

Bishopthorpe Tennis Club

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Thursday 16th November 2017

Present

Jo Bewley [Chair]; Julia Sykes; Ellie Page; Alan Wilkinson; Georgina MacKenzie; Sue Hanley; David Moore; Linda Moore; Laura Rhodes; John Coop; Marion Burgess; Sue Clayton; Krysia and Steve Clack; Carmem Mackle; Andrene and Sam Watson; James Parker; Paul Lewis and Katie Lewis; Sarah Mawby;

1. Apologies

Heather Fish, Jane Parkin; Kathryn Dickinson; Mick Miller; Rob Williams; Gary and Emma Cashmore, Elizabeth Opie; Nicola Graham.

2. Minutes from Meeting 24 November 2016

Accepted as a true record, with the following amendments:

It had been agreed that senior members would pay the full match fees.

It had been agreed that Thursday nights and Friday mornings were confirmed fixtures in the weekly calendar.

3. Matters Arising

Kathryn wished to report that she was successfully recycling the old tennis balls.

4. Chairman's report

Jo gave a summary of the successful year for the club.

There had been a different social event at the beginning of the year that had gone well – despite the last minute arrangements! Jo was pleased to report the great feedback that had been received for the new 'downtheline' coaches that had been appointed this year. Although the costs for this had increased significantly [as will be noted in the Treasurer's report] the feedback and the improvement that had been seen in those members who had benefitted, was great. Jo confirmed that they had agreed to continue with the coaching into 2018.

Also pleasing to note was the increase in membership this year. Numbers had been difficult to confirm, but there were increased members compared to 2016, which had also increased from the year before.

Jo explained however that we shouldn't be complacent: there was a need to have a Spring Clean event to make sure the club house is maintained into next year.

There was also a need to review the courts: the committee were currently trying to find a company that could give advice as to whether the courts just needed to be repainted or whether a whole resurface was needed. The group discussed this, and it was agreed that this should be explored further. It was acknowledged that it could cost £40k+ to have this work done. We should then make sure that the courts are more regularly re-painted to maintain the surface.

Jo thanked all those who had contributed to the club – the committee members, the Selectors, the Captains, Mick Miller for doing the gardening so magnificently, and everyone else who supported the club 'behind the scenes'.

5. Treasurer's report

Jo thanked David Moore for undertaking the role of Treasurer so well. David submitted the accounts for 2017. The audited accounts [thanks to Roy Bayles] showed that receipts had increased compared to 2016. This was due to a number of positives, including increased membership, which had increased to at least 160 this year. In turn, more funds had been received from match fees [no doubt a result of Mixed 5 team] and we had also received a grant of £500 from the council, which had been submitted to request support for the coaching.

The significant increase in costs this year was a result of the coaching; this had nearly doubled compared to 2016, however, it could be argued that we had paid below the market rate in previous years. Despite this, it should be recognised how members, and especially the juniors, had had increased value from their membership, and this should be highlighted in the 2018 newsletter.

The club had reduced costs from the gardening thanks to Mick, although a new lawn mower had had to be purchased this year. Costs for tennis balls rose this year, although this was in part due to the impact of the Mixed 5 team. Laura also reminded the group that there had been more balls needed for the match practice sessions that had been set up prior to the start of the season.

As a result of this increase, our current and deposit accounts are healthy, with an in-year surplus of over £4k. However, it was acknowledged that further significant spending would be needed in the future and our cash assets would be needed for this purpose.

6. Team Captain Reports

- Men's 1st. Captain: Sam Watson
It was a challenging season, with difficulties in getting a regular team playing. However, the tennis had been enjoyable, and the team were looking forward to the resumption of the league divisions next year.
- Men's 2nd. Captain: John Coop
Despite difficulties, it was great that it had been possible to get out a team for each match. It was good to be able to give the younger members of the club a chance to play in the matches.
- Mixed 1st. Captain: Laura Rhodes.
The team had gained promotion to Division 2 into this season but unfortunately have not been able to maintain this position this year, so will be playing in Division 3 next year.
- Mixed 2nd. Captain: Alan Wilkinson
The team returned to Division 5 in 2017. Unfortunately, despite some good matches, the team were one point away from staying up, so will be playing in Division 6 next year.

