

## SOUTHBOURNE TENNIS CLUB

### MINUTES OF THE 53rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CLUB

Held in the Club House on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017 after the Company AGM and chaired by the Chairperson Susanne Grainger.

The Chairperson welcomed all attending.

Present: Susanne Grainger took the chair and 30 other members were present.

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

31 members attended the meeting with apologies from Celia Barron, Jane Carter, Peter Richardson, Les Abbot

#### **2. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>h</sup> October 2016.**

The minutes were approved unanimously

#### **3. TO RECEIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS**

##### **a) Chairperson**

Welcome and thank you for coming along this evening to show your support for the club.

##### **Thanks**

I'd like to start my report by thanking and therefore acknowledging all the hard work and efforts that have been made over the last year to ensure that the club is successful and continues to meet the needs of its members.

1.Firstly I'd like to thank Keith for handing over a fully operational, hard working and well trained Committee. It has made my first year as chairperson much easier than I had imagined.

2.Thank you to the Committee who have adapted well to a different style of leadership. In the early days when people asked me "what its like to be in charge?" my response was usually "I'm not in charge, we're a team and my role is to 'conduct ' the various players in the orchestra knowing when to bring them in, when to stop them and when to let them play solo!!

Thank you for your patience and understanding as I've grappled with the intricacies of the management of this vibrant tennis club (particularly Clubspark and the presentation of the treasurers reports to say nothing of Dave's monthly invoices!)

3.It's not appropriate to single out people individually but I can't let the opportunity go by without saying a huge thank you, which I'm certain you'll all echo, to Sarah for her 100% commitment to ensuring that there is always food available at every function, physically being there to make sure everything runs smoothly as well as introducing a weekly update and assisting Zoltan in updating the web site. She's also managed to fit in an amazing number of coaching sessions the results of which have enabled her to play in the Club Championships.

4.As with last year we have struggled to identify any individual to be awarded the Extra Mile Award since there are so many of you who regularly bake cakes, run the barbecue, serve in the kitchen, mend the doors, cut the grass and volunteer with the many disability groups that run every week. We are hugely grateful to you all for your help. But I would like to take the opportunity to thank and congratulate Chris Lane for not only responding to the

request for fund raising but for completing the recent Bournemouth Marathon and donating his sponsorship monies to the club.

5. Two long lasting members of the Committee, both of whom have served for seven years have sadly resigned. I would like to formally thank both Helen Henshaw, Match Secretary and Jane Carter Membership Secretary for all their hard work and commitment to the club. They will both be very hard acts to follow but as they have agreed to support their incoming replacements I hope that we will not miss them too much. Thank you both very much indeed.

6. And finally -you should always leave the best till last to Dave and the coaching team. Their tireless and continued dedication, commitment and enthusiasm for the game shines out at every session whether they're running individual or group coaching sessions, supporting the huge range of children, young people and adults, able bodied and or physically learning or mentally challenged who take part in tennis every week.

### **Highlights of the Committee Year**

So what have we the Committee done over the last year to enable all of us to enjoy playing our game? Dave, Adam and Martin will let you know in detail what the Head Coach, Club Secretary and club Treasurer have been up to. I'll just fill in the blanks.

1. After several months of trying we finally got a response from the Borough Council with regard to the development of extra courts. We were advised that they would be able to consider our request only if we went for one court. We subsequently completed all the required paperwork and submitted a pre planning application for one court adjacent to court 6 and improved vehicular access. We received a positive response for the court but a definite no-no for the improved vehicle access. However in order to move to the next stage i.e. a full planning application we were asked to provide a full arboricultural assessment to take into account the potential impact of an additional court on existing trees. This has now been completed and we are in the process of getting everything together for the full planning application.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to David Relph, one of our members for all the very hard and detailed work and meetings that he has undertaken so far. And hope very much that he will be willing to carry on!!

2. As you will all be aware STC has a very active membership many of whom are well over the age of retirement! The Committee therefore felt that there it would be in the members best interests to invest in a defibrillator which you will have seen on the wall by the entrance to the toilet facilities. All the coaches and several members recently undertook the training so should you ever need it you can rest assured that you will be in good hands.

3. We have fully reviewed and renewed the coaching contract with Dave Sanger Tennis Coaching Ltd to ensure that it remains fit for purpose.

4. We have written and approved a comprehensive Health and Safety Policy and Safeguarding Policy and Adam has created a shared drive for all these and the other official club documents. We are in the process of rewriting the club rules and the STC Business plan for the Financial year 2018-2019

5. We received a petition requesting a change of time for the Friday morning club session which now runs officially from 9-11 am and we have recently altered the Tuesday morning session to 9-11 am both of these in response to very high numbers of members turning up to play early in the morning.

