

HEMINGFORDS TENNIS CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY October 19TH 2017 7.30pm

Chris Page Room, Hemingford Pavilion

Present Chris Young, Andrew Hawkins, Brian Marshall, Liz Miller, Brenda Turner, Michael Beardall, Linda Dingle, Howie Pether, Alistair Allen, Vernon Reuter, Helena Champion, Edward Byam-Cook, Mary Byam-Cook, Jacqui Newcombe, Jon Rabbett, Mel Davies, Alun Jones, Bruce Hanworth, Norma Jackson, George Jackson, Janet Boyes, Philip Boyes, Tony Barabas, Alex Ensor, Dave Ensor

1. Apologies for Absence

Merril Windle, Kath Marshall, Mandy Reuter, Bradley Young

2. Election of Officers

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

Chair	Chris Young
Secretary	Liz Miller
Treasurer	Michael Beardall
Membership Secretary	Brenda Turner
Junior Coach	Howie Pether
Publicity Officer	Vernon Reuter
Committee	Linda Dingle, Brian Marshall, Jon Rabbett

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

It has been an interesting year. There have not been any major changes but there have been some smaller ones and a number of intentions for the coming years identified.

I will start, as usual, with the junior section, the future of the club. Once again, the number of juniors in the club has increased, despite losing almost 25% of last year's members mainly due to moving up to senior schools and the increased demands on their time. The increase in junior members is not just due to the junior coaching we provide, although that significantly helps, but also the continued interest in tennis and the desire in the village for children to play sport and socialise. Once again, thanks must go to Howie and all his assistants for all their hard work with the coaching. It must also be pointed out that the flow from juniors to our teams is continuing with some of them making significant progress up the ranks.

Our senior section has also increased in numbers, in particular gaining a few younger members whose fitness levels and enthusiasm to learn are showing some of us up. However, we are slightly down on lady members from where we would like to be. Having said this, thanks to Vernon's hard work in organising adult member coaching, initially only offered to ladies but later opened to everyone, this has subsequently increased the number of ladies we have in the club. We intend to continue the coaching courses next year and will try to add to the quantity and levels. More details next year.

Our teams have had a mixed season. After being demoted from division 1 last year the Mixed A team have bounced straight back up this year by winning division 2. The Mixed B team were also demoted last year (from division 2) but have bounced back this year. Unfortunately they didn't win their division but only on a countback of games won. The Mixed C team held their ground in division 4 after being promoted last year, finishing mid table.

With a couple of key ladies missing from the A team this year they unfortunately finished bottom of division 1. However, I know they are looking forward to next year and proving themselves in Division 2. The Ladies B team once again had a very difficult season getting the players they needed and finished mid table in Division 4. However, thanks in part to the adult coaching, we do have some new ladies coming through the ranks and we believe the ladies will come back strongly in the not too distant future.

The Mens A team finished mid table in Division 2, although it was running a little tight towards the end of the season. The Mens B team didn't quite have the same finish to the season and so were demoted, finishing bottom of Division 3. Confusion has ensued in the Mens teams thanks to the Mens C team having a truly outstanding season and finishing top of division 4, and swapping places with the B team. After a late minute decision we also managed to enter a Mens D team this year. With a mixed bag of results they achieved a mid-table finish in division 5. This gives us a great chance to allow many different men to play in the team and gain match experience. Thank you must be said to all the team captains, and their deputies, for all their hard work organising teams and making sure the matches go ahead.

All of this team success has been aided by the new Fast4 leagues, set up and run by Vernon. Thanks to his initiative we have been able to grow the competitive instincts of a number of our members, ensure courts are used a lot more and offer singles play that is not always available. We envisage this will continue over the winter and in to summer next year.

Our courts and setting are in good condition. However, 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.

Once again, we have had a number of tournaments this year, as well as a couple of enjoyable BBQs afterwards. We intend to continue the list of tournaments and BBQs next year. However, as some were less well attended than others we are reviewing the list

and format of some of the tournaments. The list and dates will be published as early as possible next year so that we can get as many attendees as possible.

I ought to mention that the lights project is still ongoing and we will keep members updated as and when stages are achieved. We have also started looking at the not too distant need to replace our court surface. Both of these projects will require substantial funding and so plans are afoot on this subject as well.

Finally, I would like to thank all my fellow committee members for all their hard work over the year. Everything we have in place gives us a good grounding for the years to come.

Finally, finally, after many years of doing a sterling job running all the teams as club captain Brian has decided to stand down this year. Although I have only been involved with the club for a few years Brian's contribution has been invaluable. I'm sure those of you who have been involved with the club for longer will have more stories and agree with this sentiment. Thankfully, Brian has agreed to stay on as a member of the committee for a little longer so we can all benefit from his vast experience.

5. Treasurers Report

- a) Michael presented the accounts, and pointed out that expenditure was very similar to last year. Overall there was a profit of approximately £3,000 to add to £20,000 already in the bank accounts. This will be needed in the future for court resurfacing which will be needed in about 5 years time (A quote of £50k has been given for this) and possible lighting (Quotes of £20k – 25k obtained). It is hoped to obtain grants to help towards these costs.

There were no questions from the floor on the accounts.

b) New Membership Category

Chris introduced a discussion on the introduction of a new membership category.

The committee had put forward the proposal that *“An additional category of membership is added to the Club’s existing range, “Off Peak Member”. The cost of this membership would be an annual subscription benefitting from a 25% reduction on the adult subscription. Members of this category would be able to use the courts and clubhouse facilities on weekdays only (except Bank Holidays) before 3.00pm, would not be able to participate in club sessions or club tournaments or events and would not be able to vote at the AGM. They would, however, be able to enter their name in to the Wimbledon ballot providing all other criteria are met.*

All other membership will be classed as full, non time restrictive, membership.

This category will be run for a trial period of one year, and then reviewed as to whether it is beneficial to the club and its membership.”

A counter proposal was put forward by George Jackson: *“An additional category of membership is added to the Club’s existing range, ie “Senior Member”, annual subscription being half the adult subscription. Senior Members (60+) would be able to use the courts and clubhouse facilities on weekdays only, except Bank Holidays, between 9.00am and 3.00pm.”*

George introduced his proposal by saying that this originated from his success in starting a daytime Tuesday session for (mainly) retired members, who had started by using the 3 month trial membership category, which Chris had allowed them to extend

to cover the whole year, on the initial understanding that these members would become full members after that should they wish to continue playing. George had statistics to argue that many of these players would only rejoin if they paid 50% of the membership fee as many would not play very often either due to injury, illness or some other reason. There followed a lengthy debate on the issues involved, including whether the new category should be an off-peak membership or open to seniors only. If the later, what age should this be for, and what would be the appropriate reduction in fee. Everyone agreed with the principle of encouraging everyone, of all ages to play tennis at times that suited them. The main issue was the subscription amount, which would be either a 50% or a 25% reduction – a difference of £25 per annum. Votes were eventually passed on different aspects of the debate. Firstly it was voted to use the new category for seniors, not off-peak for anyone.

Secondly, it was voted that the category would apply to members of 65 years plus.

Thirdly, the vote was carried that the discount would be 50% of the full membership.

It was also agreed that play could be until 3.30pm each weekday excluding bank holidays.

George confirmed that he would do some publicity around the villages to promote this to more people. Chris confirmed that this was a trial for 1 year, to be reviewed next year. This will start from next April. Anyone wishing to join over the winter can do so for the trial membership fee of £35.

6. Membership Fees

The committee proposed that membership fees should increase by 5% plus rounding, with the exception of Junior fees which should increase to £40 because of the added value of included coaching.

New fees would be:

Senior member	£105
Student member	£55
Junior (up to and including school year 7)	£40
Parent member (to play solely with child)	£20
Family membership	£210
Trial member (3 months)	£40
Visitors (maximum 3 times/year)	£5

These were proposed by Brian Marshall and seconded by Michael Beardall and agreed.

7. Captain's Report

Brian has resigned as club captain and Vernon has agreed to take this role on. Brian was presented with a book on the History of Wimbledon as a token of thanks for the very many years of hard work he has spent being club captain.

Player of the Year

Jon has again recorded all league matches played and sets won. In 3rd place was Mandy Reuter (played 7 matches and won 21/28 sets). 2nd place was David Johns (8 matches played, won 24/32 sets) and the winner was Kira Reuter (4 matches played,

won 15/16 sets). She will be presented with a prize later.

8. Juniors' Report

Howie reported that this was the 5th year of coaching, which has become stronger every year. Due to the high demand, intake had to be restricted this year. There are 2 sessions for 5-9 year olds and 10-13 year olds. There has been an average of 40 children per week, ranging from 22 to 48)

Howie thanked his team of helpers for their very valuable support which is given for free, especially Jon, Tony, Vernon and Chris.

This year has been the most rewarding seeing the progression over 5 years of many children, whose standard of play is now very good. It is good for the community, village and club.

We now have 80 junior members (this was a single digit number before the introduction of coaching) and the aim is to keep them playing into adulthood.

Thanks were given to Howie and his team.

9. Written In Agenda

There were no items

10. Any Other Business

Dave Ensor thanked all members of the club he had met so far for making him and his family so welcome.

2016 Trophy Winners

Thomas Cup	Howie Pether
Mike Hale Cup	Alex Ensor & Paul Smith
Primett Cup	Babs Moore & Chris Young
Allington Cup	Liz Miller & Chris Firth
Bergen Trophy (Ladies Rose Bowl)	Jackie Newcombe & Bridget Flanagan
Junior Trophy	Alex Beardall
Stella Trophy	Tony Barabas & Bradley Young
Winter Shield	Vernon Reuter