

WEYBRIDGE LAWN TENNIS CLUB AGM 2018

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018 held on Sunday 8th April at 01.00 PM in the Clubhouse.

Committee: - Patrick Gibbon (Chairman), Alison Wade (Secretary), John Barlow (Incoming Treasurer replacing Foggy Dessillas), Richard Kottler (Membership Secretary), Paul Buckingham, Mike McNulty

Members: - Mac Mowat, Judy Parish, Stephen Parish, Ian Allen, Brian Chubb (Team Secretary), Adrian Joly (Club Coach), Nigel Swain, Margaret Wallis, Geoff Nokes, Barry Sayers, Trevor Peacock, Paul Haggart, Mel Health, John Cook

Apologies: Andy Pepper, Cath Wallace, Alex Machorton, Geoff Mullens, Alan Gallant, Pamela Scott, Marilyn Corrigan, Sally Bean

ITEM	REMARKS/DISCUSSION
1. Call to order, welcome and Apologies	Meeting started at 1 pm, Apologies read out and noted.
2. Minutes of the Previous meeting	Agreed and signed by the Chairman
3. Matters arising	None
A G E N D A	
4. Chairman's report PG	Patrick read out his report covering all the developments that had happened over the year. Some focus was given to the planned refurbishment of Courts 1 and 2 highlighting the need to address the long standing drainage issue, the Committee recommendation to go for artificial clay based on extensive research and testimony from other clubs (one in writing from Camberley LTC Club Captain strongly supporting their decision to go for artificial clay quoted by Patrick) and also replacement of current fencing to allow for wider gates for wheel chair access. Opportunity to discuss this further under Agenda item 13. <i>(Report available – Attachment 1)</i>
5. Treasurer's report JB	Copies were distributed to those present. The report has been prepared by the outgoing Treasurer Foggy Dessillas and was presented by his replacement John Barlow. Of note there has been a deficit for the year of £7,745 due to significant expenditure items on building/courts related to the installation of new lighting on Court 5 £19K), cutting back trees (£4.6K) and Club House upstairs refurbishment (£4.6K). At the club financial year-end 31-1-18 there is a reserve balance of £94,135. <i>(Report available – Attachment 2)</i>
6. Team Secretary's report BC	Brian Chubb read out his report detailing the progress of the various teams throughout the season. There has been quite some success for all teams, remaining in existing divisions or being promoted. Brian reminded that all the team results are available on the club website for those interested, and the general Chaucer and Woking league results are now also available via an external website 'Playwaze' – web links accessible via the Chaucer and Woking Leagues web sites . <i>(Report available – Attachment 3)</i>
7. Coach's report. AJ	Adrian Joly gave his report with his varied programmes for adult beginners and intermediates, team drills and juniors, plus holiday tennis camps. He also highlighted his school links as part of the club's outreach programme to a local infants school which is a good source of junior members. He also mentioned running the Quorn sponsored family cup competition held Club Open Day as part of the Great British Tennis Weekend activities supporting a lively family atmosphere. This will be held again on the 2018 Open Day. <i>(Report available – Attachment 4)</i>

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8. Approval of accounts - PG	Accounts have been approved by Patricia Barlow.																																
9. Subscriptions for 2017-18 RK	<p>Richard Kottler reported that the subs for 2018-19 remain the same with the following exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adult 7 day Couples: £400 to £445 - Mid-Week Couples: £250 to £275 - 7 day Intermediate couple: £300 to £325 - Juniors 10 and under: £35 to £40 - Juniors 11 – 17: £55 to £60 																																
10. Election of Committee members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 7 vacancies. The following seeking re-election: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Patrick Gibbon, Paul Buckingham, Alan Gallant and Andy Pepper having served 3 years and are seeking re-election <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 vacancies due to resignations from: Foggy Dessillas (Treasurer), Roz Derry (Secretary) and Sandro Cafasso • At the close of nominations on 11th March the following had been received. 																																
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	Stephen Parish noted the narrow pool of Proposers and Seconders and commented that preferably each candidate should seek nomination from a broader base within the Club membership.																																
11. Appointment or confirmation of auditors - PG	<p>It was noted that an alternative auditor would be needed for 2018/19 accounts. Patricia Barlow who audited the accounts for the current year is our new Treasurer's wife and thus would be a conflict of interest. Stephen Parish put himself forward as Auditor for next year's accounts and this was accepted by the Chairman and Treasurer.</p> <p>Action: Stephen Parish to audit the 2018/19 Club Accounts.</p>																																
12. Most improved Player SP	<p>Stephen Parish spoke about this award which has been in place since 2001 introduced by Gordon Mackett and, according to tradition, he listed the previous winners. Stephen announced that this year the winner of the award is Nigel Swain.</p>																																

