



MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Wednesday 28th February 2024, PTC clubhouse 7.30pm

Approximately 35 members present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Gill De Berry, Sally Brown, Mike Hutchinson. Matthew Popham, Peter Deck

MINUTES OF 2023 AGM

These have been available to view on the PTC website and in the clubhouse. There were no matters arising, and Clare Bamforth approved the 2023 minutes.

2. CHAIR'S REPORT – CLARE BAMFORTH (as presented)

Last year Pewsey Tennis Club was asked to host the Wiltshire LTA Adults County Closed Championships. Whilst serving refreshments to players and supporters I was struck by how many people commented on what a wonderful club Pewsey is. The sun shone for some of the day, showing off the surrounding beauty. It also rained - the airy clubhouse provided shelter, the courts drained quickly and players were soon back on court. It was a reminder that Pewsey Tennis Club is a glorious club.

The club continues to thrive. This year we have 389 members (which is a healthy number) – slightly down on last year's 396 but above the pre Covid years of 350. We have fewer junior members than we had prior to Covid and more family and adult memberships. A number of our new members this year have joined after taking our Beginners to Players tennis coaching course (or B2P as it is known). Thank you to Sarah Sims for once again doing a great job of marketing this introductory course. I feel the club is really good at welcoming new members and you all play a part in that –welcoming new members to club sessions or team sessions and pointing them in the direction of a WhatsApp group or team captain. Martin and Jon are often the first port of call for new members and they do a fantastic job of putting people at ease, but I'd like to thank you all for the welcome you provide.

Facilities

You will hopefully have noticed a number of improvements to the club this year. The clock tower was renovated in June and now sports a clock on 2 sides; 3 hand driers have been fitted; we have installed LED lights on courts 3, 4 and 5 and feedback about them has been good; improvements have been made to the disabled toilet; and we have bought a ball machine, use of which is offered

free of charge to adult members, and a recent purchase of some different balls for the machine has improved the whole ball machine experience.

Safeguarding

You will have seen that the LTA recently undertook a Safeguarding Audit at our club. Thank you to all of you who completed the anonymous survey that we sent round to everybody on their behalf. The aim of the audit was to ensure that we are meeting the minimum safeguarding standards set out by the LTA. It's like an Ofsted but just for Safeguarding and if we were not up to scratch then the club stands to lose LTA benefits such as access to the Wimbledon Ballot and to Clubspark (and therefore our court booking system). I'm pleased to report that the club HAS met the safeguarding standards and I'd like to thank Debbie Crapper, our Welfare Officer, for her support in achieving this.

Competitive Tennis

We have, once again, entered many teams into the Swindon summer and winter district leagues. Over 100 of you played in at least 1 league team match last year. In the summer we entered 7 Men's teams, 4 ladies' teams and 4 mixed teams and Pewsey Tennis Club has done impressively well. The Mixed C team was promoted to Division 2, the Ladies C team won Division 4 and were promoted to Division 3, the Mixed A team came top of Division 1 for the second year running and the Men's A team came top of Division 1 for the 4th time running.

We had great success too in last year's Winter league (2022 to 23) with the Mixed As winning Division 1 again, and the B, C and D teams coming second in their respective divisions and earning promotion. Well done teams!

We entered 5 teams into the Winter league this year. Final results are not in yet, but the Mixed As are top of Division 1 and cannot be beaten whatever happens in the next matches. The mixed B and C teams could both finish in the top two. The mixed Ds have won div 4. Mixed E have finished a creditable 3rd in div 5.

Thank you to Steve May, our league secretary, for his hard work and organizational efficiency. Thank you to all the overall captains, Nick Hewens, Catherine Hewens, Christian Blair and, for this year's winter league, Amanda Hampson, and to all the team captains who have devoted much time and effort to their teams.

Our 6 courts are not enough for the number of teams we entered in the Summer league and I am grateful to Burbage Tennis Club and St Francis School for allowing us to hire their courts and to Keith Hampson for managing our ongoing relationship with St Francis.

And the internal Club Championships in the summer were again very popular with 32 men and 16 ladies entering the singles and 32 pairs each entering the ladies, the men's and the mixed competition. Good fun was had by all, although in the end not all of the finals matches could be played. Thank you to Keith and Amanda Hampson for all their organization and for producing such professional draw sheets in the clubhouse.

Congratulations to our winners:

Ladies Singles Tia Hislop (RU Steph Hislop)

Ladies Doubles Steph Hislop and Tia Hislop (RU Cathy Temple-Brown and Clare)

In the plate:

Ladies Singles Emma Cann, RU Ella Bessant-Jones (already presented)

Ladies Doubles Katie Dang and Sarah Sims, RU Judith Deck and Jane Oldham (already presented)

Men's singles Greg Cook, RU Keith Hampson (already presented)

Mixed Doubles Patti Mann and Richard Newport (RU Annabel Rugge-Price and Iain Goodfellow)

Men's Doubles Cab Hopkins and Don Wallace (RU Iain Goodfellow and John Morgan)

Keith presented awards to those that were at the meeting and had not already been awarded (Cathy and Clare, Patti and Richard and Iain)

A final note on competitive tennis ... There has been interest in playing daytime friendly matches against local teams. Thank you to Keith Hampson for getting this off the ground. It's early days but so far so good!

Coaching

Martin and Jon will each give their reports shortly, so I won't dwell on coaching too much other than to say that you may have noticed that we have a new junior coach, Alec Choules. Alec is a great addition to our coaching team, enabling the club to offer more than we used to both on the coaching front but also running Wednesday club nights so effectively – Alec has lots of ideas and a bundle of enthusiasm. Thank you, Alec for all you do. I would also like to thank Martin and Jon - they are enthusiastic, longtime supporters of our club, valued members of our committee, provide mentoring and encouragement to Alec and go above and beyond in all that they do. We saw that last year when they held their 24-hour tennis marathon.

Martin and Jon's 24 hour 'Rally Against Cancer' was the highlight of the Pewsey Tennis Club year. It saw Martin and Jon taking on club members, friends and family in a mix of weather for 24 hours and raising a phenomenal £7,251 for Cancer Research UK. They made it onto local television and into the local papers. It was great fun for participants and spectators alike. The committee put forward Martin and Jon's effort for the LTA President's Award, an annual award to an individual or group that has done something exceptional or innovative and is awarded by the President of the LTA. The final result will not be known for some weeks, but Wiltshire LTA has chosen Pewsey's nomination to go to the President, Sandi Proctor. Well done Martin and Jon and fingers crossed!

Juniors

The club is keen to attract and retain more junior members. A junior committee has been set up with the aim of offering more to our juniors and this saw some of the younger juniors taking a fun trip to the bowling alley. Thank you to Jon for setting this up and to the committee members, Tim Henretty, Katie Dang, Gareth Dexter and Claire Mullock.

Events

Paul and Roz Denton organized a busy year of activities which included tennis tournaments, social events, a 25th anniversary celebration for the opening of the clubhouse, a trip to The Manor Hotel in Devon and, for the first time, we had a Scarecrow Entry in the Pewsey Carnival Scarecrow Trail (thanks to all that helped create Baloo the Bear – Roz, Paul, Cristina Gregory, Steve May and to Amanda and Peter Foxtan whose garden he stood in). Thank you to Roz and Paul and to those who ran some of our events - Tim Henretty, Keith and Debbie Loverne, Nick Olsberg and Mike Hutchinson. Thank you too to those who helped with catering, cleaning and clearing up, particularly Mike Cox who reliably caters for our Mix and Match evenings and who tidies up the tennis balls, and to all of

you who provided delicious food at various events. Roz and Paul Denton received a special thank you from the Wiltshire LTA this year for all they do for the club. Next year promises to be another busy year events-wise and you can see the Events Calendar on our website and in the clubhouse. Paul would love to hear from you if you have an idea for an event or feel able to run an event either on your own or paired up with another helper. Do talk to him afterwards.

Thanks

I'd like to end by thanking a few more people - Colin Gratton, our President; Amanda Foxton, a Vice President who, until last year, ran our popular Roll up Tournaments; Peter Deck, also a vice President; our auditor, Mark Noble; Judith Deck who organises the Thursday Ladies group; and last, but certainly not least, the committee members who all play a role in making the club run smoothly, and if you ever want to make any suggestions or raise concerns, then please do talk to any of them: Nick Hewens, Deborah Goodall, Matthew Popham, Pauline Archer, Cathy Temple-Brown, Keith Hampson, Roz Denton, Paul Denton; and our coaches Martin and Jon, are both members of our committee. Thank you all - the club would be a poorer place without all your help.

