

Minutes of the 124th Annual General Meeting held at Fulwood Tennis Club

Monday, 15 March 2017

1. Attendees and apologies for Absence

Present 6 – Jane Blackwell, Jim Grundy, Christine Kitchen, Peter Kitchen, Denise Ratcliffe and Paul Shirley

Apologies – Di Kelshaw, Dave Kelshaw, Stuart Horrocks, Hannah Catlow

2. Minutes of the 2016 AGM were read and proposed by Denise and seconded by Christine

3. Secretary's Report

Again we have had a very good season with three men's teams in the Fylde League (the 4th had had to be dropped). The 1st team were promoted to division 2. Three ladies teams – both the 2nd and 3rd teams were promoted and the 1st team held their position in division 1. We hope that this season we will have sufficient numbers to run a 4th men's team and we have reinstated it. The under 16s won their division for the second year running and the under 14s finished 4th. However many teams did not complete their games and the Ribble League were looking for ways of reorganizing the junior leagues.

Social tennis has continued as usual, Saturday afternoons being as popular as ever. There had been a slight increase in adult members but a significant drop in juniors, with only 8 junior girls compared to 19 the previous year. The three free lessons for juniors had not increased membership and will be dropped this season. Instead there will be a slightly higher charge of £5 for squad coaching for juniors who are not members compared to £4.50 for those who are. Hopefully this will encourage more juniors to become members. These are cheaper charges than at many clubs in the area.

Improvements have been made, in particular, to veranda lighting, spotlights in the lounge, new floor in the ladies toilets, replacement of half the roof in the clubhouse and more recently fitting a new gutter and drain pipe on the outside of the clubhouse. More are planned for this year – the other half of the roof, new floor in the gents' toilets and in the kitchen as soon as we have the money. Hiring out the clubhouse has increased and is vital to bringing in additional income for court maintenance and jobs like these.

As usual we are most indebted to officers of the club and anyone else who has helped in any way. A concern is that of the main officers, captain, secretary, treasurer, membership secretary and vice-captain – four of us are 65 or over. There is a need to have a smaller committee with younger people – all with specific jobs. Two have been approached and more will be said about this during the election of officers and the committee later. There are the equally vital roles of coach, looking after the teams and the juniors.

We are particularly grateful to team captains and members who have organised the junior matches and transported juniors to away games. Particular thanks go to Richard Grundy for sorting out the teams, organizing the club tournament and getting the team practices underway. Needless to say without these people there would be no club.

Last Friday we had a very enjoyable social evening with a quiz, hot pots and apple pies and presentation of the trophies. Many thanks to Jane, Esther and Christine for arranging these.

The report was proposed by Paul and seconded by Denise. Jane thanked Denise for the great work that she had done as Membership Secretary.

4. Treasurer's Report and Club Accounts for 2016/17

Jim passed round the accounts. The main points were as follows.

- We made a loss over the year of £587 due to spending £4000 on having half the clubhouse roof replaced and had assets of £4876.
- Overall Income was much the same as last year with income from subscriptions and room hire slightly higher and bar income lower.
- Expenditure had increased by £1000, due mainly to additional maintenance

The accounts were proposed by Jane and seconded by Peter.

5. Categories of Membership and Subscriptions for 2017

The subscription rates for all categories of membership will remain the same. The £100 first year membership has been popular and will be retained.

These were proposed by Jane and seconded by Christine.

6. Election of Officers

The secretary spoke about the need to have a smaller committee with younger members and everyone having specific responsibilities. An item on next year's agenda will be required to change the make-up of the committee.

These were elected as follows:

Position	Name	Proposer	Seconded
Captain	Jane Blackwell	Peter	Denise
Secretary	Peter Kitchen	Jane	Christine
Vice-Captain	Christine Kitchen	Jane	Denise
Treasurer	Jim Grundy	Peter	Paul
Membership Secretary	Denise Ratcliffe	Jane	Peter

Much discussion took place about the future of the club. The main points were as follows:

- Jim indicated that he only wanted to serve as treasurer for one more year
- Peter is willing to continue as secretary but wanted a much reduced role – in particular to not maintain the website or handle the Wimbledon Tickets. He would be happy to continue handling non-party hire of the clubhouse (eg U3A, Salsa, Slimming World, Dancing, Railway Society), send out bills, print the calendar for the window and produce the newsletters (unless someone else wishes to do it) but to pass them on to the IT person to distribute.
- Christine would not wish to be on the committee but would still not mind keeping the kitchen tidy.
- We are no longer able to call on members to staff the bar if someone wished to hire it for a party. The Wednesday Salsa group operate it themselves, predominantly drinking tap water with a few other drinks being purchased.
- No ladies' teams and not all the men's teams come into the bar after matches.
- Hannah Catlow and Josh Turner had been approached to develop a club Facebook to be used by the coach and for matches.
- David Mason was investigating a new website perhaps linked to the LTA site in some manner.
- Peter will produce a sheet listing all the jobs that the secretary and treasurer currently perform.
- In a couple of months a letter will be written and sent out to members asking for volunteers to take on some of these tasks with a stark message of the consequences if there is no help forthcoming.
- If that turned out to be the case, unless a paid caretaker could be found who would undertake the entire maintenance the club would fold within a few years, the land revert to the City Council and almost certainly the prime site would be developed for flats and houses.
- Fulwood LTC may merge with Broughton Sports Club.

7. Wimbledon Tickets

A ballot was made for the order in which our allocation of tickets will be offered.

The meeting closed at 21.30