



MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Wednesday 26th February 2025, PTC clubhouse 7.30pm

Approximately 35 members present

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Gill De Berry, Rosie Charnock, Judith Deck, Peter Deck, Chris Harris, Andrew Hickman, Rob Lindeman, Jane Oldham, Gary Sandy, Ali Sandy, Sarah Simms.

MINUTES OF 2024 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 2024 minutes.

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

As of this evening, my five-year term as Chair comes to an end. I've been reflecting on my time in the role and on some of the key events, and I'd like to briefly share some of them with you, before I run through the Club's achievements in 2024.

My five years as Chair have been both enjoyable and sometimes challenging. My aim (along with the committee) when I took over was to hold onto what was already working well - a friendly, sociable, inclusive, well-maintained club, providing social and competitive tennis across the age groups - essentially a thriving club - and build on this.

However, initially, that was not to be. Within weeks of taking on the role of Chair, Covid struck, and we were first of all shut down, and then, when opened up again, had all the shenanigans of ensuring that the club followed ever-changing government guidelines. We were lucky that most of the time we were able to continue playing tennis in some form or other. Membership surged during the Covid years as housebound families sought a way to exercise, encouraged by our half-price subscription rates. So – it was Covid, not our planned vision, that brought about some of the key changes in the club: One was the introduction of the **court booking system**. This was quite a big change. It's now hard to imagine tennis here without being able to book a court, but before Covid we just turned up and hoped a court would be free. The booking system, along with greater use of **WhatsApp** has spread court use across the week and enabled members to play more often. And a **Tennis Social WhatsApp Group** helps any member find others to play with.

So, aside from covid, **what have we sought to change and what has stayed the same in the last five years?**

Four things I am particularly pleased about are our membership numbers, our finances, our strong coaching team and our link with Pewsey Vale School.

The club continues to have strong **membership** (currently 360), with new members often telling me how friendly they find the club. Our **finances are healthy**, which means we can support a capital expenditure programme ensuring the club's courts, clubhouse and facilities are maintained to a very high standard. (I hope you can see that when you look around at some other clubs). Our **excellent coaching team** has grown to three. Alec Choules gained his Level 2 coaching qualification in 2022, becoming a valuable addition to the club, and taking on organising the Wednesday night social. Between them, Martin, Jon and Alec continue to offer a wide-ranging tennis programme to suit juniors and adults alike. I'd like to thank them not only for their enthusiasm and coaching but for the way in which they also provide a friendly welcome to all and a point of contact in the club.

And, after a lot of effort from Martin and Nick Hewens, the club has managed to regenerate a strong link with **Pewsey Vale School**. A group of pupils from the school now have regular coaching here on Fridays. This link with a secondary school to encourage local juniors into tennis is something we were particularly keen to develop.

What else was a highlight?

Our social programme is, I believe, a highlight of the club. However, two big social undertakings stood out for me (and hopefully others too). These were Martin and Jon's 24-hour tennis marathon fundraiser and Mike Hutchinson and Mark Butler's White Horse Walk (of which more later) – these heartwarming events brought club members together, raised the profile of the club and raised a huge amount of money for charity.

Moving on to more recent times, what did we achieve in 2024?

Maintaining our facilities: looking after the club house, the courts and grounds is obviously fundamental to the club, and our Facilities Manager, Nick Hewens, has had another busy year maintaining and improving our set up. Courts 1 and 2 have been repainted, courts 3 and 6 have been power-washed and had moss treatment. LED lights were installed on courts 1, 2, and 6, which means all our courts now have LED lighting – saving us and the planet a lot of energy. The edging logs have been replaced on some of the courts. The exterior of the clubhouse has been repainted. And there are now benches on the courts, a new table tennis table and some kitchen item upgrades.

Thank you, Nick.

And thank you to Vince Brooks for installing the discreet ramp on court 6 which is designed to help move the ball machine onto that court.

Sue White has kindly and enthusiastically agreed to take over the role of managing our facilities. Thank you, Sue.

