



THE GROVE LAWN TENNIS CLUB

East Street, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1NB T 01799 525573 W www.grovetennis.org.uk

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 4th April 2018 **The Club House at 7.30pm**

Members present: Alison Bentley, Simon Howell, Lynne Rushton, Tony Hopwood, Rachel Sullivan, Clare Jackson, Paul Kent, Norman Wells, Sally Harris, Val Forbes, Andy Rice, Helen Hillson, Rosemary Gorman, Krystyna Windle, John Guiver, Trisha Esplin, William Freeman, Tom Bowers, Martin Cash, Jane Bowen, Alyson Maskell, Penelope Maitland, Jane Paterson, Charles Hassel, Debbie Bowes, Annette Wyatt, Janet Rogers

Annual General Meeting

1. Apologies for Absence

Marcus Forgham, Malcolm Bentley, Natalie Howell, Simon McInnes, Katie McInnes, Pete Sharpe, Sally Lewis, Marc Squire, Beth Will, Eve Greenfold, Jean Harper.

2. Minutes from AGM 2017

The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.

Proposed by: James Marchant

Seconded by: William Freeman

3. Chairman's Report

Firstly, Simon Howell thanked everyone for making the effort to come to the AGM.

Simon reminded those present that he had been Chair for the past four years. He felt a fraud as he hadn't held any other position on the committee. It has been an interesting 4 years and he has seen some successes and some failures.

The biggest failure this year had been not managing to find a Treasurer. Out of 303 members, with only ~25 members attending the AGM, this was a sad reflection on the Club.

Martin Cash, who was not officially Treasurer this year, deserves a great deal of thanks getting us through the year – but he cannot continue next year.

The support from the Committee, through turmoil and coaching evolution, has been phenomenal. The service provided by Marc Squire and Tom Bowers has been excellent – we have a coaching team that wants to coach, whether you are a top player or average social player.

Juniors – these have been addressed and re-engaged.

Teams – huge amount of effort has gone into running these. William will go through this in more detail later.

We have loads of people playing; good quality team players and social players alike.

Facilities are being improved – courts & lights. Parking has been put on hold while we discuss the fencing. Court 5 will be discussed later in the meeting.



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The Club is really engaging, but we have been accused of being “set in our ways” and not modern. We now have fantastic facilities plus a on-line court booking – as well as membership subs online.

The Grounds, hedges are looking tired and James will be looking into this throughout the year. Martin Cash arranged for the painting of the club house this year – which looks amazing. I have really enjoyed playing here.

Thank you to all the committee members – all who have helped and worked with me over the 4 years.

Special thanks to the 2 x secretaries, Sally & Alison.

4. Treasurer's Report

Martin Cash gave the Treasurer's report – his fourth and definitely final one.

Income had increased £4500 from 2016 – largely due to subs.

Coach court fees (non-members pay a fee).

Slight decrease in match fees.

Expenditure income £3K. Ground £900. Electricity, new fixed term contract.

LTA fees up £600. Coach fees up £340.

Lanham's right off 2016 match fees bad debt £584.

Accountancy fees increase.

Loans:

Floodlights £25 2011 runs out 2021.

Courts refurbishment 2015 £30K – runs out 2020.

Bank balance healthy £80K.

Accounts accepted and approved:

Proposed: Simon Howell

Seconded: James Marchant

Auditors, Lanham's to be reappointed

Proposed: Paul Kent

Seconded: Helen Hillson

Simon Howell added grateful thanks once again to Martin Cash for covering the Treasurer's role for an extra year.

Next year we MUST have a new Treasurer in place. James Marchant reminded the members that the Treasurer role was to keep account of the day to day money and that the Accountants do the majority of putting together the accounts.



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5. House and Grounds report

This report was given by James Marchant.

James reviewed the work that had been undertaken during the year:

17 of 18 lights working. 4/5 courts pretty good.

We had outside contractors to conduct the upkeep the courts/grounds. In November we took decision and asked membership. Mick Ledge and Tony White taken on this role. Green shed – fill with equipment and they will help keep courts cleaned and brushed. Trying not to spend too much money on this.

