

Cirencester Tennis Club AGM | Draft Minutes for approval at 2020 AGM

12 November 2019 – 7.30pm

Attendees: (28)

Committee: Rachel Snowball (chair), George Brooks, Elaine Holwell, Shane Horsell, Ray Huxtable, Ro Lyon, Lindsay Raphael, Jeremy Smith, Adam Swan, Jonathan Vickers, Ety Wateridge

Members: Katie Ballard, Charlie Bamber, Paul Denyer, Paul Harris, Di Horsell, Bob Lambie, Martin Leay, Rupert Marchington, Zena Marchington, Wendy Murphy, Ann Napper, Amanda Parkhurst, Rose Peck, Ros Suter, Britta Stephens, David Tonner, Graham Wellfair.
Paul Jenkins (not present for voting)

Apologies: Darren Ash, Julie Carter, Anne-Maree Dunn, Maggie & Jack Fillingham, Rosemary Foy, Anna Gell, Dee Greetorex, Fraser Glennie, Lesley Houghton, Heather and Charlie Jefferies, Steve Lambie, Andrew Lazenby, Irene Morse, Mary Merricks, Lilian O'Caroll, Lesley Pollock, Adrian Potter, Richard & Jean Rawlinson, Anthony & Paula Reardon, Jackie Tarleton, Julie Taylor, Midge Wellfair, Clare Wood

In addition to sending apologies, these members kindly sent messages of thanks to the committee and others who volunteered their time for all their hard work in making our club so great: Fraser Glennie, Andrew Lazenby, Mary Merricks, Adrian Potter, Julie Taylor.

1. Welcome

Rachel welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with a review of the agenda.

2. 2018 minutes

The minutes from the 2018 AGM were approved by members and formally accepted by Britta Stephens / Amanda Parkhurst.

3. Finances

Jonathan highlighted a few key points from the Financial report. Although actual membership income is slightly down, we finished the year with a balance of £63,129 with £13,200 held in the sinking fund and £23,750 outstanding for the new LTA loan. For the first time, income from visitor fees exceeded £2,000 and the amount spent on balls was down to £1,300 from £1,800. The maintenance spend is now lower, at around £5-6k.

Members agreed to receive the accounts and to approve the budget for 2019-20.
Paul Jenkins was appointed as auditor for 2019/20.

4. Proposals

a. Constitution

Rachel outlined the purpose of the club constitution, to help the Committee clarify how Club procedures should work and to provide a point of reference and guide. Whilst reviewing the constitution, it was noted that the committee have

taken the LTA guidelines into account and reviewed a range of other Clubs' constitutions.

Rachel explained the reasons for the changes to bring it up to date and in line with LTA guidelines, to reflect the club status as CASC and to minimise future updates for the Committee.

Key changes:

1. Change the status to CASC.
2. In line with LTA advice, to change the approval of fees from members at the AGM to the Committee responsibility, as it is the Committee who are responsible for the Club's finances.

From the discussion, Paul Harris voiced his unease for the Committee to take responsibility for fees as it is a members' club and, consequently, members should have an input when considering and agreeing changes to fees.

Martin Leay commented that he understood the need for Committee responsibility, particularly as members may not have a full understanding of financial implications.

David Tonner considered this proposal to be a dangerous power for the committee to hold. He also commented that the club is running with a massive surplus, to which it was explained that the funds are managed to ensure we have sufficient monies available for maintaining our existing facilities, e.g. front court light replacement. Jonathan Vickers advised that the annual surplus amounted to around £6k, once the monies have been allocated to the sinking fund.

Jonathan Vickers commented that the potential power of the members could be equally dangerous as they could, at the AGM, veto necessary changes for financial reasons that could put the club at risk.

Martin Leay queried whether there were specific guidelines on financial operations to which Rachel advised that there were not. However, as a committee, we always justify expenditure and, as George noted, the members need to have faith in the Committee who have been elected to run the club.

Voting for the proposals:

1. Change status to CASC:
 - In favour: all
2. Change the approval fee from members to Committee:
 - In favour: 22 / Against: 5 / Abstentions: 1

b. Membership fees

Rachel provided some background to the review process with a sub-committee from the membership (Jeremy Smith, Elaine Holwell, Paul Jenkins, Jon Hughes, Andrew Lazenby) invited to look at our current categories, research other clubs' fees and categories and make proposals to the main committee. Rachel thanked the sub-committee for their time and contribution.

Rachel outlined the proposals and reasons for the proposed changes:

1. Increase Husband / Wife / Partner from £234 to £255* (approx. 20% discount on a two-adult membership).
2. Specify that student membership is under 25 in full time education.
3. Add £100 Young Adult category (18-30).
4. Introduce pro-rata membership prices from July for brand new members only, in their first year. This option would not apply to returning members who re-joined after one or more years' absence.
5. On 1st March, introduce a 10% late payment penalty on the membership fee for late renewal. Note that new members would be charged the base membership fee.
6. Add 2% inflation to all categories.
* includes inflationary increase.

From the discussion, Britta suggested that the word "penalty" should be removed; agreed to change to "surcharge". Also queried whether we could change to a 10% discount but, Rachel explained, to protect our income this would require us to firstly increase all fees by 10% which we do not want to do.

Paul Harris queried whether off-peak membership had been removed, to which Rachel advised that there was no change to this category, other than the 2% inflationary increase.

Zena commented that the husband / wife / partner fee assumes a dual-income household, which doesn't necessarily reflect our local demography.

Wendy Murphy suggested that some grace period should be considered before the late payment is applied and stressed the need for clarity and advance notice; it was also noted that members should take responsibility to pay on time.

Bob Lamble queried whether the gate locks are changed every year and Rachel confirmed that this is the case (this year was an exception).

Rachel also confirmed that the Committee has checked the potential financial impact of the proposed changes.

Voting for the proposals:

1. Increase Husband / Wife / Partner from £234 to £255
 - In favour: 26 / Against: 0 / Abstentions: 2
2. Specify that student membership is under 25 in full time education.
 - In favour: All
3. Add £100 Young Adult category (18-30).
 - In favour: All
4. Introduce pro-rata membership prices from July for brand new members only, in their first year. This option would not apply to returning members who re-joined after one or more years' absence.
 - In favour: All
5. On 1st March, introduce a 10% late payment surcharge on the membership fee for late renewal. Note that new members would be charged the base membership fee.
 - In favour: 24 / Against: 1 / Abstentions: 3Immediate introduction of late payment on 1st March:
 - In favour: 15Grace period of 2 weeks before introduction of late payment:
 - In favour: 13
6. Add 2% inflation to all categories.
 - In favour: All

5. Re-election of Committee Members

Rachel advised the meeting that all Committee Members were willing to stand for another year. Re-election of the existing committee was proposed by Britta Stephens and seconded by Ann Napper.

Rachel advised that some committee members, including the Chair and Women's captain and possibly others, would be standing down next year and that if anyone wished to consider a position they could come and chat.

6. 2019 Summary of the Year (full reports available on the web site)

Highlights from the Chair (Rachel):

- ✓ We have enjoyed our first full year with lighting on all courts, which has made a real difference, being able to separate coaching from matches.
- ✓ The Starter sessions are a great pathway into the club, have proved really successful and generated new members.
- ✓ The new lawn has made a huge difference to the area; the summer lawn party was lovely and could become an annual event.
Thank you to everyone for their contribution and to Adam for the entertainment.
- ✓ The Nature Valley Open Day saw about forty visitors to the club and although we probably only gained one or two members and it was a lot of work (thank you all and coaches), it was an enjoyable day and a successful PR campaign!

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- ✓ The new loo. Massive thanks to George and all those who made it happen; Martin and Gilly for the tree survey, Charlie for the plumbing and installation of hot water for the club house (very grateful), Roger and Jackie for the painting, Cleeve for the flooring and Etty for the aroma. Thanks also to Paul Harris, Steve Lambie and Katie for contributing the funds raised from the golf days.

From the Junior Chairs (Etty & Lindsay)

- ✓ 131 members; 68 juniors and 43 child members.
- ✓ Thank you to Adam, Jono and Zac for all their help and support and for giving their time to run our tournaments.
- ✓ Cirencester Junior tournament was a great success.
- ✓ Congratulations to Will Pereira and Decima Archer who won the Road to Wimbledon tournament and went on to play at Wimbledon.
- ✓ Sadly, insufficient numbers for the MIRA tournament.
- ✓ Difficult season with Team Tennis due to a lack of players at our and other clubs. Girls U14 joint winners and mixed U10 won their group.
- ✓ Planning on surveying the juniors / parents to get some feedback on junior tennis, competitions, etc.

From the Coach (Adam):

- ✓ Jono and Zach are extraordinarily hardworking – thank you from Adam.
- ✓ Thanks also to Lindsay and Etty for all their work.
- ✓ Steady and balanced coaching programme.
- ✓ Congratulations to Riley Webb and Bella Boyd who are the Penny Allberry award winners. Well done.

- ✓ Playing just one match, Aegon men's team won the county division but have declined the invitation to play regional tennis.
- ✓ County Men's 45s, mainly Cirencester players, competed hard and secured a place in the national 2nd division again for 2020.

From the Seniors (Ray):

Ray gave a wonderful tribute to dear Douglas Emmett, who had to stop playing last year at the age of 85, due to ill health and recently passed away in September. Known affectionately as Mr Rollup and Baseline Doug .. where all his balls landed, he was made an honorary member of the club in 2017. A very kind, generous and thoughtful man who gave a lot to his community. He was a much loved and respected member of the club and will be dearly missed.

- ✓ Ray thanked everyone for their participation and thanked Mary, Rosemary and Graham for organising the teams.

- ✓ Weekly rollups still taking place twice a week and are most enjoyable, although often with fewer numbers.

From the Women's Captain (Ro)

- ✓ Although not the most successful season with two teams relegated, the matches were played in great spirit and enjoyed by all.
- ✓ Thank you to everyone who has played and to the captains who have done a great job, which is really appreciated. (Louise Vass taking over as Ladies E team captain next year).
- ✓ Women's Captain's Award for most improved player presented to Lucy Sketchley – quietly competitive and determined and now enjoying some great results.
- ✓ Women's Captain's award also presented to Ann Napper, who has had a frustrating season with injury but continued to captain her team with great enthusiasm! Thank you, Ann.

On behalf of the captains and players, Britta thanked Ro for all her support.

From the Men's Captain (Shane)

- ✓ Two promotions and two relegations in the Men's league, which was played in good spirit and enjoyed by all 47 players.
- ✓ Thank you to all the captains.
- ✓ Men's Captain's award to Chris Jones for being a great team player and his contribution to the promotion.
- ✓ Men's Captain's award also presented to Paul Harris – a great player who can always be relied upon.

Martin L queried whether it might be better to combine the E& F teams next year, to ensure sufficient players.

7. Questions

No questions raised.

8. AOB

- As a new member, Ros Suter, commented that Cirencester is the friendliest club she has known. She also raised the question of whether we could introduce walking tennis (two bounces 😊).
- Rachel thanked Di Horsell for all her hard work running the tournaments, which have been very successful.
- Final thanks from Rachel to everyone who contributes to the club and to the committee and a final and very important thank you to Rachel, proposed by Ro. Our chair really does a fantastic job and we are very grateful to her.

Rachel thanked everyone for attending the AGM and closed the meeting at 9pm.