

Frome Tennis Club Ltd

Draft Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 23 February 2023, 7.30pm, Pavilion

Mark Brierley welcomed members to the first AGM in the new pavilion. A register was taken; there were about 18 in attendance.

1. Apologies

These were received from, Alex Kershore More, Marc Higgins, Oli Leatham , Ollie Tucker, John Price, Geoff Smith, Henry King, Simon Brand, Adrian Green, Bill Lawrence

2. Minutes of the last AGM held on 17 February 2022.

The minutes were reviewed and then adopted; proposed by Arthur Close and seconded by Tim Bilham and unanimously approved.

3. Matters Arising; there were none.

4. Treasurer's Report and approval of the accounts

Arthur Close introduced the accounts which are now presented in a new format appropriate for a company and which will be deposited at Companies House.

The year has been dominated by the construction of the pavilion and the floodlights and they have had an impact on the accounts. The club now has capital assets (the buildings and installation) which will be depreciated. These now appear as lines in the accounts. AC presented the profit and loss account and the balance sheet.

Income for the year was very good, mainly from membership subscriptions; £30,130 (£19,171-2022)

Expenditure was also up, although this now includes depreciation (£2,590) and the cost of refurbishment of the artificial grass carpet (approx £4,500).

Operating profit was £8,828 (£1,778-2022) a big improvement on last year.

Taking the depreciation as a contribution to the sinking fund and allowing for the refurbishment of the carpet as a payment from the sinking fund the profit for the year is more like £15,900. This is in line with the club's responsibility to maintain its sinking fund reserves.

Balance sheet now shows the club assets at the value for which they were provided. The tangible assets are now £97,280. Current assets -money- is £87,442 with liabilities of £6,151; giving total assets of £178,572.

The club now has an LTA loan in the value of £31,742 and the sinking fund now stands at £66,253,

5. Subscriptions and Match Fees 2021

The new incorporated club rules provide for the committee to determine subscriptions. The presentation to the AGM is now of feedback, the actual decision to be taken by the committee next week.

Everyone is aware that inflation has risen significantly over the last year. The treasurer has suggested that subscriptions be increased by 5% to cover general cost increases excluding energy raising the Full Adult rate from £180.00 by £9.00. However the energy increase for

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the club is very high; in 2022 it was less than £1,000 but 2023 it is likely to go over £4,000 and in the autumn we had expected it to go higher still. As a consequence, the club now has the capability to charge for floodlighting as part of court bookings rather than as a membership charge. This is how the floodlights will be paid for on the community courts by season ticket holders and pay to play users. For members, the club has a choice; either a court booking charge of £4.00 per hour or an addition to the Full rate membership classes of £11.00.

AC offered this choice to the members at the AGM and there was a discussion around the relatively big annual increase and the inconvenience of juggling contributions from other players. At a vote, there was unanimous support for the floodlight costs to remain in the membership. This recommendation will be passed to the committee.

The new Club year will run from the 1 April 2022 to the 31 March 2023 and the rates will be;

6. **Confirm of Mr Stephen Bicknell as Auditor**

Arthur confirmed Bicknell Business Advisors had been very helpful throughout the process and the preparation of the accounts went smoothly.

Continuation of the use of Bicknell's was approved by a show of hands- unanimous

7. **Junior Report**

Stephen Marcelle gave a good presentation about the junior and coaching programme.

Numbers have held up and there is a good core of juniors playing through the winter.

Stephen has identified a very good young junior, Marco Marques, who he is sponsoring and thinks could go far.

There was a discussion about supporting other talented players. Imogen Lines struggles to find suitable opposition locally and SM will have a look and see how he could help.

8. **Chairman's Report**

The chairman's report.

What happened in 2022

The pavilion

2022 was a year where construction took over from tennis for the first 6 months. The tall screen of the evergreen hedge came down straight after new year and the courts suddenly became exposed. Tennis continued but without access to the clubroom and we made a bit of a mess across the Mary Baily playing field. Looking back on it, the project ran as well as could have been hoped apart from initial difficulties in establishing access. Previous projects had all used the drive but with help and assistance from Me Atkinson, the owner of No 64 adjacent to the drive. When the project was first planned, access was arranged with Mr Atkinson, but he died in 2019 and the house changed hands. Having agreed access with a family member, this too became untenable when the property went to auction. Eventually an access up the drive agreed with the new owner also became untenable and we were very thankful to be able to agree an alternative access across the Mary Baily playing field. This change took all the contingency allowance but no other issues arose and we were able to finish the project more or less on time and on budget. A massive thank you to all involved.

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Opening 101 years

The pavilion was opened with on a warm and dry day in June with kind words all round. The occasion also celebrated the clubs 101 anniversary, a centenary and a bit. The Mayor cut the ribbon and a great time was had by all. Keith Faulkner put together a history of the club which will be turned into a poster.

