

Cirencester Tennis Club – Annual General Meeting

8 November 2017 at 20:00

Cirencester Cricket Club

Attendees: Rosemary Foy, Lesley Houghton, Midge Wellfair, Adrian Lees, Steve Lamble, Ray Huxtable, Graham Wellfair, Ro Lyon, Jackie Tarlton, Paul Hargreaves, Charlie Bamber, Paul Harris, Katie Ballard, Britta Stephan, Julie Taylor, Roger Davis, Amanda Parkhurst, Ann Napper, Lesley Pollock, Martin Leay, ETTY Wateridge, Lindsay Raphael, Darren Ash, Marjory Jarvis (24).

Apologies: Diane Horsell, Clare Wood, Paula Reardon, Jerry Elphick, Richard Rawlinson, Jean Rawlinson, Paul Jenkins, Maggie Finnigan, Jack Gower, Wendy Murphy, Elaine Howell, Lillian O'Carol, Adrian Potter (14).

Committee: Rachel Snowball, Mike Taylor, Shane Horsell, Anna Gell, Jonathan Vickers, Adam Swan, George Brooks, Zena Marchington (8).

Apologies: Louise Horner-Baggs, Paul Wheeler (2).

Agenda:

1. 2016 Minutes:

Approved by members: yes

Formally accepted by: Steve Lamble

2. Committee reports:

2.1. Jonathan Vickers (treasurer):

- Jonathan mentioned that this was his first year as treasurer.
- He described the club's finances as healthy despite a significant reduction in net income due to an increase in rent and a one-off rent deposit of £4.4k to the Bathurst Estate. A higher amount than previous

years was transferred into the sinking fund. We finished the year with over £11k in the club's current account and £120k in the savings account. These figures do not include the payment for the new courts, which is due shortly.

- Our outstanding LTA loan for the Nick Deacon Court has now reduced to £2.5 k. For details of the finance summary shown on the slide please refer to the treasurer's report included in the AGM email.
- No questions from members to the treasurer.

2.2. Rachel Snowball (interim chair and ladies captain):

2.2.1. Chair's report:

- Rachel thanked Adrian Potter for his attention to detail and time spent on finalising the club's new 30-year lease with the Bathurst Estate this summer.
- She pointed out the considerable amount of time spent by George Brooks and the Committee researching the new courts.
- A special thanks to George Brooks for overseeing the work and making things like the drag nets himself, which saved the club money.
- Next development phase: A lot of research and work are presently going into new lights. The plan is to have new lights installed on the back courts by next winter, pending planning approval by the council, Bathurst Estate and LTA funding. A toilet for the club is being looked into.
- Crowd-funding for the defibrillator was a success; fortunately, it has not been used. Thank you to everyone who contributed.
- Rachel acknowledged what a well cared for environment the club has with a hornbeam-lined lane, planters, well kept Clubhouse and a BBQ.
- The cleaning rota works and adds to a general community feel.
- The summer party, initiated by George Brooks, was a huge success.
- All of the above in addition to the new courts made 2017 a special year for the club.

2.2.2. Ladies Captain Report:

- No relegations this season.
- The ladies' A team went back up into the premier league.

- Sophie Browne and Diane Horsell were nominated as most improved players this season.

2.3. Anna Gell (Junior's Chair):

- We have a total junior membership of 134.
- This year we had 6 Aegon teams including 2 girls teams.
- 10 took part in the Road to Wimbledon Tournament. The winners Joe Dennish and Anya Pereira went on to compete in the county finals. Anya was runner up in the girls final and went on to have a coaching day at Wimbledon with Tim Henman, where she also had the privilege of meeting Judy Murray. We are very proud of her.
- The Junior Box League is going well and more are joining.
- The Penny Alberry Award went to James Lee and Decima Archer.
- The Mira tournament was rearranged three times but finally took place with 16 children. Thank you to Adam Swan who gave up his Sundays.
- Anna finished by saying that she will miss her role as Junior Chair and thanked everybody who helped over the past three years.

2.4. Shane Horsell (Men's Captain)

- No relegation for the men's teams and two promotions for the men's E and F teams respectively.
- The men's A team achieved their highest result ever as 3rd in the premier league with Adam Swan top of the premier league ratings.
- Oscar Snowball won most improved player and it is nice to see young people come through.

2.5. Adam Swan (Head Coach):

- Fewer numbers on junior camps, some of which were weather dependent but the overall season was all positive.
- A special thanks to Oscar Snowball, Zak Webb and Jonathan Gell, who were out and helped in all weather.
- Adam made a point of saying that he loved the new courts.

2.6. George Brooks(Facilities):

- George did not have anything specific to add to what was already mentioned in the Chair's report.
- He stressed however that members' feedback on how we could improve our club further was much appreciated.
- George also thanked the members for their contribution to the defibrillator.

2.7. Mike Taylor (Membership):

- We lost two members this year but membership remains stable this year at 396, of which over 200 are actively playing. More juniors joined whilst the number of men has gone slightly down.
- The new membership system and renewal procedure through Clubspark is quicker, and more people paid their membership fees by direct debit. This resulted in admin fees to Clubspark of about 300 but Mike thought it was worth it and also meant less effort for him.

2.8. Zena Marchington (Tournaments and Competitions) :

- Tournament numbers have gone down this year, there does not however appear to be an actual downwards trend. Player numbers for the Delta tournament have particularly reduced and Zena was still looking for players for the Delta tournament on the 11th.
- Participation of A and B team players have also gone down. Zena attributed this to many people now playing matches for two clubs in the Wiltshire and Gloucestershire League. There were also more tournaments around such as Chedworth or Minety. The men's AEGON team has become popular and doing well and we have 4 teams in the Sunday Winter League.
- Zena said that it would however be nice to have more members joining our club tournaments and she welcomed any suggestions with regards to dates, format etc.

3. Election of Officers:

- 3.1 Paul Wheeler would like to step down, looking for somebody to take over the website. Experience not necessary.
- 3.2 Anna Gell is stepping down from her post as Junior Chair.
Lindsay Raphael and Ety Wateridge were proposed as new Junior Chairs by Steve Lamble and seconded by Julie Taylor.
- 3.3. Rachel Snowball was proposed by Zena Marchington as Club Chair to replace Adrian Potter who resigned in summer. Rachel was confirmed in post by Shane Horsell.
- 3.4. Rachel Snowball stood down as Ladies Captain. Ro Lyon is taking her place, proposed by Midge Wellfair and seconded by Katie Ballard.
- 3.5. Britta Stephan was proposed by Amanda Parkhurst to take over as secretary from Louise Horner-Baggs. This was seconded by Ann Napper.
- 3.6. The remaining committee members stood down collectively and were proposed for re-election by Jackie Tarlton, seconded by Julie Taylor.
- 3.7 The new Committee for 2017/2018 is hereby confirmed as:
Chair – Rachel Snowball
Secretary – Britta Stephan
Treasurer – Jonathan Vickers
Ladies Captain – Ro Lyon
Men’s Captain – Shane Horsell
Junior Chair – Lindsay Raphael and Ety Wateridge
Membership – Mike Taylor
Facilities – George Brooks
Tournaments and competitions – Zena Marchington

4.0 Proposals:

4.1 Committee proposals:

The Committee proposed to increase membership fees for the 2017/2018 season in line with inflation and in the context of investments in the club. This will amount to an additional £5 for full adult membership. It was discussed that our membership fees were competitive and on average below those of other tennis clubs in the area.

This was proposed by Roger Davis and seconded by Steven Lamble.

4.2 There were no member proposals.

5.0 AOB:

5.1 Floodlights

Steven Lamble asked about the price for the new floodlights and available grants? George Brooks explained that the current offer at the moment stands at £30k plus VAT for all 3 back courts. LED lights would cost about £12k extra but it was still early days in LED technology for what we wanted. LED has great advantages such as running costs, future technology. They can also be dimmed, which means we could run them at 75% for 6 nights of the week, then put them up at match night, thus reducing the light pollution for the estate. More research is needed. George was not aware of other clubs with LED lighting.

Further to a previous conversation Britta Stephan asked if the current floodlights can be converted to LED. George explained that the light box could be replaced with an LED one; if we could find a contractor we could convert one to LED and test how it would work. There was a unit that seemed perfect but if we went for it we would be one of the first clubs. This may however be interesting for LTA to fund as pilot project. Rachel added that the LTA will potentially support 50% of the funding; half of which would be made up of a loan and the other half a grant. Based on current estimates this would mean we are not increasing our level of loan repayments.

5.2 Relationship with the Bathurst Estate:

The planting of a new tree line alongside the courts was discussed with the Bathurst Estate; the estate will look into it. We will need to work together closely, however the estate was supportive of new courts and additional floodlights.

Paul Harris, Katie Ballard and the previous committee have worked hard on building a strong relationship with the Bathurst Estate.

5.3. Match fees for senior matches

Midge Wellfair voiced concerns with regards to match fees for senior league matches as they took place during the day and were not using flood lights.

Rachel Snowball mentioned that the same concerns were previously raised by another member, Mary Merricks. Rachel explained that the match fees did not only cover balls and light cards, however acknowledged that Midge had a valid point and it would be discussed at the next committee meeting.

5.4. Toilets

After funds were raised successfully by members for trees and a defibrillator, Rachel Snowball wondered whether there was a possibility for crowd-funding/fundraising for a toilet for the clubhouse, which she called a “flush fund”.

5.5. Suggestions

Any other suggestions welcome. George removed the suggestion box from the clubhouse so please email or talk to a committee member. Cirencester Tennis Club is a members' club and the member's opinions matter!

5.6. Thank You

- A big thank you to Louise Horner-Baggs and Anna Gell who are stepping down from their posts and to Rachel Snowball for two successive years as ladies' captain. Jonathan Vickers recited two thank you poems to Louise and Anna, which were recorded by George because Louise was unable to attend.

Anna received flowers on the evening; Rachel visited Louise at home to present hers.

- Julie Taylor thanked the committee for all their hard work.
- Jackie Tarlton thanked Adrian Potter for his hard work, which was echoed by the other attendees.
- Adrian Lees said thank you for the honour to be asked to officially open the new courts.

6.0 To end the meeting George Brooks showed a video he recorded of how to look after the new courts, starring Jane Muncer, Martin Leay, Oscar Snowball and Rachel Snowball.

Rachel Snowball ended the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.