



# KNUTSFORD TENNIS CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024 @ 7:30pm – in the Club House

---

## Present:

Bill Jackson (Chair)	Anne McPhie	Mark Airey	Sonia Amos	Christine Falder	Keith Edminson
Anna Righton	Mike Sharman	Lee Dooley	Moya Meredith	Dave Meredith	Diana Morris
Guy Hill	George Brown	Jo Dooley	Deborah Martin	Helen Mountney	Nicky Arnell
Sarah Baron	Jane McKinlay	Lorraine Shaw	Zoe Dyson	Jacqui Moore	
<b>Apologies:</b>	John Hutcheson	Helen Sawyer	Valerie Edminson		

Bill Jackson (BJ) opened the meeting and welcomed members to this year's AGM and thanked everyone for attending.

Reports from the Chair and Treasurer had been circulated before the meeting in the March Newsletter.

He introduced Mike Sharman (MS) as Chair of the Main Club.

In addition to giving thanks to the committee he also gave thanks to Anne McPhie for being secretary for the AGM, Moya Meredith for LTA support, Malcolm Sawyer for producing the newsletter and Anna Righton for preparing the refreshments for tonight.

1. **Minutes from the 2023 AGM**

Approval of minutes - Lee Dooley accepted the minutes as a true record and seconded by Diane Morris.

2. **Safeguarding & Welfare**

The Chair stated that Safeguarding and Welfare is the main priority for the club and, as such, is taken very seriously. Sonia Amos (SA) stated there was nothing to report at present. BJ thanked Sonia for keeping all the necessary qualifications up to date.

3. **Chair's Report**

Prepared by BJ and emailed to all members in the March Newsletter 2024.

BJ highlighted some of the key issues for him. The tennis club was in good shape - currently 352 members. WhatsApp groups working well. Financially solid - recent capital expenditure £21k for LED lights on Courts 1 & 2. £8k on mud cleaning – recent heavy rainfall hadn't helped. Feedback from coaches and members given to BJ was positive.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

Prepared by Keith Edminson (KE) and emailed to all members in the March Newsletter 2024.

KE gave highlights from his report, basically 2 years had been good and resulting in £24k profit. Helped by maintaining high level of membership. No major projects to fund in 2023, compared to 2024 where we have recently spent £21k on LED lights with a likely £30k for LED lights on Courts 3/4/5 in the future. Discussions re electricity costs with main club ongoing. Floodlight income high in 2023 and will reduce with token reduction from £2 to £1 – impact will be reviewed. Good news interest has increased recently. Balance sheet – net assets or accumulated funds of £65k compared with £41.8k in 2022. Court improvement sinking fund now stands at £57k so good position to fund future courts and floodlight capital spending. KE would like to thank Karen Jones as Honorary Auditor.

5. **Membership Report and Subscriptions**

Prepared by Christine Falder (CF), copies were available on the night.

CF introduced Jo Dooley (JD) who was taking over as membership secretary. Membership numbers were strong, and she thought it was really helpful of current members who were prepared to help new members into the club. The 3 month trial still going strong. In terms of subscriptions the main club was reducing adult membership from £96 to £80 for next year. Tennis section proposing to keep tennis subs same as last year – mainly due to help any major projects e.g. LED lights. So adult member to remain as £240 and subs to remain the same for the other categories. Di Morris proposed and CF seconded and show of hands from those present reflected a majority in agreement.

JD then presented CF with a bunch of flowers to say thank you for all work on the committee and helping the handover to herself.

## **6 Coach's Report including Ladies' Team & Men's Team Updates, plus Junior Updates**

**Ladies** - Helen Mountney (HM) highlighted that ladies' teams had had a good summer. 1<sup>st</sup> team missed out on promotion by a whisker and Teams 2&3 had a solid performance. Having just been promoted - the 3<sup>rd</sup> team stayed up. Winter league again showed solid performance. 3 teams have been submitted for Summer 2024 – 30 members have signed up - and included both new and younger members. Aim is to focus on promotion. Possibility of a 4<sup>th</sup> team is under review.

Thanks to Di Morris, Zoe Dyson, Sue Dines and Nicola Scobie for being captains of the teams.

Along with Mark there are now targeted team practices focussing on team tactics and pairings.

HM also thanked Nicky Arnell for organising box league for winter and for summer 2024.

In terms of bar utilisation HM had said she had submitted dates to Wendy for home matches – MS asked if she would pass dates directly to Mike.

**Action** – HM to give dates to MS.

**Men** – MA gave update on behalf of Luke Brierley (LB). Great season – 1<sup>st</sup> team promoted from Div 3 to Div2. Teams 2&3 remain in Div 6&9 respectively. Thanks to team captains for last summer – 2nds Rik Hession and 3rds Tom Kretschner. For 2024 Andrew Brierley for 2nds and Ian Hopkins for 3rds. Men's team practices to continue. LB to remain overall captain.

**Juniors** - Have had a great 2023 and a positive start with children progressing to County Level and a few others being targeted on the Cheshire County Talent ID system.

Success at team level with U14 and U12 winning respective boxes and going onto Cheshire County Finals.

U16 boys narrowly missed out on finishing second in their box. 2024 all the same teams have been entered and managed to add another team in U12 girls category.

In-term coaching structure remains popular throughout the year and Fridays are more popular. A natural drop off will happen for next 2 terms as cricket at Toft starts up.

School links starting up again after Easter leading up to annual mini tennis cluster tournament where all local primary school take place. Last year's winners were Egerton Primary school.

Kids camps have struggled in half term holidays but more popular over Easter and Summer weeks.

Participants getting younger and average age is between 4 and 8.

**Coaching** – all going well. Tom is currently getting Level 4 qualification and both of us have started Padel qualification. Team coaching will continue into 2024.

