



## Lower Windrush Tennis Club

AGM 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023

The Maybush Newbridge and by Zoom

### Minutes

Attended by: Mike Buckle, Clive Francis, Matthew Fleet, Georgina Grell, Ed Large, Chris Naylor, Dominic Mills, Nick Tamblyn, Charles Potter, Jonathan Stobart, Daniel Morris, Janet Buckle, Nick Smith.

#### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Mike welcomed all those in attendance shown above and offered apologies from: Sally Nicoll, Andrew Broadhurst, Richard Perry, Cathy Newett, Amanda Stewart, Mary Anne Florey

#### 2. 2022 AGM Minutes

**All approved the minutes for the AGM 2022.**

#### 3. Chairman's Review of 2022 – Mike Buckle

It has been a refreshing and positive year with the lifting of Covid restrictions and a fine summer to enjoy tennis. Membership is good, finances strong and community links strengthening. There has also been enormous progress on our Cabin nee Clubhouse project.

We had a good set of tournaments thanks to Jono Stobart - Men's Singles (winner Gareth Anderson), Matthew Fleet - Men's Doubles (Winners Andrew and Ollie Broadhurst) and my wife Janet for helping me through on the Mixed Doubles (Winners Diane and Nick Tamblyn). Hopefully next year we can get bigger participation and include a Ladies event.

Club nights are going really well and with our friendlies against other local clubs are a central part of the club plus a great way for new members to get to know us. A big thank you to George for her energy and enthusiasm in making these activities such an enormous success.

Of course, summer would not be summer without our annual tussle with the Black Sheep, thanks to Charles Potter for organising this after the Covid interlude and the team for retaining the coveted trophy!

Our bursaries to Standlake and Stanton Harcourt students were awarded again in 2022 as part of our commitment to the community, and we'll continue with them in 2023. We had a poster at the Platinum Celebrating Community exhibition in June. This entailed tracking down the Club Photo Album (interesting viewing!) – thanks to Sally Nicoll for her detective work and the album's digitisation. Looking through the album you realise the gargantuan task undertaken to lay the courts and how thankful we should be to Shirley and our founder members for giving us and the community such a facility.

Court 3 was re-surfaced (it will be repainted, and “proper lines” added in spring) and whilst it was a little disruptive worth the pain. Court entrance lights were added - thanks to Jono Stobart for supplying these. A big thanks to Clive and Chris for making these and the numerous other maintenance activities get done with help from others in particular Ian Richards who does a splendid job keeping the weeds down and the courts free from moss.

We hosted several autumn friendlies with Woodstock who were very envious of playing under lights – again it makes you realise we’re lucky to be able to play on those darker nights. Thanks to Charles and Nadeem (Village Shop) with the management and supply of light tokens that helps make this possible.

Clive with support from Chris has done an amazing job pushing through with the Cabin project. As well as Clive’s unerring work on costings, supplier visits and selection, and planning proposals together they’ve investigated drainage options and flood risk management proposals and through meetings and presentations won Parish Council support strengthening our community profile in the process. They’ve also made significant costs savings through negotiating shared water supply with the Village Hall.

Thanks to Ed and the Excel coaches: Gary, Chris, and Ryan for continuing to help us improve and give our youngsters the opportunity to develop their skills.

The club doesn’t tick without work behind the scenes. Thanks to Matthew for continuing to keep things in order as Club Secretary and for managing the membership and our LTA registration and to Clive as our Treasurer for managing our expenditure and helping plan out future developments.

Sadly, due to pressures at work and having moved to Fairford, Joost stepped down during the year leaving a void in Communications and the Welfare Officer. I, as a necessity for LTA Registration, have taken on the role of Welfare Officer. But this is not ideal.

It has been good year, but things we could look to improve would be club social events, the club cabin will be a good asset for this and activities and events for our youngsters. However, the committee is compact, and we need others to step forward to help and make what is a great Tennis Club even better.

My personal thanks to the Committee. As well as all that you do for the club it has been comforting to have your experience, support and advice and it has been a pleasure working with you over the last 12 months.

#### 4. Financial Accounts Year Ending Nov 2022 – Clive Francis

Clive presented the accounts and associated notes which can be found [here](#)

##### **All approved the accounts.**

Clive also gave an update on the Club [Cabin](#) project:

In summary we’re looking at a spend of £46k incl VAT. Currently the club has £59k of assets but we are holding a £3k retainer for the court 3 resurfacing so the net is £56k.

Assuming we receive >£6k of membership income in the March-May period as normal, we retain plenty of working capital to cover general costs in this financial year - so using £46k of the £56k doesn’t add risk for our BAU commitments. The surplus is there to improve the Club’s facilities for its members.

