

## **MINUTES OF THE 37th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF GREENWOOD PARK LAWN TENNIS CLUB**

**Held in the Clubhouse, Greenwood Park, Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016, 7.30pm.**

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was opened by the Chairman, Laurie Cheney (LC). LC welcomed and thanked members present for their support in attending this 37<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the club. Discussion followed as to how the meeting should proceed with 17 members present, as this is three members short of the quorum of 20 currently required by the club's constitution. The meeting agreed to proceed with 17 members as there are no contentious matters to discuss and all information had been emailed out to members prior to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Jan O'Grady, Carol Brazier, Alan Williams, Mandy Tibbs, David Winter, Sue Greenwood, Cynthia O'Donnell, Sam Pink, Gerard Bermingham and Gill Ewing.

### **2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM**

The minutes of the 2015 AGM were proposed by Valerie Cowan and seconded by Andrew Keates as a true representation of the meeting. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

There were none.

### **4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

LC reported that in some ways it has been a quieter year for him, although some members have been busy with the preparation for the planned pavilion extension. Further information will be provided on this later in the meeting by David Thompson.

Recently the committee had looked at ways of improving the club social sessions by trying a new format to encourage more members to attend and this has worked well.

It seems likely that the committee will be reduced in numbers for the coming year, as some of the current committee members are stepping down. Fortunately, they will be continuing with their roles which should be equally beneficial for the running of the club.

### **5. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Rosemary Bennett (RB) had prepared the Income and Expenditure Account for the year, which had been emailed out to all members prior to the meeting, together with a Balance Sheet and explanatory notes.

RB further explained to the meeting that income was up on last year and expenditure was as expected. Net income for the year is £12,164. As advised by the LTA, £10,800 is provided for the sinking fund, of which £2,346 has been spent this year for courts and floodlights maintenance. The remaining balance of £8,454 is transferred to reserves for court renewal. Net assets as of 31<sup>st</sup> October total £59,706.

The schedule for anticipated court resurfacing is set out in the notes with estimated costs. The Kidzone court and courts 4 & 5 will be the next courts due for resurfacing, then funds will need to be built up towards anticipated resurfacing of courts 1,2 and 3, circa 2024.

In response to a question from a member it was confirmed by RB that the loan from the LTA towards the clubhouse extension, that was successfully applied for earlier this year, is £30,000 interest free repayable over ten years. Repayments have not yet commenced.

Match fees are down £300 compared to the previous year due to a few less matches being played in men's leagues and the floodlit league. Floodlight and visitor's fees are higher partly due to the renewed contract arrangement with the head coach.

A member enquired if it was possible to spend some more money on the tennis balls for social sessions. It was discussed and concluded that there should be an adequate supply of reasonable, used match balls in the locked ball cupboard, but that they weren't being brought out frequently enough. Norman Ewing offered to monitor this and change the balls as needed.

Some match fees are still outstanding from the summer season, and it was noted that team captains should ensure that all fees are collected as soon as possible after a match is played. The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Barbara Saunders, seconded by Lynne Herbert and confirmed unanimously.

## 6. PROPOSED SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2017

The committee were proposing subscriptions for 2017/18 as follows:

	Full Rate	Renewal Rate (for existing members only if received before 1/4/17)
Adult	£144	£134
Senior (60+)	£134	£124
Full time student (18-23)	£70	£63
Teen (12-18)	£70	£63
Junior (9-11)	£35	£32
Teen brother or sister	£35	£32
Junior brother or sister	£18	£16
Kidszone (up to 8)	£12	£12
Family	£325	£295
Social	£25	£25

As there will be disruption with building works to the pavilion, it was considered by the committee that any increase to subscriptions should be minimal. It is not anticipated that this will mean a much larger increase the following year. Once the building work is complete we will be looking to increase member numbers and participation to meet the aims of the Sport England funding, while remaining a community facility with affordable fees.

Various suggestions were put forward by members to consider as additional fund raising ideas, including holding more fund raising events, additional member contributions and increased advertising of the club to attract new members.

The 2017/18 membership fees were proposed by Liz Mann, seconded by Jeanette Drayton and confirmed unanimously.

## 7. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

The club currently has a total of **332** members made up of the following:

**Adults 128 (includes adult, senior and life members)**

**Students 8**

**Juniors 106**

**Kidszone 86**

**Social members 4**

The club is now using the ClubSpark online tool to assist with the administration of memberships. Gerard Bermingham (GB) and Barbara Choppin worked hard earlier this year to set this up for membership renewals. Membership payments could also be administered through ClubSpark, but a transaction fee would be charged (currently 1.8% for a direct debit or bank transfer and 2.8% + 25p for credit card transactions). This may be useful to set up just for the club open day, for new members joining on the day.