We are also gradually maintaining the Clubhouse.

6. Social Report

This report was given by Simon Howell, in Malcolm Bentley's absence.

There will be a Quiz and Table Tennis tournament run this year.

If you have any suggestions for other social events, please send them to Malcolm.

This year, enthusiasm for outside of club social events has been low – people just seem to want to play tennis and not socialise outside.

Saturday social is dwindling. Tom and Marc to suggest any juniors who could be involved. Possibly run an event later in the year to help bring them into social.

Davis Cup event was well attended – perhaps run an event at that time of year again?

Lynne Rushton added that new members want to know how to get involved and would welcome more planned events – and more notice would be appreciated - perhaps a social calendar for the whole year could be uploaded onto the website?

Rachel asked for notices to be displayed in Clubhouse as well as emailed to members, with dates of tournaments etc.

Further suggestions to Malcolm Bentley please.

7. Matches and Tournaments secretary's report, in conjunction with Men's and Ladies Captains

This report given by William Freeman.

Firstly, apologies – scoreboards were updated incorrectly and will be rectified soon.

Last year saw a few changes.

1. Inaugural Charles Hassel Cup – 11 pairs in sunshine. Run again on 8th April – still some slots available.



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2. Inaugural Phillippa Frances Cup (with Castle Hill) – We will be hosting this event this year – 2nd June – in place of social tennis.
3. Mens Team – entered into Essex Small League to give more flexibility. This year we have switched 1 mens, 1 ladies and 1 mixed team and dropping 1 from Cambridge League. Good chance as less travel – could have juniors involved, but clashing with exams and study, so were not able to play. Essex league is more flexible as is run from September.

Results:

Summer Tournament, Blue ribbon event – William thanked the Captains for their support.

Out of 22 teams, we had 5 winners! We did have a couple of relegations, but we seem to be getting success at all different levels.

Finally – Club Championships. Last year moved to beginning of September – what do people want? Keep early September/early October? Hospital Cup is 22nd Sept. How can we get more people to play?

Let people know in advance – people book holidays. 6 months advance notice appreciated.

We made it later before but less people are signing up. If we started early – and publicize Finals date?

Debbie asked if committee would change the way it was organised – people would enter and names would be drawn from a hat. All games played on 1 day. Perhaps worth experimenting with this?

Rosemary – perhaps play over shorter period?

Paul K – good idea mixing teams. Could have a social event when draw takes place.

All agreed.

Debbie, Paul and Sally agreed to help William with organisation.

Extend singles period and start draw earlier.

Person at top – responsible for arranging match – if not person at bottom goes through.

Paul/Trisha:

Would like to thank sub Capts. who have done an exceptional job.

Trisha: Essex Small league – ladies team – great season. Looking forward to next season.

Paul: Strong squads, working with WF team capts. To produce very strong teams all the way up. This year will be as good as last year, if not better.



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8. Nominations and Election of Officers, Committee Members and Auditors

Committee:

Position: Chair
Name: Trisha Esplin
Proposer: Simon Howell
Seconded: James Marchant

Position: Treasurer

SH advised the meeting that to outsource this service would be ~£3K/year.

SH advised we have received quite a few applicants and asked the floor if they were apply for us to pay perhaps £20/hour – although weekly hours would need to be capped.

Agreed for Committee to look into outsourcing this position as no members were forthcoming to take up this position.

Position: Secretary
Name: Alison Bentley
Proposer: Simon Howell
Seconded: Trisha Esplin

Position: Match & Tournaments
Name: William Freeman
Proposer: Clare Jackson
Seconded: Martin Cash

Position: Grounds
Name: James Marchant
Proposer: Lynne Rushton
Seconded: Val Forbes

Position: Ladies Captain
Name: Debbie Bowes
Proposer: Trisha Esplin
Seconded: Clare Jackson

Position: Mens Captain
Name: Paul Kent
Proposer: Martin Cash
Seconded: Rosemary Gorman

Position: Public Relations
Name: Andy Rice
Proposer: Trisha Esplin



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Seconded: William Freeman

Position: Social Secretary
Name: Malcolm Bentley
Proposer: Clare Jackson
Seconded: Paul Kent

Position: House
Name: Val Forbes
Proposer: Trisha Esplin
Seconded: Sally Lewis

Other positions:

Position: Membership
Name: Lynne Rushton
Proposer: Simon Howell
Seconded: Rachel Sullivan

Position: Child Protection Officer
Name: Val Forbes (ad interim)
Proposer: Trisha Esplin
Seconded: Rosemary Gorman

SH presented those standing down with a bottle of something lovely... Trisha Esplin, Charles Hassel and Charlotte Harrington.

9. Members Report

Lynne Rushton.

No. of members: 172 Adult + 123 students/juniors/mini-juniors

Total 295.

+ 3 coaches, 2 county and 2 social members.

LTA recommend ~ 300 for the number of courts we have.

Clubspark worked really well.

Once new membership fees agreed, we will update website and AR will send email ~ 10th April.

Please pay by Direct Debit – only 1 year but saves a lot of work and will not automatically be taken next year.

1 or 2 issues with Family membership. Kids 18 or under. 18 or over = Adult member.

Tags will be in baskets for collection as before.

Please welcome new members! Queen of this is Moira.



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Visitors: **MUST** pay a visitors fee – please keep an eye out. It's in our interests. Shoe tags **MUST** be worn or on your tennis racket bag (but have this on court with you to avoid embarrassment). Visitors sign book and pay fee. Person who has invited visitor must take responsibility for this. There is a box on the wall for "Visitors Fees", or put money in envelope and post in letterbox. Visitors must be accompanied by a member!
Clubhouse keys for members - £25 to be paid by member if they wish to have one. Returnable when key is returned.

10. Subscriptions for the Year 2018/2019

Review concessions rate of £15 inc over 65's to £20-£25. £20 discount?

For: 10

Against: 12 REJECTED.

Proposed increase of 3%.

Subscriptions						
	2017			3% Increase	Total	2018 Proposed
Adult Full	£195.00			£5.85	£200.85	£200
Adult Daytime	£150.00			£4.50	£154.50	£155
Student	£60.00			£1.80	£61.80	£62
Family	£400.00			£12.00	£412.00	£412
Country	£102.00			£3.06	£105.06	£105
Social	£20.00			£0.60	£20.60	£21
Junior	£60.00			£1.80	£61.80	£62
Mini Junior	£33.00			£0.99	£33.99	£34
Joining Fee	£30.00			£0.90	£30.90	£30
Concessions	-£15.00			-£0.45	-£15.45	-£15
Late Renewal Surcharge	£10.00			£0.30	£10.30	£10 ?? Consider withdrawing this

(Students will have to show a valid student card to secure reduced rate).

It was agreed to withdraw the late renewal surcharge as it was difficult to use with the online system.

BUT you must pay visitor fee if you haven't paid your membership. Discuss at next committee meeting.

Proposed: Helen Hillson

Seconded: Tony Hopwood

Clarity for what age constitutes a "Senior Citizen" was clarified as **65 years of age** for Men and Women.

11. Coaches report

This report given by Tom Bowers as Marc Squire away.

Open Day – raised £840, which goes towards encouraging new players.

Junior groups are strong.

Adult programme going well. Healthy numbers for men's sessions. Whatsapp group has helped with this.

Payments: averaging £1K/term – really happy to contribute as we are trying to spend income to keep courts in good order.

Trial period inviting non-member adults joining programs.



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Nos. last term: 117 Juniors / 47 non-members. Resulting in strong conversion rates.

Want to get as many people playing as possible.

Social – up and down. Also during the day quiet.

Want to get juniors playing more and in a more structured way.

Court 5 has been unplayable at times.

Sunday is Family Social – encourage parents to come to the Club.

Coaching Team proposes:

Sunday late afternoon/evening, bottom 3 courts are for Junior social – initially headed up by a Coach – later by a parent.

Fixtures – lots of matches start @ 1.30pm.

5pm – 7pm Junior Social on 3 courts on 6 month trial. If successful, Committee can vote.

Only reason it would be stopped would be hassle.

Tuesday and Friday purely junior night social – supervised by Coach (and Rosie & Janet). £1 for balls.

Approved

Monday night – older juniors. Small slot. Floodlight – covered. Supervised by Coach. 5.00-7.00pm open to juniors and adults on 2 courts.

Ladies 1st team matches start at 7pm.

Approved.

Essentially we have loads of juniors playing – would be good to give them more social. Coaches will only charge for subs for floodlights.

Moving pro-rata rate to September when kids join for summer term coaching. Committee agreed.

Approved.

Add pro-rata rate January – March?

Not including juniors or mini-juniors, but Adult and Family only.

Approved

Club Rule 6-7pm Tuesday no junior play.

During winter months, it was noted that there was no regular play, and added that it would be helpful to get some extra coaching during this time – on the proviso that if adults come, the juniors come off.

The following was proposed and agreed to:

Court 5 only – 6.00-7.00pm private lesson (not group coaching).

Tuesday – private lesson only Court 5 6-7pm – Agreed.

Tuesday – winter months only extend time 5-6.30pm (up until Easter, extra ½ hr for groups on 2 bottom courts).

Approved

Social Sub Committee (Saturday) – regular members for social – help organise people in playing ability. Kitty for cakes coffee etc.

TB to come down on a Saturday.

Non-juniors – pay extra for coaching.

Trial last year – adults.

Continue for juniors?



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Juniors £3 / Adults £5

Conversion:

Continue as another trials to see how many are converted to new members.

Approved

12. Court 5

James Marchant explained that Court 5 was unusable at times due to bad drainage on court. We had 2 main options.

1. Take some of sand up and lay to Astro.
2. Strip court and re-lay as Astro or new clay.

Have to pull up surface anyway.

Quite a few members who do not like playing on clay. LTA originally suggested clay was the way to coach juniors, but question is would we use it more if we put down tiger turf.

Or we could of course change it to a hard court, as that would be a lot cheaper. This last suggestion was strongly rejected.

Agreed for James to investigate most suitable option – Astro or new clay, and to go ahead with this.

Approved

13. Fencing court 2

Poles x 2 snapped = £650 to repair. Unfortunately, they only lasted 6 months.

Options are to replace 3 posts £2K + VAT, or replace whole section @ £7K + VAT.

Agreed we should fix properly along the side court 2. Have windbreaks lowered and fix new windbreaks.

The meeting agreed to support the Committee to do what is best.

14. AOB

Sally – Social Winter League.

Would like to chat about making teams more even – she has an idea how to do this and would be happy to organise.

Clare Jackson – Hospital Cup. Enter and pay by Friday.

Paul Kent – list of members emailable.

Rosemary Gorman asked who we should buy tennis balls from? It was advised to purchase these from William Freeman – he will work out cost.

It was advised that we can send balls away and get £40 – or we could take balls and use at school. Committee to discuss.

Paul Kent – booking courts online. To be investigated.

All team fixtures to be added please at start of season and put up hard copy on noticeboard.

Tokens – to be purchased from Clare Jackson and William Freeman.



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Martin Cash – latest employee liability insurance – propose changes for junior coaching – who manages? Marc Squire.

Wimbledon Draw.

LTA have made it easier to opt-in.

This year 103 members opted in and we were only allocated 16 pairs of tickets.

Until membership bother to sign in, our ticket allocation will keep reducing.

PLEASE opt-in for the Wimbledon draw every year – even if you do not wish to go to Wimbledon, your fellow Grove members might like to have the opportunity.

Draw by 25th May this year. All to attend if you would like the chance of tickets.

There being no additional business, SH thanked everyone for making the effort to come along.

Thanks was also given to Simon Howell for another great year.

Meeting finished @ 2150hrs.

A A Bentley - Secretary