

## Cirencester Tennis Club AGM 2024 – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November Cirencester Cricket Club

**Committee Attendees:** Chair – **Zena Marchington**, Secretary – **Kerry Briggs**, Tournaments – **Kirstin Bulger**, Facilities – **George Brooks**, Juniors/Womens Captain – **Liz Lloyd**, Membership - **Jeremy Smith**, Seniors – **Nicky Whittet**, Mens Captain – **James Carmichael**, Fixtures – **Ian Sagan**

Head Coach: **Jono Mellowes**

Total of 10

### Club Member Attendees:

Andree Slade, Rob Church, Cleave Melville, Mary Malcolm, Jack Malcolm, Julie Taylor, Katie Ballard, Mary Merricks, Maggie Sagan, Rachel De Vito, Maria Walker, Paul Jenkins, Ro Lyon, Jerry Elphick, Nathan John, Jon Hughes, Heather Jeffries, Rachel Snowball, Andrew Lazenby, Darren Ash and Ian Lunn.

\*Total of 21+ members in attendance.

**Apologies received from:** Jonathan Vickers, Mark Moore, Ray Huxtable, Mike Taylor, Steve Lambie, Anne Maree Dunn, Jane Muncer, Lilian O' Carroll, Midge Wellfair, Amanda Pankhurst and Jackie Tarlton

### Meeting Notes:

#### 1. Welcome – attendees and apologies

Zena welcomed everyone to the 2024 AGM and confirmed that she would cover off all the business elements first, then provide an update on the Clubhouse Refurb.

Zena firstly thanked the Cricket Club for the use of the Clubhouse.

Kerry read out the list of apologies and noted additional apologies from Shane and Di Horsell, Ann Napper and Maggie Fillingham.

#### 2. Approval of AGM Minutes from 2022

Zena asked the room for approval of last year's minutes (available on the website). All approved and **formally approved by Ian Lunn and Ro Lyon.**

#### 3. Appointment of Auditor

Zena confirmed that Jon Hughes had agreed to audit the Club's accounts again and thanked Jon very much for his work.

#### 4. Election and Re-election of Committee Members

Re-election of Jonathan, Jeremy, George, Liz, Zena, Nicky, James and Ian.  
**Proposed by Julie Taylor and seconded by Rachel Snowball.**

Election of Andree Slade as Club Secretary.

**Proposed by Maria Walker and seconded by Andrew Lazenby.**

Zena thanked those Committee members leaving: Julie Taylor and Kerry Briggs 😊

Zena also noted additional offers of ad hoc support from Nathan John, who would be helping with Tournaments but would not take up the Committee role at the moment. She also noted offer of help from Kelly Nichols in covering for Andree in her busy months. Thank you to both of them.

Zena confirmed that Mark Moore would continue to support the Club by updating the website but would no longer attend Committee meetings.

#### **5. Update from Committee Members**

Zena confirmed that she would invite Committee members to chip in with any updates in addition to their written reports following her Clubhouse update.

#### **Clubhouse update**

Zena congratulated everyone on the huge success of the Patron scheme. She confirmed that pledges had reached £100K and that she had been extremely pleased by people's generosity and the messages of support that she had received. She went on to say that as we have 70K from the Club's sinking fund we will need to find 16.5K in order to meet the target. She noted that Gift Aid would provide a further £15K and that the Club would be approaching local businesses to see if they would donate as well as exploring opportunities for grants. She also suggested that contacting past members for donations might be an avenue to explore.

Next step will be to call in pledges, which will be completed before planning approval (this is expected early Jan) as bespoke pieces, eg. the glass doors will need to be ordered ahead of the build itself. Plan is to knock down the existing building in April 2025 but will make sure loo on site for Juniors!

Zena noted that Jonathan had received a few questions relating to the Club Refurb and that she would now respond to these:

- 1) How much will be left in bank after the refurb spend? And we will still have an outstanding loan of £12.5k to the LTA?*

Zena said that it would depend when the 70K went out but that there was no suggestion of moving it until after the 2025 membership fees had been received in February. She confirmed that it would not result in the Club account going to zero. The end-September projection for next year is that there would be over £40k in the bank, even after removing the £70k and the outstanding loan to LTA will have been reduced to £10k.

- 1) How much of our net income will go back into sinking fund?*

Zena confirmed that under the terms of our LTA loan, £1,100 each month has to go into sinking fund.

- 2) Has there been any modelling based on membership decline?*

Zena said that we are assuming steady membership figures, although the impact of Paddle and Pickleball are difficult to gauge. A 10% decline, which is unlikely, would result in an annual loss of 5K.

- 3) Do we have any idea of running costs and could this risk putting membership fees up?*

Zena said that the indication is that running costs will be in the low £100s annually but that if that increases, then there is a possibility that that membership fees will also be increased. She noted that the Cricket Club turnover 32K annually from their bar, of which 15K is profit, so the Tennis

Club bar may well cover running costs.

Zena asked for questions from the room.

*4) Do we have any protection should the Estate wish to break the lease? (Jerry Elphick)*

The lease does not allow for a break clause and the Estate would need clear grounds in order to ask for one.

*5) What would the £70K sinking fund have been used for if we weren't refurbishing the Clubhouse? (?)*

George confirmed that this would ordinarily be ring fenced for maintenance or improvement of facilities. The front courts are performing well since they were put in in October 2017 (date confirmed by Rachel S) thanks to being very well looked after by members and so he expected that these would last another 7/8 years and that the fence has around another 20 years.

*6) What's the likely impact of Paddle Tennis?*

Zena explained that she had been approached by a company who could put in 1-3 Paddle courts and that we would maintain them and receive 10% of the profit. The Company who approached us are among several that do same thing.

George noted that at East Glos Club, the cost is £24 an hour for members to play Paddle. He went on to say that it would cost approx. 150K to build our own courts and that the LTA would probably put in 60% of that as a loan. He observed that there are several huge indoor spaces at other venues in Cirencester so we may find that were we to build our own Paddle courts, that we would be quickly outdone by others.

Maria Walker noted that her Club in Hertfordshire has doubled membership due to Pickleball – players. Mary also said Chalford has put in Pickleball.

Andrew Lazenby suggested that walking tennis might be something for the Club to consider.

Zena said that she was not sure that the Committee has the bandwidth to take anything else on this year or next. Andrew confirmed happy to look into walking tennis.

*7) What is your confidence level with your quotes and contingency amount? (Darren)*

Cleeve confirmed that he and others had worked hard to keep the plans in budget but that an enduring issue is that the Club is not VAT registered. He went on to say that he had found a builder who is not VAT registered and who would be able to oversee the work without charging VAT, which would hugely help with costs.

*8) Can you confirm that a spade won't hit the ground until lease starts? (Rachel Snowball)*

Zena confirmed that this is correct and that the lease would renew from 1<sup>st</sup> April with work beginning after that date.

**Treasury – Jonathan**

Zena presented Jonathan's Treasury Report in his absence and referred them to the report Jonathan had submitted. Zena drew the room's attention to a 3% increase in membership fees, which is in line with RPI plus 1%.

Zena invited those present to receive the accounts and Treasurer's Report and to note it. All confirmed that it had been noted.

#### **Membership – Jeremy**

Jeremy noted that membership levels had been very stable since 2020. Currently at 430, which is very similar to last year's numbers.

#### **Seniors – Nicky**

As per written report

#### **Facilities – George**

George thanked all lawn mowers! He said that the WhatsApp group for Facilities has a great group of volunteers and having people to help with the mowing alone has saved lots of money. He noted perennial problems with the access track. Zena asked whether the Cricket Club might help with some of the track repairs and George confirmed that they undertook the last lot of repairs. Andree asked whether it would be possible to have more of a team effort in repairing the track but George explained that having more than 4 or so people on the track working was dangerous due to the speed at which people drive.

#### **Tournaments – Kirstin**

Kirstin thanked everyone 😊

Zena noted that the over 45s Tournament was great fun and thanked to Jackie T for (another) incredible lunch!

#### **Coaching – Jono**

Jono noted another great year and thanked the Committee and Fin and Zak for their support.

#### **Social – Ian**

Ian reminded those present to sign up to the Christmas meal.

#### **Juniors – Liz**

Liz confirmed that the LTA tournaments continued to work well and that visiting players were very complimentary about the Club and the setting. Our own players and visiting members take good care of the courts and facilities. Maria commented that it was great to see youngsters playing at the Club. Liz noted that take up of Road to Wimbledon had been disappointing due to having a few very strong players and many more much less experienced ones who were reluctant to play competitively.

Liz went on to thank the Team Captains for their hard work and commitment and handed out cards and vouchers.

#### **AOB**

Zena asked whether there had been any other business submitted and Kerry confirmed that none had been received. Zena drew the meeting to a close and thanked everyone for coming.

\*some members did not sign the attendance sheet but a headcount at the beginning of the meeting established that at least 20 members were in attendance.