

Minutes of the Marnhull Tennis Club AGM held on 15th March 2024 in The Marnhull Village Hall

Committee members present: Jeremy Hamer, Helen Butler, John Seear, Margaret Hunt, Jane Westbrook, Norma Amlot, Liz Lammas, Christophe Stourton, Chris Norman and Chris Gregory

Apologies: Tom Lee

Club members present: Jeff Hunt, Graham Howell, Katie Scorgie, Chris Drake, Mella Worley, Janice Nast, Sue Northcott.

Apologies from: Alice Hole and Dee Judd

1) The Chairman confirmed that we are quorate.

2) Minutes of last year's AGM

These were proposed by Jeremy Hamer and seconded by Helen Butler. The meeting approved the minutes unanimously.

3) Matters arising from the minutes.

There were no matters arising which had not already been dealt with elsewhere.

4) Review of the year

- **Introduction to the committee**

The committee members introduced themselves outlining what their current duties are:

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|---|--------------------------------|
| Chairman | Jeremy Hamer |
| Deputy Chairman | Helen Butler |
| Committee/Membership Secretary | Chris Gregory |
| Treasurer | Margaret Hunt |
| PR/ Marketing /Website | Tom Lee |
| Social Media | Chris Norman |
| Safeguarding | Helen Butler |
| Health & Safety | Helen Butler/Chris Norman |
| Courts | John Seear |
| Youth | John Seear/ Norma Amlot |
| Club Events | John Seear/Chris Gregory |
| Adult Group Coaching | Jane Westbrook |
| Tournament (s) | Jeremy Hamer |
| Teams | Liz Lammas/Christophe Stourton |
| Local Government Liaison/Adult Coaching | Jane Westbrook |
| Floodlighting | Jeremy Hamer |

- **Finance**

The accounts have been produced by Margaret Hunt with support from John Seear. Margaret stated that today we have £20,000 in our deposit account a small improvement on the balance at year end 31st December 2023. We also hold £400 in our current account. Last year we made a surplus of £7184 on revenue of £10,848 which is a little in excess of the surplus we need to provide the sinking funds needed for the future. £1625 of that surplus was spent on the floodlight development project.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Mella Worley and seconded by Christophe Stourton. The meeting approved the accounts to 31 December 2023 unanimously.

- **Club activities**

Norma Amlot spoke about the juniors. We now have two age dependent groups. 21 in the under 12s and 14 in the over 12s. All are taking part in coaching with Graham Howell, as well as the regular weekly sessions run by Norma and other committee members. In the summer we will have an in-house competition which the children really enjoyed in 2023. Some of the children have improved to a good standard and we are considering setting-up some inter club competitions with help from Graham. We have also set up a ball hitting programme with one particular, more experienced youngster. He has been regularly playing against John Seear and more recently he has been practising with Tom Lee, on a weekly basis.

Rusties have continued to have a good following and will continue again this year, run by John Seear. This group offers tennis to beginners through to improvers. John spots the good players and encourages them to progress to Thursday night club sessions.

Jeremy Hamer and Jeff Hunt will be offering hitting practice to any adults who want to either return to or try tennis for the first time. These will be run on Wednesday evenings in April.

Thursday night was very 'ebb and flow' last year. It started well but then dropped off during the summer. It was thought that rather than run a free for all session it might be better to set-up a WhatsApp group for the session for this year in the hope of achieving better attendance. Chris Gregory agreed to try this new approach on Thursday evenings in a similar fashion to the very well attended sessions on Saturday mornings.

Action Chris G

Friday club mornings continue to be very successful, frequently with attendance well into double figures.

The Tombola tournament was run for the second time and was well attended with 32 participants. This will be repeated again this year, while also considering a gender-neutral singles tournament.

Action Jeremy H

- **Teams**

We came fourth in both the 'A' and 'B' team matches in the Shaftesbury league last year. As there is quite an interest in match play in the club, we are thinking it might be possible to run two 'B' teams this year. This would take some organising and might be difficult to fit in the time available. Christophe Stourton to evaluate.

Action Christophe S

- **Adult Coaching**

Jane Westbrook and Graham Howell are looking at a new format for the shot clinics. It was suggested that we have two different groupings. One to encourage players to get back into playing tennis again and another where players wanted to improve to possibly 'B' team level standard. It was proposed to start running these groups during Saturdays in May to see how popular they would be. Jane agreed to put a plan together for discussion. If successful it could run monthly into July.

Action Jane W and Graham H

Team coaching with Graham Howell is scheduled to start on 2nd April and run weekly for the rest of the month. There is very likely to be a lot of interest as there are many more potential players this year.

We are still planning to have a Season Opening afternoon on Sunday 21st April.

5. Committee Appointments

As the committee would like to continue in their current roles Jeremy Hamer asked for approval of the committee structure from the floor. This was proposed by Chris Drake and seconded by Mella Worley, and approved unanimously by the meeting

6. Subscription fees

Jeremy stated we are currently very good value compared to several other clubs. Good quality courts, lovely location and access to a grade 5 level coach with the prospect of floodlighting. We are therefore proposing to increase our fees as shown below:

| | |
|--|------|
| Adult Family (Children/Partners/Grand) | £160 |
| Family (Children living at home) | £125 |
| Single adult | £60 |
| Senior (over 65) | £53 |
| Junior/Full-time Student | £15 |

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Guest Fee - | Adult £4 p.p./hour – max 2 hours |
| | Child £2 p.p./hour – max 2 hours |

Jane Westlake proposed the changes and Jeff Hunt seconded the proposal. The meeting approved the new rates unanimously.

7. Marketing

The website is currently being run by Tom Lee. We have done a lot of work to the

website over the years to keep it very informative and up to date. We continually hope that members look at it.

Also we now have Chris Norman on board. She is looking after Facebook and our social media activities which will promote our presence further afield.

It was felt we could do more with our clothing line. We need to be more active in encouraging our members to review our offerings.

8. Branded Clothing Range

The launch of the clothing range in 2023 has been met with mixed success.

The clothes are not on sale or return which is putting a number of people off.

A proposal to share a few of the products with members was proposed and will be taken forward by the committee.

Action: Committee

9. Floodlights

Planning permission for our floodlight proposal has been granted leaving only the money to find. We have identified Sports Lighting as the company we will contract with for the project, based in Devon.

We are now looking for £40,000. The club is putting in £15,000 and we have raised £9200 to date. We are also applying for a loan from the LTA. This would be interest free and would need to be paid back within three years. We are also considering other opportunities to raise further funding. If all goes to plan we will carry-out this work in September of this year. We are also close to securing a lease extension from the Parish Council.

9.AOB

A number of matters were raised from the floor:-

Should we be considering more social events generally?

Activities aimed at the 20-35 age group

Coaching squads, paying up-front (gender specific?)

Regular/monthly social half-day tournaments

Appointment of a Social Secretary for the club .

Action: Committee

There being no further business meeting closed at 7.00pm.

Chris Gregory
Membership Secretary
23rd Match 2023