

Cirencester Tennis Club Committee AGM 2023 Minutes - Tuesday 8th November at 7pm at Cirencester Cricket Club

Committee Attendees: Chair – **Zena Marchington**, Secretary – **Kerry Briggs**, Junior Chair/Welfare Office – **Liz Lloyd**, Seniors – **Ray Huxtable**, Facilities – **George Brooks**, Membership – **Jeremy Smith**, Women’s Captain – **Julie Taylor**, Men’s Captain – **Shane Horsell**, Website Manager – **Mark Moore**, Tournaments – **Kirstin Bulger**.

1. Committee apologies received from Jonathan (see Appendix 1 for attendees and apologies)

Update

Zena opened the meeting by welcoming all present and thanking everyone for coming along. Zena went on to say that she had inherited a tip-top Committee, which had hugely helped maintain continuity. Zena noted that when Rachel left, everything was in fantastic order and that Rachel and Elaine had continued to be on hand to answer questions. Zena went on to acknowledge those people who aren’t on the Committee but contribute to the smooth running of the Club, including (but not limited to) the wonderful cake makers (Jackie, Jayne, Britta & Andree), Rachel and Judith for the flowers, all those who helped George out with the track and all those who help out with club and roll up sessions.

Zena went on to introduce Kerry (who arrived later) who had responded to the advert about a new Club Secretary at the end of 2021. Zena noted that Kerry had not been well known in the Club, but put up her hand to help. Zena went on to say that Kerry was doing a wonderful job (and is writing these minutes!! 😊)

Next Zena asked for approval of the AGM minutes from 2021, initially via a show of hands and then from 2 members. Jackie Tarlton and Diane Horsell confirmed approval.

Zena then thanked Paul Jenkins (not present) for his contribution as auditor and proposed that Jon Hughes be appointed as his replacement. This was agreed.

Next on the agenda was the re-election of existing Committee members and election of new members. Anne Maree Dunn and Jenny Hood confirmed the re-election of the following members: Zena Marchington, Jonathan Vickers, Jeremy Smith, George Brooks, Ray Huxtable, Shane Horsell, Liz Lloyd, Kirstin Bulger, Kerry Briggs and Julie Taylor.

Zena noted that Mark Moore had stepped up to manage the website. This was proposed by Jackie Tarlton and seconded by Ian Lunn.

Chair’s Update – Zena Marchington

Zena began by saying that she had expected a quiet year at the Club, however, following several conversations with Jonathan, George and with others, had decided to bring forward the resurfacing of the back courts. With inflation nearing 10%, and the Club savings account generating very little interest, the real value of the Club’s savings was eroding at around £600 each month. This was a key factor in the Committee’s decision to bring forward the resurfacing.

Zena outlined how one of her commitments at the last AGM was to send round a questionnaire to find out what surface members preferred for the back three courts. Zena articulated her surprise that only 70% of respondents were in favour of resurfacing in clay (she had expected closer to 90%). In order to further explore the views of the 30% who had expressed a desire to keep the hard courts, Zena emailed all of them directly. Of those emailed, only 4 people said that they preferred the hard surface for playing on. The rest of the respondents had other reasons for wanting to keep the hard courts (among these were: variety, wanting to practice on hard courts in preparation for away matches with other Clubs who have hard courts, less distracting for kids, etc).

Zena went on to say that the Committee had held a meeting in May and devoted the whole meeting to discussing the court resurfacing. Zena hadn’t imagined that conclusion would be reached at the meeting but that the reasons for bringing forward the resurfacing had been so compelling that the Committee members present voted unanimously in favour. She noted that Clubs in general are going in direction of resurfacing in clay, which is considered the gold standard in court surfaces and that to resurface in asphalt would have been a backward step. She also noted that material costs continue to rise, reinforcing that our timing had been good. Zena said that she felt that the new courts were a wonderful achievement.

George thanked Zena for all her help during the process and said that he had found it useful to have her challenge and question whether things needed to happen.

Ian Sagan noted that there seemed to be too much sand on back courts. George confirmed that the sand on the back courts will need time to settle down and that people playing on it will help bedding in process. Jono noted that the surface was improving every day.

Treasurer – Zena on behalf of Jonathan Vickers

In Jonathan's absence, Zena provided his update. She directed the room to look at the last 3 columns in Jonathan's table. Zena noted the following:

- That 2021/2022 actual income from membership was higher than the budgeted figure, due to higher fees and higher numbers of members.
- The Club received a Covid grant of £8,000 from CDC.
- Rent was lower than expected due to the estate having invoiced late, so this will appear in next year's accounts.
- Increased retainer for Jono, which helps to cover costs when inclement weather means that coaching/lessons can't go ahead.
- Capital investment was budgeted at £5K (the plan was to clean the back courts but resurfaced in clay instead). The £85K in the 2022/23 budget is what the courts cost to resurface, which has not yet been paid for.

