



Hill & Valley Lawn Tennis Club

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Friday, 24th November 2023, 9pm

At The Old Smokery, Far Peak, Northleach, GL54 3JL

1) Attendance: Total 57, 51 members and 6 non-members

Apologies:

Richard Isaac, Charlie Winward, Claire Watson, Simon Lanyon, Sarah Calder, John Boughey, Anthony Wilkinson, Helen Owen, Charles Hutton Potts.

2) Minutes of Club Meeting 2022 – approved.

Proposed – Tim Brocklebank-Fowler Seconded – Julie Young

3) Chairman's Welcome and brief summary of events

Robert Baker welcomed all to the meeting; thanked our volunteers and current and past committee members for their hard work this year and said a link for the minutes of last year's AGM and this year's Club Reports (attached) had been circulated prior to the meeting to enable those attending to be briefed. Robert Baker articulated a summary of the Club's achievements of recent years since Covid lockdown and thanked individual committee members and volunteers for their contributions this year.

The winners were announced for this year's Mixed Ladder competition, they were Zarah Barter and Tim Brocklebank-Fowler who were presented with the winners' trophy and vouchers for the Sherborne Arms.

4) Club financial position and Treasurer's report

Robert Baker said Zarah Barter's Treasurer's report was contained in the reports section that had been provided prior to the meeting and said as in the past, the annual account summary had been reviewed by Stephen Scott-Smith.

Robert Baker presented the 2023 account summary on the screen and said the outline of changes in income and expenditure, the reserves and sinking fund were outlined in the Treasurer's report.

Adoption of club accounts:

Proposed – Trish King Seconded – Julie Young

5) Membership rates for 2024

Robert Baker proposed a 5% increase on membership subscriptions for 2024, over 2023.

Martin Spooner expressed agreement with the increase and suggested as most people could afford it the subscription could be increased further. Robert Baker responded by saying the committee had agreed that 5% was sufficient for this year.

Nicky Holford asked that given the club is not short of funds, could the club pay for engraving of 'competition winners trophy's'? Caroline Baker responded saying that in the past previous winners usually arranged and paid for engraving and said the committee had already agreed that in future the club would be willing to pay for trophy engraving.

Ian Taylor commented on the significant reserves and asked whether there needs to be an increase? Robert Baker replied by saying it was important to ensure the club kept up with the rising costs of maintenance and allow for the future increased costs for court re-surfacing.

The 5% subscription increase was agreed.

Proposed – Stephen Scott-Smith Seconded – Julie Young



6) Election of officers

No nominations for positions on committee were received prior to the meeting, or during the meeting. The current committee members were all willing to stand.

Chair - Robert Baker

Proposed – Julia Wild Seconded - Tim Brocklebank-Fowler

All other positions,

Treasurer: Zarah Barter
Secretary: Justine Barnes
Membership Secretary: Caroline Baker
Events Secretary: Caroline Baker
Coaching Secretary: Caroline Baker
Welfare Officer: Graham Stock

Proposed – Julia Wild Seconded - Tim Brocklebank-Fowler

7) AOB

Questions received prior to the meeting:

Leila Lodwick had asked if any further consideration been given to erection of a practice wall? Pros and cons were discussed; several supportive comments as a positive additional facility, especially for children and beginners. However, there are difficulties with appropriate siting if positioned within the existing court perimeter as this could cause an accidental collision danger on court side and an irritating ball bounce back if positioned to the rear, as well as maintenance & noise nuisance. If sited outside the perimeter, a negotiation with our landlord (Chedworth Parish Council) would be required; also significant costs are likely in ground works. Comments from floor from those with knowledge of other clubs (Ian Stewart, Northampton Tennis Club), agreed experience more negative than positive. It was agreed that we should establish dialogue with Chedworth Parish Council over options to locate outside our court area.

Moira Tremaine asked if the ball machine back in operation? Graham Stock confirmed that it had been serviced and was now operational.

Questions received at the meeting:

Rosemary Scott-Smith asked if the club was intending to improve the visual screening on the side of the courts nearest the new building works? Graham Stock said yes and confirmed that screens had been ordered.

With no further questions, the Club Annual General Meeting finished at 10pm.

Minutes prepared by Robert Baker and Justine Barnes.

