

North Berwick Tennis Club Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 24th March 2020 – 7.30 pm

MINUTES

Present: Stuart Rye (Chair), Steve Wilson, Colin Anderson, Karen Price, Ann Hume, Gavin Henderson, Keith Barbour, Roddy Barbour, Leslie Campbell, Lesley McClelland, Colin Campbell, Andrew Fletcher, Keith Iverson, Clive Garlick. Willie McMillan

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the NBTC 2021 AGM was held digitally over Zoom.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from: Kay Henderson and Veryan Biggar

2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous AGM

The approval of the minutes from the AGM on Wednesday 26th February 2020 were proposed by Stuart Rye, seconded and approved by the attendees.

3. Presidents Report

The President, Stuart Rye, reported on the previous and upcoming year :-

2020 was a very difficult year for everybody and the hope was that all are keeping well.

The club had to deal with closure and extended periods of singles only, but in some respects we were lucky to have been able to play, when other sports could not do so and Tennis is still not allowed in the rest of the UK until March 29th 2021.

So mentally and physically we have been fortunate to be able to continue to play.

Due to the disruptions, the 2020 season has been extended to end on the 30th June 2021.

The 2021 season will start on 1st July 2021 and it will be a shorter season (with reduced membership costs) finishing on 31st March 2022, to bring it back in step with the traditional season in 2022 of April 2022-March 2023...

Whilst the club is back to doubles and some team activity, there are still limitations and everyone should continue to be vigilant, maintain social distance and hand hygiene, and remember the national two household rule when off the courts.

There was severe disruption to Coaching initially and it is great that the coaches are now able to increase capacity and that the Easter junior camps are going ahead

The club introduced the Clubspark Booking System in 2020 to ensure that people know when to turn up and aren't having to linger around waiting for a court to free up and it seems to have been very well received and helps to fully utilise the courts.

The club has also taken over Public pay & play access from the council via the booking system, expanding the availability to all day on courts 5 & 6 and this seems to be something that ELC are happy for us to continue to run with.

One major highlight of the year was the ELO based here at NBTC being voted Scottish regional tournament of the year 2020 – a fantastic award for the tournament and the club.

Also, in a year when the LTA announced Dan Evans as male player of the year and Johanna Konta as female – the ELO was the official first runner-up in the LTA national tournament of the year - no doubt in part due, to the great facilities and support offered to the tournament by the club and it is an award to be very proud of.

It is still unknown if the ELO is likely to be on this year yet – probably still too soon to say.

The club is also pleased to announce, a record club membership of over 500 active members (300 adults and 200 junior) and it's great to see so many people enjoying the club and the sport.

A new lease is also being negotiated with ELC at the moment, to run for 20-25 years and the discussions are proceeding well so far (there are 10 years left on the current one).

We have also replaced 3 floodlight bulbs this year - these were 9 years old, so have lasted well, but it took quite some time and effort, and involved two attempts at getting a lift that could access the courts and a substantial cost of £2.5k. This will be improved going forward with any new lights being LED and hinged posts, to reduce maintenance and improve access.

Quotes have come in to upgrade locks on at least gates 4 and 6 (if not all), so that will be something we're looking into – to remove the padlocks and make entry less fiddly.

We are also getting some ideas of costs to spruce up the clubhouse, with new flooring in the main area and a lick of paint if nothing else.

Official leagues did not take place in 2020, but we have two new junior teams hopefully starting this year (postponed from 2020) - '9 & under mixed' and 'Under 14 boys', as well as the usual 4 ladies and 3 men's teams and the hope is that some form of fixtures will be able to proceed...

There may also be someone interested in running the café from May/June (covid restrictions permitting) and discussions are on-going in that respect

Last, but not least, the main project evolving over 2020/21 is the upgrading of courts 4-6, with resurfacing with artificial grass and the introduction of hinged LED floodlights.

These upgrades were agreed in February by a resounding adult membership vote (160 votes for and only 19 against).

The planning permission has been passed and some fantastic news from ELC in that they are offering the club a grant of £50k towards the upgrade costs.

Finally we are still waiting to hear if we have been successful with the separate Sports Scotland grant application.

Full works on all three courts would cost circa £125k to complete and the final cost to NBTC will depend on the remaining grant.

The hope is to enhance the courts this year to some degree.

To finish with thanks to:

Roddy (our head coach) and Karen (our junior convenor) as well as all the other coaches, for all their work with the coaching this year under difficult conditions and also for organising the September junior championships in 2020 – which were a great success.

Lesley McClelland for all her work as membership secretary – she's had a very busy year.

Colin and Shelly for their work with the club teams.

Colin again for the club championships in August / September with around 60 competitors and over 90 matches including the plate events – all a great success

Colin and all his work on the grant applications (having taken the lead on that) and also a special thanks to Mimi for also helping

Thanks to Gavin for running the social groups to help organise games for members (and to Mike Maher for the algorithm used to work out the fixtures)

Thanks to Antony and Keith for all their work on keeping the club maintained and the facilities functioning throughout the year

Finally, thanks should also go to all the members of the committee for all their continued work throughout the year and especially with all the covid related work they've had to deal with – it's all been much appreciated!

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer for 2020, Steve Wilson, presented the accounts for the year digitally over zoom and electronic copies can be provided if required:-

John Dalley has reviewed this year's accounts and confirmed he is happy with them (in alignment with the requirements of the constitution).

The balance sheet was shown first. At the start of the year we had assets of just over £31k and by the end of the year that has increased to £70.5k – an increase of just over £39k across the year. The money is held in BoS north Berwick.

Of these monies, £50k has been notionally allocated to court development, to indicate that this is likely to be used to improve the courts and may be used this year if the developments come to fruition.

Next was the revenue accounts, Income and Expenditure.

Total income was £50k, up 60% on 2019, subs were the largest contributor and were up 35% on the previous year, from £25k to nearly £35k, a reflection on the increased membership numbers over 2019-2020. The subs for next year will be around 75% of this year's due to it being a shorter season, so the expectation is that the subs monies will go down in 2021.

Coaching income was down from £3.3k to £1.7k due to the restrictions on coaching because of covid over the year.

Visitors, Public play and floodlight fees incomes had gone up 4 fold, now being collected via the booking system.

No income this year from the Café / ELO as they did not take place.

Finally there was a continuity grant from ELC of £10k and a donation of a £100 from a member.

On the Expenditure side, in 2020 this was £11k, which was considerably less than 2019 where £57k was spent, including £47k the upgrading of the playing surface on courts 1-3 , whereas this year there was just £400 on maintenance.

If the court expenditure is discounted, then the expenditure in 2020 was roughly 10% more than 2019, so fairly similar, the main difference being the £2.6k spent on floodlight maintenance. Lower LTA affiliation fees due to covid also helped.

To summarise, there is a very healthy surplus and a balance of over £70k at the end of the year. Although membership fees for the 2021 season will be 25% lower, that should still comfortably cover all our normal expenditure, plus some. If the floodlight and resurfacing does go ahead, then that will eat into the balance, but with this and the ELC £50k grant, then that almost covers the entire £125k projected cost of the upgrades and of course subscription monies will then also begin to come in from July, so it all looks very healthy, especially if the club is successful with the Sports Scotland grant as well, but either way it was

felt that we could afford some upgrades when the subs start to come in for 2021 [supplementing the nominal £50k assigned and any remaining buffer funds which could possibly be made available in an emergency].

Copies of the accounts can be emailed out to interested parties if required.

5. Membership subscriptions and visitors' fees for 2021 season

The committee's recommendation is that the base Membership fees remain unchanged for the 2021 season.

However, as it will be in effect a 9 month season July 2021 – March 2022, the proposal is to reduce all memberships' fees for the 2021 season by 25% accordingly.

For example:

The Base Adult membership will remain £130 for a full season. It will then be 75% of that in 2021, so at renewal in July adults will pay £97.50 for the 2021-22 season.

- It was suggested by Lesley Campbell that this be rounded up to a simpler figure of £100

Winter membership date 2021 is likely to be later in mid-November (so will be for 4.5 months pro rata – 75% of 6 months)

Those were the core proposals and were passed by the AGM

There was also discussion of looking into expanding the concession rates for low income families and possibly some bursary memberships by the time July comes around (under discussion by the committee). This may be facilitated by the introduction of support for the ELC Access to Leisure card in 2021, which enables people on low incomes to get leisure cost reductions in East Lothian.

There were also discussions about a possible voluntary contribution towards a membership or coaching bursary to help those on low incomes. Where members could elect to pay a voluntary top up to form a bursary pot. The exact mechanics are yet to be decided.

Ann Hume reiterated that as a committee, we are aiming to make the club as accessible and as inclusive as possible and so we are making efforts to ensure concessions are available and we are working with the council on expanding these important aspects of what can be offered in terms of membership fees and public access.

6. Election of Committee members

Steve Wilson stepped down from the committee after 3 years as Treasurer

Keith Barbour was proposed, seconded and elected to the role as Treasurer

No other parties had noted an interest in joining the committee, prior to, nor during the AGM.

Other committee members remain unchanged, namely:

Stuart Rye - President

Colin Anderson – Vice President

Anne Hume – Welfare Officer

Karen Price – Junior Convenor

Gavin Henderson – General Member

And additionally Lesley McClelland remains as Membership Secretary

It was noted that with 6 members, the committee still exceeds the quorum needed to make decisions as set out in the constitution.

7. AOCB

The club floodlights were also made free to all members in 2020 and have been well received, with the antiquated card system being retired and the uptake in evening tennis has been noticeable. Thanks go to Colin again for sourcing and implementing the new light switching system to enable the free access.