Behind the scenes there's always essential work going on, for example in communications, safeguarding and financial management:

To improve communication from the committee and to avoid more emails, we introduced a quarterly newsletter in the clubhouse and on the website, which Deborah Goodall got up and running last year. Whilst we have lots of club and events information on our website (kept up to date by Roz and Keith), the newsletter aims to keep members abreast of upcoming events and recent news and can be read whilst hanging around in the clubhouse.

And the aim of our Junior Committee, comprising Tim Henretty, Katie Dang, Alex Scott and Claire Mullock, is also to open up lines of communication and to run events specifically for juniors. They ran another enjoyable bowling event at Christmas, enabling the juniors to socialise together. My thanks to all of them.

In terms of safeguarding, there are many checks and balances we have to consider (and paperwork) to ensure the safety and well-being of individuals in the club. This remains a top priority for us, as affirmed by the LTA's Safeguarding review of the club conducted in January of last year.

We welcomed a new Welfare Officer, Rosie Charnock, last year – thank you Rosie for taking on this important role.

We also continue to manage our two sets of accounts – one for the Club and one for coaching. Thank you to Mark Noble for once again auditing our accounts, to Matthew Popham and Pauline Archer for doing such an excellent job of managing the accounts, to Cathy Temple-Brown for all she does as membership secretary and to Deborah Goodall for all her support as secretary.

And tennis itself?

We had another busy year of competitive tennis. 2024 saw us field 7 men's teams, 4 ladies' teams and 6 mixed teams in the Swindon and District summer League with some excellent results. The Mixed As won Division 1 and the mixed B and D teams won divisions 2 and 3 respectively. The Men's A team came 2nd in Division 1 and the mixed E team came 2nd in Division 4. We are grateful to St Francis School and Burbage Tennis Club for allowing us to use their courts to enable us to accommodate all our teams.

A big thank you to Nick and Catherine Hewens and Christian Blair for being overall captains of the Men's, Ladies and Mixed teams, and to all the captains for both the Summer and Winter leagues – all the team players really value what you do, and know it is not an easy job!

Steve May did another great job of managing our Swindon and District League administration. No small task when there are so many teams, and a job that was made even harder by a software upgrade introduced midway through the summer season, an upgrade that did **not** go smoothly and turned out to be a considerable amount of extra work for Steve. Thank you Steve, much appreciated.

Club and Team captains, and League secretary, you will find a token of our appreciation on the table, please don't go home without it!

Congratulations are due to Martin, Jon, Chris Roberts, and Greg Caterer, who were selected to represent the Wiltshire over 35s men's team in August. They competed as a team of six in the county cup competition over three days in Eastbourne, finishing joint top of their division but narrowly missing out on promotion. Well done to all of you.

Our juniors had a dynamic year as well, thanks to Jon, who organised many competitive events, which Jon will tell you more about. We also celebrate the achievements of our young talent. Euan Gregory won the boys under 9 event in Salisbury - our first county champion in a long time. Euan also reached the semi-finals of the under 10s. AND, we have just received the wonderful news that Wiltshire Tennis has selected Euan as the county's under 9 Boys most improved player for 2024. Congratulations to Euan on this well-deserved recognition.

Our popular Club Championships, once again brilliantly organised by Keith Hampson, saw more than 50 players and supporters gather on finals day in November.

Our singles winners were Annabel Rugge-Price and Christian Blair. Niamh Townsend and Christian won the mixed doubles, Cathy Temple-Brown and myself won the ladies' doubles and Guy Wealthall and Alec Choules won the men's doubles. Our plate winners were Maddie Allen, Harry Money, Maddie Allen and Lance Pearce, Katy Dang and Sarah Sims, and Matt Lennon and Will Silcocks. Well done everyone.

Keith also organised a number of daytime friendly matches with local clubs. This initiative has been great for those who prefer not to travel far or play in the evening, giving them the opportunity to enjoy competitive tennis. Thank you Keith.

