

MINUTES OF THE BECKENHAM LAWN TENNIS CLUB AGM

SATURDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2016

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Gill Box-Grainger, Tom Simpson, Paul Mansfield, Rica Dearman, Sue Thomas, Graham Atkinson, Dermot McKibbin, Jean Hunter, Catherine Darby, Wendy Cole, Rae Anderson, Mus Kemal

2. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2015 AGM

Minutes Approved

3. MATTERS ARISING

None

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome to the 135th Tennis Section A.G.M. at Beckenham Cricket Club. Thank you to everybody for attending.

Membership

Our total membership has continued to grow, increasing to 303 adults and 150 juniors. The current adult total is an increase of 28 since the A.G.M. last year.

With the help of Bromley Pro-Active funding, our second year of support, in addition to LTA money as part of the Davis Cup legacy, the committee has been able to better promote the section's four Open Days this year. The website has also proven to be an effective tool to recruit and encourage new participants, not only to tennis but our 'sister' sections. With the help of Terry Benson, I intend to add 2-3 short video promos on the website.

I'd like to express my gratitude to all of the committee, but particularly to Maria and Rica, who have both been excellent membership secretaries, Alexia, who has provided tremendous support with Davis Cup legacy paperwork and junior coaching; and to Fraser, who has also played a crucial part in encouraging the newer members to play tennis.

By virtue of the section's growth, the LTA South East team have made Beckenham a Focus Club, and I hope with the LTA's backing via a clear, centralised strategic plan, the future is brighter.

Highlights

Some key highlights over the past 12 months include:

- The Court Booking System, supported by ClubSys, finally went live on 26 October last year
- The membership form was redesigned
- The way the committee communicates to members moved to Mail Chimp templates
- When the Royal Engineers undertook the bore hole work in March, a new cable for the floodlights was installed and the irrigation system, and bungalow sewerage system was finally isolated from the tennis floodlights.
- Beckenham has become a member of the ITF's Association of Centenary Tennis Clubs, which supports and promotes 70 of the world's most historic clubs globally

- Thank you to everyone who took part and helped fundraise in the tennis marathon (February), skydive (March) and on the 25 June coaching/social.
- A small grant application has been made for a rain shelter beside the two synthetic clay courts, and
- Six combination brush/drag nets, net measures and shoe brushes have been ordered. Delivery and assembly is expected next week.

Future Goals

As last year, the goal of the section remains to resurface the three macadam courts.

Early this year, the tennis committee met to consider the options of upgrading the existing macadam's, or for a new surface: synthetic grass or clay. With a vote of 13-1 in favour of synthetic clay (approx.. 78,000 pounds), the plan with to call an S.G.M. for the tennis membership to vote. However, the sinking fund, built up since April 2015 at 2,000 pounds per month, was used for unforeseen work to underpin the trophy bar – which was suspended literally by the foot rail – as part of the clubhouse renovations in December and January. The tennis committee had no control over this decision and the plan to resurface for August 2016 needed to be revised. To date, the sinking fund is at 24,000 pounds.

With more than 65,000 pounds in subscription income for 2014/15, which will grow in the 2015/16 accounts, I don't think it was unreasonable to ask that the income of 69 adult tennis members (24,000) be put into a sinking fund, particularly in light of the LTA's requirement for the Club to hold a minimum of 15,000 pounds per year for tennis section development work.

I would like to conclude my brief report by thanking:

- Every member of the Committee for all their hard work this year
- My Mum, Sue Buddell, for her oversight of the Tennis Account and Wimbledon Tickets Draw, ordering 36 dozen tennis balls every six weeks;
- Noel Gorvett and Steve Philpott for AMOSCA and BBS' support of the July and October junior tournaments
- Gary Eldridge and Don Sperring for their support and advice;
- John Pedevilla, Gary Eldridge, Peter Clegg and Sue Buddell for helping to organise tournaments and to Lizzie and Diane for organising the socials over the past year
- Chris Lamb, an unsung hero, for his dedication as fixtures secretary, and,
- Kate Ting as the organiser of the Saturday Tea Rota

Finally, I would like to thank Carole Fowler for all her contributions to making the tennis section stronger over the past 13 years. On behalf of the tennis membership, please accept this gift as a token of our appreciation. Also, I'd like to thank Peter Clegg for his support on his return to the committee over the past two years.

