

Haxey Tennis Club
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 25th February 7pm 2025
Venue: Cricket Pavilion

Minutes

1. **Attendees** – Rick Carter, Liz Duncanson, Margaret Connor, David Gavin, Andrew Jesson, Amanda Storrs, Ann Flower, John Windle, Mel Twidale, Alison Turner, Tracey Carter, Colin Dickerson, Lydia Brookes
2. **Apologies**- John Willis, Richard Morley, Korena Gavin, Polly Sculthorpe, Jake Walker, David Turner
3. **Minutes of previous meeting 27.01.24** and matters arising: Minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Margaret Connor and seconded by Liz Duncanson.
Since the meeting it was agreed not to pursue free membership for under 11's due to safeguarding issues. Automatic renewal has been set up on Clubspark.
4. **Chairman's Report 2025**

In last year's report, I was desperate to be able to report some good news about the Development Project but, as you all know, finally, after 5 long years of waiting, it is happening.

So, hopefully by the second week in March of the club's 60th anniversary year, we should have 3 new, all-weather, floodlit courts and hopefully, a new clubhouse before too much longer.

CLUB STRUCTURE As part of the fund raising process for the project, we were advised to put the club on a more secure financial footing and, after a lot of work from the Committee, (most of whom have now become club Trustees as part of the application process), in April, the club became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, which now means that none of the Committee could be individually liable and the club has limited liability in the event of any problems with the project.

MEMBERSHIP At the end of January, the number of members had increased to 89 from 62 in the previous year. This is a good result but obviously we are hopeful this will increase significantly when the new courts are finished and we'll do everything we can to publicise them, although I'm fairly sure people will only have to see them to become interested.

The monthly payment option was introduced to help anyone suffering from the cost-of-living crisis and I'm glad to say, it has proved quite popular and has meant we now have a regular monthly income, rather than all at once which was more difficult to budget for.

We also set up a Pay & Play facility and that too has been well used and has provided a new revenue stream.

There is quite a lot of work involved in the Membership part of the Clubspark website and Korena has been excellent in managing it for us.

COACHING I am glad to say that we now have a much more professional relationship with our Coaching team and that is partly thanks to John and Jake but also to Korena and Alison and we now have a formal Coaching Plan in place to offer Junior, Family, Intermediate and Advanced Coaching , Team Practice nights and Skills Workshops. The club also showed its commitment to the partnership by investing over £1,000 in the purchase of the Coaching strong box and new coaching balls and equipment.

Despite running a family camp in the school holidays, the number at junior coaching is still quite low although the numbers did pick up before the court closure but I am really hopeful the numbers will increase further when the new courts are finished. One big plus point in the juniors has been the addition of Mollie and Emily and Mum and Dad, Carl and Tracy who have not only represented the club in Junior Leagues but have been really successful and given the club profile a much needed boost.

One big disappointment has been the lack of a solution for Beginners Coaching. Despite trying a number of different options, we have not been able to come up with a solution to get any sessions going that suits both Coaches and the people who have asked for basic level coaching but we will continue to pursue it and again, the extra court may help with that.

TEAMS On the Team front, in the midweek Gainsborough League, the 1st Team ended 5th in Division 2 but a rained off match at Scotter towards the end of the season, that we had looked like winning, stopped us ending 3rd so not a bad return, considering.

In Division 3, the 2nd team managed to avoid relegation by a spirited end to their season.

But the real winners last year were our 3rd team who, having struggled to win any matches at all in 2023, produced 6 wins in 24, a great result and showing a much-improved strength of depth in our squads for the coming season.

So, once again, a big thank you to David, Alison and especially to retiring 2nd team captain, Korena for doing a great job over the years she has been running the show and good luck to the new 2nd team Captain, Lydia.

The weekend Gainsborough Winter League has seen some players new to team tennis but a number of matches have been called off but hopefully, our all-weather surface will mean more can be played next Winter. Well done to Ash and Alison for running the two mixed teams which are still going on.

We ran the seasonal, internal, club Doubles Tournaments again and added a new Singles tournament, both of which seemed very popular so thanks to David for running them and congratulations to all the winners:

SPRING DOUBLES WINNERS PHIL METTAM DAVID GAVIN

AUTUMN SINGLES TOURNAMENT WINNER DAVID GAVIN

BBQ DOUBLES WINNERS KORENA GAVIN ANTHONY GUDGER

Unfortunately, the Winter Doubles Tournament had to be cancelled again this year after having to rearrange it once, only for the courts to be closed for the development work but we hope to run the Spring one soon.

Once again, David featured prominently taking both the Singles and the Spring Doubles crowns, so we all need to either up our games or work out just exactly how he manages to win the tournaments he organises ??

The weekly social tennis events on Tuesday mornings, Friday afternoons and Sunday mornings have again been really popular and have run throughout the year. Unfortunately, we had to move Club Nights to Saturday afternoons to make room for the increased numbers of people wanting intermediate level coaching but it has not proved very popular so we will need to have another look at that, when we have an extra court.

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.

FINANCES Finances have obviously been impacted by our contributions to the development work so, it will be necessary to try to recoup some of the sinking fund to hopefully raise the money for the new clubhouse. Thanks to David for taking over the Finances in addition all his other roles.

CLUB DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

So, as I'm sure you're all aware now, Phase 1 was the new floodlighting for the existing courts which was completed in early October. Just a word of apology about that, the lights will be adjusted downwards to take away a lot of the glare we have all experienced when the new court is finished.

Phase 2 is the new third floodlit court, new fencing and all-weather surface and , as I mentioned earlier, with a bit of luck, will be completed by the 2nd week of March in time for the new season.

The final phase is the new clubhouse, which I will be able to start looking at possible funding streams when the current work is complete.

So, a big thank you to all the Committee for all their hard work in organising the many events throughout the year to just highlight the tremendous value for money that members get for their membership.

The meeting thanked Rick for all his hard work over the last 5 years in securing necessary funding for the development project.

5. Team Captains' Reports

Team captains will be meeting soon to plan for the coming season.

David reported that the **1st team** had a decent season and only ended up in 5th position because of a cancelled match. 15 players were on the team with Rick being the most prolific, playing in all the matches.

2nd Team Report from Korena – 2024 was a tough season, with the quality of play constantly growing. But we worked together as a team and never gave up.

Players were rotated and everyone got several games. There were a few occasions where I enlisted the help of David and Alison. Between the 3 of us we always made it work, even on the night when all 3 teams had a match. We came 6th out of 7 teams in the 3rd division. (North Wheatley pulled their team mid-season)

We were lucky with the weather this season, with only 1 match to reschedule due to rain.

Sadly Haxey 2 were knocked out in the first round of the Holmes Cup by a strong Brigg team who went all the way to the final, but lost to North Scarle. Thankyou to everyone who played for me this season, all of your efforts were much appreciated. But it's time to hang up my captain's hat and hand you over to Lydia Brookes. Let's smash everyone in the 2025 season.

3rd Team by Alison:

We had a successful 2024 season. We had the most games ever and we played all 18, so a big achievement in itself. In terms of results, we won 6 matches and ended up 8 out of 10 in League 4. The Team will therefore remain in League 4 for the 2025 season.

As always, the 3rd team does not measure success solely in terms of matches won, but in getting more club players playing team tennis and improving in match play and confidence. This has been achieved, helped by the number of matches and also the Monday night coaching and team coaching, all of which helps integrated new members into the club.

As well as all the regular players, the team was bolstered by some new members – Anthony Gudger, Gary Proctor and of course our two younger members Molly and Emily Ryde.

This season I can also add Dean Booth who comes to coaching and has played in the winter league games. There are also some new players coming down to coaching on Monday night and Alison is hopeful they may be persuaded to join and to play in the 3rd team.

The 3rd team are looking forward to the 2025 season and would like to continue to play home matches on a Weds night. Alison is happy to continue as 3rd team captain unless anyone else would like to do so.

Well done to all who played, we had a great team spirit throughout and I hope everyone enjoyed playing.

Coaching Report by Alison

The coaching programme has been successful, so much so that the Adult coaching programme has had to split into two levels. So, the following coaching is taking place.

Monday Junior Coaching Programme

Monday Evening Adult Intermediary Level

Friday Evening Adult Advanced Level

Saturday Morning Family Coaching

Also, the paid for Team Coaching takes place in the Autumn. At present the coaching is being run temporarily from Epworth whilst the development work is being done. But once we can the coaching will take place at Haxey.

As well as Jake and John we also have Korena training to be a coach and has achieved her LTA Assistant Coaching level with a distinction.

6. Financial Report and approval of budget for coming year

David talked us through the Annual accounts sheet for 24/25 (see attached 3 sheets)

Current account 31 st Jan 2025	£ 7,058.16
Deposit account 31 st Jan 2025	£ 22,917.51
Total at bank	£ 29,975.67

Obviously, this is impacted by the development project and the coming year will be tight but we should end up with around £5K.

Colin queried the recent subscription rate changes and why single adult has not changed. It was agreed to leave it this year and review next year.

Colin also raised the need for our 60th anniversary celebrations and this will be included when the committee plans events for coming year.

7. Election of committee

Chair - Rick Carter Proposed by John and seconded by Andrew

Vice-Chair – John Windle Proposed by Liz and seconded by Amanda

Treasurer – David Gavin Proposed by Alison and seconded by Amanda

Secretary - Liz Duncanson Proposed by John and seconded by Lydia

Team Captains – Lydia Brookes, David Gavin and Alison Turner

Committee Members – Margaret Connor (welfare Officer), Tracey Carter, Korena Gavin(Membership) and Amanda Storrs

Above was proposed by Amanda and seconded by Alison.

8. **Passing of Resolutions**

The meeting thanked Alison for all her hard work on the new constitution which was adopted when we became a CIO. The new constitution was accepted, proposed by Alison Turner and seconded by Rick Carter.

Alison to add AGM to Club rules. Liz to put copy of constitution in clubhouse. Rick to put new constitution on website.

9. Any other business – Ann thanked the committee for all their hard work.

Colin asked if the groundsman's hut was a listed building and would make a possible site for a new clubhouse. It was felt that there wouldn't be enough sun. Rick to look at possible locations and sizing when new perimeter fence is erected.

It was noted that Playing Fields Association will be installing WIFI to the site.

Rick to check lying water on new court with contractors.

(Since the meeting the contractors have confirmed that this is part of the curing process and will eventually disappear)

The meeting ended at 8pm