



Minutes of Annual General Meeting

26 November 2019, 7.30pm in Yill Hoose Bar

Present: Stuart Trotter (Chair) (ST), Jim Hollinsworth (Vice Chair), Eddie Gallagher (Treasurer) (EG), Gordon McGuigan (Head Coach) (GMcG), Colin Black (Committee), Valentina Bonetti (Committee) (VB), Martin Lee (Committee, CMC), Deborah Maddern (Committee), Shona Ross (Coach) (SR), Anne Black, Isobel Campbell, Waiken Chen, George Cheyne Fraser Copeland, Sheena Crichton, Keith Fowler (KF), Sally Gandon, Alison Glover, Jim Lamont, Martin Long, Andrew McCullough, Gill McDonald, Joan Mackie, Lizzie Millar (LM), Arline Morrison, Susan Paterson Armenteros, Noel Phillips, Stephen Reynolds, Isobel Russell, Charan Singh (CS), Anna Smith, Sandy Thomson (STh), Tony Williamson, Carole Wilson

Apologies: Les Melville (Committee), Jim Campbell, Vivian Melville, Jackie Fowler

Welcome :

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of AGM 2018:

The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted (proposed Tony Williamson, seconded Jim Hollinsworth) subject to the inclusion of the addendum relating to Winter Mixed League, a correction to the fact that NoelPhillips did not raise this issue.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

Convener's report:

Tributes

The sad passing of Walter Steedman and Ali Romanis was recorded. They were great friends of the tennis club and are much missed. A trophy has been set up in Walter's name and a commemoration for Ali is being planned.

Tennis section merchandise

Clothing of various types, with the tennis club logo, is now available via the section's website, which connects members direct to the clothing company website.

Team tennis

26 teams competed in the past season, with 12 finishing in the top 3. Thanks to the captains and to the match secretary, Stephen Reynolds, were recorded.

Committee and membership

Thanks were given to Les Melville, who is stepping down from the Committee, for all his work. The Committee was thanked, as were all section members who submitted ideas for discussion throughout the year.

Treasurer's report :

EG reported that the current balance in the tennis section's bank account is £11.3K, with the majority of income from coaching. Notable items of expenditure in the year were benches (repaired and new); and plants and flowers which it was agreed have made the court surrounds very pleasant. Thanks to Eleanor Gallagher were recorded for her work on this.

A percentage of clothing sales will come to the club once a threshold of purchases is reached.

It was noted that the surcharge for non-members' attendance at cardio tennis goes to the club and not to the tennis section.

Head Coach Report 2018-19

Introduction

Another year of steady growth on the coaching programme with increased participation of junior members through our coaching, social and competitive opportunities provided.

Adult Coaching

The adult coaching programme is primarily attended by members with team level coaching running January through until April/May time when Summer Doubles League and Competitions got underway. Beginner and Intermediate classes run throughout the year and are mainly attended by non-member female players.

We also have a weekly ladies' coaching session on Tuesday mornings and weekly cardio tennis classes running Tuesday evenings and Thursday mornings.

Junior Tennis

The numbers of juniors attending a weekly coaching session has risen to 170 made up of 90 boys and 80 girls. We have 88 non-members - mainly 10&U's - attending coaching 1 hour per week. From the 82 members attending coaching, 25 attend at least twice per week and all 25 play in the various junior teams.

We once again ran the Miss Hits indoor programme (for girls aged 5-8) during last winter with the majority joining the coaching programme outdoors in April.

Our Sunday afternoon 'West End Tennis' junior squads for our most enthusiastic team players aged 9-12 continue to prove popular with a number of our kids gaining success at local competitions. We also have 2 boys - Josh Panikkou and Jasper Gerber - now training with West of Scotland County Squads.

Competition

In junior competition, highlights included our 9&U team - silver medallists in winter indoor league. 12&U girls' team unbeaten and won promotion to top league. 12&U boys team also unbeaten and won promotion to Div2.

We also had a few of our older juniors competing in the adult teams and hopefully they will be keen to keep involved along with a few more juniors next year.

In adult competition within the club, we launched a revamped Winter Singles Championship with 49 players participating in a mixed league format culminating in a month-long knockout tournament in February - 198 matches completed over the duration of the competition so a great success.

The summer Club championships once again proved very popular with 120 players competing in over 200 matches in both junior and adult events.

Coaching Team

Our coaching team currently has 16 coaches and assistant coaches working on the programme along with a few young volunteer members.

Many of our coaches have undertaken various coaching qualifications to enhance their skills over the past few years and the team's work continues to be appreciated by both member and non-member clients.

Going Forward

Our overall aim has always been to continue to develop and improve the tennis coaching programme and encourage more young players to play more often. I think we have had some success with this and as the activity on the courts increases, the challenge will be to develop the coaching programme in a manner that is fair to all members.

Finally

I would like to thank all at the club, Stuart and the committee for their continued help and support.

In discussion, it was noted that beginner juniors are mainly non-members. It was agreed that LM, SR and GMcG would discuss/compare lists to get an accurate a total as possible. GMcG noted that there was a parent/child membership category too and that if membership was promoted to the large number of non-members within the junior section, it would increase court usage further.

ACTION

LM/SR/GMcG

A question was asked on behalf of the Men's 2nd VI about Sunday coaching for the Men's team - which was revamped last year and is scheduled to be fortnightly from January to April 2020 - and whether this could be weekly. It was agreed that this would be raised at the next Committee meeting, when planning for 2020 was taking place.

ACTION ST

It was clarified that not all coaches were club members but that all coaching was for the development of the club, with no individual lessons taking place without the club benefitting financially.

