



HIGH WYCOMBE LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Annual General Meeting 20 November 2019 at 7:30 pm

Minutes

1. Apologies for Absence

Denzil Chapman, Maria Lawton, Debbie Maskell, Rod Kettle, Alison Cicin-Sain.

2. Review of Last Year's Minutes

Last year's minutes have been posted on the noticeboard for 30 days and as no comments or objections have been raised it was proposed that they be accepted. They were approved by a show of hands.

3. Acceptance of the Audited Accounts for the Year

Alan Gates presented the breakdown of expenditure / income and balance sheets for the club accounts and this is summarised as follows;

- The club continues to be in a stable state financially, with £47,797 in cash as at September 30th (our financial year end).
- This financial year we had a healthy excess of income over expenditure of £12,353, which is very much what we should be aiming for in order to meet our aim of maintaining high quality tennis facilities for years to come, and should allow for other works around the club.
- The adult membership numbers have increased significantly from 122 to 143 this year, the increase being mostly in the full membership category. This is actually the highest adult membership level since we started recording this on the accounts in 2004. Junior membership has increased from 56 to 69.
- We spent a total of £3,917 on court maintenance this year. This includes three visits from Nigel Godwin for court surface maintenance, totalling £1,836, plus the replacement of all of the floodlight bulbs on courts 4 to 6, costing £1,800. The work on court de-compaction cost comfortably below the budgeted amount of £2,140.
- We expect to be in a position to consider another major capital expenditure (i.e. court resurfacing) within about the next four years, should the committee decide to do so.
- We no longer charge a fee for floodlit Monday and Thursday club nights so this line item now shows zero on the accounts.

5. Reports

Philippa Worley - Ladies Captain - Reported on the Ladies Summer Shield Results

3 pair teams

Ladies 1 only won 2 out of 6 matches and will therefore stay in the Premier Division. Phew.

Ladies 2 won 6 and lost 2 so should be promoted as division winners but it depends upon which teams drop out of the 3 pair leagues next summer. Great performance.

Ladies 2 pair teams:

The 1st team was captained by Kim, thank you, such good work. They came 6th – won 2, tied 2 and 4 lost. A good result to stay where they are.

The 2nd team was captained by Alison – many thanks. Both Milton Keynes and Dukes Wood dropped out (teams we had a good chance of beating) leaving High Wycombe at the bottom. The aim is to win Division 9 next year and get a steady team in Division 8 to stay there.

Several people played across the divisions and I hope they enjoyed the experiences.

Many thanks to everyone who played and those ladies especially who organised when I was not around.

I must thank Mia for standing in several times and for being reserve at short notice. So keen to play and seems to be eternally practicing evenings and weekends. Mia's tennis is going from strength to strength. Keep on going Mia, we need you next year in the teams and in the social sessions your enthusiasm is endless.

Josh Blattner – Men's Captain – Reported on the Men's Summer Shield Results

Men's 1st Team – Richard Poole

Great season, finishing top of the table with a notable thrashing of local rivals Penn & Tylers Green 18-0. We had an epic win on hard courts in very hot conditions against last year's premiership side, Newport Pagnell 10-8, with a crucial set from Dan Forsyth and Richard Poole.

The highest average sets won goes to Alex Walker, aided by Josh, John and Bernie.

There were good performances from newcomers, Dan Jago, Rob Cockett and Richard Worley.

Men's 2nd Team from Adam Smith

A fun start to the season with a match against our own club, 2nd team v 3rd team, with the 2nd's eventually winning 12-6, which was a bit closer than we would have liked.

The next match against Horsenden was a comfortable thrashing 18-0, quickly followed by Princes Risborough who we beat 15-3.

Another strong performance against Chesham Bois, 13-5 meant that we only needed a draw in our last match to win the league. Unfortunately, we missed the draw by 1 set and had to settle for a 10-9 defeat against Aylesbury resulting in us securing 2nd place. The eventual division winners were Aylesbury.

Men's 3rd team from Andy Gibbs

An extra 3 pair team meant High Wycombe 2 and 3 were both in Division 3. This meant somewhat reduced opportunities for HW2 to play down.

It was a tough season and we were pleased to finish up a solid 4th, narrowly missing 3rd on games won % to Chesham Bois 2.

We look forward to saying goodbye to HW2 and welcoming Burnham into the division. They scored no points in Division 2 last year.

Men's 4th team – 2 pair – from Pat Budden

It was a tough season for the 4th team. We had a couple of decent wins against Haddenham, where we won 6-2, and against Penn & Tylers where we won 7-1, but we had big defeats against Beaconsfield 3, 8-0 and David Lloyd 8-0.

We finished 5th. It was a bit of a struggle as effectively this was our 4th team and we would often be playing against other clubs 1st or 2nd team.

We played 6, won 2 and lost 4.

Mike Nye – Chairman – Reported on Farnham Common and High Wycombe & District Mixed League Results

Farnham Common Winter League

This year we again ran two teams; the 1st team being in league 1 with 7 other teams. Last year they came top, this year they are joint top with Dukes Wood. Both teams having 11 points and having won 37 sets each.