And Our Social Calendar

In 2024, Paul and Roz organised another very busy Events schedule which included numerous tournaments, a quiz night and a trip to the Manor Hotel in Okehampton. A special highlight was the bowls tournament with Pewsey Bowls Club which in years gone by used to be a regular fixture and, with another tournament in the diary for this year, we hope it will be again. Over the year we raised over £1,000 for various charities. Thank you Paul and Roz.

We were proud to host the Junior Play Your Way to Wimbledon Wiltshire County Finals and I'm pleased to announce that we will be hosting this event again this year.

I'd like to extend a thank you to **all** of those that helped with various events in any way – especially, Judith Deck who organises the Thursday Ladies' tennis, Mike Cox who manages the bar, including for our monthly Mix and Match evenings, Mike Hutchinson who organises the Quiz night, Tim Henretty and Sophie who served up a delicious BBQ, Sandy MacIntyre whose video clips he even managed to get onto the BBC, and Monica Ford who organised a Q and A session on first aid, which was very informative.

I would also like to highlight the creative talents of Lucy Baier, who crafted a fantastic Angelica from Rugsrats scarecrow for the Pewsey Carnival Scarecrow Trail. Her creation, which stood proudly on Amanda Foxton's lawn, was voted the best scarecrow out of 53 entries!

Our next event is the Pewsey Pickleball Day on Saturday 8th March – I know some of you here are regular pickleball players but if you haven't tried it do come along and give it a go – it's an easy game to pick up.

Following that, we have the Quiz on Thursday 27th March at the Bowls Club. Spaces are limited, so get your name down while you can!

On Sunday 13th April we have our Season Opening Tournament and I hope to see lots of you there.

On a final note, during my term I have valued the reliable support and wise counsel of Colin Gratton, our President, and also of our Vice Presidents, Amanda Foxton and Peter Deck. Thank you to them, to the committee and to all of you. Pewsey Tennis Club is a truly wonderful club - the setting, the facilities, the people, the committee - and it has been a privilege to give something back to the club that I love being part of. Thank you.

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

The accounts to 31st December 2024, as audited by Mark Noble, were presented by Matthew Popham, Treasurer. He reported that incomes are broadly inline with expectations and the Club finances are strong, even after refurbishments and the club maintains a health cash balance - currently standing at £95,359. The Club's subscription income over the last year was £36,043 – slightly above the £35,500 we had estimated. The coaching income and expenses matched each other. And we achieved our refurbishment fund target of £15,000 (general income minus general running costs). There were no questions, and the accounts were accepted by the AGM.

Proposer: Colin Gratton; **seconded:** Roz Denton

4. **COACHES' REPORTS**

Martin Wright – Head Coach (as presented)

2024 was a very exciting year for coaching. We have continued to offer tennis to the community through our adult and kids coaching sessions as well as our Holiday camps. It has been great to see so many people of different ages enjoying tennis at the club.

It's been just over a year since Alec joined Jon and I as our level 2 coach. This has allowed us to provide more offerings and trial some new initiatives. Alec is hardworking and certainly not afraid to get stuck in with other aspects of the club - including running some of the adult league teams, the smooth running of the Wednesday club session and our new parent and child session. Alec also provides great support in the running of our competition programme that Jon will report on shortly. I thank Alec very much for his hard work, willingness and dedication to the coaching programme and to the tennis club as a whole. I'm looking forward to seeing him develop his coaching over the next year.

Our weekly term group lessons continued to be well supported with children attending our beginner, improver and performance lessons. As well as the various successes we have had with our performance players it's been great to see so many children picking up a racket and having a go at

tennis. Of particular note is our mini-tennis Blue session on a Tuesday where we have upwards of 20 4 to 7 year olds playing.

We continue to work with Burbage tennis Club offering an after-school club for Burbage Primary School with 16 pupils attending. Jon also runs an adult coaching session for a group of members on a Thursday evening. It's great to continue our relationship with the club and wider tennis community.

