

## Lower Windrush Tennis Club

### Annual General Meeting

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024

The Maybush and Video Call (Zoom)

### Minutes

Attended by Mike Buckle, Clive Francis, Matthew Fleet, Chris Naylor, Charles Potter, Roger Grew, Nick Smith, Diane Tamblyn, Martin Brown, Neal Whitfield and Sally Nicoll.

#### 1. Welcome and apologies.

Mike welcomed all those in attendance as shown above and offered apologies from Ed Large, Georgina Grell, Dominic Mills, Chris Pyne and Andrew Broadhurst.

#### 2. Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting

**All approved the minutes for the AGM 2023.**

#### 3. Chairman's review of 2023 – Mike Buckle

A landmark year for the Club with the final arrival of our Cabin home which we look forward to being a centre for us and the opportunity to grow both in numbers and as a community. Our Cabin is synonymous with Clive and Chris who spent much of the summer working towards its completion. A big thanks to them for bringing us to this milestone.

Sadly, Matthew is stepping down as Club and Membership Secretary this year after 8 years of looking after those hidden but essential tasks like registration, insurance, LTA stuff, and managing the Clubspark membership modules. A big Thank You Matthew for all you're work for the club.

The Court 3 resurfacing was completed, and the court is now playing well. The unexpected Court 2 surface work has worked well and should extend the time before it's next resurface. Good court and site maintenance are essential to keeping costs low. Clive and Chris are stalwarts in this, but it's been refreshing to see others (Iain Richards, Duncan Richens, Roger Grew, Diane & Nick Tamblyn & Richard Perry) stepping forward to help out.

Finances stay strong, although with court refurbishment and other costs increasing, expenditure prudence is needed to keep capital for the unexpected.

Membership is disappointing with numbers dropping 12% from last years' 166 to 145 (around pre-pandemic levels). We need to look for ways to become more attractive. Particularly looking at ways to encourage younger players.

Thanks to the continuing efforts of George and Diane Club Nights continue to go well. Diane has also done some great work in further developing our friendly matches including matches. It also good to enjoy some out-of-court socialising thanks Diane & Nick and Iain Ricards.

It was refreshing to see the return of a Ladies Double tournament with Lucy & Diane taking the trophy. The Mixed also provided another enjoyable evening with Diane & Nick keeping the trophy. Despite the efforts of Jonathan and Matthew the Men's Singles and Doubles didn't happen due numbers and some scheduling logistics. I'd hope to return to a full tournament set this year.

Feedback from all who take part in both the Friendly Matches and Tournaments is always so positive. So, it's frustrating that attracting participation takes a lot of energy.

Thanks to Ed and the Excel coaches, Chris, Gary and Ryan for their work in making us better players and supporting the youngsters' development.

It's a real bonus that we can play throughout the year thanks to Charles and Nadeem (Village Shop) with the management and supply of light tokens that help make this possible.

In conjunction with Excel we continued with our bursaries to students at Standlake and Stanton Harcourt schools. Also, with Excel we took part in the Village Picnic with Ed's coaches doing a sterling job with the children. Participation with the adults we less overwhelming. Thanks to all those who helped out on the day.

The annual tussle with the OCC's Black Sheep was well attended with players and support. After licking their wounds after last year, the Back Sheep upped their game to take this year's title. Thanks, Charles for arranging this once again.

We have opportunities with this Club Cabin milestone to develop and I feel a willingness from members to help build. But to drive this needs a bigger committee to manage and coordinate activities.

Thanks to all the committee for the time and effort they put into the Club and for their support and advice. It's been a pleasure working with you this year.

#### 4. [Financial Accounts Year Ending November 2023](#)

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

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

In summary, the cabin came in under budget, mainly thanks to Clive and Chris carrying out various fit-out works themselves. The accounts look healthy with a reserve of approximately £20k but Clive stressed the importance of continuing to build up reserves for ongoing maintenance, both to the courts themselves (which is costly) and the cabin.

#### 5. [Membership Update and Fees – Matthew Fleet](#)

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

### Membership Fees:

The following revised membership fees were proposed:

Package	Full Annual Fee	Early Bird Fee
Adult single	<b>£98</b> (£95) (3%)	<b>£83</b> (£75) (11%)
Couple	<b>£167</b> (£160) (4%)	<b>£155</b> (£140) (11%)
Family	<b>£177</b> (£170) (4%)	<b>£165</b> (£150) (10%)
Junior with Parent	<b>£58</b> (£55) (5%)	<b>£50</b> (£45) (11%)
Junior	<b>£30</b> (£35) (-14%)	<b>£25</b> (£25) (0%)

Figures in brackets show the 2023-24 fees and this year's % uplift. The rationale is to keep full fees competitive whilst, relatively, increasing the early bird rate (unique to LWTC) which accounts for around 67% of memberships.

**All agreed the new fees.**

#### 6. Head Coach review of the year.

Ed's report was distributed and can be found [here](#)

#### 7. Safeguarding – Mike Buckle, Safeguarding Officer

Mike reported that there had been no incidents reported over the past year and that all committee members have received the necessary training. Mike stressed the importance of safeguarding and that the club will be having an LTA safeguarding visit in 2024. A pre-visit TA Safeguarding survey will be e-mailed shortly for members to complete.

#### 8. Social and Friendlies report – Diane Tamblyn

In the absence of George, Diane delivered a few comments about club night and the fact that it continues to be a great success. Tuesdays are still busier than Thursdays and all three courts are regularly used on a Tuesday, even through the winter months. The WhatsApp group has proved to be a very useful way of communicating to ensure nobody goes along without knowing there will be other players there.

With regards to friendly matches, there were seven played September- November. There has been an understandable lack of enthusiasm from other clubs for December and January but hopefully more friendlies can be arranged as we move into spring. There was a discussion around match fees and it was decided that it would not be necessary to collect match fees from members playing friendly matches, as the tennis balls immediately get reused for club nights and if the opposition would like refreshments after a match, those LWTC members playing will organise this themselves.

## 9. Election of Committee Members

- Chairperson: Mike Buckle
- Club Secretary: Martin Brown
- Treasurer: Clive Francis
- Head Coach: Edward Large
- Welfare Officer: Mike Buckle
- Membership Secretary: TBC
- Social Secretary (Club Nights): Georgina Grell
- Communications Secretary: Dominic Mills
- Other committee members: Chris Naylor and Diane Tamblyn (friendly match coordinator)

## 10. Award of Shirley Kermode Trophy

This was awarded jointly to Clive Francis and Chris Naylor in appreciation for the outstanding work they do for the club, with particular reference to the cabin project and the massive success and achievement this has been.

## 11. Any other business

There was a discussion around the ongoing maintenance of the courts and the upkeep of the cabin. Mike, Clive and Chris agreed review the list of tasks that will need undertaking, including the cleaning of the cabin. It was agreed that it would be incredibly helpful if there were a list of volunteers willing to help with these tasks.

Finally, Mike was thanked for his splendid work as Chair of the club over the past year.