

**Newport Pagnell Tennis Club**  
**AGM 7.30pm 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023**  
**Venue:** Newport Pagnell Football Club

**In attendance:** Jenny Spencer, Mike Spencer, Darryl Lucas, Delia Hodges, Angela Bramham, Loren Nally, Cathie Carter, Nigel Willard, Gavin Fowell, Vanice Lam, Adrian Chan, Isabel Cabero-Alonso, Paul Cox, Lucy Webb, Brian Webb, James Evans, Andie Woolhead, Naser Naser, Jane Storey, Kevin Storey, Ben Snaith

**Apologies:** Marie Walters

➤ **REVIEW OF ACTIONS AND MINUTES FROM AGM 10 NOV 2022**

Jenny noted the minutes from the meeting held 10 Nov 2022 had been on the website for the last year. There were no actions carried forward from the AGM. Jenny proposed that these be held to be a true and accurate reflection of the meeting, Mike seconded this.

➤ **CHAIR'S REPORT – Jenny Spencer**

Jenny read through her report, shown below. She thanked Jane Storey for running beginners' sessions and Darryl and Loren for Junior Club Night.

Questions:

Isabel asked about the **toilet facility** – Jenny explained the toilet in the social club had been taken away from us without any notice and we now had access to the football club toilet which is due for refurbishment in the new year. Brian proposed the tennis club should arrange for door to be fixed in the meantime, this was agreed by all.

**Actions: Jenny to arrange for door/lock to be mended. Committee to review cost of portaloo – Andie to provide contact details for portaloo.**

Isabel asked what the club does to promote within the local primary schools. Nigel explained that he had a presence at a number of the local schools with running sessions and he used these to promote NPTC.

**Actions: Nigel to discuss with Isabel promoting club in schools where he currently does not run sessions.**

Chair's report

It's really good to be able to report that it's been a good year for our Club: our membership numbers are standing firm; there has been a big increase in the use of the courts; there are now more social tennis sessions to suit a wider range of players; there have been several well-attended tournaments for both juniors and adults; our teams have enjoyed some success; and the finances are looking healthy.

At the beginning of the year, we were concerned that the cost-of-living squeeze would perhaps lead to fewer members. In fact, our overall membership numbers are currently 201, the same as this time last year.

Type of Membership	November 2019	November 2020	November 2021	November 2022	November 2023
Total Adult	50	111	107	105	108

Total Junior	92	61	82	96	93
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>201</b>

The Pay & Play usage, enabled by our Smart Gate, has really taken off in the past year (more from Darryl on this). But as a headline, we have had almost 500 bookings in the past year (twice as many as in the first year) and, even more gratifying, 16 people who have used Pay & Play have subsequently become Club members.

There are now more opportunities for members to play in Club sessions. As well as the established Wednesday evening and Sunday morning social sessions and Friday morning Vets tennis, a new Tuesday evening session was introduced at the beginning of the year for beginners and rusty rackets. This has gone from strength to strength. There is also now a Thursday evening session for winter team members to practise drills and tactics.

For Junior members, the Junior Club Nights on Friday evenings, have been as popular as ever. I'd like to thank Darryl and Loren for their longstanding commitment to this – I think it's 11 years and counting. They now also have a brilliant team of young helpers who make a huge difference.

The Tournaments to celebrate the Grand Slam events were very well attended this year. They are hard fought but there is also a lot of laughter and, of course, delicious refreshments to share afterwards. If you haven't been to one yet, you really should consider coming along.

There have also been several tournaments for the Juniors run by Gavin, allowing plenty of match play practice for all levels of player. The box leagues for the Juniors are another new introduction and have been very popular. If you've been to the courts while any of the matches were playing you will have seen some brilliant youngsters playing great tennis in an impressive spirit.

Once again, we fielded 6 Teams in the Tennis MK Summer league and one mixed team in the Bucks summer league. Our Ladies A team finished top of Division 3 so will be promoted next season while the Mixed A team finished joint 1<sup>st</sup> in the first division. We have 3 mixed doubles teams in the MK winter league. We will soon be deciding how many teams to enter in the summer leagues and Darryl, Match Secretary, would like to hear from anyone who would like to be included. There may be some members whose talents we have not yet witnessed! So, don't be shy, make yourself known.

More players than ever entered the annual Club Championships. The finals day for adults and a few of the junior matches was held in September. We were lucky with the weather up to a certain point until the rain arrived, so some matches were completed later. The winners who are present tonight will be presented with their engraved trophies shortly.