After conclusion of the meeting Nigel Barlow delivered an excellent speech on his Reflections of the Year and how the Chedworth Romans were the forerunners at the H&V tennis club, which was greatly appreciated by all.



Hill & Valley Lawn Tennis Club
Club Reports
(Circulated to all members prior to AGM)
Friday, 24th November 2022 at 7pm

The Old Smokery, Far Peak, Nr Northleach, GL54 3AP

1. Chairman's welcome and report (Robert Baker)

A very warm welcome to you all, thank you so much for coming to join us tonight, and especially warm welcome to our new club members and to those who are here for the first time!

We are aiming to keep the emphasis on the social side for this annual meeting, along with a few pertinent matters to do with the running of your club thrown in!

The first thing to say is – if you don't mind a little trumpet blowing – I think the tennis club has had a really fantastic year! I hope you all agree?! We had plenty of club events, plenty of coaching sessions, plenty of social mixed Saturdays, and a huge increase in participation in competitive league team involvement. So lots and lots of activity and I hope you'll agree a great deal of fun!

Your committee all volunteer their time and energy to make things happen, as are the many kind people who also volunteer to help with events, leagues, ladders, co-ordinate coaching and enable tournaments to happen: so you get an idea of who does what I'd like to thank some of them now; no doubt its risky to pick individuals out but perhaps if you find yourself next to one of these people give them a thank you – but this will also help you see the wide range of activity the club supports.

Graham Stock Our Welfare and Safeguarding Officer, as well undertaking many tasks under court maintenance and his general Mr Fix-It role, Graham also leads our annual LTA Registration process that underpins the integrity of the club insurance arrangements. Thank you also for leading the CVT and the John Robson tournaments.

Zarah Barter Formerly Club Secretary and now Club Treasurer. With a large number of small transactions managing the financial affairs is no mean task, and my personal thanks to Zarah for pitching into a complex and demanding role. For good measure Zarah also leads the second Ladies' Glos League team, and the Stroud Mixed Winter League matches over the winter.

Caroline Baker Membership Secretary, liaising with members over many matters large and small and navigates the choppy waters of the Clubspark website as you conduct your sign ups and renewals and welcoming new joiners. Her second role is Coaching Secretary, interfacing with Tom Wyman and David Ayala over their coaching sessions, as well as running the after school programme including the kids holiday camps. As Events Secretary she administers most club events, does marketing of the clubs' activities and promoting events, and so much more, including the Saturday afternoon Mixed Social sessions, Monday's Pop-up-and-play and the popular Walking Tennis sessions on Fridays.



Justine Barnes Our new club secretary who manages the meeting minutes and actions and is becoming responsible for the management of the Limited Company. Justine has done a great job setting up the new club tennis kit – all on show here tonight.

Hilary Swan Ladies Team coach and for leading the drills and ‘rusty returners’ groups, and providing much appreciated guidance on team sessions and coaching groups; the CVT and most memorably the mildly crazy Alison Stock Mad Hatters Tea and Tennis event! She has also been amazing at running the new Walking Tennis sessions.

Yvonne Winward Running the doubles ladders – and remaining supremely patient with players’ inertia and lack of commitment to match timetables!

Hisae Hollingsworth & Claire Watson Running last year’s Stroud Mixed Winter League team which Zarah has taken on for this year.

Hisae Hollingsworth has taken over as Ladies’ over 60’s winter league team captain; and may I thank Helen Owen for doing so last season.

Linda Seaton Supporting Hilary with fixtures for summer ladies league & booking courts.

John Boughey Running the Men’s Night sessions – an all-year-round commitment which brings so much enjoyable tennis to us blokes and keeps us grounded with those tricky spinny serves! Also for fitting the handrail for the steps onto the courts.

Club Financial situation and 2024 subscription proposal

I am glad to say the club remains in a sound financial position with a respectable surplus been made in the last year. The courts were re-painted in the previous year and the main item of maintenance in 2023 has been the replacement of the bench located in between the courts. Other cost items include ground rent, hedge cutting, grass cutting, insurance and utilities; and we have to set aside an annual contribution to the sinking fund to ensure we are in a position to re-surface courts – most likely in 2030 at a cost of at least £40,000.

A little bit later, a decision we’ll want to gain your approval for, is a small but appropriate increase in membership subscriptions. The general ethos is that we wish to remain a low membership cost club (significantly lower than local alternatives), and we wish to cultivate young children’s tennis, support the village school and have favourable terms for families. In the last four years we have either held subscriptions with no change, or made below inflation increases. In the same pattern, we are suggesting a 5% rise in subscriptions, which I hope you find acceptable.

Housing Development Adjacent to Tennis Courts

If you’ve been to the courts recently, you will have noticed the plot between us and the Village Hall has been cleared in preparation for works to start. Together with Charles Hutton Potts who is a member of the club and chair of the Village Hall committee and Martin Harrison of the Chedworth Society we met the developers agent on site a few weeks ago; and their plan is to have the houses built by next autumn. We are pleased to see the boundary screening has been preserved, and we can now only hope that both developers and new residents will be sympathetic to our activities.



2. Membership Secretary report (Caroline Baker)

The membership has continued to grow this year and our current membership to date is 230 which is up on last year's 213. Adult membership has seen a 17% increase and Junior has seen a 16% fall, this in part due to the falling numbers at St Andrew's school so less children are attending coaching sessions.

The breakdown is as follows: (2022 shown in brackets)

Adult 147 (125), **Student 20** (13) **Youth 37** (36), **Junior 26** (39)

Female: Adults **83** (72) Student **7** (5) Youth **17** (11) Junior **8** (13)

Male: Adults **64** (53) Student **13** (8) Youth **20** (25) Junior **18** (26)

It is wonderful to see more people playing tennis and enjoying our club. Although this is a healthy growth, it is important for the future of the club to attract more younger members. Many of those who play regularly are either approaching 60 or over 60 and whilst most are fit, the risk of injury becomes more likely as we get older which makes it harder for putting teams together to play in any of the Leagues. So please do help to spread the word and encourage your friends to come and give the club a try, you can attend any 3 sessions before having to join.

Attendance at our club sessions for adult members varies from week to week, we appreciate those who Robert mentioned earlier who give up their time to run them, Monday Men's night, Ladies on Thursdays and the Mixed doubles on Saturdays. The new Pop Up & Play on Mondays has been a nice opportunity to socialise after playing while supporting the village Pop Up café.

Benefits for members

Well Human Physio at Far Peaks near Northleach and D&J Sports give members a 10% discount, as does East Glos club's sport shop (please ask me for a voucher).

Club branded clothing

A new addition for our team players and members, Justine Barnes has samples available to try, please contact her 07801 075568. Items can be ordered on line <https://wrealsports.co.uk/shop/my-club/misc/the-hill-valley-lawn-tennis-club/>

Wimbledon Tickets

If you would like to be in the LTA Advantage draw for tickets, please make sure our club is showing as your venue by logging in [HERE](#). You should have recently received an email from LTA reminding you to opt in if you want to be in the draw for tickets. There is an additional draw for those who also volunteer for the club. The deadline is January 14th, 2024.

Easy Fundraising is a great way for the club to receive some extra funds, click [HERE](#), there is also a link on the home page of the website with all the info, when you shop online the retailer donates to the club, the amounts vary for each retailer it is particularly good when using price comparison sites for insurance or things like AA membership as they can pay out larger sums anything up to £10. Anyone can do this you don't have to be a member so please encourage your friends and family to sign up to help the club.

Thank you to all our members for their support and looking forward to a healthy year ahead.



3. Coaching (Caroline Baker)

David Ayala continues with his Junior programme for 4-18yr olds with after school coaching on Wednesdays in term time and Fun camps during half terms and holidays and also with his one-to-one coaching for both juniors and adults. Numbers have dropped due to smaller numbers at St Andrew's school and the wet weather has caused several sessions being cancelled.

Hilary continues her popular Tuesday rusty returner/beginner and Friday intermediate/advanced sessions during term time. She has also run drill sessions at the beginning of the season in preparation for the Summer League competitions. In addition supporting the B Team training practice on Tuesday evenings.

Tom Wyman's monthly Saturday coaching clinics have continued for all levels which have had mixed attendance and some cancellation due to the wet weather.

