

SHILLINGSTONE TENNIS CLUB

Minutes of 2021 Annual General Meeting held at Shillingstone Recreation Ground Pavilion on 15 November 2021 at 7pm

1. PRESENT: Sharon Proyer (Chairman/Club Captain), Jo Fordham (Vice-Chairman/Welfare Officer), Kathy Frazier (Treasurer/Membership Secretary), Belinda Simpson (Website/Social Media Management), Tim Cotton, Rita Howcroft, Mike Salisbury, Mark Talbot, Chris Whitfeld (Secretary).

2. APOLOGIES: **Nick Abram** (great season getting back into tennis with Shillingstone club, but overseas posting so won't be here in 2022 but look forward to rejoining on return – with many thanks to all involved); **Matthew Davis** (with thanks to Committee for all it does to make Shillingstone such a good Club to belong to); **Nicky Hunter** (commended everyone's efficiency in letting all members know what's going on, and look forward to playing more when time permits); **Janet Johnson** (shame to find no one else at Sunday social sessions on a couple of occasions – but has now been advised that Whatsapp lets players know who will be there); **Anne Lavery** (commented on how welcome Committee, members and Coach have made her feel, and given such attention to detail); **Rob Simpson**

3. MINUTES OF LAST AGM: Minutes of 2020 AGM (postponed to 1 July 2021) approved.

Agreed, with these and all future Committee and AGM minutes, to publish them on Club website. Belinda to action.

4. MATTERS ARISING: None

5. REPORTS:

Chairman/Club Captain:

The last AGM (originally scheduled for November 2020) was held in July 2021 owing to the delay caused by Covid-19. Therefore it is only four months since that AGM that the 2021 AGM is being held, putting these meetings back on schedule.

Social sessions

At the last Committee meeting it was decided to reduce the number of social sessions as numbers attending had been poor. The decision was to keep the Sunday afternoon session but not reschedule the Thursday session by reverting from evening to afternoon, as would normally have happened. Following on from this, one member decided it would be advantageous to set up a Whatsapp group for anyone who would still like to play on a Thursday afternoon. This information was sent to all members so that they could opt to be in the group if they chose. This seems to be working reasonably well and has morphed into the Sunday session. Hopefully, it will reduce the chance of anyone turning up to play, but finding no one else has.

Since the last meeting a "Rusty Racquets" session has started on Friday afternoons, replacing the Ladies morning which had not been very well attended. The new session has had a few attendees but not a significant number.

Although social sessions are important for those who do not have their own groups, most club members do not appear to want to take part in these. **This may be something the new Committee may wish to discuss. Chris to include in 14 March agenda.**

Coaching

Graham completed all of the coaching courses in 2021: two on Sunday mornings for children in year groups 1-6, teenagers and adults on Wednesday evenings. The Sloper Shield was awarded at the end of the teenager sessions. The second Cardio Tennis course was completed – as yet, another has not been organised as numbers for the second course were not cost-effective.

Graham continues to be actively coaching private groups and individuals. If the participants do not book (which is encouraged), he will do this, ensuring that any non-members are paying the court hire fee.

Leagues

The Shaftesbury Tennis League was completed this year. In Division 1 the Club's A team won – significantly ahead of the rest. The B team, in Division 2, came third.

The Summer 2021 Dorset League concluded successfully. The ladies came fourth in Division 3 after some very challenging matches. The men won their division and will be promoted for next summer.

The Club is currently taking part in the Dorset LTA Winter League 2021-2022, with three teams: Men, Ladies and Mixed. The Ladies have played one match against Dorchester, which was quite a marathon, but unfortunately a loss. The Mixed team have also played one match, against Hale Gardens – unfortunately, a loss - but many more matches still to come!

The teams have continued to have team practice sessions.

Website/Facebook

Since the last AGM, Belinda has updated both website and Facebook pages. She has also posted advertising for the social sessions and new Rusty Racquets.

Refurbished outside noticeboard

Since the last AGM the outside noticeboard has been refurbished. This now has information useful for non-members to obtain details about the club.

Maintenance

Since the last AGM an agreement has been made with the Parish Council that the Cricket Club will undertake strimming, mowing, hedge cutting etc around the courts as part of their maintenance contract. This will need to be monitored to ensure that the details in the agreement are adhered to.

Cricket

The Club has continued to ensure that all members are aware of the cricket ball risk by publishing on the website booking page dates of cricket matches, when/if these are provided. There are also warning notices on the Club's website and at the courts. The Club is aware of a few instances of cricket balls coming onto the courts during the 2021 season.

Pavilion

The Club has continued to liaise with the Parish Council via their representative, Richard White. Recently this has centred largely around the issues of mess left by other users. Jo also checks from a Health and Safety point of view.

Newcomers' party

The Chairman and Secretary attended this event at the Portman Hall on the evening of Saturday 2 October, and had the opportunity to inform those attending about what the Tennis Club has to offer.

Blandford Tennis Club

Blandford Tennis Club folded some time ago. An ex-member approached the Shillingstone Club regarding the funds they still hold, and asked if Shillingstone might have a cause that could use some of those funds. A suggestion was made to provide some free coaching for children who would otherwise not be able to afford to take part, including the provision of racquets and suitable balls. The Club is, as a result, being given some of the funds – split with the Air Ambulance. It is thought the Club could receive about £250. Heads of all three Okeford primary schools, and Club Coach Graham Howell, to be asked to advise on potential beneficiaries. Club will be prepared to contribute further funds as necessary towards this project.

The new Committee, at its meeting before the beginning of the 2022 summer season, will have the chance to discuss the details. Sharon to contact Heads and Coach; Chris to include as agenda item for 14 March 2022 meeting.

Full version of Chairman's report to go on website – Sharon/Belinda to action this.

Secretary:

Little to add to Sharon's comprehensive report, except thanks to her and everyone involved in keeping the Club running smoothly. Also stressed the need to monitor closely the maintenance work around the courts taken on by the Cricket Club, and paid for by the Parish Council.

Now feel it is time to make way for a new Secretary – someone more familiar with all the new methods of communication. If re-elected, happy to continue for one more year and then, or sooner, be replaced.

Membership/Treasurer:

Club's finances in very healthy state. Subscriptions up just under £700 on last year. Pay & Play and Guest fees also well up. Overall, excess income over expenditure this year £2,577.

John Paul willing to continue as Club's Auditor.

Welfare Officer:

No safeguarding concerns have been reported to the Welfare Officer.

All Committee members received training at the Committee meeting on 27 September, using the LTA Safeguarding for Committees training video. This covered key points and stressed the importance of all members of tennis club committees being familiar with issues around safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

All other safeguarding training is up to date.

Safeguarding is covered in Club policies which are available to all members via the website, including what they should do if they have a safeguarding concern.

All Club policies updated ready for LTA registration renewal in the near future. *(It opened on the day of the AGM, 15 November.)* The updated policies are available on the website and some are on display in the shelter at the courts.

Club Coach Graham Howell has renewed his coach accreditation which is valid until 9 November 2022.

During any absence of the Welfare Officer, Sharon will deputise. She has done the necessary training and is applying for a DBS check through the LTA.

6. SUBSCRIPTIONS, FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2022-23:

Confirmed that all subscriptions, fees and charges should remain as in 2021-2022 from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023:

- Family (two adults + children aged 18 and under), £75
- Adult (aged 19 and over), £35
- Adult couple, £65
- Senior (aged 60 and over), £30
- Senior couple, £55
- Student (aged from 19 to 25 and in full-time education), £20
- Junior (aged 18 and under), £15

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE:

Mike Salisbury agreed to serve on the Committee for the coming year.

All Officers and Committee members re-elected en bloc:

Chairman & Club Captain – Sharon Proyer

Vice-Chairman & Welfare Officer – Jo Fordham

Treasurer & Membership Secretary – Kathy Frazier

Website & Social Media Management – Belinda Simpson

Secretary – Chris Whitfeld

Tim Cotton, Mike Salisbury, Tracey/Mark Talbot, Rob Simpson.

8. APPOINTMENT OF HON AUDITOR: John Paul was re-appointed.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Floodlights

It was agreed that the issue of floodlights for the courts should be explored again, despite continuing concerns about the cost, including the need to take an electricity supply to the courts. Planning permission would also be required.

Sharon agreed to speak to an LTA contact about costs and possible grants.

Christmas tournament and social event

Agreed this would be a social occasion that members would appreciate and welcome.

Date planned for it: **Sunday 19 December, from 11am.**

To include some tennis, mince pies, mulled wine. If weather inclement it will take place in the Recreation Ground Pavilion.

Sharon to email all members immediately, with a reminder nearer the time. All attending will be asked to bring “something festive” in the way of food and drink.

10. MEETING OF NEW COMMITTEE:

7pm on Monday 14 March 2022 at Rec Pavilion.

The 2021 AGM closed at 7.55pm.