



WEST END TENNIS CLUB



West End Tennis Limited Annual General Meeting 6th November 2017 2 pm

Attendees Hannah Lord, Colin and Tara Birtwistle Beth McNicol, Norma Buchanan, Ged Reilly Snr, Ian Manson Chris Smith, Romana Hunter, Amanda Barclay, Ricky Harrison, Bill Thomas **Apologies** Ged Reilly Jnr, Lyn and Amanda Jones, Stewart Reid

2016 Minutes –All Reviewed and approved

Presidents Report Amanda

It has been a busy year at West End – the courts have been well used and there have been many enjoyable events through the year. The Club Championships were extremely well supported- Bruce did a superb job, ably assisted by Ged Jnr and Snr.

The fund-raising closing tournament run by new member Glynn was a great success also. This year there has been a considerable effort by club volunteers to take tennis out of the club and to the community – the Open Day, West Fest and last weekend Ged Jnr, Tara, Holly & Ben ran mini tennis sessions at Harris Community Open Day.

Off court the LTA have replaced Club Mark with a new initiative Tennis Mark –which is a set of good practices to ensure the club is safe and well run. There is focus around child protection policies - already well established thanks to Anne Manson- and we are fortunate that Ged Reilly Snr. has taken on the important role of Welfare Officer. The club hopefully should achieve Tennis Mark certification early 2018.

The club is now a member of the West End Community Sports Hub located and meets once a month at Harris with other clubs in the group Basketball, Swimming Hockey Rugby Netball Football to establish links and share knowledge. Hub participation is something grant funding bodies such as Sports Scotland view positively for grant applications.

Tayside Racquets continue to do a terrific job on the coaching front, offering a full and balanced program and a good coaching program is vital for the long- term future of the club. Chris and Stewart also do a great job encouraging older Juniors to get involved with the coaching – so Ben, Ged and Bruce have benefitted from these opportunities, so as always big thank you to Stewart Chris and all the Tayside racquets team.

Tara and Colin do a great job on grounds and maintenance and much work has been done this year to prolong the current court life. They also have ensured ongoing good relations with our neighbours at Shaftesbury Court.

Whilst the courts have been busy -what is disappointing is there has been a drop-in membership which affects revenue compounded with the fact the Abertay students have opted to use Dawson Park this year as they required more court time.

Next year the club will look to attract new members but also get a handle on what might be euphemistically called “revenue leakage” those people who are playing but perhaps not paying for the facilities they use. For 2018 the committee will be looking at ways to tighten up around areas such visitor’s fees; enforcing court levies for non members attending coaching This may seem severe but if you consider Hannah has been very active around fund raising and grant sourcing, so it is necessary to take a positive stance around to ensure this good work is not undone.

Which brings us to the court renewal project – a quote was received on Friday like for like spec at a cost of £43, 000 and so some way off so whilst there have been good suggestions for Padl tennis and other ideas, the fact is the Clubs core competency is providing good tennis facilities. There are limited resources in term of volunteers and money, so the sole project focus must be on doing that one thing well. The court renewal and hitting wall will remain the number one priority – So that is something to think on A draft club development plan produced earlier this year reflects this priority. I will finish by thanking all the volunteers who continue to make great contributions to club life. The Captains, the treasurer the membership secretary, coaches, Grounds and maintenance tournament organisers and helpers in all capacities and who make West End Tennis Club what it is.

Club Organization and Governance Iain

The club was incorporated as a limited liability company in 2016. The Club is being run efficiently and good relations established with OSCR (Scottish charities regulator).

However, the club and current directors need support by people being prepared to come on committee and/or be Company Directors – so this knowledge can be handed on.

Treasurers Report Bill

2016/17 accounts – accounting period runs to August 31st – the accounts are being finalised, but membership has dropped by at least £1,000 which will impact on the sinking fund for court renewal £6k was added to sinking fund April 2017 but should be putting £7-8k away annually. This year will be unlikely to be able to add more than £3-4k to sinking fund which is sitting at £21k.

Last year the floodlights were redone at a cost of £4,000 which was a big-ticket item but means the lights are now good for the next 8-10 years and could look at LED lighting in future to reduce running costs.

Coaching costs have gone up (£2, 900) as previous year did not include Tuesday club night 2016/ 17 accounts include 2016 plus 1/2 of 2017 club night costs.

Club account was closed at 2017 reflecting change to limited company. Hannah queried if using an ISA or high interest account for sinking funds. Bill advised that there are restrictions for charity accounts and given the time and issues transferring the club accounts – could be looked at in future but if will defer for now.



CashBook Summary
2016-17.pdf

Grounds and maintenance Tara and Colin

All four courts received an algicide treatment and power brush pre-and post-winter '16/17. In addition to this all four courts were deep cleaned in time for club championships weekend. The works were completed by LeisureTec with a discount given in exchange for the hanging of two promotional banners. The algicide treatment seemed to have a significant positive impact on the courts, the deep clean less so.

A few club members were trained in the use of the quad bike and court brush. It is hoped that with additional members able to carry out this task the courts can receive more frequent attention.

All court floodlights were re-lamped, and lenses cleaned during 2016, all lights remain fully functional. Replacement parts were fitted to one of the light token machines to prevent the machine accepting non-compliant tokens.

Grounds

Nicol continues to provide grass cutting and weeding services and we are grateful to Beth and helpers for her continued care of the flowerbeds.

