

# HEMINGFORDS TENNIS CLUB

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY October 14<sup>th</sup> 2015 7.30pm

Chris Page Room, Hemingford Pavilion

Present Chris Young, Andrew Hawkins, Henry Tacconi, Brian Marshall, Becca Pluke  
Liz Miller, Helena Champion, Vernon Reuter, Linda Dingle, Michael Beardall,  
Pierrot Giannone

1. Apologies for Absence

Brenda Turner, Howie Pether, Catherine Turner, Merril Windle, Rob Youngs, Kath Marshall, Alun Jones, Bridgit Flanagan

2. Election of Officers

The following were proposed by Vernon Reuter and seconded by Andrew Hawkins and duly elected:

Chair	Chris Young
Club Captain	Brian Marshall
Secretary	Liz Miller
Membership Secretary	Brenda Turner
Junior Coach	Howie Pether
Maintenance	Andrew Hawkins
Publicity Officer	Vernon Reuter
Committee	Becca Pluke, Linda Dingle

Chris Young proposed Michael Beardall to be the new treasurer. This was seconded by Liz Miller and he was duly elected.

Huge thanks were given to Henry Tacconi who has retired as treasurer after 30 years in the post.

3. Minutes from the AGM and matters arising

The minutes were agreed and signed. There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

Each year I seem to start my report saying the same thing. This is not a bad thing as each year we do seem to have had another successful year.

I will start with the younger members of our club. The number of juniors has once again increased this year. I believe (although can't prove) that our junior coaching plays a large part in this. I have therefore to thank Howie (and his regular helpers including Vernon and Bradley) for all his hard work. He and I believe this is the backbone to the club and the juniors we have will form the teams and (possibly) the tournament winners in the years to come. I know Howie has some plans for the future but these will become clearer in the new year.

Our current teams have had a much better year than last year. The Mixed C team finished mid table in the 5<sup>th</sup> Division. Although they have aspirations to climb out of the division it is a good place to start new team members. After the B team was demoted last year they won the 4<sup>th</sup> Division. Finally, the Mixed A team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 2<sup>nd</sup> division and face the challenge of the top division next year. The Mens A team finished mid table but were just one win away from promotion in to the top division. After promotion last year the Mens B team successfully completed consecutive promotion to the heights of the 3<sup>rd</sup> division. The Mens C team finished a commendable 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 5<sup>th</sup> Division just one draw away from

promotion (maybe next year). After demotion last year the Ladies A team secured promotion back to the top division. Hopefully they can stay there next year. The B team finished a commendable 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 4<sup>th</sup> division and have targeted promotion next year. In summary, we have four teams promoted and none demoted, a very successful year. Thank you has to be said to all the team captains, and their deputies, as well as Brian, for all their hard work organising teams and making sure the matches go ahead.

Our courts and setting are in excellent condition. Thanks to Andrew for organising and for the work that he and Brian have put in to the courts this year. However, I would request that next year, in the spring, we have even more volunteers to get more achieved to keep the standards we all appreciate.

Once again we have had a number of well attended and I believe successful tournaments this year. As well as a couple of enjoyable BBQs afterwards. We intend to continue the list of tournaments and BBQs next year. All the dates will be published as early as possible next year so that we can get as many attendees as possible.

I believe we announced last year that we are losing the services of one of our committee members. After many years (I don't believe we know the actual number) Henry Tacconi is stepping down as our Treasurer. Henry has seen (and helped manage) many changes in the club over the years. However, his knees can no longer keep up with his talent. He has therefore decided to spend more time with his family and let his body heal. Hopefully, we will see him back on court at some time in the future. In the mean time I am sure everyone will join me in thanking Henry for all the time and effort he has put in to the club.

Henry's mantle as treasurer has been passed on to Michael who some of you may know. He will now help us manage some of the future challenges that the club will face in the next few years. Welcome (and good luck) to Michael.

Finally, I would like to thank all my fellow committee members for all their hard work over the year.

#### 5. Treasurer's Report

Henry distributed copies of the accounts (see attached).

- a) He commented that it had been the best year ever for revenue from subs, which has left the club with a very healthy balance for the year.
- b) There was a discussion about outstanding invoices, and about continuing to pay to maintain the courts on an annual basis, with the probability of needing to renew the surfaces in around 5 years' time.
- c) Subscriptions for next year were discussed and it was agreed that these should remain the same as 2014/15. Should the juniors have more coaching next year, then this should be paid for as an extra.
- d) Subscriptions for new members joining in the Autumn were discussed and it was agreed that this should be discretionary, but around 25% of the normal fee.

#### 6. Captain's Report

Brian reported that it had been a very good year for the teams, and possibly the 1<sup>st</sup> time that no team had been demoted to a lower division at the end of the season.

