

HEMINGFORDS TENNIS CLUB  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday October 21<sup>st</sup> 2020 at 7.30pm  
On Zoom

Present: Chris Young, Liz Miller, Dean Neaves, Vernon Reuter, Linda Dingle, Fraser Cook, Hilary Webb, Jon Rabbett, Howie Pether, Helen Kemp, Brenda Turner, Sue Henderson, Mike Hardwicke, Brian Marshall

1. Apologies for absence: Bridget Flanagan, Babs Moore, Jacqui Newcombe, Merril Windle

2. Election of Officers

All committee members are happy to be re-elected. The following were therefore proposed by Vernon Reuter and seconded by Linda Dingle, and were duly elected:

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

3. Minutes from the 2019 AGM and matters arising

The minutes were agreed and signed by the secretary on behalf of the Chairman  
There were no matters arising

4. Chairman's report

This year has been an incredibly challenging one for the club and all of our members in many different ways. I would like to say thank you to members for bearing with the club and abiding by the guidelines set out by the LTA and adopted by the club. I believe we have all enjoyed a good season of tennis, albeit not quite the sociable one we all enjoy. On that note I must say a huge thank you to John Mitchley and the Sports and Social Club for managing to open the bar under very trying circumstances and making it as enjoyable as it was.

Despite the country being in lockdown and few sports able to go ahead, the club has had a considerable increase in members going from 177 to 205. The knock-on effect of this being that the courts have been very well used this year at all times of the day. For this reason, the decision has been taken to reduce the number of courts used for all club sessions from 3 to 2. This means that any member can use the third court during club sessions.

There have been suggestions that we should introduce a booking system for the courts. However, it has been decided that we will defer that decision until next year as this year has been an exceptional year. We will be setting up a web cam so that all members can see live snapshots of the court usage and if there is a queue to use the courts. This is a low-resolution camera and so no detail can be seen for safeguarding reasons.

The Junior section coaching did not go ahead this year, but we are planning for next year. Unfortunately, we did not have any adult coaching either but, again, are planning for next year.

We have had some confusion with the Senior membership this year and so a decision has been made to convert this into an Off-Peak membership. The fee will stay the same and there will still be a club session on a Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 11:30.

The Fast4 leagues were able to go ahead and have been another success this year, with participation from a very large number of the members. Thanks to Jon Rabbett for his continued excellent organizing of this.

We have been able to hold all of our tournaments again this year, albeit crammed into the back end of the summer. Unfortunately, we were not able to hold our usually highly enjoyable BBQs after. The tournaments were very well attended (possibly because there was little else to do!) and very enjoyable tennis played. The list of dates for next year's tournaments will be published as early as possible next year but will obviously be subject to Covid not cancelling them again!

The Floodlights Project and resurfacing projects are ongoing. I will update the membership with any news as soon as I have some.

Once again, I would like to thank all my fellow committee members for all their hard work over the year. It has been a tough year and their commitment to the club and enthusiasm has been excellent.

#### Questions on Chairman's report

- a. Vernon queried whether the committee had decided that Thursday club night and Sunday club afternoon should only have priority over 2 courts. It was agreed that this had only been agreed for the Tuesday morning session.
- b. Liz commented that, despite notices around the courts and numerous email reminders, members were still not signing in for Track & Trace, and suggested that we could investigate getting a QR code for the gate. It was agreed to investigate this.

5. Treasurers report - a copy of the accounts had been posted on the club website for all to read (see attached) and the report was presented by Chris in Michael's absence

1. Subs received were substantially increased from last year due to more adults and fewer juniors
2. LTA refunded our affiliation fee because of Covid
3. Healthy amount of visitor fees
4. Bought new nets for use in the winter, in order to preserve the good nets for summer play.
5. Halved the amount of tennis balls bought compared with normal years
6. Advertising expenses are website & cards
7. Sundry expenses were predominantly trophies and engraving
8. This culminated in club 'profit' increasing from £3,000 to £10,000

The committee proposed that membership fees should remain at the same. This was proposed by Vernon Reuter and seconded by Linda Dingle and was agreed.

Questions about the report:

- a. It was asked what funds the club has. There are £42,000 in the bank. The cost of resurfacing the courts will be about £50,000 and floodlights about £25,000. This means the club will easily be able to fund half of these costs in order to qualify for grants for the balance of the costs.

## 6. Captain's report

Unfortunately, all Huntingdon & Peterborough league and cup matches were cancelled, but the club was able to cram in all our internal club tournaments once the full lockdown restrictions were lifted in June, as well as run a one off Covid Doubles Tournament.

The Covid Doubles Tournament ran through the summer and was open to all players. 27 pairs entered and the knock out format included a plate for 1<sup>st</sup> round losers and Bowl for 2<sup>nd</sup> round losers. The Plate was won by Simon Joyce & Mike Jordan beating Linda Dingle & Bridgit Flanagan, The Bowl was won by Alun Jones and Fraser Cook beating Matt & Becca Pluke, and the Covid Cup was won by Mel Davies & James Stevens beating Harrison Kemp & Howie Pether. Note Mel & James were beaten in the semi- final by Kira & Vernon Reuter who were unable to play in the final.

The Primett Cup on 25 July had a record 22 entrants. Congratulations to Chris Young and Lin Bell who beat Lucy Godfrey and David Johns 12-10 in final match tiebreak.

The Stella Tournament was on 1<sup>st</sup> August. This year's tournament was delayed but was thoroughly enjoyed by the record number of members that were able (and willing) to participate. The traditional quantity of Stella (lager and cider) was consumed, thus slightly (!) reducing some of the quality of the tennis. Nonetheless the tennis was competitive and fun. The final was contested between Jeremy Hyde & Bradley Young and Bill Beadles & Tony Barabas, with Bill & Tony coming out victorious. After an evening meal of fish & chips for everyone, some enjoyable fun tennis erupted of a much more light hearted nature.

The Thomas Cup was on 8 August. James Stevens beat Derds (Martin Thackray!) in his final group match to get to the final unbeaten. As did Howie Pether, beating Nigel Piper. James then won 7-6 (7-5) in a great match to take the trophy.

The Bergen Trophy was on 15 August. Twelve ladies paired up to contest this year's trophy. A good number, meaning that there was no-one sitting out each round. Following the completion of three rounds the heavens opened and the rain forced the end of the tournament. It was decided this was enough to warrant Helen Kemp and Louisa Sedgemore being tournament winners as they were undefeated.

Mike Hale Trophy on 22 August

Allington Trophy 30 August won by Helen & Harrison Kemp

Vernon thanked all members for taking part. There have been more entrants than ever before.

## 7. Junior's report

Covid has hit the junior section more than any group this year with us having to cancel the Saturday morning coaching programme. Cancelling the coaching unfortunately led to a significant drop in junior membership. Juniors as part of family membership have continued to play throughout the year and we have had 3 of our 13+ juniors play in the fast4 leagues for some competitive singles.

In early 2021 we will get back in contact with the 2019 Juniors and look to reinvigorate their passion for tennis with a mix of coaching and fun tournaments.

We have some new members interested in supporting the junior coaching and potentially gaining some LTA coaching qualifications. This will help ensure we can maintain the positive momentum we have built up.

## 8 Written in agenda

There were no items

## 9 Any Other Business

- a. Helen reported that, as the club safeguarding officer, she had had an LTA visit. We need to upgrade some of our safeguarding provision, but having a locked facility has helped with some issues. She will sort these out over half term – these include:
  - \*discuss with Howie his DBS
  - \*with Chris, adding a special link onto the website for relevant policies
  - \*has asked Linda to be her reserve officer, and will include her name on poster in the clubhouse
  - \*send email to club members with information

It was asked if we have experienced any safeguarding issues, which would only have been since the club introduced coaching; we have had none. The LTA has stepped up its help for coaches and Howie did an extra training session last year. The LTA have mainly had problems with young male coaches on social media with teenage girls, which is not applicable to us. It also helps that we usually have a number of parents present at coaching sessions.

If we employ an adult coach in future, we need to check their credentials and know where these are held. If we employ a level 3 coach, they will need to be accredited and we need to put a record of this on the club website.

- b. The meeting closed with Vernon offering a big vote of thanks on behalf of all members to Chris for all the extra work he has put into the club this year because of Covid 19.

### **2020 Trophy Winners**

Thomas Cup	James Stevens
Mike Hale Cup	Harrison Kemp and Brendan Synge
Primett Cup	Lin Bell & Chris Young
Allington Cup	Helen Kemp and Harrison Kemp
Bergen Trophy (Ladies Rose Bowl)	Louisa Sedgemore and Helen Kemp
Junior Trophy	Not awarded
Stella Trophy	Tony Barabas and Bill Beadles
Winter Shield	Not awarded
Covid doubles Trophy	Mel Davies & James Stevens
Bowl	Fraser Cook & Alun Jones
Plate	Mike Jordan & Simon Joyce