



# **HOYLAKE LAWN TENNIS CLUB**

Eddisbury Road, Hoylake, Wirral CH48 5DR

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 8pm.**

### **The following Members attended the meeting:**

Lynda Arnold, Tricia Beck, Paul Cottam, Dave Cottrill, Colin Banner, Frank Birchall, Sue Darwent, Karen Davies, Angie Edwards, Ann Ellice-Clark, Guy Ellice-Clarke, Nigel Gill, Paula Goodwin, Richard Holmes, Sarah Hughes, Fiona Laloo, Alan Longman, Craig Longman, Liz Mason-Home, Joe McGillivray, Clair Miller, John Miller, Frank Noble, Steve Patterson, Viv Pennell, Dan Rothwell, Cath Saunders, John Saunders, Steph Singleton, Lynda Sykes, Mark Sykes, Bob Taylor, Di Taylor, Liz Thompson, Liz Towersey, Alan Towersey, Pam Walker, Tony Walker, Nigel Wallace, Pam Whitby, Peter Whitby.

### **1. APOLOGIES were received from:**

Madeleine Haines, Julie Hunter, Pam Kloezeman, Stuart Maxwell, Todd Miller, Jane Morris, John O'Connell, Mary Read, Helen Roberts, Simon Stokes, Andrew Tallents, Carolyn Tallents .

### **2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS AGM**

Minutes from the AGM held on 24th January 2018 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.  
Proposed by: Tony Walker                      Seconded by: Liz Thompson

Matters arising: Two Trustees, Clair Miller and Ian Fitzpatrick continue in post. This is the minimum number allowed under Club rules. Ian Fitzpatrick has been actively searching for the necessary documents to allow other trustees to be voted in, however, the deeds cannot be found. The Chairman asked club members who belonged to the Club in 2009 if they could shed any light on the matter. Members were assured that further investigation will be undertaken to resolve this.

### **3a. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Guy Ellice-Clark welcomed everyone to the AGM, noting that it had been an "interesting" year for the committee in many ways. He summarised the main achievements:

- In September 2019, it has been arranged that Courts 3, 4 and 5, which are heavily used throughout the year as they are under floodlights, will be resurfaced. Different funding options are being explored.
- Regular court maintenance has been taken over by Multi-Surface Cleaners, after Rodney Pownall could no longer continue. This has worked well.
- A sub-committee has met to revise the rules, which will be put forward for agreement.
- Socials were again successful. Guy thanked Karen and her team for always being at the hub of the parties. Lynda plans to organise more social events as the year gets going and all will rally around to help.
- The LTA changed their requirements for club accreditation, but with a substantial effort from the secretary, these new standards were achieved. As a result, HLTC now "qualifies" to receive Wimbledon tickets, but the numbers of these are again subject to

members opting in to the annual ballot, which Guy encouraged people to do at the end of the meeting.

- Club coach, Craig Longman, received another award from Cheshire LTA as one of the two runners up for coach of the year.
- A lifetime achievement award was presented to Pam & Tony Walker at the Xmas drinks afternoon by our Cheshire LTA liaison, Barbara Bloor. Guy congratulated all three award winners.

Guy concluded his report by stating that the club is in a great position with increased membership, good finances and a welcoming outlook. He urged members to give something back to the club and volunteer for the committee.

### **3b. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Alan Towersey presented the accounts for the year ending August 2018 and noted that over the last five years, HLTC has recorded an average annual surplus of £17,300 and has increased reserves by £57,000 to £115,000 now.

Alan thanked Committee colleagues and members for driving this growth. Membership income grew by 3.4% without implementing a price increase, thanks to Pam Walker's tenacity and to Craig Longman for promoting the sport in local schools, leading to a steady inflow of junior members. Bar and social profit grew by 17%. Karen Davies and Joe McGillivray oversaw excellent control over cost prices and sales, and Linda Arnold oversaw a successful social programme. The 100 club disappointed: numbers declined as renewals were hard to chase.

The interest accrued from Cambridge & Counties Bank is equivalent to recruiting 9 additional members. £2,000 debt was written off by Caldycott GC. John O'Connell exercises excellent control over expenditure on the clubhouse; £1,300 was spent on new noticeboards. Julie Hunter, Grounds Manager, managed the transfer of court maintenance from Rodney Pownall to Chris White. The Committee are delighted with the result.

Match fees were disappointing. Match expenses should be covered by match fees so that members who do not play in matches do not subsidise those who do. This year however shows a loss of £578 which arises from non-payment of some Chester League fees.

The balance sheet shows that current assets grew by 19% to £134,000. This fund, plus grants and loans, will fund the development programme. The increase in bar stock is due to purchasing larger quantities of Perrone to avoid a price increase.

Our fixed asset base remained broadly static. The courts are fully depreciated. The exterior fencing and floodlights are our major assets with remaining value. £5,660 was spent on improvements to the entrance to the club and to provide a disabled entrance through the rear fire escape. Depreciation of these assets will start in the present year.

Alan thanked Steve Roberts for his guidance in preparing the accounts and for signing them off.

Pam Walker proposed that the accounts were accepted. Seconded by Trish Beck.

### **3c. CAPTAIN'S REPORT**

Pam Kloezeman sent an email with her apologies and asked that her thanks be passed on to members for their kindnesses and support during her captaincy. She particularly wished to thank all the team captains and selection committee. She sent best wishes to the next captain.

