

## SHILLINGSTONE TENNIS CLUB

### Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting held at Shillingstone Recreation Ground Pavilion on 3rd December 2022 at 10.30am

**1. PRESENT:** Sharon Proyer (Chairman/Club Captain), Kathy Frazier (Treasurer/Membership Secretary), Tim Cotton, Heather Dhondy, Mike Salisbury, Tracey & Mark Talbot, Richard White, Chris Whitfeld (Secretary).

**2. APOLOGIES:** Jo Fordham (Vice-Chairman/Welfare Officer), Nicky Hunter, Belinda Simpson (Website/Social Media Management), Rob Simpson, Carole Whitfeld.

**3. MINUTES OF LAST AGM:** Minutes of 2021 AGM approved.

**To be published on Club website. Sharon, Dom to action.**

**4. MATTERS ARISING:** None

**5. REPORTS:**

#### Chairman/Club Captain:

##### Social Sessions

These have continued throughout the year: Sundays 2-4pm and Thursdays 2-4pm in the winter and 6-8pm in the summer. The Whatsapp group (currently 32 participants) helps those who have opted in to know if other members will be in attendance. Generally, these are not very well attended but appreciated by those who do as they may not otherwise have people to play with. There have also been a couple of themed sessions – at Christmas and Easter and including refreshments. (*Catherine Nicoll was seen as by far the best-costumed participant.*) The Rusty Racquets afternoon did not prove to be well enough attended to continue.

##### Coaching

Graham Howell has continued to coach via private arrangements throughout the year. During May-July coaching was offered to children and adults. The adult course was a success and after completing the 10 weeks some participants opted to continue, with Graham, in the autumn. Unfortunately there were no takers for the Years 1-3 course so this did not take place and as there were so few (only two) interested in the Year 7+ course this did not take place either. The Years 4-6 course did take place with five children signed up. This lack of interest was disappointing especially as free places had been offered to disadvantaged children at the three local primary schools but there was no take-up. In the autumn Graham set up two more courses for adults, each running for four weeks – Course 1: Adult Shot Clinic which focused on a different shot each week. Course 2: Adult Drills which worked on baseline/net play, etc. These both ran although the second course had very few participants. Two sessions were also offered for children in Years 3-6 during half term. Again, free places were offered – one was taken up although the child did not attend the first session, but did attend the second. Approximately another eight children signed up – none of them from our local school though.

Having recently attended the LTA Regional Forum on zoom, Sharon has requested a conversation with the Development Partner to see what more can be done to encourage our local children to take part in tennis. (*Discussion here included publicising and marketing particularly the children's coaching. A possible change from Sunday morning coaching to after-school sessions was suggested.*)

##### Volunteer Coaching

A big thank you to Tracey who went into our local school to offer an after-school tennis club to the children there for about six weeks during the summer term.

##### Leagues

Shaftesbury Tennis League: Shillingstone A won Division 1 by a significant margin. Shillingstone B came 3rd in Division 2. However, this was a much closer division – the winners had 39 points, second place 38 points and Shillingstone B 37 points. There was an end-of season tournament at Pythouse on September 11th.

Dorset LTA Doubles League: Winter 2021/2022 – Shillingstone had three teams playing (men, ladies and mixed). The men came second in their division so hope to be promoted next winter. Summer 2022 – Shillingstone men came top of Division 5 – very well done to them! The ladies, in Division 3, had some very tough matches. At the end of the season they came 6th in Division 3. Currently the club has two teams in the Winter 2022/23 season.

##### In-club competition

This began in the autumn for those who had expressed an interest. There are two box leagues (one for men/mixed, with seven pairs competing, and one for ladies, with three pairs entered). Some matches have been played and results entered on the website and Facebook page. The competition runs until March 2023.

#### Shillingstone Sports Festival

This was held on the first Sunday in August. The club opened one court to allow people the opportunity to have a go, with or without a member hitting with them. On the other court, there were boxes placed so that anyone could attempt to serve/hit the ball over the net to knock them over. There was a steady stream of interested members of the public. Sharon followed up with those that left their contact details. One couple have since joined and attended a social session. Many thanks to the members who manned the courts throughout the afternoon – much appreciated.

#### Cricket ball risk

Before the cricket season began, all members were informed of the risk by email. Belinda put all of the known dates of cricket matches on the website on the booking page, and Chris updated the notice on the gate. I am aware of a few balls landing on the court but cannot give an exact number.

