

HEMINGFORDS TENNIS CLUB
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday October 26th 2022 at 7.30pm
Chris Page Room, Hemingford Pavilion

Present: Chris Young, Liz Miller, Jon Rabbett, Dean Neaves, Vernon Reuter, Fraser Cook, Jacqui Newcombe, Linda Dingle, Bridget Flanagan, Tony Barabas

1. Apologies for absence: Hilary Webb, Howie Pether, Helen Kemp

2. Election of Officers

All committee members are happy to be re-elected. The following were therefore proposed by Tony and seconded by Bridget and were duly elected:

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

3. Minutes from the 2021 AGM and matters arising

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman
There were no matters arising

4. Chairman's report

The club has had a somewhat stable year now that we are coming out of the worst of the pandemic. Perhaps the most obvious change is that we have had a nearly 20% fall in membership compared the record high of last year, but that is still higher than pre-pandemic membership.

This fall in membership has meant that despite the courts being in regular use, there was very little (or any) waiting around to use a court. Therefore, with the continued benefit of the webcam, we will continue to defer the use of a booking system.

The junior section of the club continues to thrive with coaching numbers very similar to previous years. We will come on to the junior section report later but suffice to say thanks must go to the volunteer members that help run the section. However, it is becoming more evident that given we have to enlist an external coach to help out this year, that we may have to pay a junior coach next year, so we are looking at options with regard to this.

If we do go down the route of 'employing' (and I use the term under advisement) a coach, then we will be giving to consideration to other coaching within the club.

The potential additional need for coaching time is something else driving the need for floodlights. Again, we will come on to this later.

This year we have been able to get back to a full program of league and internal Fast4 singles matches. I believe it has been successful across the board for the teams, but more detail on this later. The Fast4 has had the majority of its matches played and was thoroughly enjoyed by all participants, so thanks again to Jon for organizing. I believe there may be some rule changes next year, but I will leave it to Jon to update all participants in the Spring.

The tournaments have been well attended again this year and enjoyed by all. Trophies were handed out at the end of each tournament, but they have now been engraved and those along with the season trophies, such as Player of the Year, will be handed out at Saturday's End of Season Dinner. The list of dates for next year's tournaments will be published as early as possible next. We also held the inaugural Dawn til Dusk event that went off without a hitch, with just a few drowned rats during the lunchtime cardio session. Congratulations to Vernon for a great job organizing it.

The Floodlights and Resurfacing Projects are ongoing. The resurfacing is very much dependent on the floodlights. I will leave it to Dean to update you on the Floodlights later.

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

5. Treasurer's report

Dean circulated the accounts (see attached) and highlighted a few points:

- a) The drop in subs is due to fewer members
- b) The lower maintenance costs were due to not having the annual court clean up, due to the hope that the courts will soon be resurfaced
- c) There were no advertising costs as the committee had decided there was no need for this this year. It is likely that there will be a need to do some next year.
- d) Overall there was a healthy annual profit of c£10k, meaning that the club now has c£63k in bank reserves, which should be enough to pay for the court resurfacing.

Subs for 2023

This is always a balancing act between not putting off membership and accruing enough to pay for long term expenses eg court resurfacing. As subs had been increased last year, the committee had decided not to propose any increase for next year. This was proposed by Vernon and seconded by Jacqui and passed unanimously.

6. Captain's report

Wow what a great summer of tennis!

Hemingford had a fantastic season this year with eight teams entered into the Hunts and Peterborough tennis leagues. In total we had 35 different players representing the club in the team matches!

Ladies A played 6, won 1, drew 1, lost 4 and finished 5th in Div 1. A great result as that's the first time I can remember them not being immediately relegated back down to Div 2. Special mention to Linda and Bridget who stepped up from the Ladies B and prevented us from defaulting which would have led to relegation!

Ladies B played 5, won 3, lost 2 and narrowly missed out on promotion by sets difference of just 2 finishing 3rd in Div 4.

Mens A played 6, won 2, lost 4 finished 4th in Div 1.

Mens B played 8, won 4, drew 1 lost 3 finished 4th in Div 2

Mens C played 8, won 2, lost 6 scraped in finishing 7th in Div 3

Mixed A played ,7 won 3, lost 4 finished 5th in Div 1

Mixed C played 6, won 3, lost 3 finished 3rd in Div 4

And huge congratulations to Mixed B!

Mixed B played 7 won 6 lost 1 finished CHAMPIONS of Div 3 and promoted to Div 2!

All of Mixed B take a bow:

Helen, Lin, Becca, Babs, Mandy, Kira, Piero, Jon, David, Matt, Vern

A huge Thank You to the team Captains, Helen (Mixed A, Ladies A & B), Jon (Mixed B & Mens B), Chris (Mixed C & Mens C), Howie (Mens A)

On the domestic scene we had some great club events and tournaments, and great to see some new participants and new winners!! – see end of report

And the Dawn to Dusk Jubilee Challenge, where despite horrendous weather we had continuous play on the courts from 4am to 9:30 pm!!

The day included a number of events: Junior Coaching, Cardio tennis, strawberry tea – thanks to those that supplied the lovely cakes, junior/senior red ball tournament, BBQ as well as individual matches. Thanks to all the player for making the event a success.

Congratulations and thanks to Ben Sedgemore and Jon Slater for stepping on court at 4am to kick us off, and to all those who joined the cardio tennis in the height of the storm!

The Fast 4 has continued to be well supported with around 25-30 players participating throughout the year. Many thanks to Jon for his excellent running of the F4 (again!) and to Harrison who went the whole year undefeated.

One area where the club hasn't been as well supported as previous years is Club sessions, where on Thursday evenings we've only averaged around 10 players. I'll be discussing this with the committee to see how we can encourage more players to come along.

Linda added that the Tuesday morning sessions were still running successfully and are well liked.

7. Junior's report

Chris gave the report on behalf of Howie.

- a) It has been another successful season. The numbers attending coaching were slightly down from about 40 to 30/35, but still worth doing. The children are enthusiastic, with the older ones now enjoying playing games and the younger ones hitting balls.
- b) The main concern is with a coach. Howie has been doing this for 10 years now, and is keen to step back from it, but no other member has come forward to volunteer to commit to the whole 15 weeks, so we may have to pay a professional – eg Rilla. The club will do its utmost to keep coaching free, which it will for 2023, but this may need to be reviewed for 2024.

- c) Dean commented that he had been to help at all the sessions this year and that it was noticeable how many of the kids have improved. He said this was a good reason for having floodlighting, so they could continue to play after school in eg darker Autumn evenings.

In response to a question, Dean reported that the younger age group numbers were smaller than last year, the 8-11 year olds' number was consistent to last year and that the secondary aged group had dropped off a bit.

It was suggested that juniors who had achieved a suitable playing level should be encouraged to join in club sessions.

8. Floodlights

Dean reported on the current situation:

- a) The committee had agreed there are several reasons for the club to have floodlights including the ability to provide more coaching eg outside working & school hours, for more play all year round and to ensure matches can always be completed. All other clubs in the area now have floodlights, and Cambs LTA agree that, as with other clubs with a membership of around 200, we should have them.
- b) Financing. As reported the club only has enough in the bank to pay for the court resurfacing (but may need more as costs are constantly increasing in the current economic situation), so the floodlights need other funding. This can only be done when we have planning permission, in place, but there are several options of grants and loans eg Sport England, LTA grant – although this comes with conditions attached. An increase in subs will never be able to fund all this, estimated to be £60-70k.
- c) The favourite option is a lighting spec from Luminous Pro. Fraser and Dean visited Rickmansworth who have recently installed these lights after themselves doing extensive comparisons of lights on the market, and they are also recommended by the Cambs LTA. They said that they were the best lights they had experienced playing under: no dazzle spots, virtually no light spillage (Rickmansworth clubhouse was about 5m away and not illuminated by them)
- d) There have been meetings with both the Pavilion Trustees and local neighbours at the end of August. The neighbours raised some queries and a feedback meeting is to be held soon to answer these.
- e) We therefore have a spec, and the draft planning application is ready to be submitted straight after this meeting.
- f) Bridget suggested that a similar information meeting should be held with the 2 local parish councils. Dean agreed and will arrange this. He also agreed that we have probably over accommodated the neighbours.
- g) Tony asked if the bowling club had considered floodlights. Apparently they don't want lights, or to be part of our application.
- h) The posts come in a variety of colours. We are likely to choose green.

Chris thanked Dean for all his work on this

9. Written in agenda

There were no items

10. Any Other Business

There was no other business

2022 Trophy Winners

Thomas Cup

Mike Hale Cup

Primett Cup

Allington Cup

Bergen Trophy (Ladies Rose Bowl)

Junior Trophy

Stella Trophy

Winter Shield

Harrison Kemp

Jeremy Hyde and Simon Joyce

Helen Kemp and Matt Pluke

Helen Kemp and Harrison Kemp

Sarah-Jane Hilton and Lynda Rennie

Chris Young and Howie Pether