3. **RECEIVE AND APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

The accounts to 31st December 2023, as audited by Mark Noble, were presented by Pauline Archer in Matthew Popham's absence. It was reported that incomes are broadly inline with expectations and the Club finances are extremely strong, even after refurbishments and the club maintains a health cash balance - currently standing at £111,534.

Pauline thanked Matthew for his work on the accounts.

The accounts were accepted by the AGM.

Proposer: Roz Denton; **seconded:** Charlotte Green

4. **COACHES' REPORTS**

Martin Wright – Head Coach (as presented)

Over the last year we have continued to provide tennis for all ages and abilities through our LTA Youth programme, adult sessions as well as open days, school visits, holiday camps and competitions. We believe tennis is a game for life and provides a huge wealth of benefits, so we are proud to see so many people enjoying the sport each week.

The last year has again been a very busy one with lots of successes. Of particular note our Easter and Summer camps have proved to be very popular, booking out within a number of days. We have also started some performance Mini Red and Orange squad sessions for our players we want to further improve and compete. This year we have had 4 players selected to attend County training sessions in Swindon and represent Wiltshire in County events. 3 of these players have been selected for Mini Red and one for Mini Orange. It's great to see that we are producing players that are at County level.

Our LTA Youth sessions provide opportunities for anyone age 18 and under to participate in structured lessons all year round. Each term we see a big improvement in those who attend. Our

Mini tennis Blue lessons for ages 6 and below have been particularly popular and it's great to see these children developing a love for tennis at such a young age. Aside from the coaching sessions, we continue to run competitions as well as social events. On Friday evenings Alec has been running a social session for juniors, this light-hearted session is a great way for players to mix in and enjoy tennis in a relaxed atmosphere. Competitions are run all year round both internally and externally and Jon will give an update on this in a moment.

For adults we have many different sessions including Cardio Tennis, Rusty Rackets, Team Player Coaching, Improvers lessons and our popular Beginners to Player's programme. On top of all these sessions, we also provide private lessons for many members. Providing this big range of courses allows so many players to experience and enjoy tennis in an environment suitable for their level of development. Our Rusty Rackets sessions have continued to be very popular, and many who have attended these sessions have gone on to join the club as members and play outside of coaching. They really enjoy their tennis and have made many new friends through these sessions, again proving tennis provides so many benefits.

Sarah Simms has once again been the lead for our Beginners to player programme. My thanks go to her for assisting the players and providing a great link for those on the course wanting to merge into our club. Our B2B programme is a firm favourite in the yearly calendar. Many of the participants haven't played for many years or are completely new to tennis. Through the course they learn court positioning and the basics of all the shots. They can then opt for a follow-on course with more tactical and technical coaching. Following this they can join the club and make use of our facilities and integrate into club sessions.

As I mentioned, our holiday camps have been very successful, and they received over 350 bookings in 2023. Our camps provide tennis and multi sports in a fun and safe environment and are a great way to showcase our club and its great to see the children enjoying our sport.

We have now managed to restart our link with Pewsey Vale School. The school bring up to 12 pupils each week to the club to receive a coaching session run by Alec. I feel it's very important for these sessions to be run at the club as it shows our amazing facilities as well as making the link between the school and club tennis less daunting for the pupils. As a result, many of the Pewsey Vale pupils have attended the Friday evening session as well as playing at the club during the school holidays.

My thanks goes to Alec for running these sessions as well as the rest of his efforts at the club. Of particular note, our Saturday Pay and Play lessons are fully booked most weeks. With Alec being at the club more it means we can provide more opportunities for juniors and adults alike. I'm very much looking forward to seeing Alec develop his coaching in the future as he looks to do his LTA Level 3 qualification.

We have continued to work with local Primary schools and are over the next few months extending our Primary schools' outreach. We will be providing tennis for the local schools with a follow up event at the club. We hope to give around 400 Primary school age pupils the chance to give tennis a try. This is a fantastic way to provide tennis opportunities for our local community.

As always, my thanks go to Jon for his continued efforts and hard work, Jon has a wealth of knowledge and I truly appreciate all he does. Also, a big thank you to Clare and the committee who put in so much hard work, most of which goes unnoticed dealing with LTA policies, planning facility upgrades and tennis opportunities for our club and members. I really do value all their hard work. Our club really is a very special one and I'm looking forward to another great year of tennis.

Jon Gregory – Coach (as presented)

2023 was a good year for junior competition at Pewsey Tennis Club.

The start of the tennis season in April began with the junior easter tournament, Martin and I planned to run 6 events over a weekend in the easter holidays. Unfortunately, the older age groups on the second day didn't go ahead as we didn't receive enough entries. The 8U (red) and 9U (orange) events were a big success, with nearly 30 players attending the events. We received some excellent feedback regarding the event, and I even received an "Official Shout Out" in the LTA Officials Newsletter for running an excellent competition. Pleasingly, we had a winner from the tennis club at this event for the first time in a number of years, Euan Gregory, winning the 8U singles. Huge thanks to Mike Fowler for sponsoring the event as always and my umpiring team, who are always one of the reasons we receive such fantastic feedback.

We entered teams in the junior summer league we did get to play in 4 age groups. We sent an 8U team and 9U team to Wootton Bassett to play 3 other clubs. Our 8U team finished 3rd out for 4 teams but played some great tennis on the day and represented our club brilliantly.

Our 9U managed one better, finishing as runners-up in Orange event, narrowly losing out to eventual winners, Wootton Bassett. Again, all our players were a credit to our club and showed great team spirit, particularly in the doubles matches. Well done to all the players 8U, Ronnie, Zander, Ollie & Euan, 9U Ralph, Everett, Jake & Euan.

We also entered teams in the teenage divisions, originally entering two 12U teams, and two 16U teams. Unfortunately, one of our 16U players dislocated his knee just prior to the start of the season so we had to pull one team out. The rest however competed well, and although we didn't win any of the divisions, they all gained valuable match experience. In the competition we used 24 players, and played 17 fixtures, a really great competition for our players to enter.

I also planned to run a "Play your way to Wimbledon" competition, a national competition for 14U players. Disappointingly, despite trying to run the event on two separate occasions I didn't get enough entries to run the event, the first time in 14 years!

The club also sent a team to the Mini Tennis Fun Festival at the Delta Tennis Centre in October. This is always a really run event and there was a huge number of entries from clubs across the county. Our team didn't win the competition, but must have finished near the top of the standings as they won all their matches and also finished top in some of the other activities. Well done to Ronnie, Barkley, William & Luca who represented the club.

Martin and I also ran competition events during coaching sessions, called LTA Matchweek. We run these every half term and the format has been a big success, providing competition opportunity for

all junior players in our coaching groups. We ran 13 of these in 2023 within our coaching groups and at the two schools we run after-school clubs for, Burbage Primary School and St Francis School.

I also ran a parent and child tournament. This is always a great event and we often receive a lot of positive feedback, particularly in the 10U age, which is often a great introduction to competition!

We ran two age groups, 10U and 18U. The younger event attracted 8 pairs and the older 2 pairs. Andy and Ella Besant winning the 18U age group and Heather and Everett Newby-Allen winning the 10U event.

This year we also continued to run a junior matchplay session, this session which is available to junior members aged 10 and older was run on Tuesday afternoon by Alec Choules. The idea of the session was to allow our juniors who play competitive tennis the chance to play matches more regularly. Despite a promising start, numbers started to dwindle and we stopped the session. Originally, we offered another session, on Friday evening called the junior club/social session. The idea being more relaxed than the matchplay session, to include use of the ball machine and cardio tennis as examples. This had a promising start but again numbers have struggled over the winter. Hopefully, they will pick up again as the tennis season nears. This type of session continues to be a bit of a conundrum for us as a club and I am working on other ideas to see what else we could potentially offer.

I would also like to thank the junior committee, which we formed last year, who have provided some excellent support and ideas for this year. I hope we can use their ideas again this year in the new season. Thanks to Tim Henretty, Katie Dang, Claire Mullock and Gareth Dexter!