Club neighbours in Shaftsbury court requested the cutting back of weeds and some bushes that are on the east border of the club grounds. Weeds have been cleared but will require regular ongoing treatment, the cutting back of bushes remains outstanding.

Maintenance

One club house window required refitting due to being forced inwards. The cause of damage was never reported or identified – it did appear as no access was gained to the club house.

Fencing repairs were carried out along the south border to reduce the number of balls that pass under the fence, this seems to have been successful.

New path lights were installed just prior to last winter, these were appreciated by club members, but some neighbours raised concerns that the motion sensors were causing the lights to be on during the night. Settings have been adjusted and should be monitored this year.

Future Initiatives

The three nets on the doubles courts were replaced in Spring 2016 while the cord tapes remain in relatively good condition a number of holes have appeared in the netting – it does not appear that these can easily be repaired. Replacing the nets and specification of new nets should be given some consideration prior to the 2018 season.

Club house flooring remains a concern with temporary repairs still in place. A more permanent solution remains a priority for 2018.

Query raised how long Leisuretec banners need to stay in situ or if can get a further discount when Spring 2018 algicide treatment

Membership Report and Funding Hannah

Significant fall in membership numbers, < 50% of last year.

148 in 2015; 164 in 2016; 80 in 2017

figures in black = 2017 data
figures in red = 2016 data

- 40 (50) Adult memberships (20% down)
- 3 (8) Family memberships (63% down)
- 7 (6) Student / Unemployed (no real change)
- 6 (27) Under 8 (78% down)
- 6 (20) Under 12 (70% down)
- 9 (16) Under 18 (44% down)
- 9 (9) Weekday (no change)

(6 Honorary)

80 paid members = £9461

Clubspark says 95 members, but that includes the 9 dependents in the family section + 6 honorary.

Discussion:

The area of greatest loss in terms of numbers is in the junior section. (78% down vs last year in under 8 section) An area of significant revenue loss is family members (£300 x 5 loss this year = £1500 loss) No winter members yet (19 last year, raising £641)

Unclear why this drop in junior membership, as junior coaching is thriving. Must be proactive to drive winter membership, and to encourage a halt in decline next year. Club is dependent on revenue that membership delivers.

Suggestions:

1. A register at Tuesday evening coaching to ensure those attending are members?
2. Ditto at Jr Coaching on a Saturday, although being a member to attend is not currently essential.

This generated much discussion – is too easy NOT to be a member? should there be a greater differential on the coaching costs? Could the club offer pay to play? How are members identified from non members, why are people choosing not to join?

Hannah advised simplicity is key to any system working so rather than non members paying more at coaching and then collecting that levy – make membership a condition of attending coaching.

Ian proposed deeper analysis required – committee to discuss before new season. Look at ways to make membership attractive so people keen to join and how to tackle non payment.



Membership
update Sept 2017 .d

Captains Report Ladies -Romana; Juniors Ged Snr for Ged Jnr.

Ladies had one team this year 5th out Div. 3 and good tennis was played. There were 2 Henderson Vase teams in Div. 3 and Div. 5; and placed 4th in both divisions. Thanks to all who played.

Juniors did really well this year there were two teams – the first team topped Div. 1 & the second team came 2nd in Div. 3. This means both teams are promoted after some top-flight tennis. Young Ged is now too old to play for Juniors but is organising junior teams for Winter League and has a FB group set up to make team organisation easier. Requested to check invoice had been paid.

Gents Singles leagues had two teams, placed 3rd Div. 2 4th Div. 3
Gents Doubles had three teams 2nd Div.2,2nd Div. 5 and 1st Div. 6

Coaching Update Chris

Thanks extended to committee and the club for support. Numbers dipped slightly pre season but then picked up. Saturday mornings currently busier than ever post holidays. Tuesday nights continued as per previous years. Friday junior evening originally was a small core number and has now doubled in numbers with 10 or so juniors, Sunday junior squad training has been healthy but Saturday adults have not been so busy which could be due to Tuesday club nights which have seen 20 upwards Cardio attendance on Wednesdays has dropped off and considering whether to have a winter break on this. For next season would like to see links established with Harris pupils and also juniors team players moving into adult teams.

Club Championships – Bruce

Bruce thanked Bill for the opportunity to run the Club Championships and put competition organiser skills course into practice. The tournament ran on time and all deadlines met – Finals day was a great success and thanks to all who helped on the day and with the catering.

Next year would consider more helpers and organisers – for the spectator's scoreboards to improve spectating experience. Participants could pay through LTA, the incentive being this would count to player ranking. Would also make a closed tournament so only members could play. In the older categories there were no entries so look to encourage that participation.

2017 Committee

Directors continuing are

- Romana Hunter
- Amanda Barclay
- Bill Thomas

- Ian Manson
- Hannah Lord

Committee continuing are

Ged Reilly Welfare Officer

- Tara and Colin Birtwistle Grounds and Maintenance
- Romana Hunter Ladies Captain
- Amanda Barclay President
- Bill Thomas Treasurer,
- Ian Manson Club Governance
- Hannah Lord Membership
- Bruce Kerr – Tournament Director
- Ged A Reilly Junior representative

New Committee -Ricky Harrison has accepted a role on the committee – Ricky is a long-time member at West End and brings great experience in marketing events – next season keen to arrange and market tournaments -to raise funds and target sectors such as female players. There are advertising opportunities and has suggestion on how to use Facebook/Social Media for maximum effect.

Meeting concluded 1510