

Bishopthorpe Tennis Club
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 19 November 2019

Present

Jo Bewley [Chair]; Julia Sykes; Georgina MacKenzie; Sue Hanley; Andrene and Sam Watson; Kathryn Dickinson; Jane Parkin; Nicola Graham; John Coop; Katie Lewis; Roger Mackle; David Grabowski, Ian Millins and John Chandler

1. Apologies

Heather Fish; Emma Cashmore; Linda and David Moore; Krysia and Steve Clack; Carmem Mackle; Marion Burgess; Elizabeth Okie

2. Minutes from Meeting 15 November 2018

Accepted as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Chair's report

Jo gave a summary of the year. As ever, there had been some great tennis played and members had reported enjoying playing in the club. It was also recognised that this had been a year of transition, when some long-standing members of the club had moved on, and we welcomed new members into the club. It was great to see these new members on a Monday night for adult coaching – it would be now great if these players would be encouraged to attend Thursday night club nights and join in matches and club tournaments!

Jo reported that there had been new members onto the committee – thanks to Roger, Katie and Nicola for bringing fun and enthusiasm to our meetings. As ever, thanks also to Sam, David and Georgie for their continued help and support and for their invaluable experience. It had been a good year for the committee. Jo did note, however, that James Parker has had to step down from the committee due to personal reasons and she wished him well and thanked him for his help over the years.

Jo reminded the AGM that this time last year she had let everyone know of the new rules that were coming in re Safeguarding and Members' welfare and how we needed to be compliant to be registered with the LTA. Thanks to Sam and especially Katie for their help during the audit in May [when Jo was away] and to Katie for taking the actions following this, which resulted in us achieving a successful audit.

Jo also thanked Nicola for organising the very successful Celidh which was held in October. It seemed to work well having an event at the end of the season. Nicola explained how she was hoping to repeat the event in 2019.

Jo thanked everyone for all the roles that they had taken on for the club, whether big or small. Thanks to John for agreeing to take over the role from Mick, who had now left the club. Jo encouraged everyone to think what they could do to help the club – even if this was just helping to help with the recycling of the tennis ball tubes, for example.

5. Treasurer's report

In David's absence Jo presented the Club accounts, thanking David for being willing to take on this role for another year.

The details of the report were discussed. It was noted that the cost of the coaching had risen significantly this year, which was due to the need early in the season to provide an additional hour of junior coaching and have an assistant coach in each session, to maintain and improve the standard of junior coaching available. This was to be discussed later in the agenda.

Net receipts totalled £5,150.48. Club assets totalled £31,633.15. It was agreed it was important to maintain a growth in our assets for when the need came for court resurfacing [?5 years' time].

After a discussion it was agreed that the membership fees should increase for 2020, to the rates that were the 'post April' rates this year – for example an additional £5 for adult membership. This may equate our membership fees with other local clubs. Whilst this was agreed, it was considered that a similar rise should not necessarily be taken in 2021.

David has asked that members are encouraged to pay membership fees by Bank Transfer.

6. Team Captain Reports

- Men's 1st. Captain: Sam Watson.
A good season, where it had been easier to get players, and the team enjoyed having regular players. The team ended bottom of Division 6.
- Men's 2nd. Captain: John Coop
John reported the team winning one of their matches! John explained how they welcomed new players to the team. The team ended near the bottom of Division 8 – but for once, not bottom!

Ian suggested the men should consider a revised point system for the league.

- Ladies 1st. Captain: Sarah Mawby
In Sarah's absence Jane reported that it had been a hard season, where the team had missed the players that had moved onto other clubs this past year. Jane explained that the team would be more suited to Division 3 next year.
- Ladies 2nd. Captain: Sue Hanley
Sue reported that it had been a tough, but enjoyable season. There had been a good team atmosphere and the group had had fun during the season. They ended bottom in Division 3.
- Mixed 1st. Captain: Jane Parkin
Jane reported that it had been a very difficult season, with only two of the original players still playing in the team. Despite this, Jane thanked those who joined the team and worked hard to play against the tough opposition. However, she said it was not so enjoyable playing and losing each week. Jane therefore recommended that this team is withdrawn for the league this coming year.

- **Mixed 2nd. Captain: Julia Sykes**
Julia reported that the team had won 3 matches. Unfortunately, there had been cancelled matches at the end of the season due to the rain, which had extended the matches into August. The team ended near the bottom of Division 6.
- **Mixed 3rd. Captain: Roger and Carmem Mackle**
It had been a good season at a level not played before. It had been enjoyable – but more men were needed! The team finished mid table in Division 8.
- **Mixed 4th. Captain: Nicola Graham.**
Nicola reported that it had been a fun and enjoyable season. Unfortunately, 5 matches had been cancelled due to the rain, but the team had won 5 matches, and came 4th in Division 10.

The group confirmed that there should remain 4 teams in the Mixed League. There followed a discussion as to what should be requested this coming year. It was concluded that a request should be submitted to the York League to request that the Mixed 1 team is allocated to Division 5 or 6.

It was also proposed and agreed that match play coaching should be arranged at the start of next season to encourage new players to have the confidence to put their names forward to play.

7. Tournament reports

Thanks to Andrene and Sam who coordinated these events and to everyone who participated. Andrene reported that these had gone well. She also proposed that we put on some tournaments earlier in the season to spread out the tournament dates. She also asked for the following to ease the organisation of the events:

- Those putting themselves forward to assume they are playing unless they hear differently.
- If not possible for short notice reasons to let the coordinator know
- Those joining should allow 10 am – 1pm to enable the full tournament to be concluded.

8. Junior coaching payment options

Jo explained how the committee had recently discussed the costs of coaching in the club. It had been pleasing to note that the adult coaching was more or less funded by the income received from those playing.

However, junior coaching does not receive any additional income from those attending. Alongside this, additional coaching costs had been incurred this year as assistant coaches had been brought in and an additional session established, due to the high numbers of juniors attending. This had significantly increased the quality of the coaching but had led to significantly increased costs. The club had subsidised these coaching sessions by £2.5k in 2019, which was not sustainable in the long term. Katie and Jo had recently met with the 'downtheline' lead Rowan Moss. He gave some very useful advice, including that the club should begin charging for the coaching provided, as this emphasised the value of these sessions.

It was agreed that the club should start charging, although minimum charge in this first year to see how this would impact on membership etc. £2/session was therefore agreed. However, another proposal was also that under 7-year olds should not be charged, as these sessions were the only access these children would have to the club [i.e. they would not be able to use the courts independently]. It was also suggested that perhaps this group of children could be offered 45 mins not the full hour.

Jo thanked the AGM for a useful discussion. This would be discussed further at the next committee meeting and would be included in the 2020 newsletter.

9. Election of officials/club roles

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	Katie Lewis
	Nicky Graham
	Roger Mackle

12. Any other business

Thanks ever so much to John for agreeing to take on the role of gardener for the club, and his hard work was already being seen! John asked for a number of small items of gardening/maintenance equipment, which was agreed.

Jo put forward a suggestion that the club could purchase a 'tennis wall' but it was felt this would not be possible on our small ground.