It was noted that new contracts (under IR 35 legislation) would be required shortly, as a Sports Club requirement. This would be looked into for the tennis section.

ACTION ST/KF

It was noted that the difference that non-members paid for group coaching was £1 per session. A comment was made that this amount had not changed for several years and should be reviewed, since a higher amount might make people consider joining as members.

ACTION

ST/Committee

A further comment was made that a number of members had made donations to the club as part of the fundraising for the courts, and it did not seem right that non-members received the benefits of this. It was noted from GMcG that the vast majority of non-members were juniors

and that sessions 7-8pm and 8-9pm on Tuesdays were the only ones where adult non-members attended. SR commented that Tuesday morning sessions were mainly non-members too.

A request was made for more detail to be available about such sessions.

ACTION KF

It was noted that the average number at Tuesday evening sessions varied, but the minimum was 2 and maximum was 6-7; the sessions had generated £417 in the past year. A comment was made that the Tuesday sessions attracted potential members and gave the impression of a welcoming and open club, and should therefore be supported. Personal experience of some current members had been to come along for 2-3 weeks to 'test' the club at such events, before joining.

A comment was noted that prime time might be seen as 6-8pm weekdays and at weekends and that this should be considered for the purposes of court availability for members only.

It was agreed that the coaching income be more itemised in future.

ACTION

COACHES/EG

It was also agreed that SR would provide figures for the Tuesday morning sessions going forward.

ACTION SR

It was noted that the LTA part-paid the club for Tennis Tuesdays. A question was raised as to why the club's own coaches were not used for this and a comment made that non-member coaches should not be coaching non-members. It was noted that younger coaches could not realistically be members of multiple clubs; and that coaches across several clubs were needed, so that they could get their badges. It was also noted that there were in fact no payments from the club to non-member coaches.

On the matter of coaching, a comment was made that more coaching was needed for the Men's teams, with only a few sessions having been run last year and some people having gone elsewhere for coaching. A survey/audit was suggested. It was noted that coaching had started late in the 2019 session, but that for 2020, a January start was being looked at. It was agreed that the Chair would discuss with KF and STh to take the matter forward.

ACTION

ST/KF/STh

A comment was made that coaching was not always easy to access and that a review was needed before the season started, to look at abilities and likely coaching needs, including any that might arise from an influx of new players. GMcG advised that all coaching would take up court time therefore careful balance was needed; there was a very full programme as it was.

Election of new committee:

Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer stood down and were re-nominated as follows:

Stuart Trotter proposed by Keith Fowler, seconded Andy McCullough - re-elected as Chair.

Jim Hollinsworth proposed by Colin Black, seconded Andy McCullough - re-elected as Vice Chair.

New members

Isobel Campbell, proposed by Sandy Thomson, seconded Susan Paterson - elected.

Stephen Reynolds, proposed by Susan Paterson, seconded Alison Glover - elected.

Sheena Crichton, proposed by Isobel Campbell, seconded Lizzie Millar - elected.

Keith Fowler, proposed by Charan Singh, seconded by Jim Hollinsworth - elected.

Charan Singh, proposed by Keith Fowler and seconded by Martin Long (Charan initially was not willing to accept but did change his mind)-elected.

AOCB:

Court security

On the matter of court security, and in particular the problem of the gate being left open for long periods of time and being used for unauthorised access, a key box was suggested, with coaches to have access and an emergency key access system also in place.

There were instances of classes being held in the main building, with children then being allowed to exit through the tennis corridor and gate.

There was also a problem with mud and 'green stuff' being brought onto the court area.

Shoe tags were suggested as a possible security/id measure.

New members' sessions

It was agreed that Lizzie Millar would send new member lists to the Committee chair and that an email would be sent out once or twice a year inviting them to a new members' session. The session also to be advertised on the website.

ACTION

LM/Committee

Quorum

There was a query about what the Committee quorum is - the Chair to check.

ACTION ST

Pay and Play

A question was asked about whether pay and play could be available; it was confirmed that this is not Club policy.

Additional team

A Men's 60+ team was suggested. It was agreed this would be looked at. A comment was made that it was doable if the 13-week season is well organised (42 matches) e.g. some matches on Fridays.

ACTION

ST/Committee

Ball Machine

A ball machine was requested. This would be looked into, since one exists.

ACTION KF/CS

Clubspark online booking

An update was given on the online booking system: VB is working on this following the successful pilot, with c120 registered to use the system so far. There have been a small number

of issues with the app, for the last day of booking. A set-up in the club is needed before the system can go fully online, with Wi-Fi in the corridor and a touch-screen for bookings, fixed to the wall. The Committee will re-discuss the rules around booking, once the system is extended to more than one court, the rules likely to be similar to the paper booking system. It was noted that careful communications will be needed about leavers as well as joiners, so that leavers can be removed from Clubspark and can no longer book - with due care to Data Protection matters. Members will still be able to come into the club and type in bookings on-screen and there might also be (for example) one court that remains bookable only in person at the club and not online.

ACTION

VB/Committee

Winter Mixed League

With regard to the new Winter Mixed League teams, there are 2 Sunday and 2 Monday. Comments were noted that there are still some problems about communications to potential team members/those who are interested in playing. It was suggested that further messages should be issued.

Social Media

With regard to the Facebook group, it was noted that this is not a private closed group in the sense that only certain members can join, but it does require a request to join, which will not be refused if the requester is a member of the tennis section. Volunteers for doing social media comms for the section were requested and would be welcome.

The meeting finished at 9pm. The Chair and those who had given reports were thanked.