adults aged over 35 playing tennis. This was to run a coach led initiative to subsidise daytime lessons to local school parents and neighbours at an affordable for all rate. Those interested will sign up and pay in advance for fixed term perhaps 4 weeks £20 for 1hrs during the day before school pick up time. It will be a first come first served basis and Faraz will run this, maximum number will be 6. Faraz will be running this on Thursdays,

Courts After a lumpy start newly, refurbished Courts 4 – 6 were finally painted and officially opened on Sunday 26-May-2019. after considerable liaison with contractors a new 2nd layer of tarmac was

undertaken as the initial work was faulty and this will in the long run save us £10,000! A massive thank-you to Richard Ormerod who was the main point of contact for this work and for his patience for helping the committee understand what we needed to do for the best. We are now in a very enviable position of having 6 highly desirable floodlit top standard courts.

Trustee Update: We are in the process of preparing the paperwork for the register of proprietors of the club premises to be rectified as we received written request from Anne Ellam relinquishing her position. The 3 remaining trustees, Barrie Nielsen, Paul Downing and Jackie Speechley will be registered. Local firm Akin Palmer are representing Elmwood LTC in this matter.

October – Junior Support

Flavia has agreed to be the point of contact for junior coaching. The 4.30 match play sessions on Fridays up until recently were run by Flavia and Peter and proven very successful, with great attendance (14+ young players). Flavia has since asked the Committee for permission to seek a qualified coaching assistant to help manage this important session, under her full supervision. The requirements were that the assistant would have LTA accreditation, First Aid and DBS. Since these sessions are fully planned by Flavia and run under Flavia's supervision, both Faraz and Flavia agreed that, to maintain the equal coaches' status, to ensure the consistency of service and to avoid further changes to the coaching team at the later stage, it would best that an assistant for Flavia was sought. Daniele Piccolo started on Friday 20th September and there has been good feedback so far from all parents and juniors who attend the Friday session. It was also clear that it was a good time to try again to recruit a parent to join the committee.

Patrick

Many in attendance know Patrick who has dedicated a lot of his time looking after our grounds here for many years. He has been in hospital for a little while now and whilst in there he has written a little article about Elmwood which one of the nurses has kindly typed for him. Elmwood is very dear to him and Jackie distribute the article on his behalf. As a committee we are very fond of Patrick and are looking forward to seeing him back here in the near future.

Treasurers Report: Balance sheet was circulated and Hakeem Khalil outlined the figures, summarised the year's activity and reported on our current financial position. Bar sales have gone down and it was recognised that lack of Friday night BBQ was main contributing factor and that more effort would be put in to restore these in 2020. Guest fees also down and all agreed access to quick online card payment would help. Proposal to increase the fee from £4 to £5 was accepted. New committee would work on best way to make online payment option available.

Men's Captain Report: Jean reported on men's teams in Middlesex NE division.

Summer 2019

Team 1 in division 3 finished 5th out of 8

Team 2 in division 7 finished 3rd out of 8

Team 3 in division 8 finished 4 out of 8

Winter 2018/2019

Team 1 in division 2 finished 5th out of 8

Team 2 in division 3 finished 7th out of 8 (relegated)

Team 3 in division 4 finished 5th out of 7

Team 4 in division 5 finished 4th out of 9

Women's Captain Report:

Valerie reported on the women's teams in Middlesex NE Division

Summer 2019

Team 1 in division 1 finished 4th out of 8

Team 2 in division 7 finished 2nd - **promoted**

Winter 2018/2019

Team 1 in division 1 finished 4th out of 8

Team 2 in division 3 finished 2nd out of 7 – **promoted**

Vets: Team Captain Magda

Vets: Team Captain Magda here are their results:

Summer 2019

Vets: Mixed Doubles in division 1 East finished 3rd out of 8

Winter 2018/19

Vets: Mixed Doubles in division 6b finished 1st – **CONGRATULATIONS** to Magda and the team.

Membership secretary Report

Richard circulated the figures and outlined the graphs.

Bar Stewards Report

Figures reported in the balance sheet

Fixtures Secretary Report:

Jean Chalaby reported that he had liaised with captains throughout season and supported where needed. Jean suggested the position should be merged into the men's and women's captain roles, so that the men's captain establish the fixtures list for men's teams and the women's captain does the same on the women's side. Jean happy to stand again this year and see how this works out for the coming season and review along the way.

Social Secretary Report

Rocky reported that the Halloween party was an outstanding success, raised a lot at the bar and thanked everyone who had helped out. Vinyl nights had been launched with member and tennis player Charlie hosting a bring you own vinyl night. He is keen to do more of these in the new year and it is hoped that when the clubhouse is refreshed then more people will come along.

5.Election of honorary auditors: R. Patel and Sue Davies were re-elected.

6.Election of Officers of the Club

Notice of nominations being open for committee roles was circulated to the membership in advance of the meeting and included a table listing current committee roles and whether the person in post had agreed to stand again. A description of each committee role was added to the website and the link sent to members.

Nominations were invited for the new role of **Junior Parent Liaison**.

The 2019 – 2020 committee were elected as below:

Club Chairman: Charles Dimpfl

Club Secretary Jackie Speechley

Men's Captain Jean Chalaby

Women's Captain: Valerie Foltz

Membership Secretary: Richard Ormerod plus support.

Club Treasurer: Hakeem Khalil

Fixtures Secretary: Jean Chalaby

Social Secretary: Rocky Hirani

Bar Steward: Mindaugas Burzdzius

Grounds Liaison Officer: Rosette Wilkinson

Coach Liaison Officer: Louisa Burnand

Junior Parent Liaison: Dirk Lindner and Matt Michaud

7. Clubhouse Renovation

Rocky is steering this project and has co-opted a group to help with this including members who are architects. It was agreed that it worth refreshing the existing clubhouse as building and planning a new one although is an exciting but lengthy process.

Flavia and Valerie have ideas to spruce it up and will put a plan together for the new committee.

All present agreed this would help attract members to come along to the bar on Fridays as well as move inviting for social nights and fundraising opportunities.

8. Court Renovation Update

Report from Richard:

We had some major work undertaken on the hard-courts in October & November of 2018

This had been a long time in planning and saving up to afford it. We had hoped to give them the final paint finish in April and then they would be finished. Unfortunately, a few weeks after the final asphalt surface was laid, and after the temporary lines were applied, parts of the court surface started to break up! We were of course horrified and called in our consultant surveyor, contractor and their asphalt supplier. After investigation and discussion, it was agreed that the binder in the asphalt had failed and the solution was to

apply an extra 25-mm layer over all 3 courts to rectify the situation. This was completed on Friday 26th April and they were painted and officially opened on Sunday 26th May. This was done at no cost to the club and the weather was on our side. At the end of the day we ended up with better courts than we planned for as they have an extra (free) layer of asphalt.

9.Practice wall Update

Hak and Jean visited the Cumberland club to see their REBO wall, the cost is 9K.

Overall the Committee liked the idea of the REBO wall but thought too expensive and that membership would prefer to have money spent on clubhouse and therefore added to the AGM agenda.

Jean said he is now exploring the possibility of writing an application grant to the LTA Facility Fund and the question raised to the attendees was that if the grant application is successful and the LTA provides 50 % of the funding, should the Club pay the other half.

Member James Canning was really positive with ideas to fund this including options to seek sponsorship from local businesses/ estate agents or to source a second hand one.

Overall the discussion was positive and it was agreed that grant applications could be explored in 2020.

9. AOB

Constitution

In the committee minutes of **March 2012**, it was agreed unanimously to formally change our Constitution to adopt the LTA Disciplinary code at our club and maintain LTA affiliation.

The constitution was duly amended however not recorded as voted in at the 2012 AGM

Richard circulated printouts with relevant sections highlighted

A retrospective vote was taken and all present agreed.

Charles thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed.