

HEMINGFORDS TENNIS CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday October 17TH 2018 7.30pm
Chris Page Room, Hemingford Pavilion

Present Chris Young, Brian Marshall, Kath Marshall, Liz Miller, Brenda Turner, Michael Beardall, Linda Dingle, Vernon Reuter, Edward Byam-Cook, Jacqui Newcombe, Chris Newcombe, Mel Davies, Alun Jones, Norma Jackson, George Jackson, Janet Boyes, Philip Boyes, Hilary Webb, Sue Henderson, Gail Jones, Paula Burghope, Dean Neaves, Fraser Cook, Robin Waters

1. Apologies for Absence

Jon Rabbett, Howie Pether, Merrill Windle, Catherine Turner, Mandy Reuter, Mary Byam Cook

2. Election of Officers

Jacqui Newcombe, Hilary Webb, Dean Neaves and Fraser Cook have all agreed to join the committee. Brenda has handed in her resignation. The rest of the committee were happy to stand again.

The following were therefore duly proposed by Edward Byam Cooke 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, Brian Marshall, 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 2017 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

I have to say, I believe we have had a good year. Helped in no small part by the wonderful weather allowing us to play tennis throughout the summer.

I would start, as is tradition, with the junior section. However, I will break with tradition and resist stealing Howie's thunder and let him present his report.

Instead I will start with our new senior section for the over 65s. This has been a success with the Tuesday session having a significant number of regular players (thanks to George for organising), but also the sessions on a Thursday and Friday morning (unfortunately I'm not sure who is organising these). These are not limited to just the Senior members and are boosted by Adult members that are able to join them. The decision needs to be ratified at the next committee meeting

but I believe the Tuesday morning session will be formalised for coming seasons following the review we said we would have at the onset last year.

Our adult section has reduced in numbers following the introduction of the Senior membership last year, but not significantly. The Adult coaching has been another success and will continue next year, however, the format may change slightly. More information will be distributed early next year.

Once again, I will break with tradition and will leave the teams' roundup to Vernon.

The Fast4 leagues, run by Jon this year, continue to be a huge success. We have had 6 leagues of 5 or 6 players this summer with some good matches being played. It is intended this will continue over the winter with the number of leagues reduced and played over two months rather than one.

Our courts and setting are in good condition, although there was a slight issue with sand after the last deep clean. There is a complete deep clean scheduled in March next year and we will make sure the courts are left as we require. 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.

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.

I ought to mention that the lights project is still on going and we will keep members updated as and when stages are achieved. However, we are making significant progress now that Derds (Martin Thackray) has taken the reins with great enthusiasm.

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.

Before I complete this roundup, I have to announce that after many years of excellent service to the club, Brenda has announced that she is stepping down from the committee. Brenda has overseen many changes to the club over her time on the committee and I hope she believes she is leaving it in safe hands for the future. We all thank her for her help and devotion to the club. (Brenda was given a gift of appreciation)

There followed some questions/points made:

- a) George asked for the definition of the Tuesday session – this is to be for all adult members, but no juniors
- b) Sue Henderson expressed her thanks on behalf of the new category of membership for the opportunity to have their sessions, as well as the coaching sessions run by Ollie. This was seconded by Norma Jackson. The committee thanked George for his original suggestion.
- c) Norma requested that newer members' emails be added to the coaching list. Members were informed that from next year the coaching team will ensure that all those interested will be contacted regarding joining the coaching sessions.
- d) Edward Byam-Cook expressed concern about the amount of sand on the far court. Chris explained the actions taken this year to try to overcome this issue and reiterated that the contractors would be closely monitored next year when the deep clean of the courts is undertaken.
- e) In response to Robin Waters query, it was confirmed that the official Tuesday session time would be 9.30 – 1130am.

- f) George requested confirmation that the new membership category would continue. Chris replied that although it had not been as financially beneficial as predicted, it had otherwise been a great success and would therefore continue.

5. Treasurers Report

- a) Michael presented the accounts, attached. He reported that subs have marginally increased, income from coaching was about the same as last year, and overall the club had broken even on coaching. Expenditure had decreased on last year which is due to lower maintenance costs. He is looking into ways to increase the interest accrued on the club's savings.
- b) In answer to questions, it was confirmed that visitors fees amounted to about £30/40 and are included in with subs; advertising costs were for the double page spread in the Hemingfords' Directory and printing posters etc; the coaching grant was from the LTA as the previous year, but that it is unlikely we will obtain this for a third time next year.

Membership Fees

The committee proposed that membership fees should increase by 10% plus rounding. Although the feeling was that Junior fees are very cheap, especially as they include weekly coaching over the summer, there was a reluctance to put these up by more.

New fees would be:

Family membership	£230
Senior member	£115
Student member	£60
Senior member	£57.50
Junior (up to and including school year 7)	£45
Parent member (to play solely with child)	£20
Trial member (3 months)	£45
Visitors (maximum 3 times/year)	£5

The following points were discussed:

- a) Sue requested an extension to the playing time for Senior members, especially as the hot weather had prohibited play during many afternoons last summer. After some debate, it was agreed that the committee will discuss this at their next meeting but it was unlikely to be extended.
- b) The 10% increase was confirmed to help pay for the eventual cost of putting in lights (estimated cost around £30,000) and resurfacing of the courts (estimate approx £50,000), although it is hoped to also get grants to help with these costs. Linda explained that the LTA may look at whether a club's subs were increasing when considering how much grant to give.
- c) Mel suggested stopping the family membership. It was agreed to continue this as it encourages juniors to play or parents if their children play.
- d) Brenda explained, mainly for the benefit of new members, that unlike some other clubs, we have to pay rent, maintenance and other costs, and that this makes it difficult to compare our subs with theirs.
- e) Chris said that both membership numbers, and therefore income, were increasing which is good.
- f) The current carpet surface was paid in part for by a grant of about £10,000. In the past members have also lent money to the club over a long period of time eg membership fees have been paid 3 years up front. It may be necessary to look elsewhere than the LTA for grants to avoid their stipulations. There was a consensus that knowing some of the history of the club's finances made members appreciate that they are good value.

These new subs were proposed by Brian Marshall and seconded by Vernon Reuter and agreed.

6. Captain's Report

Vernon reported that the teams had had been a tough season with a mixed bag of results.

	Won	Drawn	Lost		
Mixed A – Div 1	1	0	6	7 th	Relegated
Mixed B – Div 3	1	2	4	8 th	Relegated
Mixed C – Div 4	1	1	5	7 th	Relegated
Ladies A – Div 2	0	4	3	7 th	Relegated
Ladies B – Div 4	2	0	6	8 th	
Mens A – Div 2	3	1	3	4 th	
Mens B – Div 3	3	0	4	7 th	Relegated
Mens C - Div 4	3	1	2	4 th	
Mens D – Div 5	0	1	5	7 th	

Note: Mens B 3rd place down to 7th place covered by just one point with 3 teams on 6 points so lost on set won/lost.

On a more positive note it was great to see junior players coming through with Harrison playing in Mens A, Dougie in Mens B and Alex in Mens C.

Great performance by Mens A to finish 4th in a tough league

Well done to all who played!

It was also noted that there are a couple of girls close to being able to play in the ladies teams. Jacqui made a vote of thanks to Helen for all her hard work as captain of the ladies' teams.

Robin asked if there were senior leagues that could be entered. There is one in Cambridge.

Player of the Year

Jon has again recorded all league matches played and sets won.

He would like to suggest a higher threshold for number of matches to qualify for next year to 5 (currently 3), considering the number of matches and teams – this year there were 10 members with more than 10 matches played, so he doesn't think 5 is unreasonable.

The winning partnerships were:

Mens – Alex Ensor & Vernon Reuter (4 matches, 69% sets won)

Ladies – Helen Kemp & Babs Moore (5 matches, 55%)

Mixed – Chris Young & Linda Dingle (6 matches, 50%)

The top individuals were:

Susie Wood 55%, Catherine Turner 58%, with the winner being Vernon Reuter 59%

7. Juniors' Report

This year saw us expand the junior program to having three separate consecutive sessions over 17 Saturday mornings with only two sessions rearranged. Average overall attendance of 40 kids each week.

- Red ball 8 and under. This group were a great bunch this year with the older ones very ready to step up to the orange group next year. The group size range was consistent at 12-16 throughout.
- Orange/ Green ball 9-10. This group is the smallest 6-12 kids who've all been with us for a number of years. Excellent progress by all players with the season ending tournament producing some great matches. Alex Beardall came out on top with some crunching forehands but was pushed all the way by Rupert Thackray and Kyden Currell. Emily was the star girl performer winning a great match with Kyden and demonstrating with panache her attacking drive volleys fresh from the previous weeks coaching.
- Yellow ball 11-14. This is the largest group with 14-20 attending each week with one new player and everyone else continuing the programme for several years. This group are developing into fine players with an array of shots. Each session focuses on a specific teaching point and always ends with some group competitions that the kids love.

The Junior award went to Ollie Pether this year after working hard on his variety of shots and excelling in the 5 shot drill. He was pushed all the way by Lillie Harnett who again showed excellent improvement, Bertie Thackray, our end of season tournament winner and Peter Ranner.

The Saturday team who make it all happen deserve great thanks with Chris, Vern, Jon and Ben S the core team each week with some occasional guest appearances from other members to help out.

I'm still very enthusiastic about the positive impact the sessions have for the kids and for our club. It would be good if we could have another LTA trained junior coach to work with me to share the burden to free up a few weekends off through the summer not just for myself but to help spread it across all the coaching team. Something for the next committee meeting!

Linda offered a vote of thanks to Howie and the whole team for their big commitment and Michael offered thanks on behalf of all the parents.

8. Written In Agenda

There were no items

9. Any Other Business

Kath announced that all were welcome to attend the Hunts and Peterborough AGM on November 29th in Huntingdon, which would be a special meeting to remember Steve Splika who died earlier this year and had done so organizing the league.

2018 Trophy Winners

Thomas Cup	Mel Davies
Mike Hale Cup	Mel Davies & Patrick Cooney
Primett Cup	Bridget Flanagan & Bruce Hanworth
Stella Trophy	Howie Pether & Brendan Synge
Junior Trophy	Ollie Pether
Allington Cup	Helen Kemp & Harrison Kemp
Bergen Trophy (Ladies Rose Bowl)	Babs Moore & Mandy Reuter
Winter Shield	Helen Kemp