

Woolhope Tennis Club - minutes of the AGM, held in Woolhope Village Hall at 7pm on Monday, 18th March 2024

Present: Brian Chipping, Terry Haigh, Paula Highley, Raymond Highley, Malcolm Lawrence, Georgie Limb, Alison Quant, Bob Quant, Pauline Rogers, Chris Seavor, Jola Seavor, Phil Towle, Val Barton, Phil Turner, Neil Thomson, Duncan Betts, Alastair Glover, Keith Watts

Apologies: Sally Dunkley, Jo Dinnie, Jenny Lloyd, Martin Coomer. Bob Hungerford, Ian Dinnie, Phyl Dinnie

Minutes: The minutes of the 2023 AGM, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

Matters arising:

- Eddie McEnery now has the appropriate LTA qualification and will be the lead Welfare Officer in the club. Brian Chipping, also LTA qualified, will support Eddie and deputise in his absence
- The committee appointed Alison Quant and Brian Chipping as Trustees in October and the Trust has been registered with the Trust Registration Service
- Members no longer have to pay a floodlight fee on Club nights.
- A letter was sent by Raymond to Ed Bradford, H&W LTA, concerning the change in practice whereby our Ladies A team had to accept promotion to division 3W last summer. This penalises clubs with no access to a third court. To date no reply has been received.

Chair report: Raymond reported that despite increasing costs, the club is in good health and that for a small club we continue to enter a good number of teams in the Hereford and Worcester Leagues, seven in total for this coming summer. He thanked the team captains for organising the league teams and Ian and Pauline for organising our internal floodlit league and Club Sunday competitions.

Weekly Junior coaching sessions, for local youngsters, have been run on Wednesdays by Steve Barnett and it is hoped that this will bring in some new junior members.

A bench and clock have been purchased with the money donated to the club in memory of Kath Watkins. The black spots that have appeared on the arms of the bench are due to a fungal bloom which Raymond will clear.

Finally Raymond thanked all of the committee and the members who give a lot of their time to running the club with a special thank you to Bob Quant for all the maintenance work he undertakes, saving the club a great deal of money.

Treasurer's report: This had been circulated to the membership prior to the meeting which Alison summarised as follows:

- a quiet year financially with no big expenditures
- a big project for the coming year is evaluating the options for the resurfacing of the courts. We have enough money in the sinking fund for this so no external funding should be necessary.
- although fees were increased last year by 10%, this did not generate the projected revenue as there was a decrease in the number of adult members.
- routine expenditure, other than rent (which is fixed until 2030), is likely to increase in line with general inflation rates, currently around 4%. Therefore, a further 5% increase in fees has been recommended by the committee for this year.
- electricity costs have doubled and we are now on a 2 year fixed price contract. A small contribution towards these costs was a £150 grant received from the government.
- there are no longer any fees for floodlights on Club Nights but the £2 per hour ancillary floodlight charge remains. A one off chargeable floodlight pass for members was considered but this proved to be unworkable unless all players sharing a court were pass holders.
- £100 remains to be spent from the Kath Watkins fund

Neil queried the necessity of court resurfacing which led to a general discussion. The courts were last resurfaced in 2008 and although playing well at the moment they are degrading. Holes and cracks are appearing and there is pooling of water on the baselines after rain. The cracking round the net posts has

**Woolhope Tennis Club - minutes of the AGM,
held in Woolhope Village Hall at 7pm on Monday, 18th March 2024**

been alleviated by lowering the nets after play. Raymond will get an initial opinion from Grimshaws and there will be a full evaluation of surface options and potential suppliers. Costs are expected to be £35 / £40,000.

In response to Alastair, Alison stated that interest on the savings account is 3.6% (previously 2.8%).

All present were in favour of adopting the accounts (proposer Pauline) and the increase in subscription fees (proposer Val).

Raymond thanked Alison and Bob Hungerford for preparing the accounts.

Team report: Brian reported:

- Eight teams (2 Men, 3 Ladies, 3 Mixed) in the summer league and six in the winter (2 Men, 1 Ladies, 3 Mixed). Retirements and injuries led to the Ladies B and C teams being withdrawn from the Winter League but we are now back up to two Ladies teams for this summer.
- Despite our protests and contrary to previous practice our Ladies A team had to accept promotion to division 3W in the summer. Having two courts meant they could only field two pairs and although they had a good win percentage the handicap of conceding the third pair means they are back in 4W this year.
- No trophy winners this year although Ladies A and Mixed A came close with 3rd places in the Winter League.
- Special thanks also to Pauline Rogers who is standing down, after many years, as League Fixtures Secretary. We are very grateful to Georgie Limb for taking on the role.
- On the first Club Sunday of the year Chris Seavor & Debbie Mason were winners of the President's Tournament with Phil Towle & Jola Seavor runners up.
- Neil Thomson's team won the Autumn Floodlit League and the Spring League has been won by Ian Dinnie's team.
- Steve Barnett of Activate Sports Education has been running open tennis coaching sessions for local youngsters for the last six months and this will continue after Easter.

Team captains for 2024/25

Men's A	Rob Fair	Men's B	Phil Towle
Ladies' A	Jo Dinnie	Ladies' B	Jola Seavor
Mixed A	Paula Highley	Mixed B	Phil Towle
Mixed C	Chris Seavor		

Club Sundays – all start at 2pm (organised by Ian Dinnie & Pauline Rogers)

Presidents Tournament	12 May
Club Sundays	2 June, 7 July, 4 August, 1 September (Nick Waters Cup)

Election of Officers:

Chris Seavor stood down from the committee during the year due to other commitments and Duncan Betts agreed to join the committee.

The committee elected for 2023/24 is:

Chair:	Raymond Highley	Proposed Bob	Seconded Pauline
Vice-chair:	Vacant		
Treasurer:	Alison Quant	Proposed Alastair	Seconded Terry
Secretary:	Brian Chipping	Proposed Paula	Seconded Pauline
Committee:	Duncan Betts	Proposed Bob	Seconded Phil
	Val Barton, Georgie Limb,	Proposed Keith	Seconded Paula
	Jenny Lloyd, Bob Quant, Phil Turner		

Woolhope Tennis Club - minutes of the AGM,
held in Woolhope Village Hall at 7pm on Monday, 18th March 2024

(all elected unanimously)

Election of Hon. Auditor: Bob Hungerford was re-elected.

AOB: A) Paula suggested that the £100 remaining in the Kath Watkin fund be put towards the purchase of a sight screen for the road end of the courts. Sight of the ball can be difficult against the background of trees. There was general support for this and the committee will progress the matter as there may well be planning implications.

B) Phil Towle asked if the new bench could be repositioned to be more central with the net. Various options were discussed and with no conclusion being reached the bench will remain in situ for now.

The meeting closed at 7.40 and Raymond thanked all for attending.

C) After the meeting Chris suggested setting up a Whatsapp group, “WoolhopeSocial” open to all members. This would enable folks to connect with other members to arrange social play, find out who is going to club sessions or pass on a bit of news. Raymond and other members present agreed and Brian will include this in the Newsletter. Chris will administer the group.

Signed:

Dated: