



HOYLAKE LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Eddisbury Road, Hoylake, Wirral CH48 5DR

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Wednesday 22nd January 2020 at 8pm.

The following Members attended the meeting:

Lynda Arnold, Colin Banner, Trish Beck, Frank Birchall, Chris Caskie, Paul Cottam, Sarah Cottam, Rob Crawford, Sue Darwent, Jay Durham, Angie Edwards, Guy Ellice-Clark, Richard Holmes, Karen Hope, Julie Hunter, Rose Kirkby, Fiona Lalloo, Callum Leach, Moya Locke, Craig Longman, Alain Maillet, Liz Mason-Home, Joe McGillivray, Clair Miller, John Miller, Jane Morris, Steve Paterson, Helen Roberts, Dan Rothwell, Steph Singleton, Bob Taylor, Di Taylor, Dave Thomas, Carol Tinsley, Liz Towersey, Alan Towersey, Pam Walker, Tony Walker, Nigel Wallis, Pam Whitby, Peter Whitby.

1. APOLOGIES were received from:

Pauline Collins, Dave Cottrill, Karen Davies, Geoff Dewhurst, Ann Ellice-Clark, Harry Ellice-Clark, Madeleine Haines, Carolyn Hart, Kathy Hoyes, John O'Connell, Mary Read, Steve Roberts, Collette Smith, Yvonne Sudderick, Liz Thompson, Alan Weldon, Liz Wilson.

2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS AGM

Minutes from the AGM held on 16th January 2019 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed by: Nigel Wallis. Seconded by: Liz Towersey

3. LIFE MEMBERSHIP

On behalf of the committee and club, the Chair proposed that two particular longstanding members should be awarded life membership in recognition of their commitment and service to HLTC. Steph Singleton proposed that Pam Walker should be recognised. This nomination was seconded by Di Taylor. Bob Taylor proposed Frank Noble and this was seconded by Joe McGillivray. The meeting voted unanimously in support of both nominations.

4a. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Guy Ellice-Clark welcomed everyone to the AGM. He thanked Trish Beck who had agreed to take on the Communications Officer role as well as becoming the second Welfare Officer, after originally being voted on as a general committee member last year. Improvements to the Clubhouse have included resurfacing the three floodlit courts as well as a new roof on the Clubhouse. Re-roofing was funded in part by a generous grant from Cheshire LTA. The courts are now regularly maintained by our new contractor Multi Surface Cleaners, and this should extend the playing life of all the courts. Guy thanked secretary Sue Darwent for organising the annual registration and keeping the club up-to-date with necessary policies. He also listed numerous successful social events. Guy noted that there had been some problems with communication this year and hoped that the new website would help to overcome some of the difficulties. Guy ended by saying that he valued the work carried out by the committee of volunteers to manage the club, but stressed that all members can do their bit to help take the club forward.

4b. TREASURER'S REPORT

Alan Towersey presented the accounts for the year ending 30th August 2019 and reported that reserves at the bank stood at £132,000 at that point. In September the floodlit courts were resurfaced: the cost of this will be reflected in next year's accounts. Alan highlighted the following points (to be read alongside the Statement of Accounts):

Income:

- Membership increased by 5.6% on the previous year
- Bar and social event profits remained constant at £6,472
- 100 Club brought in £1,600
- Bank interest grew by 14%
- Other income, including ball and clothing sales, remained steady. (The previous year included a debt of £2,000 to Caldy Golf club which was written off.)

Expenditure:

- Court maintenance costs increased by 40% as the committee decided that more frequent deep cleaning was advisable to improve and extend the life of the courts. The recently resurfaced courts should have a life expectancy of 15 years.
- The website has been redeveloped by an external company. The initial costs are shown in the current report and will extend into 2019-20 financial year.
- Coaching costs increased: this was due to a financial reward made to the Head Coach in recognition of his runner-up CCLTA Coach of the Year award.

Balance sheet:

- The fixed asset value remains broadly static. Depreciation of the floodlights and fencing continued, but was countered by the additional costs incurred from improvements made to the men's changing room and toilets.
- The current assets grew by 19% to £151,500. The reserve will fund any future development programmes, alongside any grants or loans.
- There are no current liabilities, which would normally encompass outstanding loans or creditors.

Alan thanked Lynda Arnold, Karen Davies and Joe McGillivray for their control over costs and sales at the bar and social events. He also thanked Colin Banner and Julie Hunter for their efforts in maintaining the grounds and clubhouse respectively. There being no questions, Clair Miller proposed that the accounts were accepted. Seconded by Tony Walker.