Looking to this year, the Easter Tournament is coming up in April and I have entered 10 teams (a big jump) into the Junior Summer League. I plan to offer the same program as year but hopefully with the addition of Junior Club Champs, which I unfortunately didn't get around to running this year.

We are also, with Alec Choules help planning to offer more internal competitions than we have in any previous year. 10 additional events over the year, this is a very ambitious target but hopefully we can run most of them.

I am also hoping to get a junior club session of some kind started this year.

I would also just like to thank you, the committee and all the tennis club. I know Martin and I feel very lucky to be able to work at our home club and I just want to say how much I appreciate all the support I get from the club, committee and members who are all generally very supportive of everything that we do. Finally, I would particularly like to thank Martin and Alec, who both make coaching at this club so enjoyable. It really does make such a difference working with such excellent and professional coaches.

5. MEMBERSHIP FEES AND CONSTITUTION CHANGE FOR 2024/25

Clare Bamforth presented a proposed change to the club's constitution. She explained that the Club's membership year runs from April 1st each year to March 31st of the following year and that the club currently offers pro-rata rates from October 1st. To reduce the membership secretary's administration of a month-on-month rate change for people joining during this period, she proposed a simplified

pro-rata structure during this period: an **Autumn rate** for those joining between 1st October and 31st December and a **Winter rate** for those joining from 1st January. The **Autumn rate** would be set at 5/12 of the full membership fee and the **Winter rate** at 2/12 of the full membership fee.

Adrian Goodall asked why not apply this to June too? Clare replied that the Summer months were a busy time and the change was really about reducing the work involved with a monthly fee variation despite only applying to a few people. Cathy further explained that the committee feels the membership fee is good value as we have researched the fees of other clubs in the area and additionally offer free lighting and balls within the fee.

The new pro-rata structure was accepted by the AGM.

Proposer: Colin Gratton; **seconded:** Richard Newport

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Clare Bamforth explained that the current membership fees cover the club's annual costs and presented the proposed fees for 2024/25. She recommended that they remain the same as for the previous year.

Senior = £163

Family = £259

Off Peak = £98

Intermediate = £79

Student = £35

Junior 11 – 18 = £26

Junior U11 = £5

The new fees were accepted by the AGM.

Proposer: Keith Hampson; **seconded:** Andrew Hickman

6. ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE for 2024/25

Clare Bamforth informed the AGM that all existing committee members were standing for the coming year.

The Committee listed below was voted in en bloc and agreed by the AGM:

Chair – Clare Bamforth

Vice-Chair/Facilities - Nick Hewens

Secretary – Deborah Goodall

Treasurer – Matthew Popham

Second Treasurer – Pauline Archer

Membership Secretary – Cathy Temple-Brown

Operation Support/Projects – Keith Hampson

Events Coordinator – Paul Denton

Marketing – Roz Denton

Head Coach – Martin Wright

Coach – Jon Gregory

(Welfare Officer – non-Committee - Debbie Crapper)

Proposer: Patti Mann; **seconded** Judith Deck

7. **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR – MARK NOBLE**

Clare Bamforth thanked Mark Noble for his service to the Club in the past year and for agreeing to provide it again in the coming year. His appointment for 2024/25 was accepted by the AGM.

Proposer: Amanda Foxton; **seconded:** Adrian Goodall

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Colin Gratton said that, as President of the Club, he is very proud to see what Clare and the committee do to ensure the club stays at the top of what it does. For example, a few years ago clubs in the LTA were not so good on the safeguarding front and much has been done since to embed safeguarding in tennis – with both a focus on children and adults.

Colin Gratton also serves on the Wiltshire Tennis Management Committee and told the AGM that he attended a Wilts LTA tennis awards dinner recently where they showcased Jon and Martin's 24-hour tennis marathon and the President, Sandi Proctor, was very impressed.

He made the additional note that Wiltshire LTA are grateful to Pewsey Tennis Club for hosting the Wilts Junior Play Your Way to Wimbledon finals here in June.

CLARE BAMFORTH THEN THANKED EVERYONE FOR ATTENDING THE AGM AND CLOSED THE MEETING AT APPROX 8.15PM.