### **Fundraising**

1. Dave submitted a bid to the local Tesco Bags for Help. The Club was voted first and received £5000 much of which is in support and development of the community and disability tennis programmes.

2. The club took part in the Bright Ideas Charity event which was in the main an opportunity for clubs to fund raise by taking part in a range of different activities including a sky dive, a 24 hour tennis marathon and coaching from two ex Davis Cup players. Over £2500 was raised. Congratulations and thanks to all those who took part.

Teams and Leagues, Work in Schools, Juniors and Minis, Community and Disability Tennis

1. I'll leave Dave and my other colleagues to provide you with all the details of this as they are far better placed than me to give you the correct information.

And finally

When Keith and Dave asked me last year if I would consider joining the Committee and subsequently becoming chairperson I was surprised. I needed to think about it having promised my husband (and myself) that I wouldn't get involved again as I'd just spent 7 years as Vice Chair of my previous club.

But when I looked more closely and learned more about the fantastic range of children, young people and adults of all ages and abilities who take part in the club seven days a week the decision was made for me. We are all members of an amazing club which provides tennis facilities for anyone and everyone who chooses to participate. Long may it continue.

#### **b) Treasurer**

I am pleased to be able to present the accounts and my report for the year ended 31 March 2017.

My report covers the financial period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017. As such it ignores any financial transactions that have taken place after the 31 March 2017 or prior to 1 April 2016.

So during this financial year what has happened:-

- Very little has had to be done to the clubhouse or the tennis courts during the year in question other than maintaining and cleaning (shown as repairs rather than clubhouse improvements);
- Disability programme goes from strength to strength. This is reflected in the level of funding that we receive through both third party organisations and our own fund raising efforts. As at the balance sheet there were sums yet to be spent totalling £2,979;
- Sinking fund. As a committee we are committed to building a surplus of funds which will allow major expenditure to occur without the need for significant funding from third parties or from fund raising. As some of you are aware this was an issue for the club a few years ago. As Keith has set out in his report, this 'fund' currently stands at £65,000 (up from £45,000) but the intention is to continue to build on this. This is greatly helped by having a strong membership.

We have a vibrant and active club which supports a whole range of activities and makes the financial operation of the club a lot easier. If things are happening it is much easier to get funding or new members that if there was no one here so I thank you all.

Finally can I thank Susie, Jane, Helen and the rest of the committee in assisting with me with my role and making my job much easier.

#### **b) Head Coach**

It has been another very successful year for Southbourne Tennis Club and the coaches. This year we have continued to grow and develop our Disability Tennis Programme and community Tennis Programme. This has continued to give the opportunity to people who may not been able to access the sport. Southbourne Tennis Club is still a leader in disability tennis in the county and the country. We have been part of the LTA Tennis for Kids (Davis Cup Legacy) programme giving 30 new children and 8 Adult players tennis for the first time. We have been highlighted by the LTA for our tournament programme and how well this works.

The main aim of the coaching is still to be more pro-active and provide a better facility for tennis coaching at the club and in the county. We have seen high numbers on our coaching programme often with children playing in more than one group each week.

A big thanks to Zoltan Horvath, Matt Sanger, Ray Burningham, Mitch Bentley, Shuei Belcher, Dan Gilbert, Jacques Desjoneures, Keith Mitchell, Peter Richardson, Sarah Stout, Llana Hodgson, Sarah Males, Laura Phillips, Dimitri Antonio, James Johnson, Emily Pardy, Kate Dufek and Jenny Hawkes who all help with the coaching and disability programme at the club. More volunteers are always welcome.

This report details more news from the rest of the year.

## **Junior Competition Results**

### **Junior Teams in Summer Leagues**

- U8 Mixed finished runners up in the County.
- U9 Mixed finished 6th.
- U10 Boys finished 5th.
- U12 Boys finished 3rd.
- U14 Boys finished 5th.
- U14 Road to Wimbledon Club Competition
- Boys Winner: James Johnson Runner up: Sam Lyle.
- Girls Winner: Emily Pardy Runner up: Emilie Castagna

### **U14 Road to Wimbledon County Competition**

- James and Emily both were County Winners and qualified to play at Wimbledon.

### **U14 Road to Wimbledon National Competition**

- James finished runner up at this years U14 Road to Wimbledon National Finals.

## **Junior Club Sessions**

- Saturday Morning 10am – 11.30am & Monday Night 6-7.30pm

### **Aims of session:**

- To keep children active for 1.5 hours. Improve knowledge and skills of tennis.

### **Objectives:**

- The sessions are run offering fun competition and fun games making the sessions fun and challenging. There has been a high of about 25 children turning up on Monday evenings. We are constantly looking for help from unpaid assistants either parents or intermediate juniors. Ultimately juniors will be able to progress from the Improvers group to the Intermediate group, from the Intermediates into Junior Teams, from Junior Teams into Senior Club Sessions (with approval from Coaches and Committee), from Senior Club session to play in Senior Matches for the club.
- A special thanks to Matt Sanger, Dan Gilbert and Mitch Bentley for their assistance and help in many of these Junior sessions.

## **Adult Groups**

- These groups are based around standard. These are open to all members to help improve their tennis skills and knowledge. Each group will on average have no more than 8 adults per coach.
- There are currently around 50 adults taking part in these groups ranging from beginners, improver to advanced and from 18 – 90.

### **Aims:**

- Improve standard of adults, Improvement of knowledge of performance factors which involves technique, tactics, mental and physical parts of tennis.
- To improve competition in club. Improves standard of tennis being played and will lead to more players involved in the club and coaching programme.

#### **Objectives:**

- Help players improve technique, tactics, mental and physical parts of tennis.
- Progress players into club sessions, into teams and into club tournament.
- There has been a steady increase of adults playing more regularly and enjoying their tennis.

#### **Junior Squads**

- These groups are based around standard and age. These are open to all junior members to help improve their tennis skills and knowledge. Each group will on average have no more than 6 children per coach.
- There are currently around 50 children taking part in these squads ranging from junior improver to junior performance.

#### **Aims:**

- Improve standard of children aiming at Club to County standard if not higher.
- To improve general competition in club. Improves standard of tennis being played and will lead to more performance players involved in the club coaching programme.

#### **Objectives:**

- Improvement of knowledge of performance factors which involves technique, tactics, mental and physical parts of tennis. Players progress into junior teams and ultimately into Senior Club play and teams.
- There has been a steady increase of juniors with LTA ratings who want to play in club matches and individual tournaments.

#### **Mini Tennis Programme**

- Starting with numbers; Mini Tennis Term Club Membership for all Under 10's is included in coaching course fee & Total numbers for the year for Mini Tennis Members was 135.
- We have been hard at work increasing the number of children under 10 participating in Club coaching sessions and in Mini tennis events. This has also aided in strengthening our links with St Katherine's School, St Peters & Christchurch Infants & Junior Schools & Priory Primary School, Corpus Christi and Stourfield.
- The number of children participating in the mini tennis programme has increased and we have a strong base of children playing at the club. All of these sessions are going well. We have been regularly holding mini tennis competitions and will look to continue this.

#### **Mini Tennis Performance**

- In addition to the extra Mini Tennis sessions Performance Squads have been set up at each stage of Mini Tennis to give talented children additional tennis sessions each week.

#### **Mini Tennis Holiday Camps**

- In addition to the Mini Tennis sessions we hold camps for under 10's over the school holidays. These have been very successful especially over the summer holidays where we have had a 20-30 children attending most of the individual sessions.

#### **Cardio Tennis Programme**

We have been working hard in increasing the number of people taking part in cardio tennis. We also aim to use cardio tennis to get more girls playing sport and tennis in general.

## **Disability Tennis Programme**

- The disability work is going well and moving from strength to strength. Starting with numbers; Total number playing over a month is now 110. This breaks down to 12 players playing in mainstream sessions, (1 transplant player, 2-wheelchair player, 2 Learning disabilities, 4 deaf players, 1 physical impaired player, 2 mental dis.)

### **Impairment specific groups;**

- 25 physical/wheelchair players, (8 Adult players, 3 Junior players, 2 players from Boscombe connect day centre, 12 from Victoria Centre.
- 50 Learning disability players, (20 people for our P&P LD session, and 16 from Linwood Schools and 8 with SCARF children's group. New DS Active Session added with 6 attending the trial sessions.)
- 15 Physical / Mental disabilities, (Day centre 15 players)
- 8 Visually impaired players. (6 regular players from Dorset Blind association, 2 Junior VI).

