



# Rugby Lawn Tennis Club

Webb Ellis Road, Rugby, CV21 7AU

## Minutes of Committee Meeting 7th February 2023

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Attendees: Rebecca Thomas (secretary), John Victoros (Chair), Duncan Grime, Sue Eaton, David Danger, Martin Hunter, Becky Webb, Jack Suttle, Tash Hillyer, 6 additional club members.

Apologies: 2 members

MINUTES	ACTION
<b>1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</b> See above	
<b>2. PREVIOUS MINUTES</b> The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as true and accurate.	SE MH
<b>3. CHAIRS REPORT</b> See attached (Appendix A)	
<b>4. TREASURERS REPORT</b> See attached (Appendix B)	
<b>5. COACHING REPORT</b> See attached (Appendix C)	
<b>6. FUNDRAISING AND SOCIAL REPORT</b> See attached (Appendix D)	
<b>7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS</b> Chair - John Vic (DG, CH)  Secretary - Rebecca Thomas (RA, DD)  Treasurer - David Danger (SE, AS)  Rest of Committee - Martin Hunter, Duncan Grime, Natalie Victoros, Pam Bond, Sue Eaton (AS, CH)	
<b>8. MEMBERSHIP PROPOSAL</b> Explanation for the rise in cost explained in Appendix B	

Approved (CH, AS)	
The meeting closed at 8:15	

## Appendix A

### Chairs Report

The Rugby Lawn Tennis Club Annual General Meeting. Chair's Report – JV 2023 I would immediately like to thank the committee at this community tennis club of ours as without these volunteers who go out of their way to give time and effort to ensure we run an inclusive, presentable, approachable and an ongoingly improving tennis club, we would have very little. Always together looking for ways to improve how we go about enhancing the experience for our members. I would also like to say we are always looking for new members to join the committee to help spread the load and widen the experience and knowledge and abilities within the club as well as younger members to safeguard the long-term future of the club.

We are now, despite still having a few clubs in the area, probably the main tennis club in the area with the most value for our members, despite the forthcoming arrival of Houghton Sports Centre (£160 per month per person), £110 if you live in Houghton. LMRCA have now combined with the Grange with just 2 courts and Clifton also with just 2 courts and no floodlights. We are blessed with 6 floodlit courts and a clubhouse that we will continue to improve upon. There are so many types of members at the club and they all have different expectations from it. Keeping everyone happy is never going to be easy, but we try.

We have in the last year continued to improve the presentation of the courts and the clubhouse wherever we can without stretching the finances as we do need to continue to strengthen our sinking fund which helps maintain the quality of the courts over the longer period going forwards. More from our Treasurer later. On the subject of our Treasurer Sue Eaton, she has maintained the finances for closing in on 4 years and has asked that we seek a replacement without any time pressures and we have a proposed replacement in David Danger who we will propose when we get to the committee voting in section. But a massive thanks to Sue for controlling and developing the club's finances and keeping us from spending too much too swiftly but enabling us to improve at every opportunity in a controlled manner. David hopefully over to you with as long a crossover period as Sue allows us. Ongoing thanks to Duncan Grime, Martin Hunter, Rebecca Thomas and Natalie Victoros for covering not only their designated responsibilities but for giving time over and above the call of duty to help maintain the Club's facilities, social events etc. John Offord's continuous work is also very much appreciated along with all the volunteers that help out on days organised by Martin & Duncan.

The social events post covid have been difficult to generate, in numbers terms, as have been the tournaments over the last year or so. Even the weather has conspired against us many a time especially last year! We will look to improve on this in 2023 and it is up to all of us to spread the word to return all events back to former numbers.

The 2022/23 membership numbers have been very healthy with over 300 members. As we approach the 2023/24 membership year, we are all fully aware of the challenges with power, fuel and day to day costs of living in our daily lives. The running of the tennis club sadly is not immune to these rising costs whether it be cost of running the leagues, tennis balls, toilet rolls, washing up liquid or the killer cost of our floodlights. In 2021 our annual cost of electricity was £2,900 In 2022 this rose to £14,000.