- a) The Mixed teams had all had a successful year. The A team finished 2<sup>nd</sup>, and will therefore be promoted to division 1. The B team won their league and will be promoted to division 3, whilst the C team finished 5<sup>th</sup>.
- b) The Men's teams were also good overall with the A team finishing 4<sup>th</sup>, the B team coming 2<sup>nd</sup>, gaining them promotion to division 3 (their 2<sup>nd</sup> successive promotion!) and the C team coming 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- c) The Ladies' teams also had a very good year. The A team came 2<sup>nd</sup> and will be promoted to division 1, whilst the B team were 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- d) Brian commented on the Don Brace Cup, which had been very good this year, with some outstanding sportsmanship. Stamford had beaten Needingworth in the final.
- e) The team lists had been healthy at the beginning of the season, but had deteriorated slightly as the year progressed. The Men's teams welcomed 3 new members, which has resulted in maintaining a strong squad, whereas the ladies have struggled more.

- f) Brian thanked all the team captains – Howie, Chris, Liz, Helena, Helen, Linda and Andrew
- g) Thanks were also given to Brian for all his hard work managing the teams

#### 7. Juniors' Report

Chris gave a short report in Howie's absence. There are 65 juniors this year, with coaching going very well and some potential team players amongst them. There have been a couple of fun competitions, with 6 awards eg for best improved backhand. The Junior winner this year is Emily Thackray. Some Juniors are going to Huntingdon for coaching, and playing at Hemingford for fun/practice. Chris thanked Howie and Bradley for doing a great job, and thanked Vernon for turning up to help on a regular basis.

#### 8. Maintenance Report

Andrew reported that the following:

- a) Conifer hedge cut to fence level in April
- b) Trees surrounding club cut back – will probably need further trimming next year.
- c) Court surface had annual sand/moss/power-brush treatment.
- d) Full re-furb/deep clean needed in 2016 or 2017 - £3,000.
- e) Clubhouse and equipment shed in good condition but further maintenance and painting of clubhouse needed early in 2016.
- f) We need to treat entire court area 3-4 times each year for moss.
- g) Two sprayers and supply of Jeyes fluid needed.
- h) Court surface likely to need replacement in 5 years - £20,000+.
- i) Nets/posts in good condition.
- j) Need to consider new security for gates and clubhouse.

There was discussion about tree roots coming through on number 1 court. Apparently keeping the height of the conifers down should prevent extra root growth and thus prevent the roots becoming a bigger issue.

It was agreed that there should be more sand put down near the gate and that it was worth spending around £1,000 each year on court maintenance.

Chris reported that due to loss of a padlock the club is now down to 2 locks with keys for all members. A new system would cost several hundred pounds. For the short-term he proposed that the 2 locks should be used for the club house and the car park gate, and that he would place a different lock on the much less used Pavilion gate.

#### 9. Publicity Report

Vernon reported that there had again been a few articles in the Hunts Post, in the school newsletter and in The Hemingfords' Directory. He is planning to send more copy to the Hunts Post before the end of the year and as usual around March to remind potential members about the club. He also plans to continue with publicity about 3 times a year in school – using a picture of this year's winner in the Christmas issue and a reminder in the Easter newsletter.

He used extra adverts for the Great British Tennis Weekend activities, but had not used the LTA material which has to be paid for.

Chris reported that he had organized a new sign for the corner of the courts, but due to an error we now have two for the price of one. He will put up the smaller one for the winter.

#### 10. Written in Agenda There were no items

#### 11. Any Other Business

- a) It was asked if it is possible to buy score charts for placing on the nets. These are apparently very expensive, but it was suggested that the cost of buying some on eg Ebay could be investigated.
- b) Availability of club balls for use during Club sessions was raised. It was agreed that good balls for these sessions would be kept locked in the Junior section, and should be available as there is nearly always a committee member who has access to the code at each session.

- c) It was asked if the winter table tennis sessions were still running. They were discontinued due to lack of support. It was suggested that it might be fun to have a one-off event, perhaps around Christmas.
- d) Liz told members that the LTA have updated the Wimbledon ticket draw system to take on board comments from last year's changes. Members must opt into the system by February 19<sup>th</sup> 2016, but new members will be able to opt in after this date. The LTA are to have a 4 week e-marketing campaign and provide a toolkit to help promote the changes.
- e) Liz suggested that we introduce a club contact list of telephone and /or email addresses to enable easier communication between members. It was agreed to ask permission for this on next year's membership forms.
- f) Nominations for the Aegon British Tennis Awards which include a £5,000 award to the winning club are due by October 31<sup>st</sup>. It was felt that there would be no harm in nominating someone.

## 12. Presentation of Trophies

Thomas Cup	Rob Youngs
Mike Hale Cup	Ben Pugh and Chris Young
Primett Cup	Rob Youngs and Bridget Flanagan
Allington Trophy	Vernon Reuter and Kira Reuter
Bergen Trophy (Ladies Rose Bowl)	Helena Champion and Rebecca Pluke
Junior Trophy	Emily Thrackray
Stella Trophy	Alex Thompson and Bradley Young
Wynter Shield	Bradley Young