4c. CAPTAIN'S REPORT

John Miller reported on a successful playing season. In the summer Mixed League, the 4th team won the 5th division, which left HLTC with one team in each of the top four divisions. There was also success in the Winter League, where both Ladies' A team and the Men's C team won promotion.

Our Men's team finished runners up in the Cheshire Shield and both Veteran's teams reached the final of the respective Plate competitions, with the men winning and the ladies runners up. The crowning achievement was in the Wirral Tankard, where a hard fought final resulted in victory for HLTC against Neston.

The summer tournaments were well represented with some exceptional tennis on finals day. In the Winter League, HLTC are currently unbeaten at the top of the Men's 1st division and the Ladies B team are top of Division 4.

John ended by thanking Fiona Laloo, Helen Roberts and Liz Mason-Home for their hard work in ensuring that the Wirral League teams ran as smoothly as possible, and all players for their commitment to the club. He requested that all players help the incoming Captain as much as possible by responding promptly to Teamer notifications.

4d. JUNIOR COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Clair reported on the success of the coaching team in providing a popular coaching programme and many opportunities for the juniors to experience competitive tennis:-

- Nine teams, from U8 to U16, were entered in the regional team tennis competition. This was the highest number of any club in Cheshire, except for performance centres. U16 boys reached the finals, losing to Bramhall Queensgate in a close match.
- From Wirral, HLTC has the highest number of players taking part in county training days. Dominic Poulston and Harry Payne are part of the U10 and U12 groups.
- Juniors also represented the Club in the Wirral Mixed League playing in the 2nd and 3rd teams; the 4th team's promotion relied heavily on juniors Poppy, Sam, Spiros, Terry, Luke and Luka.
- Junior finals day were well supported with a high standard of well-balanced tennis matches played.

Clair concluded with many thanks to Craig, Chris and Johnny, as well as their junior helpers, for their enthusiasm, commitment and achievement in running exciting and fun sessions and bringing the junior players on. She was sorry to say goodbye to Ed and Lucy who have gone to University. Both joined the Club at the age of 7 and have represented it at all levels. She wished them well and hoped that they will continue to play for HLTC when they are home.

A questioner from the floor asked if many players are lost to the club at transition from infant to junior level, or from junior to seniors. Pam Walker responded that not many are lost when fees increase at the age of 9, but many leave the club when they go onto higher education at 18. It was suggested that a better database on the new website might be beneficial in keeping contact with students, who might then re-join the club if they return to the area.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Guy stated that all roles within the Committee were open for re-election. Three vacancies resulted from resignations by the Captain, Bar Manager and Social Co-ordinator. Guy thanked Karen, Lynda and John on behalf of the club for all their hard work in making the tennis and social events such a success.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

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

Proposer: Steph Singleton. Seconder: Joe McGillivray. This was carried unanimously.

Nominations had been received for the other three posts:

Sarah Cottam was proposed as Bar Manager by Alain Maillet and seconded by Helen Roberts.

Karen Hope was proposed as Social Co-ordinator by Rose Kirkby and seconded by Di Taylor.

Callum Leach was proposed as captain by Guy Ellice-Clark and seconded by Sue Darwent.

All three nominations were carried unanimously.

6. FUTURE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Guy thanked Lynda and Moya for their hard work in organising a very successful and much enjoyed black tie Christmas Party at Caldy Golf Club. However, two weeks prior to the event, few tickets had been paid for, and it was undecided whether to go ahead.

Should this event continue? Guy opened discussion to the floor. Some people strongly voiced their support for a black tie event, something special, and not held at the clubhouse. Others wondered if cost was an issue, particularly for younger members. Spreading cost, or requiring a deposit payable in September, might encourage more commitment. After further deliberation, the majority of those present voted in favour of a formal catered dinner with a band/disco, but at a different venue and with an early payment incentive.

7. AOB

a. Dave Cottrill sent a message to thank everyone who had supported the charity fundraising nights in support of 'Make it Happen' and will put up a certificate to acknowledge our contribution.

b. John Miller detailed the plans for the forthcoming season: 4 mixed and 2 men's teams in the Wirral League and a ladies', a men's and a mixed team in the Chester League and asked for comments or concerns; there were none.

c. Julie Hunter reminded everyone to fill in the maintenance book if a problem is noticed, so that it can be dealt with as soon as possible. She commented that everyone on the committee is a volunteer, not at the club daily, and that running the club is a collective responsibility.

Guy thanked everyone for participating in the meeting and supporting the club. The meeting closed at 9.10pm