**Competitions** – all in house competitions will go ahead as normal but myself and Tom have agreed to change format of main Junior Box leagues and a more traditional club championship where competition is run over a week instead of normal box league that goes on over several months.

MA thanked the tennis committee who help him enormously in running the tennis section and a particular thanks to CF over the past few years.

BJ gave thanks to Mark and Tom for all their work.

## **7 Grounds Report**

Guy Hill (GH) reported that in order to keep up the excellent standard of our courts – it took 66 volunteer hours. GH can no longer commit to these hours and unless there is an obvious volunteer replacement the work will be contracted at a cost of £25 per hour - a total of £1700 per annum.

Deep clean of court surfaces essential to stop sludge pooling on low points of courts and to improve the speed of drainage after rain.

Currently trying slightly different way of deep clean to retain more sand. Will be cheaper - £9k rather than £12k – hopefully will prove effective. Anticipate moving to rolling programme of spot cleaning in future.

LED lights now on courts 1 and 2 – more expensive Philips LEDs beneficial as minimum glare. Also have 10-year guarantee on drivers which are more likely to fail than lights themselves. Electricity usage reduced from 16kW to 6 kW. Given this success it seems appropriate now to do courts 3/4/5 – approx. cost £30k.

Courts 6/7 more complicated as existing poles will not take weight of LED lights but will need to be done.

Thanks to all the members that do help when needed – please do remember to drag the courts before you play! GH also gave thanks to Paul Adshead who does an excellent job on managing the hedges around the courts. Thank you to Tom Coe and team who are currently carrying out the .deep clean.

Nicky Arnell (NA) along with other members gave thanks to GH and said that they appreciated the condition of our courts against courts elsewhere and many members from other clubs compliment the standard of our courts.

## 8 Committee Members

We have 3 vacant committee positions including Secretary, Social Secretary and Junior Representative. In addition someone to co-ordinate and compile the texts for the newsletter so that Malcolm Sawyer can then format and issue it.

The committee nominations were proposed and seconded at the meeting and are shown below:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>
CHAIR	Bill Jackson
VICE CHAIR	Lee Dooley
TREASURER	Keith Edminson
SECRETARY	VACANT
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Jo Dooley
FIXTURES + COURT BOOKINGS OFFICER	Zoe Dyson
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE OFFICER	Guy Hill
LADIES' CAPTAIN	Helen Mounthey
MEN'S CAPTAIN	Luke Brierley
JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE	VACANT
WELFARE & SAFETY OFFICER	Sonia Amos
SOCIAL SECRETARY	VACANT

## 9 AOB

### Coat hooks on Courts

NA requested that coat hooks be installed on courts to hang up coats etc. BJ agreed to action.

**ACTION BJ**

### Newsletter

AM had advised that it was time for someone else to compose the newsletter. BJ agreed to action.

**ACTION BJ**

### Heart Start

AR described Heart Start which is heart screening for young people. Tennis had agreed to support with £200. £8k have been raised overall. There will be a day in November to carry out screening with 100 places on offer for between 14 and 35-year-olds. 25 places have been offered to KTC.

### Re-cycling

DM said she had spoken to central re-cycling company in Stoke who advised her that most things could be re-cycled apart from a few items. Her question was really could we simplify / reduce the number of bins. AM on behalf of main club advised that the contract with Suez currently does not allow us to change the number of bins. But will try again. In the meantime, signs will be placed above the bins hopefully to provide better readability and more awareness of individual bin usage.

**Action AM on behalf of main club.**

Question about having re-cycling bins on courts – GH advised he did sort them out when he emptied them. Generally, a mix which could be recycled apart from bananas!

### Club Nights Summer Period

It was confirmed that during June/July/August club nights would return to the non-booking option. Sarah Baron with Paul would co-ordinate once a month but need more volunteers for the other weeks. MA said he would advertise the change before implementation and ask for volunteers to work out a rota.

### Tatton Estates Proposal.

BJ and MS shared the latest information from Fischer German (FG) and Tatton Estates (TE). Emphasised that no major changes since MS newsletter. Each section had been asked to put forward their requirements in the event of re-location. Tennis have done this with a mix of more courts, Padel Tennis etc. Also, added in, learning lessons from how tennis operates at present – access, protection from weather etc. MS said it was important for KSC to separate out feedback on specific location – off Mereheath Lane past the allotments- and concentrate on making sure any proposal for new club benefitted / improved KSC facilities. Our current lease runs until 2051 and this needs to be considered – will it be renewed if the new sports club location doesn't go ahead or if KSC can't agree to re-locate.

So far FG/TE have stated new club would be non-profit, run by management team but committee sports sections chairs.

Other issues to consider include – danger of giving up lease and losing control, costs of new club vs upgrading KSC facilities over next few years.

Question around timing of consultations with members – why not now? - BJ and MS stressed that there wasn't enough detail to share any more information with members. They re-iterated that nothing would be agreed with FC/TE without agreement from KSC members.

Suggestion that a working group be formed – BJ/MS confirmed that for tennis, the group consisted of GH and MA who had put together tennis section aspirations. In terms of the discussions with FG/TE - BJ/MS were involved in meetings and making a record of any actions. At the moment, there was no action other than submitting sections' plans. The intention was for greater membership involvement at the next stage. GH said he was focussing on legacy aspects of the club – it was not going to last until 2051. He discussed financial aspects – what would be their % return, how they would fund new club.

Was freehold an option for the club?

Reminder that KSC is no longer green belt – classified as open space.

AM suggested that there be no formal agreement until planning permission approved for new club location.

## **10 Close of Meeting**

The Chair closed the meeting and thanked members for attending.