

## Minutes of Longthorpe Lawn Tennis Club Annual General Meeting

on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022, 7.00 pm at the Village Hall

### Present:

Jason Burgess (JB)	Toni Butcher(TB)	Shirley Short (SS)	Angie Axe(AA)	Ruth Swaan(RS)
Martin Trayford(MT)	Keith Madeiros(KM)	Margaret Wappat	Ken Wappat(KW)	David Owen
Liz Sharman	Patcharee Shareewan	Miranda Dale	Bob Green	Toni M-Ray-
Becky Austin	Liz Norfolk	Jill Buxton	Sylvia Murray	Sheila Coolbear
Ben Rostaing	Usman Ali	Sarah Hearn	Steve Short	Bill Sansom
Sue Sansom	Dave Howath	Julian Dowse	Stephen Sargent	Victoria Axe
Toby Eldred	Gordon Porter	Clare Major	Harvey Adcock	JP Lamy

### 1. Welcome and apologies – JB Welcomed all present and SS read out apologies from

Anne Pepper	Sheila Smith	Caroline Worth	Sue Roberts	Joe Roberts	Lesley Luton
Gordon Ingle	Rita Elcome	Jane Wheble	Anne Bolton	Alan Swaan	Grace McDonnell-
Paul Stevenette	Ray McDonnell	Becky Webb(BW)	Helen Glavina		

### 2. Minutes of the last AGM held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021– Accepted as correct and were signed off. Proposed by KW, seconded by RS.

### 3. Matters arising not covered in agenda – JB reminded members that a request at the last AGM to ballot members to change the predominantly white clothing rule was carried out. The result was to keep the predominant white rule- by a close margin. This will be upheld for 5 years before another ballot can be held. He expressed the need to respect each others views and that there is no right or wrong view in this matter.

George Stockford resigned earlier this year and I2C has been trying to replace him without success. This has had repercussions on our coaching programmes and activities especially for juniors and minis. JB and AA met with Becky Webb from I2C (now called NowTennis) to discuss future plans this morning.

JB thanked Angela Pepper, who has resigned as tea and cakes organiser, for her hard work. We warmly thank and welcome Caroline Worth for volunteering to undertake the role. He reminded members that the cost of our tennis balls have been paid for from the proceeds of the tea and cakes!

### 4. Chairman's Report -JB is very pleased that the club has had a successful year. He thanked the committee and the members for their role in helping to deliver the ethos, culture and financial stability of the club, stating that club belongs to all members and the committee are volunteers who work to maintain the club. He welcomes feedback and encourages anyone who would like to volunteer for upcoming roles to let us know. He thanked Alison Hurford for volunteering to take on Communications and Social Media. The committee has had the required Safeguarding training. We are reminded that Safeguarding is relevant to all members and we need to be aware of our responsibilities. Safeguarding Information is available on club notice board.

Defibrillation training organised by the Village hall has been taken up by some members. Recycling of general rubbish and used tennis balls have been very successful thanks to Ruth for general rubbish and Steve Mitcham for ball recycling. Proceeds from the recycled balls have been donated to charity. Our club has done moderately well in local competitions. However, JB feels we need to improve our 18-30s membership and encourages the younger members to invite their friends along to our club.

He thanked Paulo, the groundsman, for his good work, the coaching team from i2c/Nowtennis, Harry Clark, Kevin Tighe, Dave Forth, Katrin Turvey, Club Captains (Ruth Swann, Martin Trayford), Team captains (Lesley Luton, Vicky Axe, Angie Axe, Sylvia Murray, JP Lamy, Paul Stevenette, Keith Madeiros), the committee and all members for their contributions in the activities of the club.

### 5. Treasurer's Report – TB reported that it has been a successful year. Our Rate Reward a/c is up by around £7000 and community a/c by £2000. Tea and cake money pays for balls, light tokens pays for electricity. ClubSpark has improved the collection of membership fees and financial transactions.

In view of the healthy financial balance, it was decided that next year's membership fee should remain unchanged. However, we must remember the need to maintain a 'war chest' for court maintenance. Acceptance of accounts proposed by Liz Norfolk, seconded by Ken Wappat.

#### **6. Membership Secretary's Report** – VA informed that our membership is as follows

Total Adults= 172 (Adult = 86 + Seniors = 30 + Student=1 ) Juniors = 20 Minis = 35

The drop in juniors and minis this year is due to absence of coach to take on the programmes and activities after George Stockford left.

#### **7. Juniors & Welfare Report** – AA

We continue to run coaching for Juniors on a Wednesday from 4.00 - 6.00 pm and on a Saturday morning. Sadly numbers of Juniors signing up for coaching has decreased this year but i2c have acknowledged that they have found it difficult to replace our Head Coach, George Stockford, after he resigned in June. We are, however, very grateful to Kevin Tighe and David Forth, who, along with assistant coach Harry Clark, have agreed to continue to run a coaching programme until a permanent Head Coach is appointed.

We are in regular contact with i2c and during a meeting this morning we have discussed an annual plan that will hopefully address the problem of our decline in Junior membership.

The Club ran The Pathway to Wimbledon Competition once again for our U.14 members in June. Our Club Champion was Stanley Ilounoh, with Euan Christie as Runner-up.

We are holding a Halloween party for the Juniors on Saturday evening and the following weekend we are running our Junior Championships for all ages up to U.16s.

Harry Clark was presented with the U.18 Trophy at our Club Championships in September. Well done Harry!