Although the NP Town Council have promised that we will get a new Clubhouse and our own toilet next to the courts as soon as the funding is available from the Tickford Fields

development, the timeframe for this is still uncertain (possibly still 2 years away). So, at the beginning of the year, we decided it was worth refurbishing the current Clubhouse. Crowdfunding and a raffle raised an incredible £1,000 towards the cost, a very impressive achievement. It's now much more comfortable and pleasant to use. Many thanks to all the members who contributed generously. We have also replaced 2 of the nets (one of them kindly donated by Jim Warner) on courts 1 and 4, and the rather rusty posts on court 4. We want the courts to continue to look attractive and well-maintained and for everyone to enjoy playing at the Club.

Sadly, we have lost two members this year. Barrie Clough, who had a long association with the Club (he held several key roles including Treasurer and Chairman and set up the Junior section of the Club) died in January. Trevor Hill, who served on our current committee as Match Secretary, died in April.

I'd like to end by saying thank you to everyone who has spent time this year to help events run and to keep the Club looking good. You may be surprised at how many have contributed: all the members of the Committee, who have worked hard and given lots of time to make it all run smoothly; the coaches, who do such a brilliant job, particularly in encouraging our Junior members; the Junior helpers who have spent so much of their time helping out at various events; Heather Simms who has really got stuck into organising Junior events, and her husband Adie for volunteering for some of the maintenance jobs; the team captains who organise the various teams so well; to Mary Hartley and Angela Redgewell for many hours tending to the plants in the garden; and, if I may, thank you to Mike for regularly mowing the grass, weeding and doing many, many jobs around the courts and clubhouse.

➤ **TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2023 – Darryl Lucas**

Darryl presented the financial highlights for the year. Cathie proposed the accounts be agreed subject to audit this was seconded by Delia.

**Treasurer's report**

**Headlines:**

- 1) The club's finances remain in a healthy state. Our combined bank balance is just under £35,000.
- 2) We have made a surplus (profit) of around £5,500 this year, raising the overall bank balance from £30,000.
- 3) Membership income has marginally increased this year, continuing the increasing trend since Covid.
- 4) We have received the same membership income in the last 3 years as in the previous 7 combined.
- 5) Total income and expenditure have greatly reduced due to the club renovations (fencing & lighting) last year.
- 6) Excluding capital expenditure, our total expenditure has slightly increased by approx 15% this year to £14,000.
- 7) This increase is primarily due to an extra loan repayment & higher maintenance expenses

**Income details:**

a) Membership fees have again increased, up to their highest in over a decade.

The club has been heavily reliant on membership income for many years; pre-Covid it was typically 66-70% of our total income. During Covid, this figure increased to 86% and 90% in 20-21 (excluding grants etc). It has reduced over the past 2 years, back to 74% last year and 66% this year.

b) Visitors fees, now paid through Stripe, as a result of the new gate, continue to be very high.

Historically we used to make approx £300 when bookings were made through Middleton Pool. Last year we made just under £1,900 and this year the total is an incredible £3,500. For comparison, the annual contract to maintain the new gate costs around £800.

c) The next primary source of income for the club is Junior Club Night. Just from the £2 weekly fees, not including cake & coffee sales, neither memberships paid for by JCN attendees, JCN again raised £1,000. There was also another £130 taken after the accounts closed. Since JCN restarted in May 2012, it has now raised over £5,000 for the club just through weekly £2s!

d) Other traditional income streams for the club (club tournaments & events, match fees) also raised just under £1,000 this year. In addition to this, a generous £900 was received from members via crowdfunding to revamp the clubhouse.

e) The bank account finally started earning interest again, with just under £100 taken over the year.

f) Club clothing also raised £100 for the year - there are various branded items available to purchase!

#### **Expenses details:**

a) Maintenance expenses was the biggest overall expense category this year, totalling £4,000 and included:  
 £1,800 for annual court cleaning  
 £800 for annual electronic gate maintenance  
 £800 new club house carpet

b) Rent and loan repayments are 2 other major expenses the club is committed to regularly. They totalled £2,500 and £2,900 this year respectively.

c) Electricity billing is frustratingly still inaccurate, despite having 1 smart meter installed and ongoing discussions about installation of a second. The overall cost of £2,000 this year has turned out to be an accurate figure, but this is just fortunate timing rather than anything else.

d) Capital expenditure was the only other category totalling over £1,000, as a result of the purchase of a new shed and furniture for the clubhouse.

e) Club insurance remains high - double what we paid historically at just under £600.