The 2nd team remain in league 3 where they finished in 3rd place.

High Wycombe & District Mixed League Sumer-2018

This year we were again able to run two teams; the 1st team being in league 1 with 6 other teams. Last year they came 2nd but this year they came top, winning every match.

Last year we entered a 2nd team but were short of players, and were demoted to league 3. This year we did manage to raise a team, and as League 3 only had four teams in total we played home and away. They only lost one match and finished top of the league. I assume they will go up to league 2.

Sue Chapman – Veterans Captain – Reported on the Veterans Winter Shield Results -

The weather was kind to us last winter. Unfortunately, it doesn't look like that is going to be the case this season. We ran 11 teams – 3 men's, 3 mixed, 4 ladies and one Mixed Supervets Team.

Our best results came from Ladies 3, Mixed 2 and the Supervets Team, who all gained promotion.

Having been saved from relegation the year before, Men's 1 struggled in Division 1 and finished 6th out of 7 teams and are now playing in Division 2.

Men's 2 finished mid-table and remained in Division 4.

Men's 3 played in Division 5 but struggled with the higher standard and finished in 6th place. However, for the second year running they have benefitted from a league adjustment and remained in Division 5.

Ladies 1 maintained their position as the second best team in Division 1.

Despite having dropped down to Division 2, Ladies 2 again struggled and only managed to get 3 points. They should have been relegated to Division 3 but a league adjustment means they remain in Division 2.

Ladies 3 excelled themselves again, topping their division for the second year running. They gained promotion to Division 4. Congratulations again to the team captain, Kim Bishop, and all the ladies who played in that team.

Ladies 4 came up against some tough opposition and remain in Division 8.

Mixed 1 had a good season playing in Division 1 and came 2nd.

Having played in Division 4 for several years, Mixed 2 finally managed to win the close matches and finished top of the Division, 1 point ahead of Bull Lane and 2 points ahead of Halton. They are now playing in Division 3. Congratulations to all those who played in Mixed 2.

Mixed 3 were in Division 5 and finished mid-table.

Our first year in the 50+/55+ Mixed Medley Supervets league proved highly successful with the team coming top of Division 2 and gaining promotion to Division 1.

I would like to thank Philippa for arranging the fixtures last year, everyone who played in the teams for a great effort and the team captains for their hard work.

Guy Britton - Head Coach - Coaching Report

This report covers the period to 2nd September 2019.

Juniors

- Saturdays is still building with 23-30 children. I have now an extra class for the very youngest.
- We have started a feeder community project with a local councillor at Ash Hill school.
- We have run several free sessions in schools to promote tennis at High Wycombe.
- We ran summer camps over a 4-week period on most days. Very well received by members and non-members.
- Mondays have 27 children and Fridays have picked up now getting over 10 kids coming.
- Crown House is on until end of term.
- We entered 2 teams in the Aegon Team Leagues. Again a very hard task to get the kids committed and playing due to family and other sporting events. Looking into competition with Penn and Horsenden on a regular basis.
- We had the Tennis4kids programme this year with 10 children and some on the waiting list. We will be running another course in February – cost £29 get shirt and racquet.
- In total 69+ juniors are on the programmes – most are below the age for payment.
- With junior memberships it is still an issue for the juniors who come with parents but do not always pay unless challenged.
- We had a successful open day attracted a few new clients.
- Josh is running a performance group for Juniors. This will take time to develop.

Adults

Sunday Adult coaching Sessions 9.30-12noon

- New players have attended these sessions, and several of these players have gone on to become new members of HWLTC when they feel confident enough to join in

the Monday and Thursday evening club sessions. This entrance route and pathway into club tennis at HWLTC appears to work well.

- To accommodate different standards, two separate sessions are run on Sunday mornings; 9.30-10.30 beginners and improvers sessions for new players and 10.30-12 noon sessions for established club and match level players.
- Regulars who enjoyed these sessions and kept returning in 2018: David Walker, James Roberts, Bolan Owule, Emily Brown, Chris Jewell, Lawrence Tubbs.
- However, overall, I have noticed a drop-off in participation in these sessions through the 2018 season.

Josh has had several new people from the open day join up. The adults playing on Thursday nights can vary from week to week but it's usually about 4-6 players.

Both Josh and I will be running a few Louis Cayer Doubles classes in the new year.

A big thanks for the coaching team in 2019.

Mike Nye - Chairman's Report

2020 Membership Fees

Each year at the Club's AGM it's the Chairman's task to announce the following year's membership subscriptions. The fees are set to reflect the running costs of the club.

For the forthcoming year we have decided that as the club is in a very good financial position the fees will be frozen at the 2019 rate.

We will however have to review this next year to ensure the club has sufficient funds for any future large expenditure.