The chairman summarised the final positions of the teams in the Wirral and Chester leagues at the end of the summer season, noting that the 1st team in the Wirral Mixed league finished in a

strong third place in Division 1. HLTC got to the final in the Wirral Tankard competition, but lost to a very strong Birkenhead side. Club tournaments also ran successfully.

The Chairman thanked the outgoing Captain for her hard work in developing ladies' tennis, particularly through the Friday morning sessions that she established.

### **3d. JUNIOR COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

Clair Miller reported that the junior section has gone from strength to strength, due to the enthusiasm and support of Craig Longman and his coaching team. Harry Cross has sadly left and will be much missed. Chris White continues to be a very able second-in-command, and new coach Jonnie Sweeney has joined the team. Ed McIntyre has started his Level 3 coaching qualification, and Matt Lightfoot has completed his Level 1, so the team is in good stead for the future. Clair congratulated Craig on attaining a runner-up award for CCLTA coach of the Year.

The standard of junior tennis continues to impress and Clair listed a number of successes:

- U14 boys won the Wirral Clubs doubles tournament and were runners up in the Team Tennis competition. Most HLTC teams entered in this competition won their local groups and then faced some of the best East Cheshire juniors in their semi-finals.
- U12 team were runners up in the U12 Wirral League
- In the U14 Road to Wimbledon tournament, Matti Mattelini won at local and county level and played in the regional event at Wimbledon.
- Many juniors play in school competitions and the boys playing for Caldby Grammar school at HLTC have done well.

Clair thanked parents for their support in helping to organise teams, transport children and provide refreshments for visiting teams. She noted that coaching sessions, Junior Club night, Open Day and holiday camps are well attended and much enjoyed, and reiterated her thanks to Craig and his coaching team for their hard work.

### **4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Guy noted that all roles within the Committee were open for re-election, although only the House Officer and Captain had decided to stand down and two positions, that of Vice-Captain and Communications Officer were already vacant.

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Chairman	Guy Ellice-Clark
Treasurer	Alan Towersey
Secretary	Sue Darwent
Captain	<i>Vacant</i>
Vice-Captain	<i>Vacant</i>
Junior Co-ordinator	
/Welfare Officer	Clair Miller
Membership Secretary	Pam Walker
Communication Officer	<i>Vacant</i>
Bar Manager	Karen Davies
House Officer	<i>Vacant</i>
Head Coach	Craig Longman
Grounds Manager	Julie Hunter
Social Co-ordinator	Lynda Arnold
Member	Liz Mason-Home

It was proposed that the standing members of the committee should be re-elected.

Proposer: Dave Cottrill. Seconder: Cath Saunders. This was carried unanimously.

Nominations had been received by email for the Captain and Vice Captain's posts.

John Miller was proposed as captain by Guy Ellice-Clark and seconded by Julie Hunter. This was carried unanimously. It was noted that help with running teamer had been offered by Fiona Laloo and Helen Roberts.

Liz Mason-Home was proposed as Vice-Captain by Guy Ellice-Clark and seconded by Alan Towersey. This proposal was also carried unanimously.

Trish Beck had offered to join the committee as a general member. Clair Miller proposed her, and Lynda Arnold seconded the proposal, which was also carried unanimously.

Guy urged others to consider the vacancies. Colin Banner offered to discuss the House Officer role with John O'Connell. Sarah Hughes offered help with managing the bar.

## **5. Amendments to HLTC rules**

Copies of the rules, with amendments highlighted were distributed. Guy explained the reason for the small number of changes that were made.

Steph Singleton proposed that the amendments were adopted. This was seconded by Clair Miller and carried unanimously.

## **6. Court resurfacing**

An estimate has been accepted from Platt's and work is scheduled to be carried out in August/September 2019. Total Cost £38,608.00 plus v.a.t. Members were assured that the surface would match that of courts 1 and 2.

## **7. AOB**

**Funding options:** It was reported that LTA funding will be sought to contribute to repairs to the Clubhouse and court resurfacing. Plans to redevelop the Clubhouse itself were tentatively discussed, with the possibility of applying for Lottery funding. Liz Thompson offered help with making the application, as another group she is involved with have made a successful bid. Colin Banner suggested obtaining a feasibility study, once we have a clearer outline of our needs.

**Decking:** Cath Saunders noted that the decking area has been cordoned off after a member slipped on the saturated surface and asked about future plans for this area. Guy reassured the meeting that the decking would be cleaned once it had dried out and later covered with Astroturf to ensure that it could be walked on safely in all weathers.

Julie Hunter, Grounds Manager, sent a short report which concluded with a plea to remind everyone, especially captains, to inspect court surfaces before playing matches and if the surface has become too wet and is not gripping, to democratically decide not to play rather than risk injury. Even all-weather courts cannot cope with the damp and moisture at times. Court signs to remind players to wear appropriate footwear and clothing will be displayed.

**Wimbledon Club Ballot:** Steph Singleton asked members for their support as the Wimbledon Ticket allocation for 2019 again depends on sufficient members registering as BTM members on the LTA website and indicating that they wish to register for the Wimbledon ticket ballot. Only 60 eligible members have so far registered.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm