

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Long Stanton Tennis Club

25th of May 2020

Hosted virtually on zoom

Present: Damien Kramer, Michail Dermenzi, Ben Van Well, Tom Dineen, Richard Hunt, Sarah Ballard, Fred Chatfield, Gbenga Kazeem, Florian van Loo

1. Apologies

None reported.

2. Minutes of the last AGM

Minutes were passed unanimously.

3. Chair's report

The Chair presented his report, which is attached in full in the appendix.

Discussion notes on Chair's report:

Memberships - We currently have 55 members.

- The weather so far has not been kind to sign ups. We had the nice weather last year and the change in membership to when you start up might help the numbers to increase throughout the year. 55 members indicates the numbers of members not the number of memberships.
- There were 20 temporary memberships last year with 1 or 2 this year.
- Historical memberships range from the 50s-70s. To have 55 paid up at this point is quite good with 12 juniors included

4. Treasurer's report

2019-2020:

Greater income from membership and pay and play court fees in 2019.

The expenditure was largely from the electricity from when we were stuck on a variable tariff, and the club balls were purchased. There was an increase in ball prices.

Court maintenance and promotion with the finishing of the white lining – seems we might be needing this again.

Defibrillator- our share of the defibrillator in the pavilion.

2020-2021

Membership: The membership income increased again which reflected in the increased number of members from last year. The court fees have gone down because in the previous years they were charging David to use the courts for coaching.

Expenditure: we haven't shown any expenditure on the balls until this year.

- A figure missing is ground rent because it wasn't paid until the beginning of this year due to the work setting up the new charity. £100 increased to £108.
- Hoodies are now being shown as assets.

Positives: change in funds increased by just over £3,000

The current balance is £12,123 in the business account. Interest rate at .01%. With the current account the current total balance is £13,882.

Treasurer's Report Discussion points:

The electricity costs seem to have jumped up again. Scottish Power has tried to put us on the highest monthly payment but have agreed with an amount that is lower and we are currently in credit with Scottish Power and we are likely to reduce the direct debit payments.

Current Tariffs: Day rates, evening rates, night time rates. The tariffs are highest for day time reducing to evening, and then night time. Use is highest during evening for floodlights.

5. Election of Officers

Chair: Damian nominated to stand again, accepted position

Treasurer: Fred nominated to stand again, accepted position

Secretary: Sarah stepping down, Jen Daffron to step up to position

Welfare officer: Ben stepping down, Florian to step up to position

- Florian to take necessary training classes for this position
- Check that all documents are checked and valid

6. Membership

We dropped the membership prices because of pandemic and in a committee meeting earlier this year decided to keep them at that level. To be reviewed again in early 2022. Membership numbers hopefully to go up as warmer weather hits.

Any increase will be determined by the situation at that time.

7. League Matches

Female teams/mixed team to play in business house league? Friendly matches against other clubs? LTA Leagues are easy, fun, and sociable.

- Finding where you can fit in and finding enough ladies for a mixed match. 3 or 4 minimum for a mixed team. There are 12 female members – is there a way to reach out to the members.
- Encourage the women's team and getting the women teams together.

Men's teams: The teams are doing well with the match results to go on the league. Positive for the club that we are doing so well.

8. Coaching

David was unable to make the meeting.

Reporting – David ceased coaching at the club last year and has gotten back in touch and will remain on the committee and would like to try again with coaching again in Longstanton but there hasn't been confirmation of when this will happen.

What about Signing up “over and in” an organisation who provides coaching and giving them the slots and they advertise and book. Papworth and other smaller clubs do things like this with a committed coaching period that is reserve for coaching. This would be more about drawing people to the club. Coaching brings juniors and their parents. A follow up and discussion on this.

Coaching sessions over the summer: David has a possible interest in this.

9. Courts

The courts are in good condition with the baselines wearing a bit. They were painted in 2017 and it is important to keep on top of this for court maintenance.

Weeds growing around the edge of the court could be impacting the tarmac surface. Volunteer follow-up. The charity that manages the surrounding grounds should be maintaining a clear area around the fence a metre wide.

New floodlights are dependent on funds but likely in the region on £12-15k depending on the technology involved.

Wind screens: Cannot have advertising on them. Perhaps a heavy-duty mesh cover.

- Is there potential for an outside sign toward the road for the Longstanton tennis club?

Lights are the most important but also the most expensive. Research to be revisited on this.

New bench needed on court 2. Andy Downham has volunteered to organise this.

A suggestion of gravel between the tennis court and the bowls club to keep down weeds was proposed.

10. Pay and play

Continues to be popular. Less time during 2020 for the bookings but this brought in £120 for the club

A few issues with people playing and not paying.

11. Club sessions

Continuing on currently. Regulars are coming but the weather isn't helping with attendance.

12. Events

The club is planning to undertake at least the following events in 2021:

Balls, buggies, and babies to encourage women who have recently had babies to get back out to socialise and exercise. Cambridge LTA covered costs for coaching for this course. 6 people signed up with a maximum of 12. Strong initial interest in this.

Further events later in the year with regard to opening up.

Hopefully an open day in the summer. Unsure if LTA will continue with normal events.

13.AOB

Notification that there will be no tickets for members for Wimbledon this year.

Meeting ended at 9:00.

Appendix – Chair’s Report

Note: Due to the AGM being missed in 2019, this report covers the 2019/20 and 2020/21 season.

We ran several events in 2019, including the Quorn Family Tennis, Bright Ideas for Tennis and the Nature Valley Big Tennis Weekend. The BIFT event attracted almost 50 attendees, our most successful event to date. Membership numbers were up from significantly from 2018, with 81 full time members and 12 that took up the 3-month trial.

At the beginning of 2020 we were preparing for the next tennis season when the pandemic hit us. The courts remained open until March 3rd, when the first lockdown went into effect and we were forced to close.

Following updated guidance from the LTA, we were able to reopen the courts with reduced capacity from May 17th. We had reduced our membership prices in March for the early bird sign up, and decided to keep prices at that level for the remainder of the season.

Despite the restrictions caused by the pandemic, the courts were generally in constant use, and we even had some singles matches organised by Rich Hunt. Unfortunately, due to the disruptions it wasn’t possible to complete all the matches planned. It wasn’t practical or safe to run any of the normal group events.

Due to government rules we had to close between 4th November and 5th December, and once again between 4th January and 29th March. Despite all of the disruptions, we ended the season with an increased membership from 2019, with 93 full time members and 24 that took up the 3-month trial.