Walking Tennis (Caroline Baker)

A new addition for the club this year. Following a workshop at East Glos Club it was decided to have a taster day to gauge interest. Hilary Swan agreed to help with running the sessions and they have proved to be very popular and the feedback has been wonderful. People have returned to the court after having to give up due to health conditions or after injury or surgery. It is open to non members and the sessions conclude with tea and cake or biscuits. It is hoped we can continue during the winter months in the village hall.

4. Welfare Officer/Safeguarding summary (Graham Stock)

With all that is going on around the country these days we have to be very mindful in the club to try and prevent, or resolve, incidents such as accidents, bullying and inappropriate communications, etc. To do this we are always vigilant and review club procedures on an annual basis, particularly at club registration time. We also rely on our members to report their observations so that we may resolve them before they become a big issue.

The Welfare in our tennis club encompasses the wellbeing of members, visitors and the facilities too.

Climate change appears to have an influence on our court surface. This year, more than before, we have seen a record amount of rainfall in Chedworth. Robert Young has already recorded over 40" of rain so far this year and to some people it has made the white lines less grippy when damp. We note there has been a slight increase in the numbers of slips and falls on the courts over the last year; largely in line with the increase in court usage. As ever, please take care to assess the safety of the courts before you decide to play, I can only reiterate the fact that it is your duty to play safely and stop when you cannot. You should check the condition of the courts every time you go to play on them so that you are all confident for your safety. This applies to the car park and approaching the courts.



5. Teams Tennis Reports (Hilary Swan, Helen Owen, Hisae Hollingsworth, Yvonne Winward, Robert Baker)

Ladies' Dunlop Gloucestershire Summer League 2023 (Hilary Swan, Captain)

A Team - Division 1B

We started the season with a relatively 'healthy' squad of 12 players, but similar to last year things can change very quickly over the course of a few months!

I would like to thank Linda for patiently gathering everyone's availability/dates etc this is a massive task but very necessary as this year we made the big decision to enter a B team so I had double the amount of fixtures to arrange.

Pre-season preparations went well, we had Tom Wyman's monthly clinics, my Drills and Match Play sessions and everyone was 'raring' to go.

We couldn't have made a better start, a 4-0 win versus Glos Wotton! As the season progressed we only lost to Lydney and East Glos which resulted in us achieving a fully deserved 3rd place.

Thank you to everyone who played, there were some great matches, some fantastic tennis and of course some amusing 'cameo' moments!

Finally a big thank you to Hisae who hosted a brilliant end of season supper which we all enjoyed in her beautiful garden on a lovely rare Summer evening!

B Team - Division 5A (Zarah Barter Captain)

With the New Year upon us, there was a big decision to be made: "shall we enter a Ladies B Team into the Summer Glos Dunlop League"? After lots of positive responses we decided to 'go for it'

Zarah volunteered to be the Captain and throughout the whole campaign did an amazing job 'arranging and rallying her troops'!

Things didn't quite go to plan at the beginning but gradually everyone's confidence grew; there were several 2-2 Draws and the season concluded with two outstanding convincing 4-0 wins. Frampton and Lydney were very strong and achieved 1st and 2nd place, but we came 3rd a very honourable achievement for a squad who had a high percentage of players with little or no experience of competitive matches. Great credit to all who played; next seasons motto will be 'onwards and upwards'!

The Sherborne Arms was chosen as the perfect venue for everyone involved to raise a glass and celebrate the 'highs' of the season.

Men's Dunlop Gloucestershire Summer League 2023 (Robert Baker, Captain)

We moved up a league level in 2023; playing 12 matches against 6 other teams in Division 5B; we finished 4th in the table, with our friends Bourton Vale, Winchcombe and East Glos (G) ahead. We lost 6, drew 4, won 2. Our highlight was our 4-0 win over Cerney Lakes at home where we had 3 rubbers ending in tie-breaks, all of which we won. There was a celebratory team drink in The Seven Tuns afterwards! Many thanks to our rich and varied Team of 16 players who played matches this year, including young guns Joe Kenning and Charlie and Max of the Callon-Hine family.



Ladies Over 60's Winter League 2022/23 (Helen Owen, Captain)

After the success of last season we all knew it was going to be a huge challenge playing in the top Division. However, our squad of 8 players showed their 'never give up' competitive spirit throughout. We Won 2, Drew 2 and Lost 4 matches which secured us 3rd place and the chance to do it all again this Winter! Many thanks to all involved, the games are always fun with friendly rivalry and the very rare 'intimidating' occasion!!!

The new season is underway, thank you to Hisae Hollingsworth for taking on the role of Captain for this season.

Stroud Winter Mixed Doubles Sunday League (2022/23) (Claire Watson & Hisae Hollingsworth Captains

Another enjoyable season in this friendly league and our final position in Div 2 was 4th. A big thank you to Rob, Anthony, Tim, William, Dominic, Graham, Charlie, Ian, Chrissie, Claire, Helen, Angie, Sarah, Sue, Yvonne, Jamie, and Zarah for putting themselves forward to play. There was a lot of rescheduling of matches due to rain, snow, ice and frost so thank you for everyone's flexibility over this, it is a captain's nightmare when it keeps happening!

The new season 2023/24 has now started and our second match saw an awesome 8-0 win away on the clay at Cirencester! Zarah has taken over the role of captain, she can be contacted on 07713 678986 zarah.barter@gmail.com

Good luck to 'one and all' who sign up to play!

Mixed Doubles Ladder (Yvonne Winward)

The 2023 Mixed Doubles Club Ladder ran from April through September. We had 9 teams signed up with several new pairings. Every pair managed to play, and hopefully enjoyed, at least two matches. While it was tete-a-tete as the deadline neared, I am pleased to announce Zarah and Tim on a very well deserved 'Winners' crowning. A big congratulations to them both! Charlie and I were the runners up. Thank you to everyone who participated. We hope you'll sign up again next Spring!

We once again tried a Ladies doubles ladder but no matches were played, if anyone is interested in trying to get this going again next year please let me know hvladder@gmail.com

There has been some interest in starting a men's singles ladder so hopefully this will happen next year.

6. Events (Hilary Swan, Graham Stock, Caroline Baker)

We have continued with our three main competition events, as well as our Coffee and Croissant social event at the beginning of the new season in March. We held another Open Day in May which was well attended. Our clean and tidy up Saturday had a fantastic turnout and was a lovely social occasion. New for this year was our Dunlop Day, where we had the opportunity to try out the full range of Dunlop rackets which were available to buy along with trainers and tennis kit. Huge thanks to Hilary and Graham for running the competitions and to all those who helped and baked and cleared up at these events. We will soon be planning our events for next year if you have an idea or suggestion or would like to help please get in touch with Caroline.



Allison Stock / Fun Mixed Doubles Event, 23rd September (Hilary Swan)

For the Allison Stock Day this year we decided on a 'Mad Hatters Tennis and Tea Party'! It was a really fun afternoon with different formats of competitive tennis. To start players were paired up and on a half a court playing alternate shots straight up and down. Then we moved onto 'Dingles' where individuals start to rally with the opposition 1v1 on half a court. When one of the two balls went 'dead' a cry of 'doubles' was heard and all four players played the remaining ball on the whole of the doubles court. Finally, we played cross court singles points where things got very competitive! Players were in two teams (8 per team) The March Hares and The White Rabbits. Dressing up was optional, but everyone made a great effort and some outfits were amazing, prizes went to Trish, Nigel, Ruth and Claire. The March Hares were eventually declared the winners and the afternoon was concluded with delicious tea, sandwiches and cakes. Special thanks also to Hugh and Annie Lodwick who were superb ball boys and girls and wore their very impressive hats!

American Doubles Tournament, July 1st (Graham Stock)

12 payers took part in our American Doubles Club Tournament on Saturday, July 1st competing for the John Robson Rose Bowl in a Round Robin with a normal tie break set final between the top two highest scoring men and ladies. Angie Kaye and Ian lifted the trophy winning 7-6 (8-6 tie break) against Zarah Barter & Charlie Winward in a thrilling final.

Coln Valley Tournament, June 10th (Graham Stock)

We got off to a good start this year with 80 players entering. We had eight private courts including a new one at Compton Abdale that had extensive views over the Cotswold countryside. Each court had five pairs playing the morning handicap round where the top two pairs went through to the Speke Cup. The next two pairs went through to the Scott-Smith Salver and the remaining pairs played out their matches at Rendcomb College.