#### Parish Council

Thanks to Jo for her efforts in liaising with the Council regarding cleanliness/tidiness, etc, in the pavilion. There have also been ongoing discussions regarding the cutting and strimming of the areas around the courts, which had not been done by the Cricket Club, as agreed. As the weather was very dry in the summer this was not too much of an issue. Since then, Sharon has been in contact with the Council over this but they have not been helpful. She has also asked Clive Nelson (Cricket Club Chair) when this will be done but no date has been given. A new combination padlock has been affixed to the recreation car parking area. Sharon has been given the code. As our members do not use this, there is no need to give out the code – and the club has been asked not to share unless necessary. However, I have shared it with someone who got locked in. The Council arranged for the damaged roof tiles on the tennis court side to be fixed.

#### Other maintenance

Thanks to other members of the club (Chris, Kathy, Hilary in particular) who have helped with general maintenance, e.g. moss killing, leaf blowing, rubbish clearance. etc – and to Tracey who is the club's latest maintenance contractor!

#### Website/Facebook page

Thanks to Belinda for adding items of interest and updating, as required, during her time as Website Administrator. Thanks also to those who have written match reports – Jack has been very consistent writing his reports. Now our thanks to Dom Phillips who has agreed to take the task on. Any new ideas to enable the club to reach our younger people and encourage a new generation of tennis players are welcome.

#### Access to courts

On the whole, public use has been successful. People have booked and paid on line and received the code (Sharon updates this every couple of weeks and keeps an eye on when it is used). There have been a few instances when people have failed in some way but they have been sorted out by physically letting them in or giving them the code by phone. There have been a few issues of the combination on the members' keysafe not being scrambled after use and an occasion when the gate was left open. Sharon has emailed members to remind them of the need to scramble the combination. Some members continue to book courts without adding the names of participants. Although this omission is often followed up, it continues to be a problem that has not been fully addressed. *(It was agreed to leave this up to most people's honesty.)*

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

#### Secretary:

Chris said he was impressed by the way the club had grown over the past several years – in membership, in finances, in its competitive edge. And all of that was due in huge measure to Sharon, Kathy, Jo, Mike, Tracey and Mark. All who play, in teams and socially or whatever, owed them so many thanks for developing what was a small amateur village tennis club into something far more professional and, as a result, hopefully long-lasting. The development in terms of online operating and social media had left ancient Luddites like himself far behind. So he was delighted that someone much more into all that, such as Heather (hoping she would be elected), was prepared to take on the secretarial role. So, thank you to her. Chris also thanked Tracey for agreeing to take on most, if not all of the courts maintenance work, and said he could sit back and watch things going on from strength to strength.

#### Membership/Treasurer:

Kathy reported a reasonably good year financially. Excess income over expenditure was £5,619.61 compared to last financial year of £2,577.01 due to courts maintenance, which cost £3,841.00 last year. The difference in income this year was due to a drop in membership fees by £902.56 (from £5,780.88 to £4,878.32). Pay & Play was up £19.88 (£359.28 to £377.16). Guest fees were down by £178.58 (£387.59 to £209.00). Overall, the net funds in the accounts are very healthy – up from £26,089.88 to

£31,709.30.

It was agreed that the previous year's accounts should be published alongside the current year, for easier comparisons. **Kathy to action.**

It was agreed that an increase, from £5 to £6, for tubes of new tennis balls should take immediate effect. – **Kathy, Chris to action.**

#### Investments

£10,000 with Cambridge & Counties, invested on 2-year bond 02/11/21 @1.5%. Will mature 02/11/23. As all are aware, the market has been quite turbulent. There was an opportunity to further invest with United Trust Bank in August on various options so with surplus funds in the account £5,000 was invested with Lloyds in a 40-day notice account on 15 August 2022 @ 1.40%. On maturity on 19 October 2022 of the 1-year £10,000 bond with United Trust, it was decided to invest as follows: £5,000 on a further 1-year bond @ 3.35% maturing 19 October 2023; and £5,000 on a 6-month notice account @ 2.15% maturing 19 April 2023. £5,000 was added to the 40-day notice account on 30 September 2022 and the interest rate has been increasing and is now 2.2% (so the 40-day notice accounts has £10,000).

All is looking good and it is hoped there will be no capital expenditure needed for the foreseeable future. But patching up some holes on court 1 may be needed.

#### Welfare Officer:

No safeguarding concerns have been reported to the Welfare Officer. All safeguarding training and DBS checks are 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 have been updated as required for the LTA registration renewal, which was in November. The updated policies are displayed on the website, and some are on display in the shelter at the courts. Club Coach Graham Howell renewed his coach accreditation in November 2022. New committee members will receive Safeguarding for Committees training from the Welfare Officer and training in relation to the other policies of the club. **Jo to action.**

#### **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:**

Officers and Committee members re-elected/elected en bloc:

**Chairman & Club Captain** – Sharon Proyer

**Vice-Chairman & Welfare Officer** – Jo Fordham

**Treasurer & Membership Secretary** – Kathy Frazier

**Website & Social Media Management** – Dom Phillips

**Secretary** – Heather Dhondy

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

#### **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.*