

MINUTES OF MINCHINHAMPTON TENNIS CLUB AGM – TUESDAY 8 MARCH 2022 7.30PM

Minchinhampton Community Hub, Tobaccoist Road, Minchinhampton

Meeting commenced at 7.40pm

In attendance: Becky Putnam, Jackie Snelling, Liz Farley, Jan Allen, Lee Chambers, Dan Parker, Angie Ayling, Georgie Holmes, John Crowther, Anna MacBean, Nell Scott, Dominic Horner, Cris Fagarasan, Jane Fide, James Aburrow. 15 – Quorum

Apologies: Liz Lewis, Elizabeth Haughton, Lucy Roberts, Andrew Roberts, Jean Whittaker, David Whittaker, Howard Spellman, Barry Hill, Alison Winkfield, Di Cason, Sue Watts, Amanda Fay.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- These had been published in January 2021 to all members and are also available on the website. There were no queries. The minutes were duly accepted - **Proposed James Aburrow, Seconded Jane Fide**

CHAIR'S REPORT – BECKY PUTNAM

- I would like to welcome you all to our first AGM held in person for a couple of years! It has been fantastic that we have been able to play tennis throughout the entire 21-22 membership year albeit with some covid guidance in place for part of the year. As a committee we have met virtually for most of the year, which hasn't been ideal for those with more limited IT access and hope that this will not be the case into 22-23.
- The club has continued to be a busy place over the course of the year with much social tennis, a full range of adult and junior league fixtures both winter and summer and the resumption of James' adult and junior coaching programmes.
- I would like to express my thanks to the entire committee for their help over the year and the members for also volunteering when asked for court maintenance and moving sand etc, it is much appreciated, and a club of our size would not exist without these volunteers. Several members have written to me to ask me to pass on their thanks to the committee.
- I would like to thank those committee members who are stepping down, Alison Winkfield for doing an excellent job as ladies captain, Dom Horner for his sterling work in arranging the club fixtures, which were even more of a challenge during covid times, Andrew Roberts for his help and expertise in particular in running the Wimbledon Ballot for several years, Galina Gardiner for organising our social events when these have been permitted including the club's 50th anniversary celebrations in 2020 and more recently the excellent Christmas wine tasting and quiz.
- A very very special thanks needs to go to Pat Humphery who has been extensively involved in all things Minchinhampton for many many years and has now relocated to the Indian Ocean for the foreseeable future. His support he has given to the club as treasurer and men's captain roles have been very much appreciated and he has always been someone who I have been able to rely on to get things organised and always first to volunteer to get stuck into maintenance or run the BBQ!
- I am delighted to say that we have received volunteers to take over these vacant roles which will be voted on later in this meeting.

- Other committee members who have played a vital role in the smooth running of the club during the year (and some who have taken up their role part way through the year) include Lee Chambers Men's captain for running a very successful men's league season, Cris Fagarasan for his excellent work as membership secretary and support on IT/Clubspark to help members with court bookings etc, Jackie Snelling for continuing to do a brilliant job arranging the social weekday tennis for members, Di Cason for keeping the clubhouse in great condition and ensuring that thorough cleaning is taking place (even more important in recent years). John Crowther for organising court maintenance and supervising the hedge trimming, Liz Farley who took over as welfare member and has continued our knowledge and implementation of safeguarding best practice, and Georgie Holmes who joined us during the year as Junior Rep and organised all the summer team tennis for the large numbers of junior teams.
- The excellent court surface and Covid has continued to increase the popularity of the club and our membership numbers have remained healthy for a club of our size and have grown to 179 adults and 149 juniors during the year.
- I would like to congratulate our club coach James Aburrow, who will have been with us for 10 years this Easter! During this time, he has overseen a transformation of the coaching programme with extensive junior sessions resulting in several developing into county level players and the older ones then feeding into adult teams. He has also run several return to tennis sessions for adults who have, in many cases, gone onto join the club as new members and enjoy their social and competitive tennis. He was also instrumental in researching and overseeing the new court surface and enticing many new male members to the club to strengthen the A team who gained promotion and will be playing in the top premier division this summer.

CAPTAIN'S REPORTS – LEE CHAMBERS/JANE FIDE ON BEHALF OF ALISON WINKFIELD

- Good evening All. I will start my men's captain report with an overview of the 2021 Summer season and then conclude with the recent Winter League 2021/22 teams' performance.

Summer 2021 Men's tennis

- I think it's fair to say that Summer 2021 produced the best men's overall success this club has achieved in my 27-year club history.
- We gained 3 promotions which is a phenomenal achievement for this club.
- Starting with the A team who won Division 1B by 8 points, which is quite a margin. Ably captained by non-playing James (through injury), which will only make the team stronger this year in the Premier division.
- We occupied 4 of the top 6 individual positions with Nick Dill top 22/24 wins, Dan Parker 2nd with 18/24 wins, Matt Dill 3rd with 17/18 wins and Tom Gower 6th with 14/16 wins, overall fantastic team performance.
- The B team finished runners up in Division 3B with the team consisting of old heads Cristian & myself, mixed with budding youth Pete Gardiner, Ronan Lynch & Finn McCarthy. We had 4 players in the top 20 as follows, Cris 6th with 15/22 wins, Pete 12th with 11/14 wins, Lee 13th with 10/18 wins and Finn 16th with 9/12 wins.
- The C team finished runners up in Division 4B behind a strong David Lloyd team. Captained by Andrew Roberts they had 5 players in the top 20 as follows, John Frood 6th with 13/18

wins, Paul Wilkie 7th with 13/18 wins, Richard Bradley 10th with 12/17 wins, Andrew 15th with 9/12 wins and Cris Butler 19th with 8/10 wins.

- The D team finished 5th in Division 5A. Captained by Howard Spellman 12 players experienced team tennis and 3 players were in the top 20 as follows, Simon Wheatley 7th with 11/16 wins, Richard Murray 11th with 10/16 wins and Chris Turner 19th with 7/11 wins.
- Fantastic season overall, my thanks to the captains James, Andrew & Howard, been a great achievement to ensure we fulfil the fixtures and have a full team out, especially with the challenges of a pandemic. In addition, my thanks go to all the players who have represented the club and supported us at short notice to cover a vacancy.

Winter League season 2021/22 which has just concluded. We entered 4 teams as follows.

- The A team had a fantastic season ending up runner up to East Glos A in the Premier division. Captained by Becky they were dominant in their matches, only losing to East Glos A. They had 3 players in the top 6 with Dan 2nd with 15/20 wins, Becky 3rd with 13/18 wins and Carla 6th with 12/18 wins. Supported by Nick, Tom Gower, Pete, and Tom Spellman.
- The B team had an amazing season bearing in mind the previous year when they pulled the league due to the pandemic, we were bottom of the league, we ended up runners up to a strong Painswick A team. We only lost 1 match to Painswick and were the only team to beat them in the return match. We had 4 players in the top 10 with Galina 3rd with 13/23 wins, Georgie 4th with 12/22 wins, Pete 8th with 9/10 wins and Lee 10th with 9/21 wins.
- The C team were midtable finishing 5th in Division 2A. Captained by Dominic they had Ronan at 5th with 5/14 wins. Dom, Alison, Louisa all winning 4 matches, supported by Andrew, Sophie, Leo, Jane, and Anne.
- The D team unfortunately were relegated from Division 2B, which right from the start of the season looked a stacked division with Painswick B, David Lloyd B, Lydney A and East Glos E. Captained by Howard 14 players experienced league tennis, with Dominique, Kieran, Gloria, Alex all winning 2 matches supported by Richard M, Leo, Clare, Camilla, and Sandra.
- Thanks again to Becky, Dominic, and Howard for captaining the teams.

Ladies Summer 2021 Match report

- Overall, a very successful summer season for the ladies, despite the final score results not being our best. All the players were very happy to be back on court playing competitive tennis and traveling around our beautiful countryside.
- Our C team, who have been steadily working their way up the divisions, had a battle this summer and were unable to maintain their spot in the 2nd Division. However, Gloria did very well to get a full team out for every match and she has discovered some new very useful team players including Dominique Alterskye and Tilly Holmes - one of James' budding juniors, who also bravely stepped in and played a match with the A team in the Premier Division AND WON!
- The B team came back with a run of wins in the last few weeks of the season to finish 3rd, just missing out on promotion to the 1st Division. They particularly enjoyed the pairing of some more experienced league players with some younger members, including Libby and Bella who brought a refreshing burst of energy (and power) to the team whilst learning a few tricks of the trade from their elders!
- The A team excelled themselves this year, greatly benefiting from the arrival of Carla and finished the season at the dizzy height of second place in the county's Premier Division, only 5 points behind the notorious East Glos. A team

- Thank you to all the ladies who gave up their time to play in the league matches and particularly to the captains; Becky, Sophie, and Gloria - without whom there would be no matches. We are all looking forward to James' preseason coaching next Spring and would particularly like his top tips on how to win the game from the deuce score.

COACHING REPORT & JUNIORS REPORT – JAMES ABURROW

Coaching Report Jan 21 to March 22 – Head Coach James Aburrow

General Coaching

- Jan 21 to End of March 21 Lockdown
- Summer 42.5 hrs on court per week/currently around 36
- Sit on the Gloucestershire Coaches Committee

Junior Coaching

- Easter holidays 21 – completing Autumn Term 20, no camp
- Junior coaching programme – capacity now 100 children as have slightly cut the number of groups
- Summer term 21 – 78% capacity
- Autumn Term 21 – 79% capacity
- Spring Term 22 – 64% capacity
- Having to fill the gaps with older children who left tennis during the lockdown
- Summer Camps 2022 – 2 weeks with 70 different children taking part, with my help all coming from current and past juniors of the club

Thank you to Ronan Lynch for assisting with junior group coaching and hitting with some of the stronger juniors.

Adult Coaching

- Improver Coaching on Thursday evening is always full (8) with a waiting list even in mid-winter
- I took my Adult beginners/returners to tennis course to KGV in Nailsworth but still managed to get 50% of the course to join MTC
- 17 hours of private daytime sessions available each week – full in summer with waiting list each week

Junior achievements will be covered elsewhere

Adult achievements – Becky Putnam represented Glos over 40's, 4 of the men's A team are in the Over 35's training squad with James Aburrow captaining Glos over 45's

Junior Match Report

Summer League

- U16 boys (Leo and Tom) finished 3rd in division 1.
- U14 boys (Harry, Aidan, and Toby) finished 2nd in division 1

- U14 girls (Tilly and Alice) finished joint 1st on points with East Glos and David Lloyd in division 1, but second place overall in the league based on sets. Alice topped the league player stats for best % wins, not bad for an U12 playing in an U14 league.
- U10 (Barney, Torin, Manny, and Rumi) finished 2nd in division 1.
- U9 (Arthur, Morgan, Sophie, Rose) finished 3rd in division 2.
- U8 (Rose, Sophie, Florence, and Edward) played the division 1 league all in one day! 10 matches for each child was gruelling for the parents, and even more so for the children but they finished a very respectable 3rd place after several hours play!

Winter League

- U9 (Rose and Florence) won their group qualifying for the top division in the final's day, they came 3rd overall but beat all the other girls teams!!

SOCIAL TENNIS REPORT – JACKIE SNELLING

- Social tennis continues to thrive; we are now playing every weekday and numbers have increased to 25 ladies and 7 men.
- Organised games are working better than the open ladies morning we used to have on a Tuesday morning and the mixed open session on a Monday. The most popular days being Tuesday and Thursday. Hopefully this format can continue.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT – LIZ FARLEY

- Having taken over the role of Welfare Officer in June 2021 I'd like to begin by thanking Liz Lewis for the excellent work she had already done in writing and putting in place up-to-date Safeguarding and Diversity and Inclusion policies for the club. The LTA together with other sporting organisations is, quite rightly, taking safeguarding seriously and has specific requirements and recommendations in place particularly for those who have responsibilities within tennis clubs.
- A DBS check done via the LTA is mandatory for coaches, team captains and anyone having a role that involves the organisation of, or responsibility for, under-18s. A check done via another organisation may be acceptable if the person is also registered with the Update Service. It is important to realise that our venue registration depends in some measure on whether we are complying with these requirements. We are more or less compliant!
- It is also recommended that all committee members and other adults involved in club activities where children are present should have a basic level of safeguarding training. To the best of my knowledge, no such training has been provided by the club in the past, but I have now found LTA material that can be downloaded for discussion. As an accredited safeguarding trainer with the Baptist Union of Great Britain – a qualification that has been accepted by the LTA – I am intending to offer an evening of training using this material and will send out invitations (with suggested dates) to the relevant people very soon.
- There seems to be limited mention of adults at risk on the LTA website, possibly because the definition of an adult at risk is often very narrow, majoring on permanent conditions such as learning difficulties or physical disability. However, we all need to recognise a personal

responsibility for looking after each other in the context of the club: a change in personal circumstances may well mean that an adult is temporarily at risk and needs more support and care.

- There have been no safeguarding concerns reported to me since I took on the role of Welfare Officer. Whilst this is encouraging, I would ask all club members to be alert to any situations that raise questions about the safety of an individual, child or adult. Please remember that concerns about a child's welfare MUST be reported; adults have the right to refuse permission for a report to be made unless there is clear evidence that a) they do not have the mental capacity to make the judgment, b) there is risk of harm to others or c) there is a risk of a crime being committed.
- Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have even the smallest concern! Email me at lizfarley1949@gmail.com or call my mobile (07941 563699) and I will guarantee to get back to you. Sometimes small snippets of information, when put together, make up a bigger picture.

TREASURER'S REPORT & ACCOUNTS – PAT HUMPHERY

- The year to Sept end 2021 was challenging for all of us in so many ways but less so as treasurer to a well maintained and well supported tennis club.
- Covid impacted our competitive and social tennis in equal measure but thanks to the way members jumped in to assist in the maintenance demands and to recognise that this did present us with an opportunity to put funds aside, particularly in the light of the clubhouse increasing dilapidation, we have again put ourselves into a good position.
- It is worth noting that our annual account year is now 6 months adrift from our membership year and this can give rise to some misleading figures it is still right to say that a £10,000 per annum surplus is still achievable.
- Whilst I shall not be in place to see this it does give us an option of club expansion which I believe ought to be given consideration.
- We currently hold a net £34K reserve this will reduce with insurance and MSA subs to £32K at membership year end at the end of this month. A resulting surplus of £9K per annum, considering electricity costs (although Octopus are profoundly better than our previous supplier) we might realistically secure by 2030, a fighting fund amounting to £110,000.
- I have quoted 2030, simply based on an 11-year break-even to the court replacement as of 2019 but that is in no way a certain exposure.
- We may consider the proposal I floated some months back in which a Padel Court was constructed on the immediate outside of the courts adjacent the clubhouse. This may involve some minor drainage re-routing and of course the replacement of the clubhouse first. A new and very smart clubhouse of the same size along with cost of removal would amount to £50K.
- We could achieve this in 5 years from now - a new clubhouse in 2+.
- Anyway, that's for other people to consider now and I know they will continue to present balanced and decisive management to a tennis club that has punched above its weight for as many years as I can recall.

Accounts were circulated to the meeting and no questions were raised. The accounts were duly accepted – Proposed Cris Fagarasan, Seconded Liz Farley.

LEVEL OF SUBSCRIPTIONS 2022-23

Cris gave an overview of membership numbers for 21-22 which continued to be healthy. It was proposed by the committee that the levels of subscriptions remain unchanged for 22-23 to assist our membership in the light of increases elsewhere with inflation and cost of living. Members felt that the club represented good value for money, there was some suggestion that some members might be happy to pay more – committee to consider this for future specific projects as a ‘go fund me’ type of fund raising for e.g., LED flood light replacement or towards the new clubhouse.

Subscriptions to remain unchanged for 22-23 – Proposed Jackie Snelling, Seconded Lee Chambers.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS & POSITIONS TO BE FILLED

As a committee had been very pleased with the response from members to fill the vacant positions on the committee. New committee candidates announced for each position, who were elected unanimously. **Proposed Dominic Horner, Seconded James Aburrow.** The new committee is as follows for 2022-23, Becky welcomed them to the committee.

- Chair – Becky Putnam
- Secretary – Becky Putnam
- Treasurer – James Rogers
- Men’s Captain – Lee Chambers
- Ladies Captain – Jane Fide
- Membership Secretary – Cris Fagarasan
- Fixtures Secretary – Howard Spellman
- Finance Member – Simon Wheatley
- Welfare officer – Liz Farley
- Social Secretary – Dan Parker
- Social Tennis Rep – Jackie Snelling
- Clubhouse Rep – Di Cason
- Maintenance Member – John Crowther
- Junior Rep – Georgie Holmes

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MOST IMPROVED PLAYER AWARDS

- Adult most improved was awarded to Alex Evans who had played regularly in tennis rungs working his way up and had now started playing in league teams.
- Junior most improved to Tilly Holmes who at the age of 12 had played for Ladies A team last summer and was now in the county squad.
- The trophies will be awarded at a presentation evening later in the year.

AOB

- Net to be replaced on court 3 and 2 mini nets

- Tennis point discount code to be provided to members for use, later in the year a racket demo session will be held.
- It was agreed that the provision of a defibrillator at the hub (next to car park) was an excellent safety measure that had been arranged by the Minchinhampton Sports Association with funding from local groups.
- It was noted that the clubhouse lights and floodlights should always be switched off when not in use to save on the rising electric bills.
- It was suggested and agreed that Club night should be relaunched from 1 April and possibly run summer time only (to tie in with the clock changing). Also, suggestions on running via what's app in a way to improve regular numbers attending.
- It was requested if it could be raised again with MSA the provision of improved access for disabilities/buggies etc to the playing field. Becky agreed to do this at the next MSA meeting, but also noted that they had previously agreed that if there was a member with access difficulties due to eg disability they would provide them with a key to the gate. It was also noted that there is always a key kept in the first aid cupboard in the club house in case of needing to grant access to emergency services.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.