<p>13. Courts 1 and 2 refurbishment status report PG</p>	<p>Patrick invited questions on the plans outlined in his Chairman’s report. The following is a summary of the discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Timing: it is hoped to try and complete the project this year. Preferred timing over the summer period after Final’s Day and completion of most of the league matches. Current target is after 10th August, but this will be subject to the Contractor having availability. The courts would be out of action for a period of approx. 8 weeks. We are exploring the use of alternative venues such as Ballantyne’s for any overflow during this period. - Drainage issues: a survey and advice from an expert consultant had been obtained to explore options on improving drainage, bearing in mind the high water table. The recommendation is to build up the court surface by ~10 inches with aggregate sub-base material. This additional work adds significantly to the cost but considered to be important to mitigate the water logging that has been occurring in recent times. A ramp rather than a step will be needed to provide wheelchair access to the courts. - Perimeter fencing: it was highlighted by one member that increasing the height of the court would result in a decrease in height of the fencing, further supporting benefit of including new fencing in the refurbishment, if possible. - Court surface: There was no dissent to the Committee recommendation to go for artificial clay as the preferred surface. It was mentioned that many of the local Surrey clubs have already installed artificial clay by 2 main suppliers ‘Trevor May’ (including Dorking, Wentworth, Pavilion, St Georges College, Wimbledon) and ‘Chiltern Sports Contractors’ (including Surbiton, St Georges Hill, Byfleet, Woking). Many of these courts had been played on by Weybridge team players for matches and liked. - Overall court dimensions: It was mentioned that the current footprint between the court and the boundary fencing for our existing courts 1 and 2 are less than the LTA minimum. To increase the footprint it would be necessary to get planning permission and also there could be issues with needing to encroach on the sailing club’s grounds. - Funding: Due to the need to improve the court sub-base to deal with the drainage issue, the renovation of the courts will exceed the Club’s current reserves. This shortfall is in the region of £30K and the Committee believes the most efficient means to raise the additional funds is by seeking a loan from club members. A note will be issued shortly to all adult members inviting pledges. A favourable interest will be given on the loan recognising that the loan would be unsecured. A question was raised whether a Debenture would be a suitable alternative to a Loan. There were no experts on Debentures in the room, but it was understood that Debentures are typically long term loans raised in exchange for benefits and not paid back per se, but sold on to others to recoup the investment. It was considered that this was not appropriate to this situation. - Other refurbishment plans: Planning for other works, e.g. new lighting for courts 1 and 2 and refurbishment of the downstairs club room, will be delayed pending availability of further funds.
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14. Tennis balls – Proposal to return to Wimbledon Slazenger balls from the Wilson US Open balls	<p>John Cook put forward the proposal to return to the Slazenger Wimbledon from the Wilson US Open balls explaining that in his opinion the Wilson US Open balls introduced in January are 'hard' and played more like long term use balls such as those used by coaches. More effort seemed necessary to play the ball. Some lively discussion ensued when others indicated that they were happy with the Wilson balls. Hence it is not black and white. AW clarified that these balls had been introduced as they are heavily subsidised by Surrey Tennis and are currently the Surrey County official ball. The subsidised cost is £36.00/case for 3 cases per half year (6 cases in total), with remaining cases at £52.00/case. This compares with £63.00/case* for the Slazenger balls. Based on the number of cases bought in 2017 (46 cases comprising 828 cans), overall the saving is in the region of £550 over the year, or 2.25 full membership fees, or the price of the Club's LTA registration fee.</p> <p>It was noted that the Wilson balls had been introduced in January during an extended cold snap which would impact how any tennis balls play due to reduced ball pressure (laws of physics). As the weather was now warming up it was suggested by one member that the trial of the Wilson balls should continue to see how they perform through all weather conditions and be revisited at the end of the year. This was agreed, not least because of the significant saving to the club.</p> <p>Action: To continue using the US Wilson balls for the time being, to be revisited at year-end.</p> <p>*Note: the current best price for Slazenger balls (from Sports Direct website for a bulk order of 144 tubes) is now £70/case, making a saving in favour of the Wilson balls of £885 over the year.</p>
AOB	Item
1. Winter Rules	<p>Geoff Nokes suggested that the Winter Rules at mix ins should be extended to the summer months to reduce the waiting time during busy periods. It was commented that during the summer it was not unpleasant to sit out for a while and socialise with others/have a cup of tea. The turnaround time for courts does vary and it is not so often that there is a long delay. It was suggested that perhaps sudden death on the second deuce could be introduced as a standard rule, alongside the 6-5 game rule.</p> <p>Action: To be reviewed by the Committee.</p>
2. Car park being used by non-members	<p>Nigel Swain highlighted that cars not belonging to members or related to club activities were being left in the car park. Could anything be done as a deterrent as sometimes there is insufficient space for members?</p> <p>Action: To be reviewed by the Committee.</p>

The meeting closed at 14.30

Alison Wade
(Hon. Sec.)

13.04.2018