1. Full membership £195
2. Off-Peak membership £135
3. Junior membership up to 8yrs old, will be free of charge.
4. Juniors from 9 -11 £20.
5. Juniors from 12-16 £40.
6. Juniors 16 up to 21 (or under 25's in Full Time Education) £66
7. Parent hitting with child £20.

I can also confirm that we will continue to give free floodlight use for social play. Tokens will still be required for all other arranged play.

Visitor fees

For many years the fee for visitors to join in with social play has been £3.00 with a maximum of three visits, although I think the number of visits allowed has been forgotten over the years. We have now decided to increase this to £5.00 for a maximum of 5 visits. After the five visits people will need to decide if they are going to join the club as full or off-peak members. We want to remain a members club not a pay and play club.

Club Membership

As Alan mentioned in his report, there has been a significant rise in membership this year with an additional 21 new members, 18 being full members. This is a very positive sign for the club, as a number of these new members are yet not eligible to play in the veterans teams. Junior numbers have also risen since last year.

It's still very encouraging to see a good turn-out for social play at the weekends even across the winter months.

Tennis Courts

The new Astro courts have now been down for two years, and with some additional sand and regular maintenance they seem to be playing well.

The clay courts have also had regular maintenance over the year, particularly to reduce compaction, which has been successful. However, I am sure everyone has noticed that since the recent period of heavy rain the courts have been flooding, and muddy patches have appears in certain areas.

To combat this, we are arranging for an additional and more substantial clean across the whole of the three courts. The earliest date that this can be done is January; we have booked this in. the base carpet on the clay courts still shows very little sign of wear, which is good, as our original financial forecast when the courts were laid in 2012, was based upon retaining these courts for at least twelve years.

The courts are being dragged and lines brushed more frequently which I believe has helped to reduce the problem of compaction.

Tennis Balls

As we have been experiencing a lot of wet weather this autumn, we will be introducing new balls into club play more often. Hopefully this will prevent players suffering arm and shoulder problems and improve the standard of play.

Social Events

Looking back at 2019 our Social & Tournament Secretary, Carolyn,organised a number of events since last November

- a) We had a successful Xmas meal at the White Hart in December.
- b) A Quiz in February run by our quizmaster Alan G, with over 40 people attending.
- b) The Malcom Bucknell Tournament in April
- c) The Barbara Stuart Rose Bowl Tournament in June
- d) The summer tournament in September

Summer Tournament

The Club Tournament returned to its original format with knockout rounds starting in May, and the finals on 7th September. I believe people had a very enjoyable day, the weather was reasonable, we all watches some very good matches and everyone survived the BBQ. I would just like to mention Nick Budden who at 13, got through to the plate final where he came a very good 2nd place against Bernie. Hopefully we will see Nick in the main draw final soon.

Maintenance around the club

As usual there is always maintenance to be done around the club.

External Work

The lamps in the floodlights on the Astro courts were replaced.

We had three visits this year for maintaining and cleaning all the courts, plus cutting back the hedge on court 6.

There is always on-going gardening, grass cutting, leaf collection etc.

Some minor repairs to the fencing were carried out.

The driveway into the club still has small pot-holes, although some were filled by Andy during the year. We are planning to do some more temporary filling until we can agree with our neighbours a more permanent solution.

Internal Work

a new boiler was fitted to replace the existing one which was 20 years old.

We arranged for new vinyl flooring to be laid in the toilets.

Some defective plumbing was replaced in the toilets.

We also had a problem with the electrics to the clubhouse over 7/10 days which was finally resolved.

Other improvements

Last year we bought two new picnic benches for the grass area, and we plan to purchase a third bench in the spring. You may also have noticed we now have three new garden seats under the roof overhang to replace the old benches.

There are also plans to do some more up-grading work in the toilets.

Safeguarding

Just to update everyone about safeguarding.

All clubs that register with the LTA have to meet their strict guidelines for the safety and welfare of child and adult members. During the summer I met with the new LTA Safeguarding Officer who was visiting clubs in Bucks to check that all clubs are following their safeguarding guidelines. We were able to show that these guidelines were being followed, although some of our policies were out of date. These have now been up-dated and are on the notice board and website.

Finally

I would just like to say that the last four years as chairman have flown along and I wish all the best to the next person who takes over.

6. Any Other Business

We are a vibrant, busy club and we would like to promote the Club more on social media and in the local press. Guy Britton manages the Club's Facebook and Twitter accounts and would welcome articles, stories, news and pictures – eg match results, tournaments, birthday celebrations and fun sessions which take place at the club..

7. Presentations

- Ladies Captain's Salver was awarded to Mia Lake by Philippa Worley
- Men's Captain's Salver was awarded to Alex Walker by Josh Blattner

A Christmas meal has been organised for Saturday, 21st December at The White Hart in Beaconsfield. There is one space left, which could be increased to two spaces if required. Please add your name(s) to the list on the board in the Clubhouse lobby.

On behalf of the members, Garth Selvey thanked the Chairman and Committee for their hard work on behalf of the Club.

That concludes the AGM business.

Thank you all for attending tonight.

I close the meeting at 8.10 pm.