There was much league tennis during the last year with the winter season coming to a close. Last summer into the winter saw 6 teams in the local leagues, 6 teams in the Cov League with 3 vets' teams across the Warwickshire & Northampton Leagues. A summary of the final positions will be attached to the minutes.

Since the last AGM ongoing improvement in and around the clubhouse have included:

1. Brand new netting to protect us from the Cricket Club
2. More signage in and around the club, ongoing.

3. New and more secure shed installed to house our valuables.
4. Defibrillator installed at the club.
5. Re-painting of the hitting area – work in progress
6. Tennis greats pictures in changing rooms.
7. Drinks fridge for captains to use for league matches.
8. Billy goat for leaves collection

The inevitable eventuality, although we are doing our utmost to limit the effect, is a proposal to modestly increase our prices for the coming membership year. This will have been communicated prior to the AGM for approval at the AGM as the 1st April 2023 approaches fast. We will continue to plan ahead ongoing improvements to the tennis club, any suggestions from the membership are always welcome as indeed is your time to also get involved.

Inspire to Coach or as we should now call them Now Tennis continue to develop all aspects of our tennis club. The one constant here may feel like change to many, but the underlying trend is becoming more stable under the management of Becky & Tash. More from Becky in her report. Now Tennis have continued to work hard to get some continuity and stability in challenging times within the whole tennis industry as coaches, as a raw material post Covid, have become a rarity.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the membership as we spring into another year of hopefully good weather, good health and good tennis.

John Victoros

Appendix B

**Treasurer's Report**

7 MARCH 2023

**YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2021**

Opening Balances C/F– Main Account	£6,929.56
Sinking Fund	£10,899.11
Closing Balances - Main Account	£9,349.50
Sinking Fund	£18,900.83

**YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2022**

Opening Balances C/F– Main Account	£9,349.50
Sinking Fund	£18,900.83
Closing Balances - Main Account	£14,748.22
Sinking Fund	£12,075.74

**MEMBERSHIP**

Membership numbers for the year 2022-2023 stand at **345**, total made up of:-

Adults – inc POJ, Social and Family Adults 181

Junior – all age groups inc Family Junior 164

Junior split: 164 = 8u – 67, 9-11 – 43, 12-17 – 54

**EXPENSES**

The significant expense of 2022 was the tripling of our electricity bill. Due to having saved the surplus of our COVID grant as a provision for unexpected costs we were able to meet this cost. This has shown signs of returning to manageable levels this year but we need to be aware of this risk.

Extra-ordinary one-off expenses this year were for outstanding expenses from the carpark and drainage work, maintenance of the mini court and the purchase of a secure outbuilding.

The cost of tennis balls has also seen a significant increase this year.

### **SINKING FUND**

The sinking fund opening balance in 2022 was £18,900.83 This has been reduced during 2022 by £6,831.60 which was used for the necessary replacement of the high netting between the cricket ground and the tennis club.

The purpose of the sinking fund is to ensure the Club has the funds to rejuvenate or replace the court facilities when necessary. It is a stipulation of the LTA that a healthy sinking fund is maintained. The works undertaken in 2021 were anticipated to prolong the life of the courts for 5 years. After this it will become necessary to re-lay some or all courts. In order to future proof the Club's facilities we should look to have a sinking fund of at least £60k in 2026/27. The replacement of the netting has impacted progress in meeting this target. The remaining surplus of the COVID grant will allow the Club to add at least £10,000 to the Fund this year. However surplus generated is not yet at a level that will enable us to meet this target going forward.

### **RENT**

The Council in 2020 undertook a rent review. The increase has been delayed and we have not been informed when it will be implemented but we should anticipate a sharp rise in the near future. We currently pay £1,300 per annum. The proposed new rate at the time of review was circa £2,800 per annum.

