

Haxey Tennis Club

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 27th February 7pm 2024

Venue: Virtual meeting on Zoom hosted by Rick Carter

Minutes

1. **Attendees** – Rick Carter, Liz Duncanson, Teresa O'Connor, Margaret Connor, Korena Gavin, David Gavin, Andrew Jesson, Amanda Storrs, Ashleigh Blackwell, Sue Matthews, Bill Matthews, Angela Moorehouse, Ann Flower
2. **Apologies**- John Windle, Alison Turner, Mark Bond, John Willis, Colin Dickerson, Richard Morley
3. **Minutes of previous meeting 07.03.23** and matters arising: Minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Margaret Connor and seconded by Korena Gavin.
4. **Chairman's Report 2024**

So, in my 10th report as Chair, it would have been really nice to have some good news to tell you about the club development project but, although I am sure there is some coming in just a few days, I don't want to jump the gun only for those hopes to be dashed. Next year will be the club's 60th Anniversary, having been formed in 1965 so, it would be great to be able to report that, after 4 long years, the development of the club's facilities and the changing of the club structure have finally started to happen. Also, if anyone has any ideas about how we can celebrate the 60th year, please let us know.

MEMBERSHIP At the end of January, the number of members had dropped to 62, down from 96 in 2022. Whilst this is obviously disappointing, I think it was probably due to a number of people, particularly families, who had taken advantage of the 50% discount we offered in 2022, finding that the huge increase in the cost of living too much to be able to afford to renew at the full price. There was also the quite large increase during COVID that has not been sustained. We are trying to market the club more and we have introduced the monthly payment option to help people's finances. I also want to try to help the Junior Outreach programme by making it free for Under 11's to join as the next generation of tennis players is not coming through and it seems a common theme not just in our club.

So, if any members know of any relatives or friends who might want to take up tennis by joining us, referral is often the best way to increase numbers.

ON COURT In 2023, we strengthened our relationship with our **Coaching** team, John and Jake and there is now a Coaching Plan in place to try to bring many more Juniors to the club and we are keen to support that going forward.

There are currently Family coaching sessions on Saturday mornings, Junior and Intermediate coaching on Monday nights and the coached Team Practice nights will start again soon.

The one thing I am particularly keen to get going again is the **beginner sessions** as we have a number of people interested but have not yet come up with a solution that fits for both Coaches and beginners but I will do everything I can to restart these sessions as soon as possible as they are vital for any club wanting to encourage more people into the sport and hopefully into the club.

Unfortunately, the **League** season in 2023 was not so positive. In the Gainsborough Evening League, our 2nd team were relegated, leaving two of our 3 teams now in the bottom division but I have great hopes for the coming season and I'm sure they can bounce straight back.

Results were not great for the other teams either but the first team did finish the season strongly to come a creditable 3rd place after facing the threat of possible relegation earlier in the season. The third team also didn't get the results they would have hoped for but really, this is a team that introduces people into playing a little more competitive tennis so is more about enjoying playing tennis and developing players to be able to help out the other teams if needed.

So, another big thank you to all the Captains, David, Korena and Alison for doing a great job in a difficult season last year.

A ladies team was again entered in the Gainsborough Winter League and thanks to all who played and to Korena and Alison for organising. I know Liz and Ann Flower stepped up to represent the club occasionally and I hope they do again as I can definitely see an improvement in their confidence and standard.

We decided to run seasonal internal club **Doubles Tournaments** in 2023 and whilst the 1st Team Captain, Mr Gavin was a constant in the winners box in all 3 tournaments, he was ably assisted in Spring by Mark Bond, by myself in Summer and by Alison Turner in the Autumn competition. Unfortunately, the Winter Tournament had to be cancelled but we hope to run the Spring one quite soon.

The weekly social tennis events on Tuesday mornings, Friday afternoons and Sunday mornings have all been really popular again and have run throughout the year. It would be great to see more of our newer members at these sessions as they are great for beginners or just for meeting some of the other members.

After this AGM, we have our monthly Committee meeting at which we will be finalising the Calendar of Events for the year but one date I would like to make you all aware of is Sunday 14th April when we will be holding a tennis equipment and merchandise day from 11am where you will have the chance to try out different racquets, clothing footwear etc. A supplier from Sheffield will be bringing samples for everyone to try plus there will be samples of the club's own clothing and David has kindly offered to let us use his ball machine, so hope you can come along.

FINANCES Finances have again improved slightly but we unfortunately had to cancel the Fashion Show due to lack of interest.

At this point, I would like to give our thanks to our out-going Treasurer, Teresa, who has decided to step down after many years of looking after our books. Her dedication to the role is quite admirable when you consider she doesn't actually get any reward from playing the game. Also, as Head Chef at the annual BBQ, she has always brought her own particular style to the catering which leaves the rest of us to be able to concentrate on the tennis so, I really hope Teresa will stay part of the club. And also many thanks to Andrew, who has also had to step down from the Committee due to his increasing work commitments but hopes to be playing much more tennis in around 12 months time.

JUNIORS In 2023, we launched our Junior Outreach programme as the lack of young players was proving a major issue for the club. Some necessary groundwork was done by Korena and the Coaches to get into the schools but we weren't able to organise an event last year so there is an Easter Tennis and Sports Camp for kids in the first two weeks of April and a larger Kid's Open Day is

planned for May/June time when we are hoping to have around a hundred kids attending which would be fantastic.

