



Minutes of LTC Committee AGM Meeting held in the Clubhouse at 4pm on 3rd February 2024

These minutes should be read in conjunction with the Information pack that was prepared and distributed in advance of the meeting and which can still be accessed from the Governance section of the club website.

Apologies: Paul and Shirley Carton, Nigel Turner, Wendy McEvoy, Hugh Mckenzie, Jane Paul, Jo Hammond, Amanda Johnston.

1. Resolution 1: The AGM minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February 2023 were approved.

Proposer: Ed Stansfield

Seconder: Nigel Catlow

2. Chairmans Report – Ed Stansfield

a) Progress on 2023 objectives:

Last year three main objectives were set.

- i) To finish the upgrades to courts 5 & 6.** The conversion of the courts back to tarmac was completed last summer and we are again a club that can offer members a choice playing surfaces.
- ii) To undertake a refurbishment of the clubhouse.** The Committee has been working on plans to improve the clubhouse. The plans have been through several iterations, and we are now close to having a design that the Committee can all agree on. However, there is still more work to be done on the project for this coming year.
- iii) To explore the possibility of bringing padel to the club.** Progress here has been limited because we felt it was right to find out more about the padel development that is being planned behind the Leisure Centre. That now has planning permission and will provide 6 padel courts under an air dome.

However, the new development describes itself as a centre of excellence and a national hub for padel – so it is not clear who the new centre is targeting or that it would rule out the possibility of us adding a court or two here. A preliminary discussion with the Council Parks Team suggests that they would be open to giving the club additional land if we decide that is what we want to do. But planning permission is still likely to be a major hurdle.

b) Objectives for 2024.

- iv) To try to obtain planning permission to put floodlights on Court 6.** Given that the planners have already turned down two applications in the past, we spent a good part of last year looking at all the alternative options. In November, we also put in a pre-planning application

to Mole Valley to assess their reaction to our preferred solution, which is to replicate the set up that we have on court 5.

The planners did not rule out the proposal. The main concern seems to be the risk of light pollution affecting Cannon Court. We are therefore talking to the lighting companies about what measures we can take to eliminate this potential objection. All being well we hope to put in a formal planning application in the Spring.

Should that be turned down, led light strips which sit at the top of the existing fences would be more likely to get permission. The drawback of this option, however, is that the light is not as bright or as consistent across the court, as column mounted lights, but it would allow year-round evening use of all six courts.

- v) **To trial pickleball at the club.** Pickleball is not as well-known as padel in Europe – but it is massive in the US - and we have had a few enquiries over the past few months about whether it is something we currently offer as a club.

The plan is to offer a series of trial sessions in March and, depending on the levels of interest, then consider whether it is sufficient to merit adding dedicated pickleball sessions into the club's weekly calendar.

- vi) **To continue the work on the clubhouse refurbishment.** However, we are going to take a little pause before we press ahead.

Over the past couple of years, the bar and social calendar have generated several thousands of pounds in profits for the club. With Bex stepping down we may well have a year or two with materially fewer events and a drop in club revenues. If so, it may make more sense to move forward with our plans in incremental steps.

The good news is that Trevor Cook and Sheila Budd have kindly volunteered to take on the Bar Manager role. Both already do a huge amount for us, so we are extremely grateful that they have agreed to take on more. However, we do not yet have a clear idea of who might form a new social committee or what the scale of their ambitions might be.

3. Treasurer's Report – Martin Crayton

The LTCL annual accounts for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 show a net surplus (after depreciation) of around £6.8K (the surplus was approximately £13.6 k in the prior year).

Subscriptions income was £6.5k (13.6%) higher than the previous year. The bar profit was £5.7k versus £3.6k in the previous year.

Expenditure was higher reflecting a rent increase and increased electricity prices. The depreciation charge was £5.5k higher than the previous year reflecting the significant capital expenditure on the new court surfaces and the new LED floodlights during the financial year. A sizeable proportion of the previous year's net surplus resulted from a government Covid support grant of £8k.

At 31st March 2023, bank balances were £43k after deducting advance subscriptions.

The net deficit for 2023/2024 is forecast to be around £6k primarily as the depreciation charge will be £6.5k higher than in the year to March 2023 and there will be lease renewal expenses of around £3k.