### **MEMBERSHIP FEE CHANGES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-2024**

The Club is run as a CASC (Charities and Sporting Club) and therefore is a not for profit organisation. Membership fees are assessed in accordance with the costs of running and maintaining the Club and offering accessible membership fees to a range of potential members. Membership fees for the year 2023/2024 will be adjusted in line with a benchmarking exercise carried out this year and new rates to be implemented from 1 April 2023 as follows:-

	<b>CURRENT</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
Adult	£150.00	£160.00
Family	£270.00	£370.00
Junior 12-17 (no change)	£80.00	£80.00
Junior 9-11 (no change)	£40.00	£40.00

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Junior Under 8 (no change)	£20.00	£20.00
Student	£95.00	n/a
Parent of Junior (no change)	£30.00	£30.00
NEW Family (1 Adult)	n/a	£220.00
NEW Young Adult	n/a	£120.00

The social membership at £10.00 exists for any parent not wishing to use the club other than to obtain a key on behalf of a junior member and/or receive Club emails.

## Appendix C

## Coaching Report

<div> <div>Coaching Report</div> <div>  </div> </div>	
<b>2022</b>	
<b>COACHING TEAM</b>	Chris Cash / Michael Valdivia / Gareth Davies  Tash Hillyer / Jack Suttle 
<b>CURRENT CLASSES</b>	Monday – Saturday JUNIORS ON PROGRAMME: 133 (unique users: 128) ADULTS ON PROGRAMME: 20 (all unique users) <b>TOTAL: 153 (148)</b>
<b>SCHOOLS TENNIS</b>	<b>Cawston Grange</b> Delivered in summer term 2022
<b>CAMPS</b>	We were able to run full day tennis camps again in 2022, with a total of 520 bookings across each of the holidays. This is down on bookings from the previous year, which we have seen a trend across all venues as parents working from home no longer require the childcare that they might have previously used.
<b>COMMENTS</b>	<p>We have had a number of changes within the coaching team in 2022 with Chris and Michael both leaving in quick succession last Spring, to be replaced by Tash and Gareth in the Summer. Despite these changes we have maintained good numbers on the coaching programme and have begun to increase the member offering with new events to take place in 2023.</p> <p>Last week we unfortunately also lost Gareth from the coaching team due to personal circumstances, however now have Jack joining the coaching team as a newly qualified level 3 joining us from the University of Warwick Tennis Centre.</p> <p>Tash and Jack are looking forward to working together to continue to grow the coaching programme and membership of the club</p>
<b>2023 WAY FORWARD</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New coaching team of Tash &amp; Jack working together to drive participation</li> <li>• Maximise occupancy in existing groups (XX% occupancy present = XX spaces)</li> <li>• New sessions to attract new players (targeting under 10's)</li> <li>• Re-establish links with local schools (Cawston Grange confirmed for 2023)</li> <li>• Relaunch adult programme to attract new players at all levels (questionnaire to go to club members)</li> <li>• Reinstate Junior Match play</li> <li>• Launch internal tournaments for both junior &amp; adult members</li> <li>• Friendly match play with local clubs</li> <li>• Work with club on membership push</li> </ul>



## Appendix D

### **Fundraising and Social Report**

This year 3 of our events managed to go ahead this year, 1 social and 2 tournaments.

Tennis Tipple, Mixed Doubles Event and 80+ Mixed Doubles Event.

We managed to raise £193.96 for the club through the above.

Our Christmas Party was a hit this year and we were fully booked at Bacco Lounge, hoping this is a sign of good things to come as we have a packed schedule ready for this year.

Tennis Tipple – April date TBC

Adults Mixed Doubles Tournament – 14<sup>th</sup> May

Adults Ladies & Mens Doubles Tournament– 23<sup>rd</sup> July

Mixed 80+ Doubles Tournament – 10<sup>th</sup> September

American Doubles Tournament – 8<sup>th</sup> October

Christmas Party – December date TBC

We have also updated all boards in the clubhouse!