CLUB DEVELOPMENT PLAN So, you may be aware, we started the club's development plan in 2020 to add a third court, convert all 3 courts to an all-weather surface with new, improved floodlights and the addition of a new clubhouse.

In July 2023, we were granted final planning permission after amending the footprint design. The change of design was to basically leave the existing courts in more or less the same place facing NS with a new court facing East West in place of the toddlers play area at the end, which the PFA want to move next to the other equipment anyway.

This change from the original scheme with all 3 courts facing EW should reduce the project cost quite a bit. It was also decided to split it down into sub projects to try to help with the funding. So, Phase 1 Floodlighting is what we are currently working on and this will seriously improve the current lighting which is less than adequate and can be dangerous at times.

To help with the grant funding, we also needed to have a formal Lease Agreement with the Playing Field Association and to change the club structure to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation to ensure that Committee members are not personally exposed to any financial debts and open up more avenues to funding. This is progressing well and we should hear something on this very soon.

I normally finish off by giving a quick thank you to the Committee for all their hard work but this time I thought I should just list some of the events that were organised in 2023 just to show the value for money that members get for their membership and to just show some of the tremendously hard work that they do on our behalf.

There were a couple of Ice Cream Sunday tennis events

a free Family Open Day

a free Pilates event on the field, kindly offered by Sue Wakefield

the Coronation Open Day

a Scouts Open evening

Christmas Tinsel Tennis

Club Fun Tournaments

the end of season barbecue

none of which were spoiled by the weather thankfully.

There was also the members Xmas meal at the Loco that was really well attended and a real good chance for members to get together in a social atmosphere.

So, all of this is going on behind the scenes plus the club Newsletters, emails and the mountains of administration involved with the policies and procedures we need to have in place and all the hoops we have to jump through to comply with Safeguarding requirements. So, I would like to thank the

Committee on behalf of the club and also I would like to pay a special thank you to Margaret, our Welfare Officer and Liz, our Secretary as they take the brunt of this very time consuming work.

5. Team Captains' Reports

David reported that the **1st team** finished 3rd in a tight competition, all hinging on the last 2 games which we won. We had 16 different players and good team rotation.

Korena reported that the **2nd team** enjoyed kind weather but lost in the semis and so came 7th out of 8 in the evening league so may get relegated. Korena also commented on the success of all 3 captains in working together to ensure that teams were full. Korena thanked all team players for taking part.

3rd Team report sent by Alison:

- *Performance*

In terms of results the team did not win any matches and remained bottom of the table. We did though get close and had some good games. Although we went down to the 3rd League at the end of last season, the standard of play did not drop and in fact we have found ourselves playing the same teams as in the 2nd League the year before.

All team members have improved mainly due to the Coaching and Team Training. Most of the main members of the third team attend Monday night coaching and Team Training sessions (when these resume) so we are all learning now tactics and strategies which can be implemented in matches.

- *The Team*

The Squad remains stable and consists of: Myself (Alison Turner) Colin Dickerson Mark Bond Austin Stanniland Gill Harrison Trish (not attempting to spell her surname) Vivek Kumar Duncan Cruickshank Boyd Walton We can also call upon the following to play if we are short: Bill Matthews Damian Mcentegart Lyddi (until she is back to fitness and ready to play for the seconds) Amanda Liz

- *Going forward The team are all keen to play. We have elected to carry on with Weds evening for our home matches. Winter Weekend League/Summer Winter League We have played in the Ladies weekend winter league which only involves 5 matches. We have played 3 to date and won two of those so we are mid-table and have held our own. There is some suggestion from Declan that they would like to run weekend matches in the summer both mixed, ladies and gents. My view is that this may be too much of a commitment given the evening leagues which Haxey is already committed too and given that Haxey also enjoys a full programme of social tennis and internal competitions and events which are often run at the weekend. But this could be discussed at the AGM to see what the view is. I am happy to organise the Ladies if the consensus is to run this.*

David also reported that 27 players have confirmed for the coming year and 3 are possibles.

Korena expressed our thanks to John and Jake for the coaching. Andrew pointed out that all the teams had fun.

6. **Financial Report and approval of budget for coming year**

Teresa reported that finances are looking healthy.

Current account 31st Jan 2024 £ 2,005.90

Deposit account 31st Jan 2024 £ 9,290.47

Total at bank £ 11,296.37

This ensures we have £10,000 spare for match funding. It was suggested we could move another £500 from current to deposit.

Teresa made special thanks to David and Korena for fund-raising, Colin for obtaining a gift of £1000 and Rick for obtaining grants.

Rick thanked Teresa for all her hard work looking after our finances. Banking details will need to be transferred from Teresa to new treasurer.

The financial report was proposed by Andrew and seconded by David. –

7. Election of committee

Chair - Rick Carter

Vice-Chair and Coaching Co-Ordinator – John Windle to be confirmed (Since the meeting John has confirmed that he will stay on as Vice-Chair but wishes to drop the role of Coaching Co Ordinator)

Treasurer – David Gavin

Secretary - Liz Duncanson

Team Captains – Korena Gavin, David Gavin and Alison Turner

Committee Members – Margaret Connor (welfare Officer) and Amanda Storrs

Above was proposed by Teresa and seconded by Amanda.

8. **Passing of Resolutions**

Rick proposed free membership for under 11's – to be discussed at committee meeting.

Rick also proposed that we look into setting up automatic renewal on Clubspark.

9. Any other business – none.