

HADDINGTON TENNIS CLUB

Minutes of AGM 22 February 2021

Committee Attendees

Ewen MacPherson	(EM)
Brian East	(BE)
Gwen Andrew	(GA)
Bruce Clark	(BC)
Irene Clark	(IC)
Jonathan Simpson (Coach)	(JS)
Andrew Hockey	(AN)
David Tomlinson	(DT)

Members

Rudi Fruzynski	(RF)
Andrew Hall	(AH)
Iain Galloway	(IG)

Apologies

Moirra Carson
Stuart Falconer
Shona Bowen
Alistair McKay
Norman Mackenzie
Joanna Drewitt
Robert Dick
Eileen Anderson

Covid restrictions prevented the 2021 AGM from being held as a public meeting. The meeting was held online using Zoom virtual meeting facility. Unfortunately, this had an impact on the numbers of members that were able to attend.

Item	Agenda Points	Action
1	Welcome and Chairman Report See attached Chairman's report No questions	EM
2	Secretary Report See attached Secretary's report Questions Floodlight tokens – To date little interest, only 2 members have asked to purchase tokens. The club has a very limited supply and will request the Aubigny Sports centre return floodlight tokens they hold. Q: AH should the club purchase more tokens? A: Club may purchase additional tokens if those held by the Aubigny cannot be recovered.	DT DT
3	Treasurer's report See attached 2020-21 Financial Accounts and Treasurer's report. Sinking Fund reserve £23,281.30. East Lothian Council (ELC) stipulated that the club put aside monies for ongoing maintenance. Questions: Q: AH asked whether the annual provision of £5,331.50 is sufficient to cover cost of maintenance and resurfacing of the courts in the future. The meeting agreed that the sinking fund may not cover the cost to resurface the courts in the future, only to maintain them. Court cleaning cost £3,375 in 2019. The courts will require cleaning and repainting by 2022/23. The committee to review the annual provision and may have to increase the annual contribution to the sinking fund reserve to ensure the fund will cover the cost to resurface the courts in future. Q: RF asked whether ELC will provide financial support for the maintenance of the courts being the owners. A: ELC dictate that the courts should be made available for use by the local schools and community. BE advised that following the cost of installation of approx. £250k, ELC stated they would not provide further financial support for maintenance of the courts and that the	BE

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	<p>club would be responsible. BE advised that Stuart Pride had done an enormous amount of work as an ELC officer at no charge which was effectively a funding in kind for the new courts.</p> <p>RF asked for details in relation to the long-term debtor - ELC £2,665</p> <p>BE advised that this was the first instalment to the sinking fund (representing 6 months) paid to ELC and held by them. Following this payment BE negotiated that future payments into the sinking fund reserve would be held in a 30-day notice account in the name of the club. The club will be able to recover the £2,665 only when an invoice for court maintenance is directed for payment through them. ELC will settle the invoice and ask the club to pay any shortfall from the sinking fund reserve held by the club.</p>	
4	<p>Membership Secretary Report (See attached)</p> <p>Membership fees for 2021 £80 adult, £160 family, £140 couple, £30 junior and £15 minis was proposed and seconded by RF at the meeting.</p> <p>The meeting discussed a student rate to try to retain 18–25-year-old members who could not afford the full adult membership fee. The meeting agreed that the loss of young adults as they leave the junior umbrella is the biggest issue facing all clubs in attracting and retaining young adults. GA to look at what other clubs are charging. A fee of £40 - £60 was discussed. JS encouraged inviting over 16's juniors to club nights. Next committee meeting agenda.</p> <p>Payment of fees to be deferred to the end of April if lockdown continues to restrict access to the courts for social tennis doubles. Potential to reduce the annual subscription fees if restrictions are to continue beyond end of April.</p> <p>AH advised that adult membership at his previous club was £130 and asked whether the committee agree that the £80 adult membership fee is cheap. The meeting agreed that the membership fees are cheap by comparison.</p> <p>The club does hold a General Reserve of £11,444.</p> <p>AH advised that his previous club paid a retainer payment for the coach. The coach gave additional time to represent the club, manage competitive tennis teams for all ages and to support an events programme for the membership.</p> <p>From his experience the membership enjoyed the competitive element the matches and events provided. Fun events organised around the tennis majors Wimbledon 'strawberries and cream' with fancy dress for players. Events included a bbq/bar tent.</p> <p>HTC does not provide a competitive environment; match play is sketchy and requires membership to organise and captain teams. HTC will consider a move to generate a competitive spirit within the club in the near future and will discuss this at future committee meetings.</p> <p>The meeting requested input from JS on AH point of generating a competitive element of play for the membership and establishment of members events. See Baseline Tennis report.</p>	<p>BC</p> <p>GA DT</p> <p>JS</p>
5	<p>Baseline Tennis Coaching Report (See attached report provided following the meeting)</p> <p>The report details the junior and adult coaching plan discussed during the meeting. The planned expansion of the coaching programme to support both junior and adult increased interest follows a successful 2020 programme. This is despite the lockdown restrictions imposed. JS reported that 42 juniors per week have signed up for the under 12's courses. Baseline tennis has included an Easter camp (12-16 April) and two Summer Camps in its report.</p>	JS

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	<p>HTC have 50 active junior members taking coaching courses (including family members). This is up from 30 the year before.</p> <p>JS route map:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add coaching sessions accessible to members • Junior and adult competitions in club and cross country • Tennis Scotland junior and adult leagues <p>The club is paid £2 per session for non-members. JS suggested that the club increase the additional charge for non-members to further incentivise junior memberships. Next committee meeting agenda.</p> <p>Competitive tennis is included in the plan with an emphasis on the juniors. The committee to discuss with JS how competitive tennis can be provided for adult members when restrictions are lifted (ladders, box leagues in club) in addition to member events. Funding will also be discussed. Next committee meeting agenda. There was discussed around setting up a working party.</p> <p>JS advised that coaching courses will only book three courts. The fourth court will be left for members to book.</p> <p>Booking arrangements for competitive tennis have not been agreed pending more detail from Tennis Scotland.</p> <p>The meeting discussed supporting JS at coaching sessions. PVG certification will be required for any volunteers. The meeting discussed the impact on members if additional courts are used as is planned for the primary school, Compass school and Knox academy.</p> <p>RF noted that the club is funded predominately by the adult memberships. Plans outlined above must be tempered to ensure access to courts for a growing adult membership is retained to the satisfaction of the members.</p>	DT
6	<p>Court Maintenance</p> <p>Mares tail weed on the North East corner of the courts continues to be a problem, it can only be suppressed and not eradicated. ELC sprayed the outside of the courts in October to control the weed. Weed control will be required annually to limit the risk of the weed breaking through the surface of the courts.</p> <p>The provision of new nets was proposed for this year at a cost of approx. £550. The meeting suggested that the purchase be delayed until the courts are next cleaned and re-painted. The nets have been repaired by JT using cable ties at or near the cleat that attaches the net retainer at the centre of each net. The nets will be assessed in the spring with the view to extending life into 2022.</p> <p>Cleaning and repainting the courts, planned for 2022.</p> <p>AH raised concern in relation to the deterioration of the court surface if it is not painted. Members trainers losing grip on the surface resulting in falls. It was agreed that the contractor who laid the courts, will be asked to assess the court surface condition and provide a report as to action recommended together with a cost estimate for any work outlined. Next committee meeting agenda.</p> <p>RF proposed covering a court with tarpaulins attached to the net posts and exterior fencing</p>	<p>All</p> <p>DT</p> <p>DT</p>

