



TENNIS SECTION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Draft Minutes of Tennis Annual General Meeting held 7th November 2022

Meeting started with a thanks to everyone for coming.

1. Apologies for absence

Heather Pentney, Karen Flanagan, Viv Windsor, Chris Babbington, Anne Bixley, Hilary Linten and Angela Standing

2. To approve the Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting

Proposed by George Kilburn and seconded by Peter Henry

3. To receive the Tennis Committee's Report for the year

- **Chairman's Report – Wayne** – Wayne started with a review of the year. Highlight was club finals day, which showed the depth of talent we have. The plate entry numbers were also positive, showing the depth we have. He thanked Alison/Yanjie for organising and for all in making it such a good day. He also thanked Peter Henry for the report and pictures. Wayne went on to thank Adam R and Geoff W for organising the box leagues, a great option to play competitive tennis with 80 singles and 100 doubles entires each month (approx). There are lots of teams playing, with lots winning and getting promoted – showing the standard of tennis being played and also the respect others have for our club.

We have seen a fall in the numbers of juniors since COVID and we have looked at how we can increase this and develop our junior section again. They are the future of our club, and we will look at how we can increase the inclusivity of our club at the junior level. Chris B has spent time putting together a safeguarding policy for the club, which is so important for the club – thanks Chris. Our club is seen by other clubs as a club that helps to develop Bucks tennis. It can be frustrating to run the grade 3 open tournament, but it is all part of showing people that our club is a friendly and inclusive club and we also make profit for the club.

Wayne informed everyone that himself and Neal have developed / worked out a way to turn off the floodlights. Have experimented with some members and club play regulars and will extend this to all members with instructions on how to do it – it just takes a few moments.

We have come up with some key things that we want to prioritise and we want the club to be:



- Grow members / junior members
- Develop team tennis
- Have an environment where all members enjoy playing tennis
- A welcoming club, seen and respected in the community

Wayne confirmed that this development plan will also take into account the results of the club survey, and the results of the survey will be given at the club AGM on 24/11. We will then develop a clear set of actions and a 3-4 year plan that will be communicated out.

Alison (ladies captain) and Sharon (secretary) are stepping down in the current roles. All other members of the committee are putting themselves up for nomination again and no one else put themselves forward for election. Wayne went on to thank all the committee members for all their help, for making him so welcome and for helping him to find his way (didn't know anyone this time last year!).

- **Membership - Ann Witter** – Last season was a bumper year, Membership from June 2021 to May 22 stood at 664 (up 16.5% on the previous season which was 570). Playing members comprised 63 Junior girls, 157 Junior Boys, 159 Female Adult and 230 Male Adult members. We are now 4 months into the new season, and our membership stands at 557. This season, we have reviewed our Junior Membership fees, and reduced the rates for our 10 – 14-year-olds to try and encourage more youngsters to keep on playing. Other categories had a small increase to cover the shortfall. There was a problem at renewal time with payments – people trying to pay via their phones were unable to do so – this was something to do with the new authorization requirements by the banks. We had to advise people to make payment using their laptops. As far as I am aware, the problem has not been resolved.
- **Junior Section – Yanjie Wang** – Mainly went through the report but Yanjie pulled out a few key things...have unfortunately had to pause the junior singles box league as there are only 3/4 players signed up. Thanks to Steve Wiley for taking on the junior box leagues. Oliver O came second in the regional road to Wimbledon event. Junior night is slowing growing, still not at same numbers as pre-Covid, but a very positive atmosphere. Unfortunately record low entries in the junior club championships (24 vs 109 in 2017). Thanks to Janet and Ann for organising all the open events in the past year.
- **Coaching – Matt Reid** – Thanks to all members for making Adam C so welcome. He has done really well in his role and has bedded in well. We have retained 90% of juniors in the programme and have had a 10% increase in the school programme. Performance players have done well in Bucks – we have a number of players in U9/10/11/12 and given the LTA have reduced the number in county programmes, it is good to have players included. Adult coaching is going well, especially the doubles coaching which has got people playing matches and doing well in the lower teams. Thanks to Ann D and Janet for their help on the grade 3 tournament and to all members for their understanding of the reduced number of courts available during this week. Finally, thanks to Adam and Kate for their work. Matt C and Gedz are both starting and building up their hours.

- **Senior Teams - Alison Williams (ladies and mixed)** – There are 35 ladies/mixed teams, all results can be found in the report. All teams did brilliantly and there have been an influx of ladies at the higher end of the teams, so we have increased number of teams to give everyone the opportunity to play. As a result, there will be an adjustment over the next few years to get each of the teams in the correct league. Thanks to all the captains (22 different ones in total). Finals day was very successful, and all finals were played. Team training went well, we were conscious of court use and numbers, so we split it into two groups and each group had 5 sessions each - thanks to Matt for the training. Team dinner didn't happen again due to COVID and Marys busy diary.

Alison made a tribute to Wayne saying he was lovely, fair, hardworking, measured and had had a brilliant first year. She also thanked Louise and Sharon for taking over her roll. Wayne presented Alison with a gift and thanked Alison for all she had done in the 9 years in her role, paying tribute to all she had done going out of her way to volunteer and enable others so much enjoyment in playing tennis. And also thanked her for the support and work she had done to make the transition / handover easy.

- **Senior Teams – Adam Reid (men)** – Had a much better year this last year, with lots of teams going back up after lots going down last year. Highlights are all in the report, but some key highlights are now having 2 Men's teams in both the summer and winter division 1. There are 2 over 60 teams now, both in the same division. Vets 1 and 2 and both in the top division, so there are lots of competitive teams. We are strengthening the teams with new talent coming in and juniors coming up. Adam Bleakley will be a huge loss, as he was such a reliable player in lots of teams. Finally, a big thanks to all the captains and to Sharon for doing all the fixtures.

4. To elect the Tennis Committee for 2022/23

- Chairman – **Wayne Stretch**
- Vice Chair (Accounts) - **Debbie Maurantonio**
- Membership Secretary - **Ann Witter**
- Junior Committee Chairman - **Yanjie Wang**
- Men's Club Captain – **Adam Reid**
- Ladies Club Captain – **Louise Dobby and Sharon Gurney**
- Members Representative - **Sean Aherne**
- Communications Co-ordinator **Vacant**
- Secretary – **Sarah Skepper**
- Welfare Officer – **Chris Babbington**
- By invitation – **Matt Reid** (Director of Tennis)

Put to the vote proposed by Peter Henry, seconded by Geoff Williams and unanimously accepted.

5. Members' Thoughts and Views



Peter Henry raised the question of why we are not working in secondary schools, only primary / middle schools. Matt Reid responded that we are not ignoring and that next term the team would be going into Challoner's Boys, and that he was in contact with The Amersham School too. Now that we have new coaches, we can look at some new schools. Peter also talked briefly about the fund to broaden the people coming in – we need to get the fund, build the programme and execute.

Peter Henry also asked about the House Costs. Julie P confirmed that they are around £90k of which 52.5% gets allocated against tennis profits.

Karen Flanagan raised a point about court availability ahead of the meeting – pointing out that it was becoming increasingly difficult to book courts at a reasonable time on a Tues/Thu (key days for box leagues). Her view is that the prime time for adults is from 6pm and waiting until 7.45pm is unreasonable and not reflected in subs. She asked for the decrease in court availability at prime time need to be reviewed and asked for thoughts. Wayne S confirmed that 65 members/court is the LTA guidance so summer is not an issue, and floodlights would solve the issue in winter. This is one of the key reasons we did the survey – to understand what the members priorities are, and from this we can create a financial plan. In terms of floodlights, we are looking at the Tweener System, which helps to keep light down and is more likely to get planning permission. To do all 4 courts, it would be ~£60k investment.

Ahead of the meeting Viv W raised a couple of questions. She wanted to ask if courts 7-10 are as attractive as 3-6 for club members? Whether the junior section is attractive and inclusive for younger members? And whether all members are clear on how the lights work? Wayne confirmed that this is why we have done the survey – to find out what members want. He also confirmed that we are trying to grow the junior section and make it more inclusive; there was a separate survey for junior members and once we have the results from this, we can move forwards.

6. AOB

Mary C reminded everyone of the Bucks Tennis AGM, emphasizing that anyone can come along and was pleased to hear that Wayne S and Sarah S would be attending this year. She also reminded everyone that the Wimbledon Ballet was open until Nov 15th and that the LTA awards are open until Nov 30th, encouraging everyone to go to the website and to put their nominations in. Mary confirmed that she would be stepping down as secretary for Bucks LTA in Nov 2023 and that they were looking for a new secretary, safeguarding officer and treasurer. Next year is also the Bucks LTA centenary year – they will be putting on lots of events, so look out of them over the course of the year.

There was a brief discussion about Padel tennis being on the up. Questions were asked in the survey about Padel so we will wait to see where it lies with the members priorities.

Wayne confirmed that Neil G would be taking over from Jeremy as Club Manager and wanted to say thanks to Neil for taking this role on.

There was a quick reminder of the Casino Night on Saturday 19th November.



Chesham Bois
Lawn Tennis & Squash Club