Zena explained that the Membership Income forecast is based on maintaining current numbers and increasing fees by 3%. She confirmed that the Committee had voted to increase the membership fee and after a lively discussion the vote had been unanimous. She noted that the increase would be 6-7% if we increased in line with interest rate but that there would be scope to adjust it next year if need be.

Maria Walker asked where the purchase of the ball machine was captured. Zena confirmed that this was included in capital expenditure.

Membership – Jeremy Smith

Jeremy noted that there had been no applicants to take over the Membership Committee role but that if anyone was interested, to please get in touch with him!

Zena thanked Jeremy for agreeing to continue in the role and contributed that the role had been split into 3 parts (Mark website, Zena emails) in order to make it more manageable.

Jeremy noted that membership was at its highest for 25 years at a record breaking 442 members. He went on to say that there had been a drop in the number of Juniors (which started over the Covid period) but an increase in Adults. Jono confirmed that there were still high numbers of Juniors on the coaching programs but that fewer Juniors were playing with their parents at weekends. Zena and Jeremy both articulated that there had been an observable increase in men playing at the Club and speculated about whether this could be attributed to home-working becoming more widely available.

Maria Walker volunteered that another Tennis Club that she'd been to had held a Club night where they would regularly have 45 men attend and that there would be a volunteer-run bar as part of the evening. Maria asked the Committee whether anything like this had been considered. Zena noted that the Wednesday night Club sessions had almost become like that. Liz agreed that combining the evening with a social aspect would be a good idea. Zena confirmed that the Committee would discuss this at the next Committee meeting.

ACTION: Kerry – add discussion of Social/Club nights to January agenda

Jackie Tarlton noted that her son had joined East Glos Club on a reduced rate for young people and Jeremy confirmed that we do offer a Young Adults discounted membership.

Roger Davies asked whether there were any plans for the Clubhouse in the near future and Zena confirmed that there are no plans at the moment.

Seniors – Ray Huxtable

Ray opened by saying that it would be extremely remiss of him not to mention Graham Wellfair. Ray went on to say that Graham had been recognised as Volunteer of the Year by LTA for his dedication and that he would like to take the opportunity

to thank Graham very much for all his hard work. Ray indicated his intention to stand down as a member of the committee next year, having completed 6 years, and hoped that Graham would replace him.

Facilities – George Brooks

George opened his update by also thanking Graham and acknowledging that without Graham sorting out the balls and light tokens, we wouldn't have Club sessions. George also thanked Jackie for updating the blackboard with match details (which everyone agreed was really helpful and increased audience numbers). George confirmed that he planned to paint another section of the board to allow for more notices. George went on to thank Judith and Rachel for looking after the flowers (lots of applause for all those thanked!).

Maria Walker congratulated George on the toilet facilities 😊 and went on to say that the Aston Ingham Men's Team took photos of the Club toilets as inspiration for their own.

George asked those present to participate in a quick straw poll to determine court sweeper preference – the 3 options being: 1) carpet mats - which are free of charge, 2) green plastic sweepers - which are very expensive to buy and 3) the large brush style sweepers, which are also expensive. Several people liked the carpet style sweepers but the clear favourite was the new brush style.

ACTION: George to replace the green plastic sweepers with brush style sweeper when needed.

George introduced Nick Price, Chair of Cricket Club (who was sitting at the back of the room). George noted that he had had lots of interaction with Nick over the past year and that it had been an absolute pleasure.

George picked up on Roger's question about plans to refurb the Clubhouse and explained that as part of a Development Committee with Rachel (Snowball) had concluded that refurbishment of the Clubhouse would need to be parked as such a big project. George went on to say that if anyone would be prepared to take on the project, to please get in touch with him. Nick Price contributed that he believed that the Bathurst estate would be amenable to the refurb, based on their support of a similar request by the Cricket Club.

Tournaments – Kirstin Bulger

Kirstin thanked all those who have entered Tournaments and those who have helped out on the day. She confirmed that 2023 dates will go out in January. Kirstin noted that she had planned to present the Winners' Cup to Lindsay and Zach but would hand over to them at a later date.

Maria Walker asked why the Tournaments are always scheduled for Sundays, which she couldn't attend. Kirstin confirmed that it depends on how long the Tournaments are likely to take and that due to Saturday morning coaching and drills, the longer Tournaments had to take place on Sundays.

Zena noted that the over 40s Tournament had been resurrected and had been a great success. She extended huge thanks to Adrian for helping to organise and to Jackie for the excellent food!

Coaching – Jono Mellowes

Jono confirmed that the Program was still ticking over. Zach is about to complete level 3. Bernard working full time now, so not coaching. Jono noted that they have a team of great helpers. He made special mention of Oscar (Snowball) who he said was a God-send over the Summer. Jono also noted that due to Zach we now have a good vein of really strong Juniors.

Jackie Tarlton contributed that she had observed that the helpers have been really enthusiastic 😊

Jono closed his update by thanking George and Zena for always being on hand to help with any queries he had.

Juniors – Liz Lloyd

Liz opened her update by saying that things were going well with the Junior players and that many had articulated wanting to play more. She went on to say that interest levels were a bit hit and miss depending on what weekend the tournaments fall on. Liz confirmed that she had been approached by an LTA affiliated Tournament Organiser to run some proper ranking tournaments. Liz said that she felt this would be a great way to boost interest among the Junior players.

Liz thanked George for arranging the new gate and confirmed that it was a much more in line with the Safeguarding recommendations made by the LTA.

Maria Walker asked whether we would be including the Juniors in our Adult teams. Jono confirmed that 2 of the female Juniors had joined the Summer Tournaments Teams.

Women's Captain– Julie Taylor

Zena prefaced Julie's update by congratulating her on an excellent 1st year and thanking her very much for her hard work and commitment (lots of applause!)

Julie began by saying that the year had started really well with 4 different selection nights for both ladies and mens Summer league teams, which Jono and the coaches helped out at. The sessions took place in February and March, so people did well to turn up in freezing temps. There were 5 Ladies Teams selected with a wide range of abilities and experience, and lots of opportunities for learning as many players played up one or two divisions higher than they had played before. Several players hadn't played in matches at all before but gave it their all. In total, there were 122 fixtures in the Ladies and Mens summer league. The Team Captains did a fantastic job of coordinating effort!

(Please see Julie's report on the CTC website for a detailed write up of team/player progress)

Julie closed her update by saying that she had huge respect for anyone who has done the job before. Julie thanked Shane for all his hard work in organising all the men's teams for the past 6 years as well as captaining individual teams! (lots of applause!).

Julie presented the Women's Team Captains who were present with their 'Thank-you' gifts

Men's Captain – Shane Horsell

Shane noted that it had been a great year for participation, particularly in the Summer League, where numbers almost warranted a 7th Team, which may go ahead in 2023. The F Team was made up almost entirely of new league players, joined by Martin & Toby.

Shane thanked all of the Captains who served throughout 2021-22 and noted that many of these people work full time and are the ones who have to cope with last minute drop-outs, making a decision on the weather, travel arrangements, balls, refreshments etc – they all did an excellent job.

(Please see Shane's report on the CTC website for a detailed write up of team/player progress)

Shane closed his update by extending a big thank you to Julie for all her hard work in her first year as Women's Captain! (lots of applause!)

Shane presented those Mens Team Captains present with their 'Thank-you' gifts

Proposals/Resolutions – Zena Marchington

Zena outlined that in 2018, we spent 71k resurfacing the front courts and 62k in 2019 on the back court lights. In 2020, we spent 37k on lights for the front courts and lock down. In 2022, we spent 82k on resurfacing the back courts. Zena concluded that it had been an extremely busy few years with some big improvements to the Club facilities. With this in mind she confirmed that there were no proposals for next year and suggested that the Clubhouse refurb would need to wait.

Zena asked the room whether anyone had any comments.

Maria Walker proposed having scoreboards for use in matches. Zena confirmed that Julie had already enquired about this and that it would be added to the next agenda.

ACTION: Kerry to add to next Committee meeting agenda.

Roger Davies asked whether there had been any improvement to the access road, in particular, the removal of the boulders. George confirmed that it had been a very difficult process and although the estate had been very supportive of removal of the boulders, the College were not currently willing to consider this. George noted that there had been some improvements, e.g. wider space at Poppy Lodge and that the congestion seemed to have slightly improved. George concluded that it was still a work in progress and that Rachel had put in some excellent groundwork. He also acknowledged the strong commitment from the estate and the Cricket Club to help improve things.

Zena confirmed that there had been no AOB items submitted, thanked everyone for coming and closed the 2022 AGM!

Appendix 1: List of Attendees & Apologies

Apologies	Attendees	Role
Amanda Parkhurst	Zena Marchington	Committee
Anna Gell	George Brooks	Committee
Britta	Jeremy Smith	Committee
Darren Ash	Mark Moore	Committee
Gordon Hood	Kirstin Bulger	Committee
Hugh	Julie Taylor	Committee
Jonathan Vickers (Com)	Shane Horsell	Committee
Katie Ballard	Liz Lloyd	Committee
Lesley Houghton	Kerry Briggs	Committee
Louise Vass	Ray Huxtable	Committee
Britta Stephen	Jono Mellowes	
Lilian O'Caroll	Jackie Tarlton	
Maggie Fillingham	Ian Sagan	
Mark Walker	Benito Aparacio	
Paul Harris	Mike Taylor	
Paul Jenkins	Midge Wellfair	
Rachel Snowball	Graham Wellfair	
Ro Lyon	Mary Merricks	
	Ann-Maree Dunn	
	Christoph Landure	
	Diane Horsell	
	Heather Jeffries	
	Ian Lunn	
	Jen Hood	
	Jenny Forde	
	Jon Lee	
	Maria Walker	
	Martin Leay	
	Roger Davies	
	Rupert Marchington	
	Spencer Edwards	
	Toby Lowsley Williams	
	Andrew Lazenby	