Floodlighting

Whilst the pavilion was being completed John Price finalised the floodlighting project and that too is almost complete. Exclusive leisure have to return to complete the control functions but the lights are operational. Another project completed on budget although the timetable has had difficulties due to problems with delivery of the fittings and then some damage to them prior to installation.

A massive thanks to John Price who promoted, organised funding, tendered, project managed and supervised the whole thing, and to Exclusive Leisure who have stuck with it.

Tennis- competition

The club competed in the Chippenham and District league. Marc Higgins was the club contact and helped organise teams and captains. As ever, the results were mixed, but we have successes to celebrate.

The club also ran its own championships organised by Oli Leatham.

Club Championship

Men's Singles: Oli Leatham bt Lucian Bujor

Ladies' Singles: Niamh Gray won the Round Robin.

Women's Doubles: Niamh Gray and Linda Perry won Round Robin

Men's Doubles and Mixed: still to play

League Results

Mens Division 1; Frome A second out of 7 behind Trowbridge A

Mens Division 2; Frome B sixth out out of 7

Mens Division 5; Frome C sixth out of 6

Womens Division 2; Frome A sixth out of 7

Womens Division 2; Frome B top out of 6

Mixed Division 1; Frome A top out of 7

Mixed Division 3; Frome B fifth out of 7

Stephen ran some Junior tournaments.

It would be really good if we were able to find mechanisms to publicise results and make the club members and public more aware of the competitions.

Coaching

Stephen has now established his coaching academy and his programme ran smoothly through the year.

Membership

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2022 was a very good year.

Numbers

Frome Tennis Club	Full	Con- cession	Autumn	Winter	Total	No 20% renewal
MEMBERSHIP 2021 / 2022					119	
Adult Full	87	2	12	4	105	59
Juniors	23		1	1		
Family	12		2	0	14	10
Family juniors	3					
MEMBERSHIP 2022/2023					110	
Adult Full	92	5	2	3	102	
Juniors	27					
Family	8				8	
Family juniors	3					

Thank you to AKM

It would be good to make sure the induction process works well Need more volunteers

Administration- finance and banking

The club incorporated in 2022 so this year end is the first as a company. AC has updated our banking arrangements and introduced an accounts software package. The accounts you have seen/will see are the product of this new process. It has also been a very busy year with all the development expenditure. A big thank you to AC for successfully navigating this transformation.

9. Development Projects

I am very pleased to say there are no plans to build anything over the next 12 months. However, we will be doing maintenance and the community courts will be spot repaired and repainted in the spring. Thinking about the courts, should we be considering a practise wall and do we need a new ball machine? Inside the Pavilion, I am hopeful we can start exploring the events we are now able to run and host.

Stephen has set a high bar with his ventures into international cuisine; Argentina next month sounds brilliant!

10 What else should be happening?

I have already circulated a note about help needed; I think the covid disruption followed by construction disruption has contributed to the loss some of the social events we used to hold. People have moved on and we are all older. We need some new faces to help.

We have the leaders/co-ordinators in in place;

Tennis events and use of the courts- Oli Leatham

- Championship Proposed Final Date: Last weekend of July
- Social Events: Every first Saturday of month - April to Oct (volunteers needed to host) OL to support with format
- Social events and use of the pavilion- Jacqui Close
- Communication using social media and website – Ollie Tucker

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If you feel you can help out, please let us know. There is no need to be on the committee and we would like to see several people all helping as a team.

With regards to coaching it would be great if we can encourage more young people to play and develop better links between the coaching programme juniors and the club. On the same theme it would be good to have more people involved in new member induction.

I am sure Bryan would welcome any help with maintenance and keeping things clean and tidy.

Administration

This will be my sixth year as chairman and I said when I took on the role that some time limits would be appropriate. 5 years in post is usually a good number. Last year was too busy to consider succession but this year should be quieter. I will stand down at the end of the year so the club will need a new chairman. Within the new incorporated structure, I am happy to stay on as a director so the chairman's role will be more related to playing tennis than managing the business of the club.

10. Election of Committee Members

The AGM re-elected the committee which is as follows;

- Mark Brierley (Chairman)
- Arthur Close (Treasurer)
- John Price (Development & Fundraising Officer)
- Alex Kershaw-Moore (Membership Secretary)
- Linda Perry (Welfare Officer)
- Bryan White (Maintenance Officer)
- Oli Leatham (Tournament Officer)
- Ollie Tucker (Communications)

Marc Higgins is happy to continue on the committee but feels he has not time to be the designated vice chair. J

and Jacqui Close was voted onto the committee as the social lead.

11. Any other business

None

Mark Brierley

FTC Chairman, 21/02/22