#### **8. Coaching** –BW's report - As of October 2022, we have 46 players paying a monthly direct debit to take part in the coaching programme at LLTC (41 juniors and 5 adults). The programme is currently run by i2c coaches David Forth and Kevin Tighe following the departure of George Stockford earlier this year.

Max continues to run Cardio Tennis as a pay & play session on a Friday morning, with 6 regular attendees throughout the Autumn term.

We continue in our search to recruit a New Head coach who will take on the existing programme at LLTC, and also look to develop new sessions across the week. We have had some difficulty with coach recruitment throughout the whole of Cambridgeshire, but we continue to make every effort to recruit while maintaining the current programme. In the mean time, David and Kevin continue to run the sessions to provide some much needed continuity for the players within the coaching programme.

Thanks to the feedback from members, we will be starting a new class specifically for adult team players to run on a Wednesday evening from November, led by Katrin.

We welcome your input and if you have any requests for sessions to help grow the coaching programme and hope to accommodate these in the future.

Finally, I would like to thank the entire coaching team, David, Kevin, Harry, Katrin & Max for their hard work keeping the programme running this year and express how grateful we are for the ongoing support from Angie & Jason and the rest of the Longthorpe committee.

#### **9. Club Captains' League report** – RS (Ladies' captain) reports that for the first time in 3 years, there has been a full complement of matches. We entered 4 teams in each of the Mixed, Men's and Ladies' leagues with mixed results. We struggled at the higher end of the division due to a combination of unavailability, injury and standard required.

The **Mixed A&B** teams finished 7/8 in Div 1&2. However, the Mixed C look set to replace the B team in Div. 2 next season after finishing a very credible 2<sup>nd</sup> in Div3.

The **Ladies A** Team also found it tough going in Div 1 but were unfortunate to finish with 3 points along with 2 other teams, but with a worse set of difference. On a more positive note, congratulations to Vicky's B team who finished top of Div 3 and will meet the A team in Div 2 next season in the same division. I'd like to personally thank all the captains who have done a tremendous job (sometimes in trying circumstances!) and the players. Particularly those who have stepped in at the last minute or found themselves playing a level or two above their expectation.

Men's teams all retained their places in their respective divisions. With the growing number of keen, talented younger (male) players, I have faith in the future of Longthorpe tennis.

**MT( Men's Captain) report** - JP Lamy brought in Jason Sowerby to the A team on the basis we'd push for promotion to Div 1, and we have had our own superstars -Hans, Ben and Harry. Unfortunately, JP and Jason were injured, Hans played occasionally. Others stepped in, notably Julian, Mo and Tim, securing a mid table spot - 5<sup>th</sup> with 8 points.

I ran the B team with the task of attempting to retain 2<sup>nd</sup> Div status. Had a few surprising results including outdoing the A team with 8-0 drubbing of Stamford B(-the A team only managed 6-2 against same line up) Credit to Jason, Toby, William Burgess and Mark Peters to name but a few.

C-team was run by Paul Stevenette again. He had strong players that would be the envy of the B team-Graham Moyle, Harry Clark, Keith Strong to name but a few. Paul would say Div 3 was surprisingly tough this year with 4 runaway teams. We came 5<sup>th</sup> with 5 points. Looks like the promoted teams, Chatteris A and Oundle will make it very tough in Div 2 next year.

D Team was organised by KM but captained largely by Alan Swann. We had mixed stalwarts and new comers (e.g Guy Taylor, Andy Swann). Put out as a "Fun side", we came 4<sup>th</sup> with 8 points

Overall we were stretched in trying to keep 4 teams going (especially with injuries in both A & B teams). It was hard to fulfill all the fixtures but we did it! One or two players played across all divisions to fill in e.g Harvey Adcock. The good thing about it was that everyone who wanted to play could do so.

All our teams finished at mid table which suggests they were getting the right level of competition. From that point of view you could argue that we had a perfect season.

Refreshments were pretty optional but visiting team could demand them on 24 hours notice! Our A & B teams didn't tend to have them whereas C&D teams did. An illustration perhaps of their respective priorities! I would like to thank everyone who played. I'm very happy with our achievements!

**10. Social Secretary's Report** – KM thanked all volunteers who helped and supported the social events as well as members who attended the events. He apologised for having to cancel the Sue Ryder Charity event due to inadequate number of competitors. He will try again next year. Although we strive for profit in our social events, we seek mainly to entertain, socialise, create cohesion and a welcoming atmosphere as a club.

**11. Election of officers and committee members** – JB announced that the current committee members have agreed to continue in their current posts. This was accepted by the floor. Proposed by Margaret Wappat, seconded by Ruth Swaan.

## **12. AOB**

- Singles Ladder -VA reported that this has been started for the Ladies and would like more to join but there has been no take up by the men. Toby Eldred and Harvey Adcock have volunteered to have a go at starting a Men's ladder. Thank you both!

- Gordon Porter supported by several members asked about the possibility of bringing forward the times for the Tuesday and Thursday sessions to 5pm instead of 6pm, as well as querying the need to have one court available for booking. JB suggested they should find out how many people are for/against this change and informing the committee for consideration.

- Gordon proposed a 'Big Thank You' to the committee for their hard work and commitment over the years. This was approved by all present. JB thanked everyone on behalf of the committee, for appreciating the efforts of their work and reiterating that the club belongs to all the members and welcome contributions and participation from all members.