Cardio-tennis, Rusty rackets, improver lessons and our **B2P course** have remained popular with adults. Cardio tennis offers a fun sociable workout for all ages and abilities. You hit loads of balls, build up your skills and work up a sweat. Our cardio tennis sessions see lots of players each week enjoying a fast-paced session. Rusty rackets has a good core of players who also play outside of the session as well as socialise together. This again shows the many benefits tennis brings both physically and mentally. Our beginners to players programme (B2P) was attended by 10 players who received an initial 6 week tennis express style coaching course designed to take them from complete novices to playing in a fun tournament on week 6. We then ran a follow-on course of 4 weeks to work on more technical aspects of the game. Some of these players are now regularly playing at the club. B2P is a brilliant way of attracting members to the club and I'm sure most people know someone who plays regularly at the club who started their tennis journey at B2P. My thanks goes to Sarah Simms who once again supported the running of the course and liaises with the groups on how best to continue their tennis.

During the last year Alec and I completed some training on **Walking tennis**. Walking tennis is open to anyone, whether a lifelong tennis player, a complete beginner, or just need a little bit more time. It's safe, fun, inclusive and a fantastic way to stay active. You can play tennis at any age and walking tennis offers an easy way for older people to keep their body and mind active while also enjoying the social side of being part of the tennis community. I am looking at introducing two taster sessions next month followed up by a regular session if we have the demand.

Schools' tennis is very important and we maintain strong links with Pewsey Vale, Burbage and St Francis schools, all receiving weekly lessons. We have also offered free tennis sessions for local primary schools including visits to Oare and Easton Royal. Working with these schools allows us to give a large number of children the chance to have a go at tennis. It's also great publicity for our club and demonstrates us reaching out and supporting our local community. Our link with Pewsey Vale School continues to grow in strength and we now have up to 24 pupils signed up to coaching sessions that are held at the club every Friday during term time all year round. Its brilliant to see these pupils accessing tennis here at the tennis club and I'm looking forward to growing our link over the next year.

Holiday Camps ran the first week of the Easter holidays and then two weeks in August. Our Easter camp received 59 separate bookings with 30 children attending each day and the Summer Camps received 84 separate bookings, again with 30 children each day and a combined income of just over £12,500. The revenue from the Holiday programme plays a hugely important part in supporting the Coaching programme. This coming year we are expanding our Holiday programme. As there is no Marlborough College Summer School this year, we will be offering 3 weeks of holiday camps in the Summer Holidays and also the new offering of a week-long adult coaching course the week of the 21st of July running for 2 hours every day for 5 days. This course will work through a progressive

program, working on a different theme each day and finishing the week with a light-hearted Matchplay event. Members of the club will be given a priority booking window before booking becomes open to non-members.

2024 saw some great successes for some of our players with 5 players selected to attend the **Wiltshire tennis squads**. These players are now regularly competing in tournaments locally and further afield. Team tennis over the Summer was positive and saw over 20 people playing in the 10 teams entered into the leagues. Of particular note, Euan Gregory winning the Mini Green event at the Wiltshire championships in August. To see players on court of all ages and abilities enjoying the game we all love is brilliant to see.

As always, it's a big thanks to Jon for his dedication to the coaching programme, in organising competitions and the club in general. I'm extremely grateful for everything you do. It's a pleasure to be able to work with such a great team.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to Clare for everything she has done over the last 5 years. The start was certainly not easy with having to navigate all the regulations of Covid and the introduction of the booking system to allow tennis to restart smoothly. Throughout her time as Chair she has been extremely hardworking, supportive and always has the best interests of the club members and tennis community in mind. Behind the scenes there is so much work that goes into the club, not to mention all the policies and procedures that need constant attention in order to comply with our LTA affiliation and provide safe and inclusive tennis to all. Clare, I am extremely grateful to you and I thank you very much for everything you have done.

We are very much looking forward to working with Nick as Chairman and continuing to keep Pewsey Tennis Club a flagship club in the County. Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the club and those who take part and support the coaching program, it's a privilege to be part of such a fantastic club.

