

HEMINGFORDS TENNIS CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY October 12th 2016 7.30pm

Chris Page Room, Hemingford Pavilion

Present Chris Young, Andrew Hawkins, Brian Marshall, Liz Miller, Brenda Turner, Merrill Windle, Michael Beardall, Paul Smith, Linda Dingle, Howie Pether

1. Apologies for Absence

Bridgit Flanagan, Helena Champion, Vernon Reuter, Jackie Newcombe, Catherine Turner, Kath Marshall

2. Election of Officers

Chris Young was proposed as Chair by Liz Miller and seconded by Andrew Hawkins and was duly elected.

The following were proposed by Brian Marshall and seconded by Andrew Hawkins and duly elected:

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

3. Minutes from the AGM and matters arising

The minutes were agreed and signed.

Matters arising:

- The committee are still considering the cost and usability of net score charts
- Club balls. These have been left in clubhouse for general use and the system is working.
- Winter table tennis. This did not happen last winter, but may be pursued this year.
- Wimbledon Draw. Members should have received an email from the LTA asking them to opt in. Andrew to send reminder email encouraging all members to do so.
- Club members contact list. This has not been done so far. Members' permission will be sought this year to to publish eg an email list
- British Tennis Awards. Chris will revisit this this year if there is time before the deadline. He noted that these awards can be helpful, citing the case of the local cricket club chair who won a regional award and helped the club to survive.

4. Chairman's Report

The past few years I have started my report saying that it has been another successful year. Unfortunately, I can't be as enthusiastic this year. However, in many respects it has been a very good year.

I will start with the junior section. Once again the number of juniors in the club have increased. I still believe 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 their hard work. I said last year that we believed the juniors we have will form the teams and (possibly) the tournament winners in the years to come. Well that prophecy has started to come true, we have already had a couple of our juniors in the teams and one of the juniors has been part of the winning partnership in one of our tournaments. When we started we weren't sure how many juniors we would get to come along and therefore how we would structure the training. We were concerned how we would deal with it IF we had too many, but if we did that would be a nice problem to have. Well, with 79 Juniors and Students in the club, and regular numbers at the training of between 40 and 50, we now have that problem! The Junior section is investigating how best to deal with the large numbers.

Our senior section hasn't been as strong this year, with numbers down and the ladies struggling to get teams out. However, as a committee, with help from anyone else much appreciated, we will put our heads together and come up with some suggestions to improve this.

On the subject of teams, unfortunately our teams have not done quite as well, on the whole, as previous years, although they did have a lot to live up to. Having helped to organise the Mens' teams it was a particularly tough year with no stability of players in any of the teams due to work and home life commitments.

Thank you must therefore 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 will give you plenty of notice), 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.

One final thing to mention is that we are once again looking at the possibility of maybe having lights. This is a drawn out and challenging process. Therefore, I cannot promise anything and I certainly can't put a date on it as we are at a very early stage. However, one of my fellow committee members is looking in to it and we will give him all the support we can. We will keep you updated as and when we know more.

We have had a number of challenges this year as a club, not least of which was transferring the bank account to Michael and I. However, I believe these are now mostly resolved and we can look forward to a good year next year.

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

5. Treasurers Report

There was not a vast profit this year, but £800 is reasonable. This was due to increased maintenance costs and a decrease in senior memberships. We need to work on increasing income next year. Merrill noted that she had applied twice to benefit from the Waitrose token system, but had had no response. Liz agreed to try again in January – perhaps try contacting the manager.

A grant may be available to help with the cost of installing lights.

The last court resurfacing was done in 2007 with the help of a £10,000 grant from the local council, and help from members paying a year in advance and/or loaning money. Chris is in discussions with Vernon at the Cambs LTA over potential loans.

There followed a lengthy discussion about subscriptions. The possibility of paying by direct debit was considered and rejected because of the possibility of members only paying during the main playing season. It was agreed that junior members get a very good deal, and that, even if increasing their subs by a greater amount meant losing a few, that the club could cope with this loss.

The following new rates of subs were proposed by Andrew, seconded by Howie and agreed:

Senior member	£100
Student member	£50
Junior (up to and including school year 7)	£30
Parent member (to play solely with child)	£15
Family membership	£200
Trial member (3 months)	£35
Visitors (maximum 3 times/year)	£3

6. Captain's Report

Brian gave his thanks to the captains, especially Chris.

The Mixed A team were unfortunately demoted from Division 1 solely by having won fewer sets. (I know there are some murmurings about this and it will be brought up at the League AGM).

The Mixed B team really struggled and unfortunately were also relegated only winning one match.

On a positive note the Mixed C team won Division 5 dropping only 9 sets.

The Ladies A Team managed to stay in the top division by losing one less set than Longthorpe A, so congratulations to Helen and her team, that is an excellent achievement.

The Ladies B team had a very difficult season getting the players they needed and finished second from bottom in Division 4.

The Mens A team finished mid table in Division 2, but it was a close run thing as the two teams below them finished on the same points.

In a very similar situation the Mens B team also finished mid table by virtue of sets won. However, after two consecutive promotions to the heights of the Division 3 I believe this is something to be proud of.

The Mens C team once again finished a commendable 3rd in the Division 5 (maybe next year).

There were a couple of controversial games, eg because of starting times at 7pm. We are sending representatives to the Hunts and Peterborough league meeting, where these will be discussed.

Helena wishes to step aside as captain of the Ladies B team next year. Thanks were proposed to her for doing an excellent job over the last few years. A new 'volunteer' captain will therefore be needed next year.

Don Brace Cup. Hemingford lost in their 2nd match, to Stamford, who are through to the final vs Thorpe Wood this Sunday in the new building.

7. Juniors' Report

Howie reported that this had been another very good year. There had been a steady average of 40 children attending coaching each Saturday. There have been 2 sessions each week for different age groups, and there have been lots of volunteer helpers which have been essential for the numbers attending.

Howie has received lots of complimentary feedback from parents etc

Next year it is planned to increase the upper age limit for coaching in order to retain the 12 children who will be moving up to the Ivo. This will involve more work, with better hitting etc. Howie plans to arrange a more structured year in order to move forward. It may be necessary to not take in the very young children in order to achieve this.

There were 2 Junior tournaments held for different age groups.

A few Juniors have moved on to Huntingdon for coaching, but they still come back to play here.

2 Juniors have played in the Mens' B and C teams this year (3 games each). Their coaches have encouraged them in this as it is good for them to play competitive doubles. They have both also played in club tournaments.

The Junior trophy was awarded to Abby Fryer, for her enthusiasm as well as her play.

8. Maintenance Report

a) Court surface

Current carpet surface laid on tarmac in 2007

Generally in good order and expected to last another 5-7 years – at least

Replacement cost around £50k + VAT – committee to plan in 2017 for expenditure likely needed by 2022/23.

Annual maintenance cost is around £900 + VAT

Club applies weedkiller as needed and moss killer 3 times pa and removes leaves and debris

Corner by gate to car park suffers from poor drainage, level has dropped and is often slippery. Cost to deep clean, replace sand and raise level (which will improve drainage) about £600 – work to be carried out during annual maintenance visit by our contractor next March.

b) Nets/posts

Nets were replaced last year and are in good order.

Posts/winders reasonable. May need replacement in 3-4 years.

Some of the posts are leaning inwards. To investigate whether they can be pushed upright

c) Clubhouse

Some minor repairs this year and exterior wood treatment.

Part interior painted + trophy boards recording past winners

Plans for a new clubhouse prepared – part of long term plan

d) Equipment

Leaf clearer

Lawn mower

Sprayers

Padlocks

e) Surrounding area

Clubhouse area : Additional slate chippings laid

Fencing: In good order

Installing green mesh on fence between tennis and bowls clubs

Trees: Some work carried out by club and by trustees. There are currently discussions on what contributions should be made by each club / Trustees.

Hedge: Cut to height of fence – to be maintained – plus base of trunks for airflow

airflow

Lights: Reviewing the possibility again – last 2010

Vernon researching latest technology, cost, grants and planning requirements.

One of the Trustees has got lots of experience in applying for/ obtaining grants and is willing to help us when needed.

9. Publicity

a) New banners at front of club

b) 2 Open Days

c) Courts open during village Sports day

d) Advert in The Hemingfords' Directory at good rate due to Liz's previous involvement

e) There has not been much for Vernon to put in the Hunts poat this year, but has promised to stay in this role and to put what information he can into the paper.

f) Annual publicity into the school system

Publicity for members was queried. It seems that not all members are receiving the monthly email promoting competitions etc. Chris promised to update both the members and junior databases on a regular basis to rectify this.

10. Written In Agenda

There were no items

11. Any Other Business

- a) Following a comment on this, there was a discussion on why some members are no longer attending club afternoon. It was agreed that we need to try to be more forceful to get members to mix and match games.
- b) Coaching for adults. This continues to be looked at. We are trying to get a coach. Realistically this will probably be an external coach.
- c) Chris proposed, and it was agreed, to send Pierrot and his wife flowers to congratulate them on the birth of their twins.

d) 2016 Trophy Winners

Thomas Cup	Howie Pether
Mike Hale Cup	Tony Barrabas & Bradley Young
Primett Cup	Brenda Turner & Brian Marshall
Allington Cup	Vernon & Kira Reuter
Bergen Trophy (Ladies Rose Bowl)	Jackie Newcombe & Brenda Turner
Junior Trophy	Abby Fryer
Stella Trophy	Kira Reuter & Dean Neaves
Wynter Shield	Howie Pether