When using all three floodlit courts we are close to the maximum electricity supply of 100 amp, but there should be sufficient capacity for the cabin needs. Maximum current is down when the lights warm up. Members should therefore endeavour to avoid switching all three courts on at the same time.

Noting that the increase in lighting costs, resulting from increased electricity costs with the ending of our fixed price tariff. Some discussion took place regarding LED lighting. Clive noted that this had been looked into previously with estimated costs of circa £30k for a complete refit. Upgrading the existing lights was not significantly different with each LED light costing £900. An upgrade would also require costs to modify the stanchions. Ed reported that KBS, who have LED lighting experience some dead points. Until sufficient funds become available it's not possible to consider looking into this further.

## 5. Membership Update and Fees – Matthew Fleet

Matthew presented the membership update which can be found [here](#)

### Membership Fees:

Inflation is currently running at 10.5%. It is forecast to fall from the middle of 2023 and reach around 4% by the end of 2023 (Source: Bank of England). In this context, the Committee recommends to increase membership fees by approx. 5% for the forthcoming year, 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024. This is the first increase since 2020. Members will continue to have the option of either paying upfront or paying over six months in monthly instalments. A discounted “early bird” offer will apply until 31 March.

The Committee reserves the right to run special offers throughout the year to incentivise new members to join.

Membership Type	1st April 2022- 31 March 2023		1st April 2023- 31 March 2024	
	Early bird (paid by 31 March)	Standard (after 31 March)	Early bird (paid by 31 March)	Standard (after 31 March)
FAMILY (Couple + children under 21 in FTE)	£140	£165	£150	£170
COUPLE (two adults 18+)	£130	£155	£140	£160
ADULT (single 18 or over)	£70	£90	£75	£95
JUNIOR (under 18) or STUDENT	£25	£35	£25	£35

**ALL agreed the new fees.**

## 6. Head Coach Review – Ed Large

Ed presented his report which can be found [here](#)

## 7. Match Secretary Report – Georgina Grell

George reported that the year's friendlies had gone very well with matches averaging 2 per month against Farringdon, Bampton, KBS, Woodstock and Witney across Men's, Ladies' and Mixed Doubles. Players had enjoyed these matches and mixing with the players at other clubs. George will look to extend the fixture list to include another venue this year – possibly Appleton. Arranging matches and getting teams together is quite intense and some help, particularly for the men's events, would be very welcomed.

George also reported that Club Nights are going very well, particularly Tuesdays where often 3 courts are taken up.

## 8. Shirley Kermodé Trophy

This Year the Trophy goes to Iain Richards. Not only is Iain a great club member but also has for many years quietly gone about keeping our courts free of weeds and is now looking at attacking the moss too. Thanks, Iain, for your contribution to the Club. Mike will present the trophy at a Club Night.

## 9. Election of new committee: -

Chairperson: Mike Buckle - Proposed by Matthew Fleet, Seconded Clive Francis

Club Secretary: Matthew Fleet – Proposed Charles Potter, Seconded Mike Buckle

Treasurer: Clive Francis – Proposed Daniel Morris, Seconded Chris Naylor

Members Secretary: Matthew Fleet - Proposed Johnathan Stobart, Seconded Georgina Grell

Match Secretary: Georgina Grell – Proposed Dominic Mills, Seconded Matthew Fleet

Social Secretary (Club Nights): Georgina Grell - Proposed Nick Tamblyn, Seconded Chris Naylor

Communications Secretary: Dominic Mills – Proposed Georgina Grell, Seconded Mike Buckle

Men's League Secretary: Daniel Morris – Proposed Matthew Fleet, Seconded Chris Naylor

Committee Members (Other): Chris Naylor – Proposed Mike Buckle, Seconded Clive Francis

Daniel Morris stepped forward to take over the Welfare Officer role.

## 10. AOB

Richard Perry had proposed a Club Morning on Sunday Mornings and had volunteered to manage a WhatsApp group for this. All agreed this was a promising idea and there is ample court availability on Sunday mornings.

Andrew Broadhurst had approached the Club on behalf of KBS for a joint “Davis Cup” style event. These had proved very enjoyable days at KBS and as noted by Daniel in his previous time at Haddenham. Mike will go back to KBS to explore further.

Daniel asked about setting-up a Club’s Men’s Oxfordshire League team. Everyone thought this was a great idea and there were many members who would be interested on taking part. Daniel will take this initiative forward as Men’s League Secretary and pursue entry into the summer leagues<sup>1</sup> and thereafter the Winter Leagues.

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<sup>1</sup> Too late for the Summer Leagues unless another club withdraws.