### **Developments using funding from Tennis Foundation;**

- We have kept up our weekly work with Council day centres of 3 groups. We have weekly sessions with Boscombe Day Centre with 4 players. Northbourne Day Centre 6 players, Westbourne Day Centre 7
- We have a weekly session with Victoria School with 6-8 players with physical disability. We have now finished the 2nd year of our Schools Hub with Victoria Education Centre. We have run 3 sessions with their sports leaders around 10 in total. We have ran sessions for around 32 students during the schools sports week.
- We are also had a schools festival at Victoria for 6 schools and around 18 competitors.
- We are running a weekly session with Linwood School for over 16 students with learning disability.
- We continue our work with Charity group for people with disability. We are currently running a weekly session for SCARF with 8 players with learning disability.
- Our LD session has gone from strength to strength. We have over 20 players on our register and have had 16 players to some of the weekly sessions.
- New DS Active session added Sat 11.30-12.30pm
- Ran our 5th LD tournament with 17 competitors and our 1st Wheelchair tournament with 8 competitors for local players.
- Linked with Wheelchair rugby club and ran taster sessions throughout this year with over 20 attendees.
- Hosted the 1st Dorset SEND Tennis School games with 4 schools attending and 41 children attendees.

## **Girls Tennis Programme**

- We have a girls only sessions on a Friday at 5pm for girls ages 10 and over at a reduced rate of £3, we have a regular number of between 10 – 16 girls attending.
- We also had a project to expand tennis opportunities for girls at Schools, local guides groups and youth clubs. We had over 60 Girls playing tennis during the summer.
- We have a Girls club running with Bournemouth School for Girls and St Peters with over 20 Girls attending.

## **Youth Tennis Programme**

- We also had a project to expand tennis opportunities for teenagers at Schools, local scout groups and youth clubs which went really well with over 50 participants from local secondary schools and local beaver groups.
- Funding support for Disability and Community funds

- Tennis Foundation £3500 towards the whole Disability programme
- Tesco Bags for Help scheme £5000 towards our wheelchair and physically impaired tennis project.
- Irwin Mitchell Solicitors Don't Quit, Do It campaign aims to get more people playing, watching and supporting disability sport than ever before. Donated trophies for Wheelchair tournament. Sent volunteers to help out and have printed Disability sports flyers for us.
- Rotary clubs – supported our trophies for LD tournament.
- Local Hotel/restaurant donated meat and food for our LD BBQ
- Bright Ideas for Tennis Charity helped us fundraise for our Disability programme. Raised over £2500 through a 24hr tennis marathon, a Sky Dive and an Open Day for members with ex Professional Players.
- Local Businesses – LV £500, JP Morgan £600

#### **c) Vice Chairman**

Richard was not present and Honorary Secretary gave the report.

- I would like to thank all those who have helped during the year.
- This has made the tasks easier and in some cases quicker.
- Hopefully the small changes made and those proposed will add to the continuing growth and safety of the club.
- We are always looking for volunteers.
- We also plan to hold a further maintenance morning this year.

#### **d) Membership Secretary**

Jane was not present and Honorary Secretary gave the report.

At the end of the club year 31 May 2017 membership was:

188 Adults (29 new during year) 4 down on previous year  
 62 Juniors and 8 Girls only (22 new in year) 5 down on previous year

At renewal time in June we retained a good number of Adult members but lost more juniors than usual. Membership of adults and juniors has steadily increased since and at present membership is as follows:

- 176 Adults (including 13 new this year)
- 48 Juniors (including 4 new this year) + 6 girls only members

#### **CLUBSPARK**

A reminder to all members that this system only works for everyone if members keep their details updated on Clubspark – in particular email addresses!

#### **e) Match Secretary**

A big thank you to all my team:

- Captains who are Cleo, Jill, Celia, Kirsty, Lloyd, Owain, Nigel, Dave, Zoltan and Cleo.
- As this is my last time at the AGM as Match Secretary I would like to thank past captains too.

Thank you to all the players and the committee for all their support. A big thank you to Celia for agreeing to take over the role for the next year. I have enjoyed it and will continue to support where I can. We are very lucky to have such committed captains and I am sure it is reflected in the team results. Most teams have had consistent players which makes life a lot easier. Mine have been particularly brilliant over the last year or so.

As I said last year, I won't bore you with all the details but here are the highlights of the Dorset league:

- Mens 2 promoted to Div 2 to join Mens1
- Mens vets were 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Ladies vets were 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Ladies 3 stayed in Div 2
- Ladies 2 won Div 2 to join Ladies 1 in Div 1 who won the league without dropping a point!

This summer:

- Ladies Vets – winners
- Mixed 2 promoted to Div 1 dropping a point, joining Ladies 1 who stayed up in a battle which involved 6 teams!
- Mens 1 promoted to Div 1

#### **f) Social Secretary**

- Hope all enjoying Weekly update – usually on Mondays. Any news you'd like to add, just drop me a line.
- Website updated – do check it out and our Facebook, Twitter page
- Great Bowling evening in March. Try for minis too
- Events with kitchen, good to offer food and drink. We make a small profit but the main thing is the feedback on the welcoming atmosphere at the club.

Thank you to everyone who helps and offers cakes including:

Jenny Hawkes

Keith Mitchell

Brenda & John Woodham

Amy & Colin Gilbey

Jackie Yorke

Cilla Hubbard

Martin Cavey

Geoff Searle

Peter Richardson

Carol

Jackie

Spring Open & Quiz Night – great turnout

Bright Ideas charity day – June, great fun

School games and competitions

Wheelchair Tournaments

Southbourne Open – junior and adult in July

Ralph Beatty Tournament - August

meal at Abdul's on the Saturday evening

Box League – April & August

Great to see more of you come along for a drink at Ludo Lounge. Everyone is always welcome

Fun Junior tournament – throughout the year

The children have fun, followed by sitting down for food together afterwards, provided by the parents. These remain a great way to introduce our younger players to competitive tennis in a fun and familiar environment. Especially new players or those moving up the balls – red, orange to green

Fun Sunday doubles tournaments – eg wooden rackets

Club Championship weekend – great success

Christmas party – Sat, 2 December – 7.30pm

External options too expensive - £10 seems about right for tickets for food and DJ

Last year was very well attended. Looking at similar style for this year but any tips or suggestions gratefully received as always something of a challenge to provide food for an unknown amount of people, hence the external catering.

Also, the auction is a great fundraiser, hope to repeat this but looking at different formats.

#### **4. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.**

The accounts were approved by all.

#### **5. TO AGREE FEES**

It was proposed to keep the membership fees at the same rate, agreed unanimously.  
Membership limit to remain at £195.00.

#### **6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

This year have seen quite a few changes to the committee.

Thanks to Jane (Membership Secretary), Helen (Match Secretary), Richard (Deputy Chair).  
Don Greaves who would attend the committee meetings and help with all things to do with maintenance. Thank you to Don for all your help and support over the years.

All committee members stood down. Nominations were proposed, seconded and received by:

Susanne Grainger Chairperson

Peter Richardson Deputy Chair

Martin Cavey Treasurer

Celia Barron Match Secretary

David Sanger Club Captain

Adam Spicer Hon Secretary

Colin Gilbey Membership Secretary

Don Greaves Maintenance and H&S Coordinator

Zoltan Horvath Committee Member

All re-elections and changes were agreed unanimously.

**7. AOB**

- Safeguarding and Protection Report
  - Although I have been the Safeguarding Officer for 3 years there has never been a full and accessible safeguarding policy, although the coaches obviously have their own. This year I have put together a formal policy for the Club and this should now be accessible online.
  - The main purpose of having this is to ensure that we are an inclusive club and to make sure that all members are treated with respect and can play in a safe environment.
  - It should be heartening for you to know that in my 3 years as officer we have only had to discuss 2 very minor incidents which proves that we are an extremely friendly and welcoming club.
  
- Pay and Play - It was asked how much money does pay and play bring to the club. Also the range and type of players who book courts at the club. MC stated we can only know the amounts and not the type of booking. DS said the issue is to do with ClubSpark which needs to be adapted. It was asked how the decision for Pay and Play was reached. KM stated it was part of being an inclusive club but also part of the Tennis in the Park scheme. It was suggested this has an effect on revenue because people who pay as they play are not members. SG said we are aware of this and we are discussing a way forward. It was then suggested there is a safe guarding issue by having non-members on the premises. SG acknowledged this.
- Sink Fund – It was asked what the target for the sink fund was. MC said there was no target but it is designed to replace existing infrastructure. HH said it would cost at least £30,000 if not more to resurface the courts so funds would have to grow. RH said there is a plan for infrastructure replacement which I will provide. He also added the sink fund is essential or the club would be doomed without it.
- 7<sup>th</sup> court – It was asked what was the need for a 7<sup>th</sup> court. MC said, to be al inclusive. Also we have two leases up for renegotiation and a 7<sup>th</sup> court would strengthen our position when renewing them. There is also the issue of demand. We are a popular club and at times we could do with the extra court. SG thought it was the right direction for the club given how much the club is used. It was asked how this would be funded. DS confirmed the LTA would fund 50% and loan the other 50%. There are also other agencies and funding which could be accessed. Fund raising would be key. It was asked why the court would have to be pay and play. MC said the council would look more favourably upon the planning application.
- What type of club are we? - It was asked given we have members and pay and play, it brought into question what type of club we are. MC said we are discussing this at the moment.

**8. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT AGM**

The date of the next AGM is to place on 22/10/2018 at 7PM

.....  
Adam Spicer, Honorary Secretary

.....  
Dated

.....  
Susanne Grainger, Signed as a true record by the Chairperson

.....  
Dated