Unfortunately, the rain came in at 4:45pm just as we started the semi-finals and play had to be suspended. After a further hour it was agreed to postpone to a later date. Eventually the Scott-Smith Salver final was played on 16th September with Jo Williams and Tom Emmerson championing against Jules Wood and Phil Ogley (6-2). On 8th October Jo Adams and Shane Horsell lifted the Speke Cup in a thrilling final against Rosie Zang and Ricardo DuBignon (6-2).

Thanks must be given to Caroline Baker who organised the "behind the scenes" functions to make the day run smoothly, allowing everyone to enjoy the day until the rain came and stopped play.

7. Treasurer's Report 2023 and approval of the Annual Financial Statement (Zarah Barter)

The financial statements show that the club made a surplus for the year of £7,796 compared to a surplus of £1,546 in 2022.

Income

As per last year, our increasing membership forms the most significant proportion of income at £10,936 net; we now have 230 members compared to 213 members in 2022. The annual Coln Valley Tournament held in June was a successful event having 80 entrants and making a surplus of £2,702. The surplus from our in-house John Robson mixed doubles and Allison Stock event is on par with last year's total.

The coaching income made a loss of £117 net, however, it should be noted that last year's surplus included a donation of £911 from the Allison Stock fund, which is our charitable fund set up to



support tennis coaching in the community. Other contributing factors include lower attendance numbers for Tom Wyman's coaching clinics this year and a couple of sessions were cancelled due to adverse weather.

The income from Easy Fundraising has increased this year to £104 and we encourage more members to sign up to raise funds for the club free of charge when you shop online. The income from tennis ball recycling has decreased this year and I would like to remind everyone to recycle old tennis balls in the recycle bin provided at the club house.

Finally, with a slight rise interest rates this year we received £162 in bank interest plus £300 bank compensation due to a technical hitch.

Expenditure

The overall expenditure totalled £7,122 compared to £12,832 in the previous year. The main variances include the maintenance expenditure of £4,038 for annual grass and hedge cutting costs, a new handrail by the steps down to the courts and the replacement of our court bench; expenditure last year was higher due to court repainting costs.

Other direct costs variances include the purchase of tennis balls which was higher than last year; the ball-machine balls were replaced; we had 3 teams entering the Glos Summer League this year; balls purchased for the Stroud Winer and Over 60's leagues. Advertising costs were higher at £447 as we stepped up the marketing of Open Day with the aim to encourage new membership, plus the promotion of the new walking tennis sessions. Utilities costs reduced due to an electric rebate received of £200.

Donations this year included £300 to local churches which is taken from profits from the Coln Valley Tournament in 2022, and £100 was donated to Ted Broughton's legacy to his family's chosen charity, the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust; Ted Broughton was one of the founding members of the club and Chairman for many years.

Reserves

The reserves include the balance of the Allison Stock legacy and the sinking fund which now stands at £24,808 as we contributed £5,000 to the fund this year. The committee made the decision to transfer £20,000 of the sinking fund into a 5-year fixed bond account bearing a higher interest rate. As we have forecasted the next large capital expenditure for court resurfacing in 2030, we will look to make further contributions to build up reserves in the sinking fund.

In summary, the club is in a healthy financial position moving forwards. Should you have any queries please email treasurer.hillandvalleyltc@gmail.com.

8. Agree proposed membership fees for 2024

The proposed increase of fees is approx. 5% (less than current CPI & RPI).

Membership fees next year would therefore be £79 for single, £155 joint, £174 family, £38 student, £30 youth, and £19 for junior membership.

9. Apologies

Apologies received: Richard Isaac, Yvonne & Charlie Winward, Claire Watson, Simon Lanyon, Sarah Calder, John Boughey, Anthony Wilkinson, Helen Owen, Charles Hutton Potts



10. Adoption of 2022 AGM minutes

You may have seen on your invitation to this year's AGM a link to the [2022 AGM minutes](#) please refer ready for adoption.

11. Election of Officers 2023/24

Proposed officers:

- Chairman: Robert Baker
- Treasurer: Zarah Barter
- Secretary: Justine Barnes
- Membership Secretary: Caroline Baker
- Events Secretary: Caroline Baker
- Coaching Secretary: Caroline Baker
- Welfare Officer: Graham Stock