

# Minutes of Mapledurham Lawn Tennis Club AGM 2023

Held on 23rd November 2023 at 7:00pm

## Present

Dan Power (Chair), Kim Knight (Secretary), Lindsay Kennedy (Treasurer), David Maynerd (Maintenance), Mike Jones, Fiona Roach, Steve Scrace & Ceri Tanner (Committee members), Armand Kirk, Rodney Pinchen, Kirk Perkins.

## Apologies

Tim & Tracey Boylin, Fran Hallett, Anna Haskins, Teri Kennedy, Jane Lang (Welfare), Richard Larkin, Jane Maclean, Leslie Maynerd, Lynn Rankin, Linda & John Roach, Philip de Sausmarez, Julia & Nigel Stanbrook.

## **1. Welcome**

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## **2. 2022 Minutes**

Approved.

## **3. Chair's Report (incorporating the Team Captain's report)**

The chair presented his report which had been circulated to the membership in advance. He thanked all the people who had contributed to the successful running of the club over the past year, in particular Ceri Tanner on the MPF committee and Dave Maynerd for all his work on maintenance.

He noted that club nights had been quiet lately and a brief discussion ensued which included the suggestion that one night could perhaps incorporate team training, in order to boost attendance, as long as it did not diminish the inclusivity of the club night. The new committee will consider any appropriate steps to take.

He also drew the AGM's attention to the decision not to pursue further the idea of transferring to the Berkshire Leagues as it had been confirmed that we would have to start in the bottom division of each league regardless of the relative strength of our respective teams.

## **4. Treasurer's report**

The treasurer presented his report which had been circulated to the membership in advance. He reported that the club was in a strong financial position. The club continues to run a healthy operating surplus and the overall deficit in the last year was solely due to the significant one-off infrastructure investment which would not be required again next year. Membership levels are down slightly but not significantly. This was in particular thanks to the efforts of Dave Maynerd in organising another successful open day to attract new members.

The meeting noted that ball costs had risen by 50%. This was partly due to a 20% increase in prices and also simply reflected the irregular nature of bulk purchases.

It was also noted that misc costs had risen from £200 to £1000 in the past year. {Post meeting note: the treasurer subsequently confirmed that this was primarily due to the £550 fee which was charged by RBC's legal team to amend the terms of our Ground License Agreement when the Pavilion was rebuilt. This was not charged at the time, but RBC have finally noticed the omission and charged the fee retrospectively. It also included some household equipment such as the new vacuum cleaner.}

The suggestion was made that it would be useful to highlight the per hour cost of court lighting to members, not to discourage use but simply to encourage vigilance and avoid needless waste. The new committee will take forward.

The committee's recommendation to maintain 2024/25 fee rates at the 2023/24 level was proposed by Mike Jones, seconded by Armand Kirk and passed without a formal vote as there were no dissenting voices.

## **5. Team Captain's report**

See Chair's report.

## **6. Maintenance report**

The maintenance officer presented his report which had been circulated to the membership in advance.

He drew the AGM's attention to the issue of the high trees around court 4. This was not just causing a problem with leaves but also a worrying amount of moss due to the permanent shading by the trees. In the past RBC have declined to cut back the trees due to the concern that this would permanently damage them. A contact point has now been established at RBC and Dave Maynerd will be contacting him to discuss potential solutions which might include an offer to fund tree planting elsewhere in return for cutting back the trees at courtside. In addition, it could be useful to make RBC aware of any Health & Safety concerns and with this in mind Dave Maynerd asked that members notify him of any injuries caused by slippery courts.

The meeting recorded its appreciation for the hard work put in by Dave Maynerd throughout the year.

## **7. Welfare Officer's report**

On behalf of the welfare officer, the chair presented her report which had been circulated to the membership in advance. He confirmed that the process was working well.

## **8. Election of club officers**

The current committee had agreed to stand again for the coming year. In addition, Alex Denovan had put himself forward to join the committee. The AGM discussed briefly the potential conflict of interest in having a GDT coach on the committee. Overall the meeting concurred with the committee view that the potential benefits outweighed the potential conflict of interest and Steve Scrace confirmed that he would be happy to make way for Alex. The following were therefore duly elected without a formal vote as there were no dissenting voices.

Chair & Tennis Captain: Dan Power

Secretary: Kim Knight

Treasurer: Lindsay Kennedy

Welfare Officer: Jane Lang

Maintenance: Dave Maynerd

Committee: Mike Jones

Committee: Fiona Roach

Committee: Ceri Tanner

Committee: Alex Denovan

The Chair & Secretary both confirmed that this would be their last year on the committee.

## **9. Any other business**

### **9.1 Club Night balls**

It was noted that the standard of available balls can be very variable, particularly on Wednesdays. The new committee will take forward.

### **9.2 New scoreboards**

It was reported that the positioning of the new scoreboards can interfere with play on an infrequent but persistent basis. The new committee will seek to address this as a matter of urgency, particularly with regard to inter-club matches.

## **10. Close**

The chair confirmed that there was no other business that anyone wished to raise. He thanked the members for their attendance and closed the meeting.