- **Mixed 3rd.** Captain: Georgina MacKenzie
It had been a good season although there had been some tough matches. The team are hoping that they will be remaining in Division 8 in 2018.
- **Mixed 4th.** Captain: Paul Lewis
It had been a good year – the team ended the season mid table. Paul asked that a new Captain is found for this team next year.
- **Mixed 5th:** Captain: Marion Burgess
Marion reported on the first season for the Mixed 5th team. There had been very enjoyable tennis played. It was great that they had managed to get a team out for each match and that it gave members the opportunity to play competitive tennis, often for the first time. It also gave the younger members the chance to play.
- **Ladies 1st.** Captain: Ellie Page
It had been a really challenging, but enjoyable, season. It was great that the team managed to stay up in Division 1. Well done.
- **Ladies 2nd.** Captain: Kathryn Dickinson
Well done to the team for being promoted 2 seasons in succession. The team will be in Division 3 next year.

7. Mixed 5th Team

Everyone agreed that the club will continue with a Mixed 5th team in 2018.

8. Tournament reports

Thanks to everyone who coordinated these events and to everyone who participated. The awarding of the trophies was to follow on from the AGM but for the minutes these members were recorded as worthy winners:

Spring Cup:	Kryisia Clack and Ellie Page
Floss Slack:	Gary and Julia Sykes
Fukaya Trophy:	Tim Brown and Ellie Page
Senior/Junior trophy	Sarah Mawby and Patrick Mackle
Junior Singles	Under 10: Daniel Cranidge Under 14: Matthew Cragg
Albert Ridsall Cup	Tim Brown
Ian Mackie	Tim Brown
[as chosen by coach Freddie	Batchelor]
Men's Doubles:	Sam Watson and Alan Wilkinson
Ladies Doubles:	Sarah Mawby and Sue Hanley
Men's Singles:	Rob Williams

Jo explained that there had been no Ladies Singles tournament this year. This was due to the difficulty in organising this event. It was also noted that some tournaments had been arranged with less planning than would be ideal. This was often because the responsibility of arranging all these tournaments had been left with the committee members.

It was agreed that the dates given in the annual calendar should be kept. In order to make sure these dates took place as planned the club needed a Tournament

Coordinator – not someone who necessarily needed to be on the committee, or who was the one who organised each tournament, but the one who would coordinate this for each tournament in the year.

9. Election of officials

The following people were nominated and seconded in their roles:

Chair	Jo Bewley
Treasurer	David Moore.
Membership Secretary	Georgina MacKenzie
Minute Secretary	Jo Bewley
Match Secretary	Sam Watson
Committee members	Laura Rhodes Alan Wilkinson James Parker Ellie Page

Jo explained that although a small committee was sufficient to keep the club running, there may be tasks required during the year that shouldn't be the sole responsibility of the committee. The group agreed that Jo should request support outside the committee when this arose.

10. 2018 Annual Subscription

Despite the club's healthy bank account, the costs of coaching, as well as the need to finance any courts resurfacing, it was necessary to increase the membership fees. The group discussed the appropriate level of this increase. It was agreed that this should be £5 for individual membership and £10 for family membership.

It was acknowledged that such an increase should be submitted each year.

A suggestion was proposed that members could be asked if they wished to donate a further sum alongside their membership in order to support the resurfacing etc. This will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

10. Social Event

Jo confirmed that the date for the 2018 social event would be 24th February 2018, in the Bishopthorpe Social Club. It was agreed this should be open to members as well as those who support the club. Carmem agreed to organise the raffle.

Tickets would be distributed in the New Year.

12. Any other business

12.1 It was suggested that Mick Miller should be offered free membership to thank him for all he has done in the club. Jo explained that the committee had discussed the issue of free membership in general, and had agreed that this would no longer be an option. However, Jo acknowledged that Mick should be recognised for what he has done.

[Later that evening, Mick was awarded the Inaugural 'Unsung Hero' award. This would be an annual award and all members could nominate someone for this next year]/

12.2 Viva Community Award.

It was agreed that the club could apply for this award but it was extremely competitive for the main prize. However, it may be possible to have a general £200 award. Steve Clack agreed to explore this further.

12.3 Summer Social

Marion Burgess proposed that there should be a social during the summer months. She suggested that there was a 'vintage' tournament in the summer. Marion agreed to organise this and get a date in the club calendar.

12.4 Steve Slack asked whether the club wanted a stall at the 2018 Bishopthorpe Gala. This was supported if there was sufficient help to do this. Steve to consider the options.

12.5 Spring Clean. It was agreed that we should consider what we wanted to do earlier in the year and plan who may have the equipment we need for this.

12.6. Katie Lewis proposed that Mixed teams may not always wish to organise post-match teas and the group discussed this. Some members expressed how they would wish this arrangement to continue, but others thought it was a good idea. Alan confirmed that it was not a Mixed League rule to have a tennis tea. It was therefore agreed that if an individual team wished to no longer provide teas they could discuss this with the other teams in their division, i.e. it was a local decision.