James Buddell
Chairman

5. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE

a. MEN'S AND MIXED CAPTAIN

Firstly, I would like to thank all the Captains for the past year, the time and effort that is put in by all of them is appreciated - I know it is a difficult task to do.

All teams performed well across the season, with Men's 2 reaching the Divisional Final played against Shooter's Hill on 3rd Sept.

We are looking forward to the Winter season, welcoming some new players, and hopefully coming away with some trophies!

Mus Kemal

Men's and Mixed Captain

b. LADIES CAPTAIN

As ever I would like to thank all the ladies who supported the teams over the past year and add a huge thank you to the captains, Catherine Darby, Kim Sahagian, Anke Bronius and Maria Chandler. My thanks also to Chris Lamb our Fixtures Secretary and Sue Buddell who ensures the courts are booked for each home match.

This year we have lost two of our stalwart lady players, Tracey Bunney and Michele Roberts. They have supported our top teams for many years and we will miss them.

WINTER RESULTS 2015-16

No teams were demoted and Ladies 3 came first in Division 7B, sadly lost in the play-off but are promoted to Division 6 this coming winter. Congratulations Anke and team.

Ladies Vets 1 lost their place in the top division despite valiant efforts by their captain Kim Sahagian who managed to field a full team each match, despite missing key players.

SUMMER RESULTS 2016

No finalists this time but all teams held their places in the divisions. Well done.

GENERAL

Our younger players continue to train hard together as teams, it's wonderful to see such enthusiasm, and I applaud their efforts and wish them luck for the coming year. I would also like to say a special welcome back to Jean Hunter. Jean played in successful Ladies and Mixed First teams when she was last a member at Beckenham and has already supported teams since re-joining us earlier this year.

Finally, with the exception of 2 years I have been on the Committee since 2002 covering social, membership and Ladies Captain. Today I am stepping down and would like to offer my continuing support to the next Lady Captain.

BTC offers the best club playing opportunities in the area; it does so with the efforts of your committee. Please continue to support it and continue to enjoy your tennis.

Carole Fowler

Ladies Captain

c. HON. JUNIOR SECRETARY

Over the last twelve months, we have developed our coaching offering for both juniors and adults.

1) Coaching Program

Juniors

We have managed to stabilise numbers on our courses. We are now running close to capacity on Saturdays and are looking to increase participation during the week.

Courses

We currently run 24 courses at the club in addition to after school offerings. Each course currently runs at a profit for the club.

We had a great summer season, and thanks to a link with a local school we were teaching close to 300 children per week at the club, as well as teaching another fifty plus pupils at our outreach pupils.

Camps

We continued our expansion of the tennis camp offering this year; running sessions from 10am-3pm on a daily basis from 3 to 5 hours. This worked very well again and our participation numbers were up on last year.

New Courses

In May we utilised a funding program from the LTA to run a number of free courses for under 8 players. From this we are able to create a successful two hour program on Sundays for juniors throughout the summer. We are continuing this in the Autumn term and now offer junior coaching seven days a week.

In addition we also ran a mid-week course with the adjacent pre-school. Whilst not as successful as the Sunday program we did attract a number of players who are continuing with the club this term.

Schools Programme

We have managed to attend a number of schools in the last year to offer free lessons. We usually aim to teach each pupil at the school, in small groups. We then follow this up by offering discounted lessons at the club.

We will be repeating this again this year with the aim of attracting as many juniors to the club as possible. In addition we also run after school clubs at three local schools where pupils are actively encouraged to attend courses at the club.

Marketing

We've continued using social media this year and now have over 400 people on our junior email database. We have been sending out a number of newsletters through the year and have seen this resulting in a number of enquires and bookings especially on our camp programs.

Teams

We had a good summer season with seven teams entered in the Kent League and we have entered six teams in the winter league.