Jon Gregory – Coach (as presented)

2025 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 20 players attending the events. We received some excellent feedback regarding the event. 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, these events take place on set dates through the summer. We sent 10 teams to these events, a huge jump in the number to previous years. Highlights include our 8U team finishing 3rd out of 5 in their event, 10U and 12U boys finishing as runners up in their events. Our 16U girls team managed to win the playback event in their draw and finally, our 18U boys team won their division. In total Pewsey TC took part in 18 fixtures, again another big jump compared to previous years. We also entered a lot more teenage teams this time round, which I'm

particularly pleased about. It's great to give some of our juniors the opportunity to compete and test themselves against other clubs.

We also ran a "Play your way to Wimbledon" competition, a national competition for 14U players. 4 players from Pewsey took part in the club event. Big thanks to Alec for running the event on the day.

Two of our players went to the county finals but unfortunately didn't progress any further.

We unfortunately missed out on the mini tennis fun festival this year. Wilts LTA limited numbers for the event and I unfortunately didn't get my team confirmed before the limited spaces were filled.

Me, Martin and Alec 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 18 of these in 2024 within our coaching groups and at the two schools we run after-school clubs for, Burbage Primary School and St Francis School.

We 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 younger age categories, which is often a great introduction to competition!

We ran three age groups this year, 8U, 10U and 18U. The 8U event attracted 6 pairs, 10U 6 pairs and the 18U 3 pairs. Saul and Jonty Shanagher winning the 18U age group, Heather and Everett Newby-Allen winning the 10U event and Georgie/Luca Morse the 8U.

Disappointingly, we had to abandon the junior club session (despite much effort to get it running) as it just wasn't receiving the support and numbers it needed. I am, however, not deterred and we have started a parent & child club session on a Wednesday afternoon. The idea being to get younger children into playing matches with the support of a parent. This session has made a promising start but mainly thanks to weather and time of year, participation has fallen away. I am hoping though that with nicer weather nearer the start of the season this session might really get going, as there does seem to be plenty of interest for it.

We have also run some extra events this year – an internal 18U matchplay, a pre-season practice session for juniors taking part in the summer league and a Christmas bowling social event for juniors. Big thanks to Tim Henretty for organising the bowling trip.

I would like to thank the junior committee, which we formed 2 years ago, 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 Alex Scott!

Looking to this year, the Easter Tournament is coming up in April and I am about to enter teams into the Junior Summer League. I plan to offer the same program as last year but with additions. We have applied to run another LTA event (4 age groups) in May this year and we are extending our internal competition offering. We have already run an internal 10U event, unfortunately an 8U scheduled a couple of weeks ago was cancelled because of the weather but we are hoping to go ahead this weekend instead. Alec and I are planning roughly 1 internal competition a month this year and

hopefully young members playing in these events may gain the confidence to go and compete at events at other clubs. We also plan to run a Play your way to Wimbledon event, Parent and Child Tournament, Mini Tennis Fun Festival, Club Championships, Christmas and Summer Social and also Matchweek competitions we hold for our coaching groups. A very busy programme which I hope we can manage.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Alec this year. Having a young family and being self-employed doesn't leave me a huge amount of spare time to run competitions. Alec's willingness to run these events at weekends allows me to be able to put more of them on for our young members and help improve our competition programme. His friendly, inclusive attitude and good organisation make these events great fun for all who attend, I really appreciate his support.

I would also thank Martin, who as ever, provides opportunities for all ages of players at our club and beyond to be able to access coaching to improve their tennis. He is very easy to work with and much of my enjoyment of this role comes from the hard work he puts into organising everything.

I would also just like to thank you, the committee and all the tennis club. I know Martin, Alec 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.

5. **MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2025/26**

Clare Bamforth explained that the current membership fees cover the club's annual costs and presented the proposed fees for 2025/26. 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:** Barbara Polden

6. **ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE for 2025/26**

Clare Bamforth informed the AGM that all existing committee members were standing for the coming year. Clare would now stand for the position of Vice-Chair and Nick Hewens as Chair.

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

Chair – Nick Hewens
Vice-Chair - Clare Bamforth
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 – Rosie Charnock)
(Facilities Manager – non-Committee – Sue White)

Proposer: Patti Mann; **seconded** Steve May

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 2025/26 was accepted by the AGM.

Proposer: Jon Gregory; **seconded:** Amanda Hampson

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

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