

## HEMINGFORDS TENNIS CLUB

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019 7.30pm

Chris Page Room, Hemingford Pavilion

Present Chris Young, Liz Miller, Hilary Webb, Linda Dingle, Vernon Reuter, Mandy Reuter, Jacqui Newcombe, Jon Rabbett, Howie Pether, Bridget Flanagan, Mel Davies, Alun Jones, Helen Kemp, George Jackson, Andrew Hawkins, Lucy Godfrey, Michael Barry, Sarah-Jane Hilton

1. Apologies for Absence

Brian Marshall, Dean Neaves, Fraser Cook, Merrill Windle, Michael Beardall

2. Election of Officers

All committee members are happy to be re-elected, except for Brian who has handed in his resignation.

The following were therefore proposed by Andrew Hawkins and seconded by George Jackson and were duly elected:

Chair	Chris Young
Secretary	Liz Miller
Treasurer	Michael Beardall
Captain/ Publicity Officer	Vernon Reuter
Junior Captain	Howie Pether
Committee	Linda Dingle, Jon Rabbett, Jacqui Newcombe, Hilary Webb, Dean Neaves, Fraser Cook

Other roles for new committee members will be decided as required at the next committee meeting.

3. Minutes from the AGM and matters arising

The minutes were agreed and signed.

Matters arising: There were no matters arising not being discussed later

4. Chairman's Report

This year has been a slightly challenging one for the club. Unfortunately, not for the same reason as last year when we had unbroken good weather. Projects and initiatives at the club hit stumbling blocks but that will not stop us. More details on these to come!

The Junior section has had another good year. More on this later from Howie.

The adult section has once again reduced in number slightly but this does not seem to have been reflected on court. Club sessions, tournaments and Fast4 leagues all continue to be well supported. Unfortunately, the adult coaching sessions were not successful this year. After only being able to get a coach to run them in the afternoon they were not very

well attended. We are trying to address this and arrange them for a Monday evening again next season. We will get information out as soon as we know more.

The (relatively) new Seniors section continues to be a success from what I hear. A number of the Seniors (such as Merril Windle) have asked me to convey their gratitude for the creation of this section, allowing them to extend their tennis 'life'.

The round-up of Team information I shall leave to Vernon later in the meeting.

The Fast4 leagues (once again run by Jon Rabbett) have been another success this year, with participation from a large number of the members. This includes three of the Student (formerly) junior members who are progressing well. The Fast4 will continue through the winter but with a more informal structure of just one league and the ability to challenge anyone.

We have had a number of tournaments again this year, as well as a couple of enjoyable BBQs afterwards. These have been well attended and very enjoyable tennis played. The list of dates for next year's tournaments will be published as early as possible next year.

Our courts and setting are in good condition but, as mentioned in past years, the surface is coming to the end of its anticipated lifespan. Discussions have started with a couple of companies to look at options and potential costs. We will keep the members updated but it is unlikely to commence for another two years at least. On an ongoing basis we would benefit from having someone that would take on the role of maintenance. It is not an onerous one given the size of the area involved, however, it is one that is appreciated by everyone.

The Floodlights Project did get rejuvenated this year with the sub-committee optimistic of something happening this year. However, following technical discussions with the appointed installation company it was discovered there were problems with the original design. These were primarily around drainage and tree roots, as well as the potential inability to gain planning permission on the proposed height of the lights. We are now looking at the potential of having to dig up parts of the courts and therefore may be amalgamating the Floodlight Project with the new court surface to ensure the least disruption to the members.

I would like to thank all my fellow committee members for all their hard work over the year. In particular mention of the new committee members; it's not as much work as you thought it might be! I'm very aware that everyone has different levels of time they can devote to the club but everyone's opinions and ideas are invaluable to ensure we continue to thrive as a club. On that basis we would welcome anyone to put their name forward to be on the committee.

Before I complete my roundup, I have to announce that after many years of excellent service to the club, Brian has announced that he is stepping down from the committee. Brian has been a member for over 60 years (we believe from the inception of the club). He has seen and overseen many changes to the club over his time at the club but feels

that now is an appropriate time to step down and let the younger members help take the club forward. We all thank him for his help and devotion to the club. Unfortunately, he is not able to be here tonight but we will pass on all of our best wishes and our gratitude to him at the appropriate time.

There were no questions about this report

#### 5) Treasurer's report

A copy of the year's accounts was circulated to all present – see copy attached  
Michael was unfortunately not able to attend, so Chris read out some notes on his behalf.

- a) Subs have increased significantly. Although member numbers are slightly down so far this year, the number of members we had joining late last season and the breakdown of membership types resulted in an increase of over 10%.
- b) Maintenance costs are significantly more this year as we have the court surface deep cleaned as we do every 4 years. It is anticipated that we will not have this done on the current courts again as they will be replaced within the next 4 years.
- c) Advertising costs were for the double page spread in the Hemingfords' Directory
- d) Sundry expenses are significantly more this year due to:
  - a. needing to replace one of our Trophies (Primett Cup) and purchase a new one (more details on this at the End of Season Dinner)
  - b. Committee Retirement gifts (last year and this)
- e) There is no interest on the club's savings this year following the closure of Norwich and Peterborough. We are currently looking in to options.

There were no questions about this report.

#### Membership Fees

The committee would like to propose that membership fees should increase by approx. 10%. There are two main reasons behind this increase

- Following Chris' explanation of where we are with the Floodlights Project, and the previously discussed need to replace the court surfaces in the near future, it is imperative that we build up a fund so that these projects can be completed simultaneously. The estimated cost is approximately £75,000 but there is substantial work to be carried out to make these accurate quotes. It is anticipated that we will apply for (and hopefully receive) grants but we must be seen to have a substantial proportion of the funds ourselves.
- After 7 years of providing free coaching the volunteer coaches will be proposing next year that we employ a professional coach for a small part of the summer. This will obviously increase the costs to the club. Having said this the £50 junior subs still represent exceptional value as this works out at less than £3 per weekly coaching sessions (plus tournaments) and free membership.

The proposed new fees are:

Family membership	£250
Senior member	£125
Student member	£65
Senior member	£62.50
Junior (up to and including school year 7)	£50

Parent member (to play solely with child)	£20
Trial member (3 months)	£50
Visitors (maximum 3 times/year)	£5

George asked what grants are available to help with the lights/court resurfacing. Chris explained there are national and local grants eg the A14 legacy fund, LTA, but all would require obtaining planning permission first. We would like to get 50% of the required funds in grants.

Helen suggested that we should keep the trial membership at £45 and raise the parent with child membership. There are very small numbers of each category and most parents join after the first year, so after discussion it was decided to keep the trial membership at £45.

It was generally agreed that membership was good value for what we offer. (It may be necessary, but hopefully not, to increase prices when we get floodlights), so the increases were proposed by Vernon and seconded by Jacqui, and agreed.

#### 6) Captain's Report

Vernon reported that the teams had had a great season:

	Won	Drawn	Lost			Captain
Mixed A – Div 2	6	1	0	1 <sup>st</sup>	Promoted	Howie & Helen
Mixed B – Div 4	6	1	0	1 <sup>st</sup>	Promoted	Jon
Mixed C – Div 5	5	0	1	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Promoted	Chris
Ladies A – Div 3	5	1	0	1 <sup>st</sup>	Promoted	Helen
Ladies B – Div 4	3	0	3	4 <sup>th</sup>		Helen
Mens A – Div 2	4	1	2	3 <sup>rd</sup>		Howie
Mens B – Div 4	8	0	0	1 <sup>st</sup>	Promoted	Jon
Mens C - Div 4	6	0	2	3 <sup>rd</sup>	*	Chris

Thanks were given to all captains, and especially to Helen for running both ladies' teams, and also to all players. 33 different people played for the teams, including some new members.

\*Mens C missed out on promotion by countback on number of games.

Vernon reported that he is waiting to hear how they determine the award for top club. If it is based on the number of points, then we are top, equal with John Lloyd, and we are waiting to hear how they separate teams drawn equal.

#### Don Brace Cup

We won the 1<sup>st</sup> round by a coin toss, the 2<sup>nd</sup> by a walkover and lost in the semis to David Lloyd

#### Player of the Year

Jon has again recorded all league matches played and sets won. The winner will be announced at the club annual dinner

### Juniors' Report

Howie presented his report. It has been another good year, with 15 sessions of coaching, followed by 2 tournaments. Each session lasts 2 ½ hours in total, divided into 2 'sub-sessions' for primary and secondary school ages. There have been 50 children coached in all, with an average of 35 attending each week. The secondary section averaged an attendance of 11-15 with a maximum of 20. This was noted to be good considering the competition from other Saturday activities on offer, which particularly affects the girls who like to attend dance classes. It is proposed to investigate whether these older girls might be able to join in an early adult coaching session on Monday evenings. Helen is also encouraging them to play tennis at school.

All has been enjoyed by the children, coach and 6-7 helpers, who were given thanks. Howie requested that next season he has some help with the coaching as this is a huge voluntary commitment.

It is aimed to run all sessions in all weathers – the helpers are sometimes more keen than the children!

Some of the older juniors have become competent enough to join in the fast4, and some to play in the club teams including the 1<sup>st</sup> team. All are enjoying the competitive elements of the coaching.

Half a dozen are also being coached in Huntingdon.

Chris thanked Howie and all his helpers.

The Junior award was presented to Will Neaves

### 5. Written In Agenda

There were no items

### 6. Any Other Business

- a) There was a query regarding entering the Wimbledon draw
- b) George added his thanks to Merrill's comments regarding the success of the Seniors section. All 3 courts are in use most weeks, with 17 senior members and some 'youngsters' joining in. Some weeks see over 20 members on court. Chris thanked George for persuading the club to introduce this new membership category

### 2019 Trophy Winners

Thomas Cup	Harrison Kemp
Mike Hale Cup	Chip Wood & Mel Davies
Primett Cup	Liz Miller & David Johns
Allington Cup	Babs Moore & James Stevens
Bergen Trophy (Ladies Rose Bowl)	Liz Miller & Linda Dingle
Junior Trophy	Will Neaves
Stella Trophy	Chris Young & Vernon Reuter
Winter Shield	<i>To be decided</i>