

Minutes of the 118th Annual General Meeting held at Fulwood Tennis Club

Wednesday, 9 March 2011

Apologies for Absence and minutes of previous AGM

17 members were present. Apologies were received from Margaret Whitmore, John Raven, Mike Watson, Paul Shirley, Toni Lanza and Richard Biggs

The minutes from the previous AGM were summarised and accepted - proposer Mike Marsden and seconder Simon Rawsthorn

Secretary's Report

The secretary reported that we had had another excellent year with a thriving club that we could be proud of with five men's teams (2 in the first division), three ladies teams (the first team were congratulated on returning to the first division) and three junior teams (the girls team had won the Fylde league playing people much older than themselves). Social play had continued to prosper with four courts regularly in use.

Match practice had begun - being well organised by Simon and junior coaching restarting on Friday although Ian had run sessions throughout the winter by hiring the indoor facilities at Preston College.

At the end of last season we'd had a superb finals day with the mini, junior and open events all being held on the same Sunday followed by a well supported presentation evening on a Saturday evening in October. This format would be repeated this year.

Membership was down this year with about 160 adult and juniors, 8 limited play and 18 social members. We had spent a lot making improvements to the club.

- We had had the clubhouse, bar and entrance painted
- Thanks very much to Christine, John Raven and Jack who had also kindly painted the kitchen area
- The damage in the men's changing rooms and various faulty lights had been fixed
- The cellar area had been greatly tidied thanks to cabinets supplied by Jim and a superb trolley built by John Raven
- Pot holes were filled in the car park unfortunately others had developed – as with many roads - due to the appalling weather in December. Last week we also had these filled with concrete.

Work was still needed replacing the netting at the back of courts 3 and 4 and work on the electrics to the floodlight in the corner of court 3. That would be done when we receive income from subscriptions.

Everyone who had helped in any way was thanked, particularly committee members and team captains.

We had had 12 requests for Wimbledon tickets. The LTA had indicated that we will only receive three pairs this year – 3 centre court, 2 No. 1 and 1 on number 2. When we receive details the allocation may be slightly higher. We would have a draw when we have the information – the first out of the hat getting first choice etc. However prices had gone up quite considerably.

On a very sad note we had to report that Mike Watson's wife Anne passed away last week. We offered Mike our greatest sympathy.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer passed round the accounts and showed that a surplus of £2418 had been made for the year although some money was owing to Ian.

Subscriptions were well down but other sources – bar income, room and court hire and social events had risen given a slight increase over last year. This was very encouraging considering that we had had the entire clubhouse and bar painted, electrical work, central heating and broken windows repaired as well as the normal expenditure on rent, rates, water, insurance, cleaning, ground maintenance, heating and lighting. It would be investigated to see if any member was able to cut the lawns rather than pay the groundsman to do the work.

Captain's Report

The captain thanked everyone for coming to the AGM. She was very grateful to Simon for organizing training for all the teams which will sort out some of the problems we had last year when people were unavailable to play for a variety of reasons.

Our aims at the club were to be able to offer members the tennis that they want – team, social, tournaments, singles with friends or competitive ladder play and coaching and competitions for junior members. We wanted to advertise our facilities to people outside the club who would like to return to tennis. Mike Marsden would be continuing his *Rusty Rackets* sessions and Jacqui Lowe was available for individual coaching at quiet times and would be running a Tennis Camp the week before Easter. Everything going on was advertised on the website. Many enquiries came from this source. She thanked Simon Stockton for all his work in setting up and maintaining our website.

There were many people to thank in the club. In particular Jim, who dealt with the money and lots of other matters too, Mike Bond for running the bar, John Raven for maintenance and handiwork around the club, Tracey for her work with the junior teams that involves a great deal of telephone time and arranging parents to transport juniors to matches and all parents and helpers who have been involved. Thanks to all captains for organizing the teams and thanks also to Sue Shirley who had been membership secretary for the last few years and who had unfortunately been unable to play for more than a year. She thanked everyone else on the committee. We didn't have many meetings a year. Anyone wishing join us would be much appreciated.

On Thursday evenings the bar was always open. Dave and Val were still running their Salsa classes although numbers have dwindled. It was still a useful source of income and is a pleasant place for a get-together after a few sets of social tennis. On match nights and also practice nights the bar was usually open.

Hiring out the clubhouse and or bar was another great way of raising money. We had had a few events and this Friday evening there would be a cheese and wine tasting event joint with and organized by the Methodist Church. These funds were very much needed to keep subscriptions at a sustainable level. Everyone's contribution to the club in whatever way makes it what it is.

To finish she mentioned that the secretary had published a book on the history of the club from its opening in 1892 to the present day. We had a number of copies – price £3.99.

Subscriptions for 2011

Despite rising inflation the committee recommended holding all categories at the same rate as last year. They would have been held for three years and represented excellent value.

This was proposed by Simon Rawsthorn and seconded by Jane Catlow.

Election of Officers

As Sue had been unable to play for the last year due to an injury she had asked if someone else was able to take over. Evelyn has kindly agreed to do this for which we are most grateful and also for the work that Sue has done.

Richard Swan no longer wished to look after the teams and wished to stand down from the committee.

We had had no offers to stand for election. The officers Hon. President - Neville, Captain/Chairman - Christine, Hon. Secretary – Peter, Hon. Treasurer- Jim, Membership Secretary - Evelyn and the rest of the committee were elected on bloc – proposer Sue Shirley, seconder Christine Pluck

AOB

Dave Kelshaw requested that contact numbers be shown on the kitchen window as the men's veterans whilst playing had had requests for information from visitors to the club.

Jane Catlow requested that a notice about court etiquette was placed in a similar position particularly regarding people running behind the court whilst play was in progress.

Both jobs will be done within the next couple of weeks.

The meeting closed at 20.40