

Shipston Tennis Club

Minutes from Annual General Meeting

7th November 2018

Present:

John Beaumont, Helen Patrick, Janet Connor, Angela Holmes, Olly Kemp, Anna Louca, Fiona Pettit, Vicki Noyes, Louise Appleton, Bill Cheney, Nick Morgan, Margaret Clowes, Philip Trotter, Mary-Jane Barnes, Mark Barnes, Ali Humphrey, Judith Cheney

Apologies:

Kate Allen, Hilary Bryan, Nuala Livesey, Averil Kingston, Sue Horton, Jan Faulkner, Grant Appleton, Marek Pokleowski

Approval of previous AGM minutes:

Minutes agreed as correct so approved.

Matters arising from previous minutes:

No issues raised.

Chairman's Report (John Beaumont):

John thanked everyone for coming and gave special thanks to all committee members for their time and energy in running the club.

The club is attracting more playing members, particularly social players and now thanks to Jose we are starting to get more junior players being coached.

We have two Men's teams and are planning a third for next summer and we have three ladies teams. Hopefully, we will start to enter juniors into competitions next year. We had a fantastic anonymous donation of £1000 for junior player development, which we will use over the next two years. We placed a thank you for this donation in the *Shipston Forum* but a thank you from the club should be recorded in our AGM minutes.

The courts remain in excellent condition and we are keeping the moss at bay with three sprays per year and two heavy-duty brushing sessions per year. We are due one soon before winter kicks in. We have two more years of loan repayments before the court upgrades are fully paid for. When the courts refurbishment is fully paid, we will review what to do with the practice court. As previously stated we do not have any options for a third court.

Winners of the Club's singles tournaments were:

Ladies – Alice Protheroe

Mens – Jose Perdomo

Social tennis is very popular with our adult members so this year we introduced free floodlights for evening play and two sets of new balls every Tuesday for club night. We will keep social tennis nights under review so we have enough time in the evenings to suit demand. We also decided not to increase membership fees and the only change we made to membership was to define the student membership as applying only to players under 27 years of age.

We have just received renewed LTA membership and thus the Public and Employers liability, professional indemnity and officer liability insurance that go with it. To renew, we were required to have new policies on safeguarding and diversity. These have been produced and are displayed in club house and are on our website (www.shipstontennis.co.uk).

Olly Kemp has designed a new Shipston Tennis Club website where all our policies, rules, and procedures are held. We still use the ClubSpark LTA website for communication and court bookings.

Lastly, John expressed the hope to see as many members and friends as possible for our Christmas party and promises auction on the 7th of December.

Treasurer's Report (Helen Patrick):

Helen's first season as treasurer has proved to be quite uneventful (!) and she is pleased to report a profit for the year of £2429, although this figure doesn't show any VAT repayment we are due. [£412 for this has just come in]. Included in the "sundry" income, is a generous donation of a £1000 from an anonymous benefactor for the use of the junior section. This will be discussed by the committee. We also received £112 from the Recycle Balls programme last year, which shows it is worth our while saving the old balls.

We have made the 4th loan payment to the Stella Symons trust, leaving a further two payments remaining of £3,500.

The accounts show a slight drop in membership income and a dip in fundraising – due to our bi-annual dinner and promises auction. Helen thanked the fundraising team for their hard work; whether it is from the social tournaments, bingo, quiz, etc. the income from fundraising over the last three years has totalled over £10K!

Expenditure varies little from previous years, although we have saved money on court maintenance by sourcing an alternative contractor. It was agreed that new balls be provided for Tues club nights, therefore an increase in expenditure of this item was to be expected. We are transferring funds to the savings to be utilised as a sinking fund for court renovation work and therefore hope to be in a position to re-surface when necessary without the need to borrow the funding.

Helen thanked the committee for their hard work over the last 12 months to keep the club on a great financial and social footing!

Income and Expenditure Account attached as spreadsheet.

Accounts audited and accepted.

Membership Report (Janet Connor):

Janet reported that we have welcomed 10 new seniors and 9 new juniors since 1st April 2018. We now have 13 juniors registered (with more still to sign up) and 76 seniors. The overall numbers are down on last year, but the members that have signed up are all actively playing tennis! Generally, the numbers we have represent a healthy membership for a two-court club.

Captains' Reports:

Angela Homes, Ladies' Captain

Winter League, 2017/18:

A team, Div.2, 2nd place promoted to Div.1

B team, Div 4, 4th place, will stay.

C team, Div. 8, relegated.

D team, Div. 9 – 2nd place, but not fielding a 4th team this year as very difficult to field 16 ladies each weekend.

Summer League, 2018:

A team, Div.1, 5th place and relegated to Div. 2. Only 5 points separated the top 5 teams!

B team, Div.3, relegated to Div.4

C team, Div.7, 2nd place, should be promoted to Div.6.

The B team are having successful team training on Thursday evenings and the A team have had a few sessions on Mondays, but less regularly!

Angela thanked Jan and Nuala for their work in captaining the B and C teams respectively.

Olly Kemp, Men's Captain

A team – relegated from Div. 3 to Div. 4 last year, but new division is very strong so struggling a little.

Summer league – struggled to get teams out, but now have two new players and are playing in Div.1. New Men's Training night on Wednesdays is proving to be successful, with improving commitment and training seen.

B team – John Beaumont, Captain – Promoted from Div.7 to Div.6 in Winter league and have stayed up.

Summer league – Won Div.4 so will be playing in Div.3 next season.

Hoping to start a third men's team soon.

Coach's Report (Jose Perdomo):

Jose explained that nowadays, players are stronger, faster, and more agile, which has resulted in the tennis industry changing a lot over the last 7-8 years. His way of coaching has to follow this and so drills, practise sessions, and general preparation for games are orientated to match the modern tennis requirements.

Tennis is a way of life. Promoting the well-being of players, being respectful and honest, and understanding the safety and welfare of other players are some of the most important things in Jose's coaching sessions, principally teaching this to the new generations.

We have now more mini-players than ever before (last two and a half years), coming in good numbers from Shipston Primary School and also from other schools further away (27 children from red to yellow ball). Some of these children have not yet joined the club, but we are working to get all as active members before Christmas and possibly some of the parents too.

Early spring next year, we will start a performance children section (9 to 14 years old) for the ones that show talent and interest in playing for the club in summer 2019.

The adult sessions continue as always. All members are able to book sessions with Jose at short notice, depending on weather and court availability.

We are a small club, but that is not a problem. We can dream big and with the help, participation, commitment, and work of all members that dream can become a reality!

Fundraising Report (Anna Louca):

Anna explained that the October Quiz Night had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers, but this may have been due to the half-term break. A new date will be set for Spring 2019.

The main fundraiser for this year will be the Christmas Party and Promises Auction on 7th December. More promises are needed as well as raffle prizes, which can be left in the club house. Ticket price still needs to be confirmed, but marketing for the event will begin very soon. People wanting to attend have been asked to get numbers in to Anna as soon as possible so food can be ordered.

There will also be the annual Bingo Night at Townsend Hall on Sunday 9th December. Eyes down at 7:30pm. Helpers required from 6:00pm.

Finally, Anna thanked her fundraising team for their help this year.

Election of Committee Members:

Lin Holcombe and Kate Allen are standing down from the committee and John thanked them for their hard work and support during their time on the committee.

Chairman – John Beaumont, proposed Nick M, seconded Bill C.

Vice Chair – Fiona Pettit, proposed John B., seconded Vicki N.

Treasurer – Helen Patrick, proposed Fiona P., seconded Anna L.

(Helen will not attend all committee meetings, but will provide financial reports)

Secretary – Vicki Noyes, proposed Helen P., seconded Fiona P.

Membership Secretary – Janet Connor, proposed Nick M., seconded Vicki N.

Men's Captain – Olly Kemp, proposed John B., seconded Jose P.

B team Captain – John Beaumont, proposed Jose P., seconded Olly K.

New C team Captain – Philip Trotter, proposed John B., seconded Bill C.

Ladies Captain – Angela Holmes, proposed Vicki N., seconded Fiona P.

B team Captain – Jan Faulkner, proposed Mary-Jane B., seconded Fiona P.

C team Captain:

Anna Louca expressed an interest in taking on this role. Nuala was not present, and had not said whether or not she wanted to stay on. It was agreed that there would be a vote so Anna was asked to leave the room. The vote was in favour of Anna.

Website Officer – Olly Kemp, proposed John B., seconded Philip T.

Tournament Organiser – Kate Allen stepping down. Jose Perdomo, proposed Mark B., seconded Bill C. (Janet Connor has offered to assist with this role).

Coach – Jose Perdomo, proposed John B., seconded Ali H.

Head of Fundraising – Anna Louca, proposed Fiona, seconded Angela (Ali Humphrey to be fundraising deputy).

Welfare / Safeguarding Officer – Louise Appleton, proposed Vicki N., seconded Fiona P.

Court maintenance Officer – Bill Cheney, proposed John B., seconded Fiona P.
Sports club Rep – Currently a rolling position with committee members taking it in turns to attend on behalf of the Tennis Club.
New Committee Member – Mary-Jane Barnes expressed a wish to join the committee.
Proposed Helen P., seconded Angela H.

Auditor – Jo Squance, proposed John B., seconded Vicki N.

Unanimous decision to approve the elections of officers.

Any Other Business

John has reminded all club members that if they have an issue they would like to raise, they can ask him or another committee member to raise it at the next committee meeting or ask to attend the meeting themselves to discuss it.

Janet Connor said that British Tennis will be in touch soon about the Wimbledon Ballot, but she also explained that British Tennis has a higher level of membership that members might be interested in. For a small fee, the increased level of membership includes personal injury insurance.

Janet also mentioned that at a recent LTA meeting other clubs said that offering a rolling membership (paying monthly with ability to stop at any time) had attracted more members. It was agreed that we would discuss this issue at the next committee meeting.

Olly Kemp explained that the Men's Summer League's rule of having to play any postponed match within the same week was quite inflexible for a small club. It was agreed that we should send a letter from the Club to the League before their February AGM and also for someone to attend that AGM.

Ali Humphrey mentioned that former coach Mark Boden had been offering junior tennis coaching at Shipston Primary School during the half-term and will be offering an after-school club next term. Jose was not overly concerned as he didn't think it would affect the existing junior participation at the club. He will advertise a general participation scheme with the school for the Spring.

Next Year's AGM: Wednesday 6th November, 2019, 7:30pm

Next Committee Meeting: Wednesday 28th November, 7:00pm

Meeting closed at 8:45pm.