

Highlights of the 2022 AGM

We held our 2022 AGM on Saturday 8th January. The minutes will be posted on the “Governance” section of the website in due course. But here are the highlights.

Safety & security: we had no major accidents in 2021. However, equipment in the next door nursery was vandalised over the summer and our bar operators do not always feel safe when locking up at night. We therefore plan to install CCTV and extra lighting this year once we have all the necessary permissions.

Key Achievements in 2021: we made good progress on last year’s goals:

- Considerable effort has been put in to ensure the club is compliant with the changing Government and LTA Covid guidelines. This has required many small changes to the way members use the club but, since the end of March, has allowed us all to keep playing tennis. Thanks for your support.
- 2020 was a bumper year for new joiners and we are delighted that almost all new adult members re-joined the club in 2021. Indeed, we boosted our overall membership renewal rate from 69% in 2019 to 84% in 2021.
- Our junior offer was improved last year, and we established new links with three local secondary schools. As a result, our junior/junior parent membership numbers reversed their 2020 dip, and our mini / mini parent membership are well above 2019 levels.
- Our review of the club sessions and grading was not completed last year. We started with the Sunday morning session which was not working well for the Club’s strongest players, always its intended target group. Nigel Catlow volunteered to facilitate, we introduced a requirement to sign up in advance to make this possible and raised the eligibility level to “team standard”.
- The new session has had very positive feedback from those attending. Unfortunately, a few members who missed the cut were unhappy. We asked the coaches who had not been involved in the original decisions to review eligibility for the session, held face-to-face discussions with disappointed

members and released unused courts so that they could continue to organise games at 9am on Sunday.

- Our review after four months of operation concluded that the changes to the session had been a success and, apart from reducing the court allocation for the session from 6 to 5, we decided not to make further changes.
- Two suggestions for further changes to the Sunday session were put forward at the AGM. The full minutes will explain in more depth why the Committee has decided not to adopt these suggestions.
- An unexpected goal for last year was to replace our Head Coach, Andy Te, who, after 16 years with the club, has decided to move his family to Manchester. The fact that over 180 members sent messages of thanks and support, and more than 85 attended the AGM to see him off, is testament to how much he will be missed. Fortunately, in Alex Jackson, the Committee believes that we have an excellent replacement for Andy.

Key Goals for 2022

- Ensure a smooth transition between Andy and new Head Coach Alex Jackson.
- To enhance our junior offer, boosting membership & coaching attendances.
- To update our facilities plan in preparation for renewing our court surfaces and floodlighting.
- Finish and implement the outstanding work on grading and club sessions.

Accounts: in the year to March 2021, LTCL reported a net surplus of almost £25k, up from £7k in the previous year. The increase was due to a £20k covid grant, which will be put towards improving the playing surfaces and floodlighting. Financial assets stood at approximately £97k at March 31st. Irene Gawne was confirmed as the 'Independent Examiner' of our accounts.

After 15 years, Paul Carton is stepping down as Treasurer. Huge thanks go to him for all he has done over that period. Enjoy a well-earned rest Paul.

Membership and Subscriptions: in recognition of the impact of the pandemic on playing time, the Committee increased the early payment discount from £10 to £25 last year. Strong renewals combined with an additional 55 new joiners, mean that membership has risen to 384, a record for the club.

In 2022, the club has already seen a rise in running costs thanks to inflation and the Committee has undertaken to increase the number of balls distributed, from 3 sets per week to 4. The AGM voted to increase subscriptions by up to £10 in the coming year. The early payment discount will return to previous levels.

Bar and social: although covid restrictions remain in place, we managed to re-introduce some social events in 2021, including new member drinks, one-day tournaments, champagne tasting and the finals day bar/BBQ. Restrictions permitting, we look forward to offering a fuller social programme in 2022.

Election of Officers: Paul Carton has stepped down as Treasurer and Nigel Turner has stepped down after 10 years as Chairman. Nigel hands over the reins with record membership levels and the club's finances in excellent shape. The club is hugely grateful for everything he has done.

Martin Crayton and Trudy Mapstone were elected as Directors of LTCL, replacing Nigel and Paul. Ed Stansfield and Rebecca Ussher were re-elected as Directors. In addition, Ed Stansfield was elected as Chairman, Trudy Mapstone as Membership Secretary, Jo Hammond as Club Secretary, Martin Crayton as Treasurer and Rebecca Ussher as Chair of the Bar and Social Committee. Nigel Catlow and Mike Watkins were also re-elected to the Committee. Thanks to all for volunteering their time, energy and expertise.

Looking forward: we would like to wish Andy and Alex every success in their new roles and look forward to seeing Nigel looking a little more relaxed! Thank you for continuing to support our great coaches and, of course, our club. Fingers crossed for an uninterrupted year of tennis in 2022.

Your Committee