<i>Year</i>	2021-22	2022-23
<u>Income</u>		
Membership	£ 13,487.50	£ 14,020.00
Coaching	£ 896.95	£ 703.05
Junior Clubnight	£ 996.68	£ 1,014.76
Funding	£ 22,688.00	£ -
Match Fees	£ 738.00	£ 578.00
Club Fundraising	£ 269.48	£ 1,212.04
Wimbledon Tickets	£ -	£ -
Visitors & Court Hire	£ 1,868.02	£ 3,510.34
Interest	£ 1.17	£ 98.54
Other	£ 7.00	£ 99.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 40,952.80</b>	<b>£ 21,236.53</b>
<b>Membership as %</b>		£ 0.00

<b>of total income:</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>66%</b>
<b>Intra-Account Transactions</b>		<b>-£ 20,150.00</b>
<u>Expenditure</u>	£ 86.98	£ 9.60
Coaching & juniors	£ 94.00	£ 158.00
Team Entry Fees	£ 1,086.71	£ 2,049.24
Electricity	£ 2,812.14	£ 3,914.77
Maintenance	£ 66,487.54	£ 1,197.99
Capital Expenditure	£ 2,454.98	£ 2,526.48
Rent	£ 541.20	£ 592.46
Insurance	£ 202.64	£ 236.38
Go Cardless Fees	£ 385.88	£ 380.14
Tennis Balls	£ 480.00	£ 480.00
Affiliation Fees	£ 324.80	£ 429.63
Trophies / Engraving	£ 19.32	£ 19.32
Website	£ 312.00	£ -
Marketing	£ 41.42	£ 29.77
PPS	£ 1,430.00	£ 2,860.00
Loan Repayments	£ 1,891.85	£ 621.69
Other		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 78,651.46</b>	<b>£ 15,505.47</b>
		£ -
<b><u>Profit / Loss</u></b>	<b><u>-£ 37,698.66</u></b>	<b><u>£ 5,731.06</u></b>
<b>YE Bank Balances</b>		<b>Current Balances</b>
<u>Current Account</u>	£ 23,058.32	£ 8,540.84
<u>Deposit Account</u>	£ 3,729.51	£ 23,812.78
<u>Trustees Account</u>	£ 2,402.97	£ 2,568.24
<u>Loan Account</u>	(£12,870.00)	(£10,010.00)

➤ **COACH'S REPORT – Nigel Willard**

Nigel presented his report shown below

**Coach's report**

This past year has again seen excellent participation in players receiving coaching. Remember the more members receiving coaches the better the club's membership retention rate. 2023 saw 369 players participating in coaching across 45 classes. In 2022 it was 375 across 48 classes. The 2023 numbers are excellent. A little down on last year reflecting a small reduction in juniors. Children continue to make up the majority of the places with juniors exceeding minis. The intermediate adult's class on a Saturday has been really successful and continues to deliver members to the club

The challenge as always is to retain these players and issues surrounding mortgages, food, fuel and energy costs has no doubt affected our ability to do just that. Tennis coaching is a

discretionary spend of course and when players are concerned about family budgets, we will always be at the bottom of the pile. To continue to exceed our expectations in terms of numbers in this economic climate is a testament to Gavin, his outstanding skills and the support of our wonderful committee and membership community.

We continued to receive excellent support from local schools and have run a growing programme of clubs at Stoke Goldington, Sherington, North Crawley, Tickford Park, Green Park and Ousedale school.

Tennis camps have also expanded this year with an 8% growth in playing numbers. The challenges here remain converting campers into programme players. 2023 has seen a growth in tournaments and box leagues for the juniors. Will and Gavin have run 8 events giving children the opportunity to participate with their peers internally and externally.

It has been very rewarding to see the development of a significant number of our young players with Robin, Ernie, Jessica and Jessica all achieving county status.

Of course I would like to thank Gavin & Will for their continued commitment to the club with their expert coaching. Gavin has worked tirelessly. Thankyou Gavin.

As I look forward 2024, I see retention being an issue in the Spring but Gavin and I are working towards more collaboration with partner schools to promote tennis and the club in the summer in the hope of increased numbers whilst respecting the balance in court use, reporting at the next AGM.

A final thanks to Gavin but also to the wonderful team of volunteers on the committee who work is often unseen. They do an amazing job. And to the membership for all their support of the coaches.

➤ **SETTING 2024/25 SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

It was proposed that membership rates remain at 2023/24 levels. This was seconded by Isabel.

➤ **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF COMMITTEE FOR 2023/24**

The following committee members were proposed:

Jenny Spencer (Chair),  
Darryl Lucas (Match Secretary – resign as Treasurer),  
Delia Hodges (new Treasurer),  
Angela Bramham (Secretary),  
Loren Nally (Welfare Officer),  
Mike Spencer (committee member),  
Cathie Carter (committee member),  
Vanice Lam (new committee member),

These were seconded by Andie Woolhead.

Geoff Andrews stepped down from the committee

➤ **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Jane asked how the club promotes itself to adults. Jenny explained that we have a small social media presence on facebook, have had editorial in local publications. However, if anyone wanted to volunteer to assist with this they would not have to be on the committee ***Jane agreed to provide some support on marketing the Club, supported by Kevin. Jane and Kevin will meet Jenny in the new year, prior to the new membership year, to discuss.***

Gavin asked that members review the tennis club on google.

Delia showed a publication produced by town council that did not include any contact details for the tennis club.

***Jenny to speak to the town council regarding this.***