



## **Minutes of the Lisvane (CAC) Tennis Club AGM 7 October 2022**

In the absence of a chair or vice-chair on the committee, club secretary Victoria Morgan opened the meeting and outlined the agenda.

### **Present**

Andrew Dodd, Lesley Davies, Jim Allan, Doug Craddock, Tony Symons Hicks, Cath Symons Hicks, Emma Reid-Jones, Andrew Reid-Jones, Sheridan Snook, Diane Davies, Antony Cross, Alex Welch, Clive Bolton, Cath Lynn, Tony Nash, Victoria Morgan

### **Apologies**

Geraint Richards, Mike Salter, Steve Finch, Paula Jones, Simon Howe, Juliette Sherrard, Chantal Davies, Kathy and Simon Armitage, Mike Shipman, Beth and Gareth Llewelyn

### **Minutes of last AGM**

Jim Allan proposed, Emma Reid-Jones seconded – approved.

### **Finance - Tony Nash**

Tony Nash outlined the projected 2022/2023 finances.  
(appended)

### **Membership**

Total members stand at 273. This is broken down into categories as follows:

111 Adult members  
48 Family members which equates to 12 families  
34 Over 65s  
8 Weekday members  
38 Juniors (high school age)  
32 Yr 6 & Below members (primary school age) and  
2 students (Over 18 in full time education)

Our annual membership fees increased by a nominal amount of £5 per adult in April and remain competitive. The fees are as follows:

Adult £170  
Family £390  
Over 65 £130  
Weekday £115  
Junior £70  
Yr 6 & Below £35  
Student £105



Total membership revenue so far this year totals £31,960.

As you know our membership year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March. Although we got off to a slow start in April with just under 200 members renewing and 5 new members, by the end of May, the numbers had risen to 247 and we're now at 273. Although down from last year's high of 297, the numbers remain healthy with the slight reduction being due to illness/old age, injury and members relocating.

As you may know, we offer a 6 month membership which runs from 1<sup>st</sup> October. This year we offered this from 1<sup>st</sup> September so the offer was 7 months for the price of 6. This attracted 7 new adult members and 1 Over 65 member. These numbers are included in the total mentioned above.

We continue to advertise for new members in the local magazine, the Lisvane Link, on Facebook and will do so I'm sure on our new Instagram account. New members also come to us through our junior coaching programme, local people passing the club and seeing our membership posters, the Pay2play system together with the most effective method which is word of mouth. There's nothing better than members recommending our friendly club to others!

### **Safeguarding – Emma Reid-Jones**

We had our three-year LTA safeguarding visit in September. A few things to update, website changes, policy procedure etc. And we passed!

Without good safeguarding etc, we can't function as a club or be registered with the LTA. ERJ has just retaken her level 1 safeguarding course.

I've been doing the job on the committee for 7/8 years. With welfare being part of that. I will be stepping down at the next AGM, and giving 12-months notice as of today.

We will need a new person or we can't manage the club as an LTA club.

It was asked if the club could exist as an adult only club and therefore not require a safeguarding officer.

It was explained that the safeguarding policy protects all members of the club, and without a safeguarding officer we are unable to be a registered LTA club (so we wouldn't have Clubspark, team tennis, tennis insurance).

It was also commented upon that there is sometimes alcohol kept in the fridges in the club room and whether that was a safeguarding issue. ERJ confirmed that she had spoken to the LTA safeguarding team about this, but as we don't allow juniors to have clubhouse keys and juniors aren't allowed in the clubhouse unsupervised, that this wasn't an issue.



## **House and grounds**

As always, the last 15 months since our last AGM in July 2021 has been a busy time.

**Courts 1-3 Maintenance.** As experienced to date Courts 1-3 require continual maintenance. There is the regular weekly leaf blowing clearing tree debris from around the courts, and the sweeping of infill collecting underneath the drag mats. Deep brushing has taken place 3-4 times a year, and infill has been added in autumn and spring. Experience is showing that addition of sand twice a year is sufficient. Each time we use about 1.5 tonnes of sand. We took delivery of 5 tonnes of infill in June which should last us through to end of 2023. The cost of this was £4.4K or £22 a bag. So, I have continued to try and re-circulate sand from the gulleys and from underneath the drag mats. Weeds and moss around the extremities of the courts have been treated typically 2-3 times a year.

In addition to the court maintenance a number of other activities have taken place during the period.

**Security.** Following the shed break-in and theft in 2019, and the instances of loutish behaviour on Courts 2 & 3, we have increased the fence height behind the club house and installed palisade fencing on top of the stone gabions to the rear of the club house. We also installed a CCTV system around the clubhouse thanks to Cardiff Alarms who gave us a generous discount.

**Clubhouse.** In the clubhouse, we hired a painter to paint the hallway, stairs, landing and upstairs club room and kitchen area. I hope you all agree that it looks much brighter and cleaner. Thanks to Simon Stokes for funding the painting of the upstairs. We have also had created Honours Boards for the main club competitions. These are now hanging up in the club room. I indicated at the last AGM, that we were going to look into replacing the upright wooden balustrades with Perspex or glass panels. We had a trial panel up for a period of months to see how clean it might stay, as well as getting quotes for the work. Given the cost of the quotes we have decided not to go ahead with this. Instead, we might look at getting a painter in to rub down and paint the existing uprights and balustrades.

**Trees.** Following a member's observation about trees overhanging Court 3 (and since there is a Tree Preservation Order on all our trees), I commissioned a survey of all the trees. The report indicated some 22 trees (some with many stems) needed action - quite a few had ash die back. An application was made to the Council Tree Officer who agreed with the findings of the survey and gave us permission to carry out the recommended work. In May/June 14 trees were either cut down or trimmed. To reduce costs, I decided that a few of the recommended trees with ash die back would not be cut down. These pose no threat to users of the bridle path, and if they fall it will be into our wooded area.

**Car Park.** Over last winter a considerable number of pot holes appeared. So in April we paid for these to be filled in with concrete. Since then a number of other pot holes have



appeared, and these were filled in a couple of weeks ago. This will be an ongoing task until we get the car park tarmacadamed.

**Resignation/Reduction in workload.** Earlier in the year I advised the committee that I would be standing down as H&G member at the next AGM. I have been doing the role since before Courts 1-3 were re-surfaced. The work necessary to maintain the upkeep and condition of these courts and the grounds has typically taken me 4-5 hours per week. We advertised internally within the club membership but no willing volunteers came forward, so we decided to look outside the club for a person to do much of the grounds work. We have been fortunate in finding a lady (who some of you know) who officially started on a paid basis from 1 October. As a consequence, I am prepared to stay on as the H&G member should you all agree (when we get to the elections) but obviously with a much reduced personal workload.

It was suggested that the committee set up some work day parties, and asked for members support for these. It was agreed that was a good idea.

#### **Cardiff Athletic Club representative - Jim Allan**

The Athletic club comprises five sections – rugby, bowls, hockey, tennis and cricket. Merged in 2002 with LTC, and since then CAC has invested about £500,000 in this facility, including the club house, courts 4 and 5, artificial clay on courts 123, lighting upgrades etc. All the sections have been very successful in their teams/championships, and our hockey section have been successful in some European competitions.

CAC is keen to develop all the sections, and we currently have about £650k in the bank. However, our hockey section are in need of a home, and we'd need about £1.5m to fund this. Jim explained he is part of a development group in order to develop Cardiff Arms Park to make more out of it to help support the other sections.

18 November we have a centenary anniversary dinner. A flexible dress code, not often you get a chance to celebrate 100 years of a sports club. All members are welcome. Jim Allan is the contact for this dinner. So please get in touch with him. Would be great to support this event etc.

## **TEAMS**

### **Juniors**

We run junior teams in the summer and winter leagues. Summer u16 boys won their division. With the younger age groups gaining some great experience playing teams from all over South Wales. It's a great opportunity for the juniors to play together as a team.

### **Mixed**

*Captain – Christie Heiberg*



During the summer I was given the pleasure of trying to get the mixed doubles ladder up and running. In order to get some games going I set up some round robins which were 2 - 3 hours on a sat or Sunday and gave players a chance to get some games on the scoreboard. This provided some good practice time and exposure, as mixed doubles teams, to various levels of competition within the club. This is running alongside the league games and will give new teams an opportunity to practise together.

With this ladder team as the base for the winter league, and some wonderful amazing players opting in, we have a really strong team for this season.

## **Ladies**

### *Lisvane 1 Ladies*

*Captain – Paula Varma*

We did well last winter and enjoyed playing competitively after lockdown restrictions.

During the summer we struggled to get a team due to injuries and an aging team. We had to forfeit one match but despite this finished 5 out of 6 in ladies east 3.

As a result of this we decided to enter a vet's team for the winter league. This has left ladies 2 having to fill our space in the winter league but they are relishing the opportunity.

We have started the season strongly and have not lost a set in the first 2 matches.

We have benefited from having a few new members from other clubs join and agree that more competitive sessions would improve match play and encourage more to attend.

### *Lisvane 2 Ladies*

*Captain – Alison De'ath*

The ladies 2nd team is now a smaller group of more dedicated players (13 ladies including 2 junior players) that are eager to play regularly in competitive matches. We had some VERY close matches over the summer season and finished second in the league which means we should be promoted. Many of the team attended training with Tony in April which was crucial (and we need more of this!). It's also been important to have partners that play regularly together.

We are playing as the 1st Ladies team in the winter league as the 1st Ladies team are now playing as Ladies Vets. We are not the same standard and may struggle in the division but it's good practice! We have had a couple of good matches so far but have lost both.

We are a communicative and happy bunch and play regularly outside of socials.

## **Men's**

*Winter Captain – Andrew Reid-Jones*

### **Chiltern Sports South Wales Veterans Division 3 21/22**

In a good quality league of 6 teams, we did finish the season being relegated.

Many thanks to all that supported the team in playing and apologies from the captain who was ranked 60th out of 61 players in the league. The 61st player was, sadly for the author, anonymous.

### **South Wales Winter League Division 11 22/23**

We are new to this league, and it is not age restricted, so gives us a wider pool of players to select from. We have won both our matches so far (3-1 and 4-0) with some great



performances, particularly from Tom & Diluka in the first match they played together since their epic final only two days before. It's shaping up to be an interesting league...

### **Summer League**

**2021 – two men's sides.**

#### **Lisvane 1**

We could not field a side for a variety of reasons and did not fulfil a number of fixtures. We ended bottom of the league and were to be relegated from Division 2 to Division 3.

#### **Lisvane 2**

Battled hard but in a stop start season were relegated from Division 4 to Division 5.

### **2022**

Decision made to only enter one men's side into the summer league. We lost two games all season and claimed second to gain promotion to Division 4.

We will continue to monitor interest from the male player base in playing team tennis. The decision to have two teams would be considerably boosted should a Men's 2 Captain be found.

### **Club Champs 2022**

High entry number, consolation comps for all divisions, good quality of tennis.

Some lessons learnt – early advertisement of next year's Club Champs.

### **SOCIAL**

#### **Cath Lynn**

- A good year of social events.
- Friday afternoon socials tea and cakes. No charge. Good to have different members come to it.
- Had a very successful dinner dance last year. This year it's a slightly more casual event - 12 November at the Llanishen Golf Club.
- Finals day was really well attended. Thank you to all the members who came/and make cakes etc which we sold.
- First Thursdays going well each month. Always well attended.

Coming up

We'll be holding a first Thursday in December – mulled wine and mince pies.

### **Coaching**

Our coach, Tony Symons Hicks, gave a short report on the club coaching programme.

We have a good balance between coaching/court time and socials etc.

Bunch of little red ballers coming through – they move on to the teenage classes. Good news is that of our older juniors who have just moved to university, all have got on the BUCS university tennis teams.

Coaching going well. Just short of 90 juniors in the programme. Have a good group of junior assistant coaches/tennis leaders too.



Box leagues – 60ish people take part. They're free of charge for members.

We held a junior tournament in September, and we have another one coming up in October. Good to help the Lisvane juniors with their tennis development and we hope to hold more in the Spring.

Coaching finishing at the end of November.

TSH mentioned the veteran's tournament that he is planning with some members. More details to follow.

### **Voting on rule changes**

Those present voted on the suggested three rule changes. All were unanimously approved. These will be changed and approved by CAC with final versions going on the website.

Rule 5.5.1 The Tennis Club management committee will determine a separate levy that is payable in addition to the CAC subscription with such funds being used to cover additional items or expenditure not already included in the existing club funding arrangements.

Rule: 9.1 The Club shall be managed by a Management Committee consisting of the following Officers:

Combine the men's captain and ladies captain positions to 'club captain'

Rule 9.2 - The Chairman should be nominated for ONE year with a second and/or third year being at his/her and the club's agreement.

<b>Position and person nominated</b>	<b>Nominated by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>
Tony Nash, treasurer	Clive Bolton	Victoria Morgan
Clive Bolton, house and grounds	Simon Howe	Jim Allan
Victoria Morgan, secretary	Chris Heiberg	Alison De'Ath
Emma Reid-Jones, welfare and safeguarding officer	Juliette Sherrard	Victoria Morgan
Cath Lynn, committee/social secretary	Victoria Morgan	Chris Heiberg
Jim Allan, CAC rep	Clive Bolton	Simon Howe
Alex Welch, club captain	Tony Nash	Victoria Morgan

Juliette (membership secretary) is standing down effective from this AGM. Thank you to Juliette for all her efforts over the last two years.



Emma Reid Jones and Victoria Morgan have said that they'll be standing down in October 2023/at the next AGM.

Just a reminder that the club cannot be an LTA registered club (And therefore can't enter any teams, have Clubspark, etc) without a safeguarding/welfare officer and Emma is happy to talk to people about taking on this role so that handover is easier next year.

### **AOB**

Thank you to Simon Stokes for his endeavours in getting these lovely honours boards. He was the lead on this and spent many hours getting the names from the trophies etc .

It was asked if the club could provide training/non-pressurised balls for socials, specifically for men's social. The committee responded that we don't buy social balls, and instead reuse team match balls. However, it was discussed also that perhaps the men might like to club together to buy some for themselves to use on socials.