We now have a clear pathway at the club for juniors to begin competing at under 8 level through to under 18's and beyond and a number of our juniors have either represented the club over the last 12 months at adult level or have entered in the club tournament, and ladder competition

Adult Coaching

Free Coaching

The coaching team has ensured that each new member was offered a minimum of a free 5 week taster course to introduce them to the basic shots and supplemented this by offering free coaching sessions on a Saturday. This has resulted in a number of new members being moved into regular club sessions with many others close to reaching the required standard.

Mondays/Saturdays

Our Monday night coaching groups for intermediate and more advanced players were both at capacity during the summer term, and the Saturday morning intermediate course is full.

During the summer we offered two subsidised 6 week courses for players currently representing the club. One session for our Ladies teams, and one for the men's teams. Unfortunately the numbers were too low for us to run the courses at that time.

As a coaching team, we are open to offer further programs for members and welcome suggestions. Please contact me directly if you have any ideas or suggestions on how we can improve the coaching offering.

2) Coaching Team

As always, I would like to thank the coaching team for the help in the last twelve months, in particular Tony Martin for his work on the junior program, and Peter Kiss for his work on the performance section.

Paul Horton, a level two coach, has been doing some great work with the juniors on Saturday and Sunday and we've had some great assistance during the year from our team of assistants. In particular, I would like to thank Alex Gorvett for his work last year.

3) Goals

The goal for the next 12 months will be to increase numbers on our junior programs. I am in talks with a number of local schools, and hope to offer some free sessions with the goal of feeding players onto the course.

For the adult section, I would be keen to offer more courses and welcome some feedback so we can put more classes in place.

Matt Brolly

Hon. Junior Secretary

d. FINANCE REPRESENTATIVE

Membership has increased from 275 adult members October 2015 to 303 members in Sept 2016.

Subscriptions to the end of August we £62,191; compared to £65,000 for the last full year.

The BBS junior competition (Oct 2015) had £820 in entry fees and £500 sponsorship and £510 costs so provided a £810 profit.

The Amosca junior competition (July 2016) had £1,416 entry fees plus £800 sponsorship and costs of £900 so provided a £1,316 profit.

Fundraising initiatives - the tennis marathon (February 2016), sky diving (March 2016) and 25th June coaching/social – totalled £4,240.

Bromley Pro-Active funding: £861.38 (assisted in attracting new members)

Tennis For Kids/Davis Cup Legacy Funding: £360 (five-week course for young children)

Tea Fund/Tennis Account: £10,500

Richard Moore

Finance Representative

e. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 1) Mus Kemal remains as Men's Captain – proposed by Gavin Simpson, seconded by John Norman
- 2) Ladies' Captain to be advised
- 3) Alexia Capsomidis remains as Hon. Tennis Secretary – proposed by Carole Fowler, seconded by Jane Gorvett
- 4) Matt Brolly remains as Hon. Junior Secretary – proposed by Charles Hiscox, seconded by Sue Buddell
- 5) Chris Lamb remains as Hon. Fixtures Secretary – proposed by Gary Eldridge, seconded by Angela Hughes
- 6) Committee Members:
Members agreed to the following appointments:
Jane Gorvett remains as LTA Representative
Richard Moore remains as Finance Representative
Lizzie Grumbach remains as Social Secretary
Maria Chandler and Rica Dearman remain as Membership Secretaries
Diane Alagar remains as Assistant Social Secretary
John Pedevilla remains as Tournament Secretary
Fraser Williams remains as committee member
Gavin Simpson remains as committee member

6. Any Other Business

1. *Outside Toilet.* Quote to be obtained to look at fixing this for members
2. *Macadam Court Resurface.* Members were advised that courts 8,9 & 10 were to be replaced with Clay. Plans to be looked at for funding courts using sinking fund and other sources. GCM to confirm figure in sinking fund.

3. *Hockey Pitch.* Several members raised questions regarding the recent concerns over the new Hockey Pitch at Langley Park Girl's School. The cost is to be split 50/50 between the club and the School, Grants from Sport England and loans. GCM had not signed off on the arrangements previously and now the matter is being looked legally to understand the full implications and get GCM sign-off.
4. Committee members thanked James Buddell & Carole Fowler on behalf of the Tennis section for all their hard work over the years.

The meeting closed at 5.35pm