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	<i>for frost protection. This would enable courts to be playable on winter mornings/evenings. For storage a lockable metal storage box could be placed along the fencing adjacent to the cricket nets. The meeting raised points around who would be responsible for covering and uncovering the courts when necessary. Next committee meeting agenda.</i>																																									
7	<p>Publicity</p> <p>The year started off well with the promotion of the 2020 coaching sessions, which included an A5 flyer that was distributed at the school gates and to nearby homes with a focus on the new housing being built. Posters distributed to local shops/schools in Haddington and Gifford; and online promotion on ELCC and the Courier websites as well as our own HTC facebook page. An extendable free-standing banner was produced which will be used to publicise upcoming events (e.g. the reception area of the Aubigny Sports Centre).</p> <p>Publicity for the summer holiday camps also included promotion of the camps on local radio station East Coast FM over a two-week period as well as a live on air interview with JS. Feedback showed that 55% of people became aware of the camps via the HTC email, with 27% finding out via JS Baseline/HTC facebook pages. GA asked that members post anything that is relevant on HTC facebook and 'share' with friends to help increase awareness of what is happening at the club. (in August the post of HTC facebook page promoting the junior tennis programme had 959 hits).</p> <p>In May we published our first newsletter and now had three issues. The newsletter will be published quarterly and members should email htcmembership@btinternet.com with suggestions of what they'd like to see in the newsletter. Previous issues can be found in the 'news' section on the HTC website.</p> <p>GA thanked Jane Scott for her invaluable help with designing publicity material again. RF and the meeting also thanked GA for the creativity she has brought to the role.</p>	GA																																								
8	<p>Election of Officers</p> <p>The meeting was asked if they wish to stand for any of the posts or for their support for the following incumbents:</p> <table><thead><tr><th></th><th></th><th>Proposed</th><th>Seconded</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Chairman</td><td>Ewen MacPherson</td><td>BE</td><td>DT</td></tr><tr><td>Secretary</td><td>David Tomlinson</td><td>EM</td><td>GA</td></tr><tr><td>Treasurer</td><td>Brian East</td><td>BC</td><td>RF</td></tr><tr><td>Membership Secretary</td><td>Bruce Clark</td><td>RF</td><td>BE</td></tr><tr><td>Club Coach</td><td>Jonathan Simpson</td><td colspan="2">Not applicable</td></tr><tr><td>Publicity</td><td>Gwen Andrew</td><td>DT</td><td>RF</td></tr><tr><td>Ladies Representative</td><td>Irene Clark</td><td>GA</td><td>EM</td></tr><tr><td>Court Maintenance</td><td>John Tweeddale</td><td>DT</td><td>GA</td></tr><tr><td>Covid Officer</td><td>Andrew Hockey</td><td>GA</td><td>DT</td></tr></tbody></table>			Proposed	Seconded	Chairman	Ewen MacPherson	BE	DT	Secretary	David Tomlinson	EM	GA	Treasurer	Brian East	BC	RF	Membership Secretary	Bruce Clark	RF	BE	Club Coach	Jonathan Simpson	Not applicable		Publicity	Gwen Andrew	DT	RF	Ladies Representative	Irene Clark	GA	EM	Court Maintenance	John Tweeddale	DT	GA	Covid Officer	Andrew Hockey	GA	DT	EM
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9	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Discussion around Working parties/groups containing a few of the club members (with specific interest in the topic) to support the committee on specific issues to ease the burden on the committee and provide expertise and alternative views on solutions.</p> <p>A working party of members to support JT in court maintenance will be discussed at the next meeting. Concern was expressed that JT had been seen erecting the wind screen around the court without any support on ladders etc. This is an accident waiting to happen.</p> <p>Next committee meeting agenda.</p>	All 																																								

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	<p>Court etiquette. Meeting discussed language and the movement of members behind courts when in play. The next newsletter to include an article on the subject to highlight concerns.</p> <p>Treasurer for 2022:BE indicated that he would be standing down as Treasurer next year.</p>	GA
	Meeting closed 22:00 hrs.	