For a breakdown of the 2022/2023 figures and more on the projected results for 2023/24, please see the appendices of the AGM Information Pack.

Resolution 2: The LTCL Accounts for 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 were approved.

Proposer: Martin Crayton

Secunder: Susan Barnard

Irene Gawne has stepped down as the Independent Examiner after 9 years of service to the club in addition to several years on the Committee in different roles. Martin thanked Irene for all she has done for the club.

4. Membership Report and Subscription Proposal – Trudy Mapstone.

The club's membership stands at 399 members and is expected to rise a little further in the final two months of the current membership year. The healthy numbers reflect the warm welcome visitors receive when they come to look around, along with the breadth of tennis on offer and a healthy social programme. Cardio tennis has been a good source of new membership encouraging some who start by looking only for a fun workout to take their tennis further.

We are proposing that membership fees for the year ahead rise roughly in line with inflation - at around 4%. This will keep our subscriptions competitive and will ensure that we have sufficient funds to maintain and improve our facilities.

Specifically, we propose that our annual membership fees will increase as follows:

Adult by £14 to £265
Young adult by £7 to £132.50
Junior, and Junior Parent by £4 to £85
Student by £4 to £85
Mini and Mini Parent by £8.50 to £45
Social by £8.50 to £45*

For renewals paid on or before 1st April, we can offer an early bird discount:

Adults will be £250
Young adult will be £125
Junior and Junior Parent will be £80
Student will be £80
Mini and Mini Parent will be £40

* No early bird discount for social membership

Resolution 3: The increased membership subscriptions shown above were approved.

Proposer: Trudy Mapstone

Secunder: Rebecca Ussher

Trudy concluded by noting that the club needs to reduce the time volunteers have to spend chasing late renewals. For that reason, this year and going forward, we will be quite strict about not extending the early bird discount beyond 1st of April. For members who have not renewed by then, their ability to book courts will be closed and the new member costs will be applied.

Finally, Trudy asked that members accompany their renewal payment with an email to her, to let her know payment has been made. This saves a huge amount of time and ensures that renewals are not missed.

5. Social Report – Rebecca Ussher

It was another exciting year for events and social activities at LTC with some new ideas and revised formats to appeal to as many of our members as possible. Successful events and a well-supported bar have generated a healthy profit for the club as shown in the club's Financial Statements whilst bringing the club together off the tennis court.

Bex confirmed that she will be standing down as Chair of Bar and Social Events and we are looking for volunteers to bring renewed energy and fresh ideas to this important role. She thanked the members who have helped and supported her over the past six or seven years.

Mike Watkins and Ranmore Wines for not only supplying amazing products, but all the extra things like glasses and ice buckets, as well as spending hours researching local gins, delivering tastings, and donating so much to the club.

Rob Robinson for his endless music enthusiasm and expertise in all things sound and light related. And, along with Mike, for the hours spent over the years on the BBQ.

Katy Cook for bringing support and ideas.

Tim Schuy for being game enough to dress up as a Leprechaun for St Patrick's Games Night.

Shiela Budd and Helena Chandler for keeping her going and for all their help at events.

Trevor Cook for taking on every crazy construction request, recycling and stocking the bar.

Paul Smith for generously donating his Disco gear for every event and encouraging the Silent Disco idea....

And everyone who has helped as a Bar Operator.

Bex presented a slide show to highlight some of the more memorable moments from the year's social calendar. A comprehensive recap of all the events can be found in the Information Pack.

6. Head Coach's Report: Alex Jackson

Alex thanked everyone who has participated in or supported the coaching programme over the last year to make it a successful 2023 in which sessions have been delivered to over 8,000 participants.

After a year of change in 2022, the focus for 2023 was to consolidate and to maintain the philosophy of quality over quantity. Coach to player ratios have been limited to 1-6 to ensure all sessions are of the highest quality.

JUNIOR PROGRAMME: All sub-sections (Foundation, Club, Academy) of our junior programme are enjoying healthy numbers. We are seeing the growth of our relatively new Academy section,

with two players selected for Surrey County Training in our 9 & under group. Three of our junior teams have won their national winter league divisions and are through to the knockouts for 2024. We also continue to see some great results from our juniors at external tournaments which we try showcase on social media. The future of the club's juniors looks bright as we continue to pull in children aged 4-7 from schools and other local tennis clubs.

ADULT PROGRAMME: Cardio and adult coaching sessions are enjoying good retention from attendees, although we hope to increase weekday attendances this year through improved marketing initiatives. We also plan to add new sessions to our adult programme during off-peak hours to increase the number of sessions on offer.

Club session attendances have typically held up well with some upturn in numbers on Tuesday evenings and Saturday afternoons. This year we will continue to offer seasonal sessions such as Rusty Rackets and beginner's courses. Team training dates for 2024 are also now confirmed.

We have had several changes to the Coaching Team in 2023, with two coaches joining and subsequently leaving, but we continue to enjoy providing our members with a successful coaching programme and pathway for development. Thank you to the Coaching Team (Simon alongside Tabby, Harry and George) for their efforts and thank you to everybody who has participated in our coaching programme over the last 12 months. We look forward to an equally successful 2024 and to welcoming a new full-time coach, Neil, in mid-February.

7. Election of Directors and Committee – Mike Watkins

Resolution 4: The appointment of Ed Stansfield as Chairperson and Director, Martin Crayton as Treasurer and Director, Trudy Mapstone as Membership Secretary and Director, and Rebecca Ussher as Director of Leatherhead Tennis Club Limited was approved.

Proposer: Mike Watkins

Seconder: Jo Hammond

Resolution 5: The appointment of the following members as the Management Committee was approved.

Ed Stansfield - Chairperson

Martin Crayton – Treasurer

Trudy Mapstone - Membership Secretary

Sue Barnard - Club Secretary

Rebecca Ussher General Member

Jo Hammond – General Member

Nigel Catlow - General Member

Mike Watkins - General Member

Proposer: Mike Watkins

Seconder: Martin Crayton

8. Question raised by members:

The committee members were thanked for all the hard work they do.

However, several members raised concerns about the proposed trials of pickleball. They felt that members should have been properly consulted in advance about this type of initiative – in particular, before painted lines were put down on Courts 5&6 which some felt resembled a school playground and made the courts difficult to play tennis on. There were concerns that should pickleball prove popular, the ability of members to play tennis could be compromised with a risk that the club would effectively become a four-court club.

The Committee apologised to members for any upset or concern that had been caused. This was not their intention and they accepted that communication regarding the proposed trial for pickleball had not been adequate.

However, they stressed that there was no intention to impose pickleball on members permanently. Rather, just as many other clubs have done, the Committee felt it was appropriate to consider widening the club's offer to members. To do that, they wanted to give members the opportunity to try pickleball for themselves by running a series of taster sessions in March. Then they would gather feedback from members about whether to pursue the idea further. The Committee noted that the lines could and would be easily painted over if members did not want the club to offer pickleball.

9. Meeting Closed

Before closing the meeting, Ed reiterated the Club's thanks to Irene Gawne for all the time she has given the club over the past 20 years or so. Over that time, she has served as Chair, Treasurer, general committee member and Independent Examiner of the club accounts.

Ed also thanked Bex on behalf of all the members for her efforts in rejuvenating the bar and the social programme over the past 6 or 7 years. Her hard work and endless energy were widely appreciated and have played a key part in helping to build and then sustain the happy friendly vibe for which our club is known.

Attendees

Lyndsey Wrobel

Shelagh Linford

Derek Wardle

Julia Crowe

Gordon Davies

Paul Jeffs

Dan Carpenter

Irene Gawne

Tabby Black

Ros Anwyl

Johnathan Crowley

Richard Verdin

Neal Stanton

Trevor Cook

Mike Goldhawk

Harry Kershaw

Beryl Eisenegger

Dianne Ashley

Sarah Kirmatzis

Chris Herbert

Mike Collins

Anna Black

Seonaid Chappell

Natalie Alon

Neil Cheung

LTC Committee

Ed Stansfield

Martin Crayton

Trudy Mapstone

Rebecca Ussher

Mike Watkins

Nigel Catlow

Sue Barnard

Alex Jackson

Apologies

Paul Carton

Shirley Carton

Nigel Turner

Wendy McEvoy

Hugh McKenzie

Jane Paul

Jo Hammond

Amanda Johnston