



AGM minutes – 18 November 2019

Present

Stephen Finch, Rachel Fournier, Matthew Gelsomini, Sarah Hodge, Caroline Holroyd, Simon Howe, Caroline Jacobson, Mike Jones, Paula Jones, Pete Jones, Simon Quentin Jones, Sue Jones, Joanne Thomas Kemp. Peter Littlechild, Cath Lynn, Valerie McBroom, Victoria Morgan, Anthony Nash, Pascale O’Neil, Ann Peterson, Huw Jones, Andy Lynn, Simon Armitage, Doug Craddock, Robert Morgan, Will Piper, David Thomas, James Allan, Lucinda Anderson, Kathryn Armitage, Clive Bolton, Mike Braithwaite, Paul Carter, Leigh Caveney, Sam Collier, Anthony Cross, Tony Darwent, Diane Davies, Lesley Davies, Alison De’Ath, Amritpal Philora, Julie Piper, David Price, Richard Price, Andrew Reid Jones, Emma Reid Jones, Geraint Richards, Mike Salter, Andrea Shaddick, Juliette Sherrad, Mike Shipman, Sheridan Snook, Carole Stokes, Simon Stokes, Catherine Symons, Tony Symons Hicks, Jane Vinnicombe, Angela Whittle, Des Whittle, Ross Williams, Greg Jones, Holly Craddock, Daisy Reid Jones, Liz Reid Jones, Eliza Morgan

Apologies

Carol Evans, Linda Ford, Jonathan Hodge, Chris Norman, John Fournier, Karen Hodge, Ann Ritter, Andrew Dodd

Minutes from last meeting

Approved – proposed by Clive Bolton, seconded by Emma Reid Jones

Chairman’s report

Tony Nash

TN outlined a successful year – particularly with the new clay courts and the juniors making their mark – winners of the club champs.

And thank you to the parents for providing a taxi service. Many parents have joined as a result of the children in the coaching

TN commented that he wanted it placed on record the club’s thanks in supporting the tennis section and funding the new courts.

My thanks to fellow committee members who have supported the club through the year. And good luck to GR for the year ahead. And we hope for a good year ahead.

Chairman’s cup

It will come as no surprise that this year we are recognising the excellent work of Clive Bolton. He was instrumental in grounds and maintenance and installing the new courts etc. He’s dedicated many hours to the club and we are delighted to recommend him for the cup.



Player of the season

100% record for the ladies first team. Well done to Jo Thomas Kemp.

Men's report

Mike Jones

On paper it was a relatively successful season. We finished third. Played 10. Won 5, drew 2 lost 3.

Very disruptive season, but thanks to Paul Carter who was excellent in his support. And all those who turned out to play. We had a lot of difficulties. Lots of potential but timing wasn't great for the youngsters (had exams so not always available etc). It was sometimes hard to field a team on more than one occasion. But we didn't forfeit.

Paul Carter

Second team

Finished runner up and got promoted. Good season. Shame we didn't finish top. Had good fun. Thanks to all the players who played for the second team. Big squad of 15, so we were able to supply some reserves to the first team. Thank you to all those who participated in the second team. We look forward to next summer.

Ladies captain

Caroline Jacobson

Had a very successful season.

We ran two teams with about 25 players in the ladies first and second including the juniors. 1st team came first. 2nd team came second.

We are also playing in the winter leagues.

1st team top. 2nd are second

It's been a good year – had the juniors playing for us. Very good part of our team.

Safeguarding and welfare

Emma Reid Jones

Outlined that safeguarding is a key priority for Tennis Wales.

Every single LTA club is being audited to make sure we are complying with the policies and procedure to make sure all our children are safe.

An audit pass is required for LTA registration.

We had our audit in September – we failed. Good news is that we have now passed.

We have more posters and more information on the website. Please familiarise yourself with the website and let me know if you have any queries.

The pass was awarded with a caveat – that we need to approve our bylaws with the change to the court usage. So that's what that rule change is in reference to. (Note – rule change was approved by well over the required 2/3 majority.)



Welfare and safety of our young people is all our responsibility. So if you ever have a concern please report it to Emma or go to the LTA website to report and it will be dealt with accordingly.

The only other thing to point out. We are an unmanned club. The auditor was very keen for us all to be reminded that the area isn't probably that safe for children to be here on their own. They should really be supervised and it is up to parents to risk assess the situation.

House and grounds

Clive Bolton

It has been a busy year particularly with the newly resurfaced courts.

Courts 1-3 Maintenance – the newly resurfaced Court 1-3 require continual maintenance, and are proving more demanding than anticipated. Besides dragging the courts after you have used them, nearly every week throughout the year I have had to use the leaf blower to get rid of seedlings etc that drop from the trees. Obviously at the moment all the leaves are coming down so that is a heavy task.

The courts are deep brushed about once a month for which I am grateful of the assistance I have been given by club members. Weeds, and moss are beginning to appear around the edges so these will be treated when we get a dry spell. We have been advised that because of the regime we are following that we don't need the external annual maintenance to be carried out every year – so that is a saving of a couple of thousand pounds a year. However, we are using more infill than originally envisaged, which is why we try and recycle as much as we can. This year I have re-cycled over half a tonne of sand thus saving the club about £400 (based on the last purchase, each ton of sand costs about £750).

Particularly in the wet/damp the sand clings to our footwear so please ensure that when you come off court you wipe/shake your shoes. Also before you go in the clubhouse use the water trough.

Anyone who can spend an hour or two helping should contact me.

Besides the continual maintenance of Courts 1-3 there has been a lot of other work carried out during the year which I will summarise:

Clubhouse – two new fan assisted radiators have been bought and placed in the club room. Some of the chairs and tables have been repaired. We are currently looking at buying additional furniture for the club room.

Car Park – temporary repairs were made by Network Rail in the middle of the year



but these were not particularly effective. In the meantime, quotes have been obtained for tarmacking the area but these are too prohibitive. Quotes are now being obtained for scraping, scarifying and rolling to level the area and fill in the pot holes. This was last done some 15 years ago.

Outside toilet – as a result of the peeling plaster, it was necessary to carry out work on the external roof. Inside we stripped down to the brick work and have sealed and painted over that. The cost of plastering would have been about £1K.

Woodland Maintenance – the woodland area around the new saplings has been regularly weeded in accordance with the conditions set on us as part of the planning permission for the new courts. This will need to carry on for a few more years until the saplings are well established.

Shed Break in (Feb 19) – following the break in to the shed and theft of our leaf blower in Feb 19, additional security features have been implemented including signs, CCTV cameras, motion detector and siren and securing the tractor chassis to a ground anchor. A new leaf blower has been bought which is no longer kept in the shed.

Floodlights (Courts 2 and 3) – at the start of the winter season it was discovered that the floodlights on Courts 2 and 3 were not fully working. This was caused by water getting into the junction boxes at the base of each column. These have now been replaced with stronger boxes. In addition, one of the columns was loose, flapping in the wind and could not be tightened so it had to be replaced. You should be aware that a number of the original columns will need replacing in the near future.

Path – Courts 4 and 5 steps to the main area. Following welfare and H and S observations about juniors crossing the car park, it was decided to implement a path along the side of the bank between Courts 4 and 5 steps and the grass bank next to Courts 2 and 3.

Concrete gulleys adjacent to Court 1 and Court 2 – to aid in the collection of the sand from where the drag mats are shaken off and hung we have concreted in the gulleys between the courts 1 and 2 and the paving slabs.

Next year:

- Footsteps up to garden overlooking Courts 4 and 5
- Further concreting of gulleys.
- Ongoing court and wood maintenance. If anyone is available for an hour in the week please let Clive know.



Social

Angela Whittle

Thanked the members of the social committee for all their work this year. Cath, Juliette, Paula and Sue. We raised £1825

We need money to do the inside of this club house, need new tables and chairs, need to do some really good social nights and we'd like you to all to come.

First Thursday – good turnout - October was a bad month but first Thursday in 2020 is 2nd January. Please come and start the whole year off with a bang (Christmas jumpers if you like!)

Two prizes – Sheridan Snook and Leigh Caveney

Coaching

Tony Symons Hicks

Our three junior teams won their respective summer team tennis matches.

Lots of enthusiastic children in the coaching programme.

TSH encouraged the juniors join in regularly for team tennis.

We can have more teams if we have the numbers. And this will help us all to start bonding as a whole club. And I hope and think that will come with juniors migrating into the teams and we can all start having some fun.

Treasurer

Leigh Caveney

Most of our accounts are contained in the CAC annual report which was sent to all members in October.

LC also handed out a document with day to day funding, and a pie chart illustrating how much financial assistance we have from Cardiff Athletic Club. (Which is a lot – if you would like to see a copy of the piechart, please contact the secretary.)

Membership

Des Whittle

There are currently 192 members, an increase of two from 2018.

There are 104 Adults and 88 junior members.

Gross subscription fees total £17,158.50 which is paid directly to CAC, and includes the levy which totals £5,795.00.

Adult membership totals 84 and is 44% of overall membership.

An annual income of £10668.50 – 62%

Juniors/School yr six and below membership totals 68 and is 35% of overall membership

An annual income of £3198.00 – 19%

Family membership totals 40 and is 21% of overall membership

An annual income of £3292.00 – 19%



The above has been audited and agreed by Cardiff Athletic Club.

DW thanked everyone for their support as membership secretary.

DW commented that he had recently been to an LTA forum. He brought out the demographics from that forum and he's sure that many members would find it very interesting to read. He'll leave it in the club for all of us to have a look at.

VM briefly outlined of the survey findings (which were circulated back in August). She reminded everyone who was eligible (all adults and children over 11) to opt in to the Wimbledon Ballot (the more of us who opt into the ballot, the more tickets we get as a venue). So please opt in. More details available here: <https://www.lta.org.uk/major-tennis-events/grand-slams/wimbledon/ballots/btm-ballots-home/>

Election of committee members

Position	Name	Nominated	Seconded
Welfare/safeguarding officer	Emma Reid Jones	Cath Symons	Cath Lynn
Vice chair	Simon Howe	Clive Bolton	Paul Carter
Treasurer	Des Whittle	Leigh Caveney	Paul Carter
Membership secretary	Juliette Sherrard	Julia Plaut	Julie Piper
Committee member	Clive Bolton	Steve Finch	Jim Allan
Committee member	Jim Allan	Geraint Richards	Des Whittle
Committee member	Angela Whittle	Jo Thomas Kemp	Lucinda Anderson
Ladies captain	Caroline Jacobson	Sarah Hodge	Paula Jones
Men's captain	Greg Jones	Angela Whittle	Jim Allan
Secretary	Victoria Morgan	Alison De'ath	Rachel Fournier

Tony Nash becomes past chair and Geraint Richards becomes chair.

A big thank you to outgoing committee members – Paula Jones and Leigh Caveney for all their hard work on the committee and for the club over the past years.

The three rule changes were approved by more than 2/3 of the membership. They will go to CAC for final approval and then will be updated on our website.



Any Other Business

100 Club Draw

ERJ confirmed that the Lisvane Tennis 100 Club was still looking for new members – the cost is just £2.00 per month with a chance to win a cash prize. There are usually 2 prize draws per year but as the May (Wimbledon Draw) prize allocation had been deferred both the Wimbledon and AGM prize draws were being drawn at the AGM.

Wimbledon Draw – Prize Winners

First Prize - £30.00 – Caroline Holroyd. Second prize – £15.00 Diane Davies

AGM Draw

First Prize – £30.00 – Clive Bolton. Second prize £15.00 – Caroline Jacobson

2019-20 Chairman's Address

GR expressed his thanks to TN the previous chairman for 2018-19.

GR recalled that in the 32 years that he had been a member of the club he had seen various members hold the position of chairman and was able to name a significant number of those individuals. He explained that as a long standing member he was keen to ensure the club continued for a further 32 years and beyond.

The mission of Tennis Wales is to make tennis relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable.

GR felt that the club needed to incorporate these aims in its own vision and the new committee and club needed to adopt a long-term strategy to ensure a strong and vibrant future for the club. GR had drawn up a draft strategy and consulted Tennis Wales and Cardiff Athletic Club about its aims and objectives.

The Strategic Plan was based around six pillars:

1. Operations and Safeguarding
2. Planning for the Future including attracting new members and sustainability to reduce the reliance on CAC directing significant parts of its funds towards its tennis section (Lisvane (CAC) Tennis Club).
3. Competition and Performance – to improve the clubs own team's league placings.
4. Social
5. Membership increases
6. House and Grounds – improvements.

The vision was of a club that was a thriving part of the Lisvane Community and that could be achieved by things like hiring out the club house and its courts. The extra income helping the club to be more self-sufficient and ensure that it makes a difference to its local community and gives everyone the chance to play tennis.



GR expressed a hope that the members would support the vision and the initial draft of the Strategy would be assessed firstly by the new committee and hopefully then sent to members in around 4 to 6 weeks.

Some of the proposals included:

- The setting up of a Junior Committee would represent the views of young people.
- Setting up a fundraising committee to look at attracting sponsors
- Purchasing a practice wall with the £7,000 cost funded by sponsorship or crowd funding
- Looking at whether to adopt new tennis games such as Padel tennis which used smaller courts, lower nets etc.

GR felt that the club had a long history and many members had worked hard through the years to sustain it and it was vital that the club faced the future in a pro-active manner. The Strategy was a way of drawing together a variety of activities that would take the club forward.

It was also noted that Tennis Wales expect us to aspire to 200 members by 2021 (4 more than now) but 300 members by 2024, we set ourselves a target of raising £2,000 via fund raising for 2020 and it is vital to have a quality coaching programme to develop skills and improve performance.

Steve Finch responded by saying he felt pleased to hear the new ideas and expected an exciting year ahead.

Windbreaks

CB reported that new Tennis Windbreaks would be installed on Courts 1 and 2 in the near future and appealed for assistance in putting them up.

Club Logo

Steve Finch welcomed the recently adopted club logo that recognised the fact that Lisvane Tennis Club exists as the Tennis Section of Cardiff Athletic Club but pointed out that the original club had existed long before the merger with Cardiff Athletic Club in 2004. (The Club was formed in 1985 and played at Llanishen High School then Heath Park and then Official Opening Barbeque was 21st May 1988.)

Meeting closed