

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Longstanton Tennis Club, held on 22nd March 2019 at the Pavilion, Longstanton.

Present: Stuart Ballard, Ben Van Well, Dina van Well, Fred Chatfield, Rachel Dale, Jim Young and Damian Kramer.

Apologies: Sarah Ballard, Michail Dermenzi.

Minutes of the last AGM were passed unanimously.

Chairman's report: Damian presented his report. It was noted that there had been a decline in the memberships over the last year, although it is not really known why. It is hoped to grow the club membership again this year, and there have already been some new members joining for the 2019 season.

It was a very busy year of events in 2018, with the Quorn Cup, Jake Benton Memorial Trophy, Great British Tennis Weekend and the Halloween Monster Smash. We intend to hold a similar number of events this year, including our most important, the Bright Ideas for Tennis event in May.

It was noted that we must try and find a way to convert some of those attending the events into members. It is hoped that the new 3-month trial membership may help with this.

Treasurer's report: presented. Accounts for both 2017/18 and 2018/19 were presented as the full accounts for 2017/18 hadn't been presented at the last AGM. Spending was more than income in 2017/18, primarily because of the final painting work for the courts. Income for 2018/19 is higher than expenditure by around £2000, with early memberships for the 2019/20 season making up some recent increases. It was noted that we should be aiming for around £1500 per court for a sinking fund. The electricity charges had doubled with E.ON, so we switched to a new supplier, which promptly went out of business. We are now with Scottish power, at a reduced rate over E.ON.

Election of Officers: The Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Welfare Officer were willing to stand again and were accordingly re-elected. David Nation, our coach, remains on the committee. Michail Dermenzi remains as Men's Captain for the Business Houses League. Sarah Ballard stood down as the Mixed Captain, and a replacement is being sought.

Membership: It had been previously agreed by the committee to maintain the prices for the current membership packages. It was also agreed at the same meeting to create three new membership packages for the 2019/20 season; one for couples, one for young adults (up to aged 25) and a 3-month trial package. It had also been agreed to offer an "early-bird" 10% discount for those taking up membership before April 1st. Up to the date of the AGM this had already resulted in 15 packages being purchased, for a total of 27 members.

Business Houses League: Both teams finished just below mid table for the 2018/19 season in the BHL. The mixed team finished 5th out of 7 teams and the men's team join 5th out of 7. It was discussed that we are still lacking depth in the teams, and especially struggling for female players for the mixed matches. We will be joining the BHL league again this year, and also joining the LTA league for the first time during the winter season.

Coaching: David coaching sessions continue to be well subscribed, particularly the junior sessions. The Tuesday session is no longer run, with all sessions now being run on Thursdays. After some

thought and discussion, David is intending to focus the adult class on beginner/intermediate players. This is hoped to bring more potential members into the club.

There was some discussion about whether we could make better use of the ClubSpark facilities to make it easier for people to sign up and join the classes. If we took this approach then the club would manage the signup process and would have to pay David for his time. The club would therefore incur a loss if the number of people joining the course didn't cover the expenses, so we would need to work on promoting the courses ourselves. Damian agreed to discuss this possibility with David at a later date.

Courts: The courts are currently in excellent condition, with the removal of the surrounding trees minimising the need for sweeping. It was noted that there are a lot of weeds growing in the surrounding land that will need clearing. A larger scaler clearing of land and trimming back of hedges behind the courts is planned to take place before the summer.

Damian agreed to investigate the cost of obtaining some windbreak material to attach to the fence at the front of the courts. It is expected that this will improve court play by blocking some of the wind, providing a better backdrop for play, and also preventing stones from flying onto the court when the football field is mowed.

Pay and play: The key safe continues to work well for non-members using the courts on a pay and play basis. Damian agreed to change the code on the key safe more frequently to prevent court use by non-members who haven't paid but remember the code from their last booking.

Club sessions: Club sessions remain a key element of the club's weekly calendar. Earlier in the year we created a WhatsApp group open to all members of the club. It was hoped that this would allow people to quickly check if others were planning on attending the sessions, preventing people from turning up and having no one to play with.

While this has been successful to a degree, it was noted that some people were also using it to plan other sessions, thereby leading to them not turning up to the main club sessions. It was agreed to monitor this over the summer and see if further action would be warranted. It was further noted that if we get enough people joining the club and the club sessions are busy, this mechanism would not be required.

Events: The club is planning to undertake at least the following events in 2019:

- Quorn Cup – Sunday 28th April, 10am – midday
- Bright Ideas for Tennis (BIFT) – Saturday 11th May, 1pm – 6pm
- Jake Benton Memorial Trophy – Sunday 9th June, 10am – midday
- Great British Tennis Weekend – July (date TBC)

The Bright Ideas for Tennis event will be our biggest to date, which we intend to promote widely across the local area. It will revolve around ex Davis/Federation cup players providing masterclass sessions and an exhibition match. It is very much hoped that we can use this as an opportunity to reach new potential members.

AOB: none.

Meeting closed at 10 pm.