Although GB is stepping down from the committee he is happy to continue with membership administration, IT support, and other matters if needed.

## 8. TOURNAMENT SECRETARIES' REPORT

Jeanette Drayton and Lynn Marshall have been organising club tournaments over the past year and will continue in the role for the coming year.

The full report and tournament results are available in the Winter 2016 newsletter. Available to view at <http://www.greenwoodtennis.com/?Downloads%2Fdocuments>.

The Club Championships had a good number of entrants this year. An option for next year to consider is for this tournament to be held over a shorter time frame, to ensure that matches get played in good time before finals weekend.

## **9. MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Dave Skinner's (DS) full report, together with a link for all the team captain's reports, was published in the recent Winter 2016 newsletter.

Both the Men's and Ladies Summer Herts League teams finished top of their divisions gaining promotion for next year.

There was one particularly busy Sunday afternoon during the summer when a Ladies and Men's Hot Rackets matches, as well as a Junior's match, had all clashed due to re-arrangements and this had been difficult for court space and pavilion use. DS said in future priority would be given to the match booked first.

The Men's Watford and District squad system for the three teams was thought to have worked well, with more members getting a fairer chance to play.

## **10. JUNIOR and COACHING REPORT**

Unfortunately, Sam Pink was unable to be present for the meeting due to illness. His recent coaching and Junior news had also been published in the recent newsletter.

Seven Junior teams had played in the Aegon team tennis competition during the summer, with three of the teams winning their divisions.

An application to County Councillor Aislinn Lee for grant money to fund coaching sessions specifically to get more girls, age 12-16 years, playing tennis has been successful. The grant is for £1,240 and comes from the Herts County Councillor Locality Budget scheme.

In response to a question from a member, it was confirmed that the club still needs to fulfil the Tennismark accreditation, and this is a priority for the committee to complete.

## **11. UPDATE ON THE PAVILION EXTENSION**

David Thompson (DT) explained the latest situation regarding the extension of the pavilion.

It had been hoped by now that a contractor would have been appointed by the Parish Council (PC) to commence the building work. However, because of delays earlier in the year due to changes to the plans requested by the PC, and subsequently tender bids by contractors coming in well over the budget for the works, they are not at the stage of having the contractor appointed and we do not have a definite start date as yet. The architect has recommended a contractor who would be suitable to carry out the works and the PC are currently considering his appointment. If a contractor is appointed in the next few weeks then we would still hope that the works could be finished by early April, although this would also depend on other factors such as weather conditions over the winter.

DT confirmed the amounts of the money being used for the building are: £74,000 Sport England grant money, £30,000 tennis club LTA loan and £15,000 PC contribution. The PC have also agreed to provide £10,000 for contingency money.

The tennis club has also negotiated our lease extension with the PC, as there had been eight years left to run from 2015, this was extended to 33 years.

DT also provided a brief update on other matters to do with facilities. The floodlights had the three yearly safety testing and certification in August 2016. It has been noted that the Kidzone court is beginning to break up and may need resurfacing soon.

A member asked whether courts 4 & 5 might be resurfaced with a different surface to their current one. This would be considered nearer the time.

## **12. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE**

Gerard Bermingham, Andrew Marshall and Lynn Marshall would not be continuing on the committee but are all willing to continue with their roles to support the running of the club. Gerard, as explained previously with ClubSpark, Andrew assisting with facilities and Lynn with tournaments.

No new names had come forward to fill vacant positions on the committee.

The current Chairman (LC), Vice Chairman (DT), Treasurer (RB) and Secretary (Caroline Ciric) all agreed to stand for re-election. Carol Brazier, Barbara Choppin, Gill Ewing, Norman Ewing, Sam Pink and Dave Skinner would all be remaining on the committee.

The Officers and committee members were proposed by Barbara Saunders and seconded by Jennifer Keates and re-elected unanimously.

### **13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Ladies Thursday Morning Social Session - Barbara Nowell explained how this session had been running almost as long as the club had been formed. Sadly, numbers have dwindled over the years. Despite efforts to attract new players, including introducing the pay and play option a couple of years ago, they were now down to three players and couldn't always guarantee that someone could be there if someone did turn up to play.

For those reasons, Barbara requested that reference to the session be removed from the club website and the court could be booked as required. It was agreed that this would be appropriate as courts can more easily be booked now that members are able to use the online booking facility.

Wimbledon ballot opt-in - LC reminded everyone that it was time to opt in again for the Wimbledon 2017 ballot.

Valerie Cowan thanked the committee for all their efforts on behalf of the club.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm