

**TARVIN TENNIS CLUB AGM**  
**FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019**  
**THE EDNA ROSE ROOM, TARVIN COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Chris explained why he was sitting in the Chairman's seat. No-one had volunteered at the 2018 AGM and so Chris volunteered at committee. He sees himself as a temporary chairman and if anyone wants to stand, they should put themselves forward.

**1. Apologies**

Janet Stewart, Jane Leyland, Ros Roberts, Karen and Adam Elliot, Dawn Wisbey, Patrick Brannam, Neil Francis, Gary Ward

**2. Minutes of the 2018 Meeting**

These were approved with no matters arising.

**3. Chairman's Report for 2019**

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year that we've held the AGM at the Community Centre and after good feedback from last year in terms of the discussion element of the evening, we've decided to repeat it. However, we will keep things under review, according to comments.

Compared to the years previously, 2018 has been more a year of reconciliation with maintenance to include a major repair of the fencing and a facelift of the old club hut. In terms of 2019, we are planning to give the courts a good brushing by a contractor. We are also hoping to improve the look of the grass bank.

A key feature of last year was the stunning weather – club members certainly took full advantage of it. There was a lot of tennis played.

Having experienced a decline in membership over recent years, membership stabilised. Whilst we lost some, we gained many new ones – aided by GBTW and the 50% membership subs discount. The committee have decided to repeat both these elements. In order to thrive a tennis club needs members that play regularly. The balance of the membership has changed and there are a lot of members playing during the day – in contrast the number of players attending the evening club sessions has declined. This is a shame as it is a good way of introducing new members to the club. We need to promote and support those sessions as much as we can. The GBTW is designed to bring people into the club and the 50% subscription for the 1<sup>st</sup> year of membership and social media etc have helped. We've also introduced rotas to the club sessions to make sure new members are welcomed and the session is organised well. This is one of the reasons that the committee is the size it is and why we need at least one more member on the committee – so we will be looking to fill that role.

Other areas of play include the floodlit tennis – this has a small group of regulars who turn out, but it could be better attended and we would like to stimulate interest in this. The number of juniors has increased - a reward for Gary and committee members, in particular Jo and Felicity have put into this.

Chris would like to thank members of the committee for their efforts over the year, and to Peter who has stepped down. Peter continues to run the Men's A team.

#### 4. **Treasurer's Report**

Rowena had circulated the accounts, audited accounts and the commentary. There is a surplus for the year of £4,472 and we have cash balances of £32,747.97 – obviously to account for the eventual resurfacing of 2 or more courts.

Balls weren't restocked this year – so isn't on the items of expenditure.

Receipts from subscriptions are down on 2018 by approximately £900 – despite maintaining the level of membership, and due to the 50% introductory membership. RO set out the numbers – but this is exacerbated by the late joining of members. There will always be some turnover in membership so it is important to continue to encourage new members.

Other income – the major portion of this £1,010 was due to a grant to offset the legal costs on the issue to do with the cabling.

We haven't been a club who've held social events to raise money – the idea is to enhance the social side.

Match fees – income was down due to a reduction in teams – only one ladies and one mixed teams. There has also been a delayed payment of some match fees.

The utilities costs have shot up by approximately £200 because of a rebate last year and an increased tariff this year. The rent is static and the insurance has gone up in line with all premiums.

Courts and maintenance varies year on year – this year we've incurred the cost of fencing and the brushing of the courts has gone up due to a change in the contractor. Chris asked if there were any questions. There were none and Rowena was thanked for her excellent work.

#### 5. **Captain's Reports**

The progress of the teams was presented by Graham Bunting, Captain. He started by saying how honoured he was to be captain and hopes that we continue with the success of the teams. We have had fewer teams over the last year, having dropped a ladies' team and a mixed team. Graham would like to address this going forward, so that we can cater for different abilities. We have had new members – some are likely to be able to play team tennis and Graham hopes to create more opportunities.

Peter, Rob, Jane and Julia have run the teams and Graham thanked them.

Last year they halved the winter league divisions, creating a strong standard.

The Summer league has 3 divisions – the men's team didn't do so well and were relegated, the teams coming up were very strong, the Men's B had been promoted the year before and so haven't managed to remain.

The ladies had been promoted and have remained. The mixed team had consolidated into one team and finished 4<sup>th</sup> which shows they're in the right place.

Men's winter league team are positioned 3<sup>rd</sup> and will remain in their division – Ladies whilst they're 6<sup>th</sup> out of 8, there is a big gap to 7<sup>th</sup> so they should remain.

Julia reiterated the desire to build the Ladies up to 2 teams again. We have enough for 1.5 teams so it is to be aspired to. We should be able to put a ladies' vets team into the shield. The fixtures are out for the summer – so it will be quite challenging.

Julia thanked all the players that turn out. Jane Leyland has done an excellent job with the ladies' winter team – thank you to her.

In the Summer league we fielded 2 men's teams, a ladies and one mixed teams.

Chris thanked the captains and said that we shouldn't forget that as a smaller club we hold our own amongst the bigger clubs.

## 6. Adoption of New Subscriptions

We have decided to hold the subs again – we did get more members. The finances are in good shape with circa £32,000 in the bank. But the last quote for 2 courts was £30,000 and it is 18 years since we first laid the top 2 courts. We hope that the bottom 2 courts will need changing much later due to the preference to play on the top courts. A vote was put to the room, and it was agreed that subscriptions would remain the same and that we retain the 50% membership reduction.

|   | <b>Category</b>    | <b>2019</b> | <b>2018</b> |
|---|--------------------|-------------|-------------|
|   |                    | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b>    |
| A | Family             | 200         | 200         |
| B | Senior             | 110         | 110         |
| C | Student            | 35          | 35          |
| D | Junior             | 30          | 30          |
| E | 25 years and under | 50          | 50          |
| F | Non-playing        | 10          | 10          |
| G | Off-peak           | 80          | 80          |
| H | Guest              | 2           | 2           |
| I | Child guest        | 1           | 1           |

## 7. Election of Officers

We are at least one committee member down, Chris said that at entry level we need someone to attend meetings and help out at club nights and convey the idea of Tarvin as a friendly club. Chris explained the reason for the subcommittees – pavilion, maintenance, playing committee for organising the tournaments, and rotas for club nights – an area for any new member of the committee. Barry Cooper asked for the approval of the nominations and if there were any other nominations as follows.

**Chris Edwards** – Chairman – proposed by Jo Houlbrook and seconded by Phil Cundall

**Rowena Okell** – Treasurer - proposed by Jo Houlbrook and seconded by Phil Cundall

**Felicity Pochin** – Secretary - proposed by Jo Houlbrook and seconded by Phil Cundall

**Existing Committee Members –Graham Bunting, Julia Burgess, Jo Houlbrook Graham Freeman, Wendy Rae, Rupert Thorp and Rob Millar**, en bloc - proposed by Jeremy Hagan and seconded by Jane Mitchell

**Mark Butler** to be added as an additional committee member, proposed by Jane Mitchell and seconded by Julia Burgess

## 8. **President's Address**

Finally, Chris handed over to Barry. On behalf of the trustees and members, Barry thanked the committee, especially the Chairman, secretary and treasurer as well as the team captains. We should all be grateful to all those who contribute. The club is well run and well maintained. Tarvin is a great place to play, very welcoming and the club has felt that it has had a real buzz about it over the last year. There are groups playing virtually all week. The coaching is busy – both for juniors and seniors. It would be lovely to have more members but it seems to be the way of the world at the moment. There are 2 types of clubs – the small village clubs and the larger David Lloyd type clubs – both have their strengths but a lot of people enjoy the atmosphere of Tarvin. Barry congratulated Graham and Sarah Bunting on the birth of Charlie.

The trustees met with the officers of the club earlier in March – the trustees being Keith Barker, Margaret Dixon and Barry, and until recently Len Shipley. Len has resigned as a trustee due to his ill health. Barry read out his email thanking the trustees for their support and wishing the club a great success in the future. Barry would like the club to recognise the contribution that Len has made to the club at some point in the future.

This creates a vacancy for a trustee – the provisions in the constitution state that it is a matter for the committee. Barry said that he felt that we shouldn't have a trustee also sitting as a committee member. By this time next year, the committee will hopefully have a new trustee to put forward.

Chris thanked Barry.

## 9. **Appointment of Auditor**

We recorded our thanks to Allyson for auditing these accounts. Subject to Allyson Clarkson agreeing to audit the accounts next year, it was approved.

## 10. **2018 Club Tournament Winners**

Mens Singles – Peter Nosworthy beat Graham Bunting

Ladies Singles – Catherine Mason beat Sarah Mitchell

Mens Doubles – Adam Elliot & Gavin Nicholson bt Graham Bunting & Mark Butler

Ladies Doubles – Rowena Okell & Karen Elliot bt Jane Mitchell & Felicity Pochin

Mixed Doubles – Adam Elliot & Jane Mitchell bt Graham Bunting & Julia Burgess

The key thing of the tournament is that there are new members present in the finals.

They will have higher handicaps this year. The tournament was successful and the trophies were presented on the day. 2019 finals day is 8<sup>th</sup> September.

American Tournaments – We've continued to have a good turnout at the Americans. We normally have 4 a year. In addition, there was a social Christmas American which was a big success and very social. Julia Burgess won the ladies overall and Phil Cundall won the men's.

11. **Any Other Business**

Jane Mitchell asked if we could perhaps do the quiz and meal another time. Chris explained why we kept the AGM here again and that it would be nice to have a compromise.

The social side of the club is open to someone to take on.

The central issue is membership and keeping people playing. Mary mentioned how we are promoting membership through social media – to which Jo and Graham are doing. Chris said that as much of an issue is keeping members as well as attracting new members.

Mary then raised the level of subs – that Cuddington is the same rate for off peak members. Chris said that he had done an exercise in looking at subs and we're in line and actually cheaper than a lot of clubs.

Margaret Poole asked whether all clubs are experiencing the same decline. Kelsall is certainly declining in members. Jeremy Hagain – chose Tarvin over Tarporley and Kelsall because of the astro turf and the number of courts.

Chris alluded to the summer season players who can only play in club sessions in the evening, not getting as much tennis. Mark Butler said that he felt that the subs gave good value for money but did say everyone is different in their outlook.

Jeremy said that he was disappointed that the floodlit sessions aren't so well attended and that maybe a later start might help. Graham said that at the beginning of the season we sometimes get more than 8 attending. The poor winter weather led to a drop off in numbers and that hopefully the switch to summer evenings will mean more members will start to play again.

Social media – do we push the floodlight tennis enough? It is something that could be improved.

Rowena said that it is a trend of the times and that as a club we shouldn't be too despondent.

There was a general discussion in why membership in general is not growing.

Johnny Okell asked if we were converting the memberships of juniors having got children involved in Gary's coaching – and in particular getting the juniors to play more? Graham Freeman has spoken to Gary about this and he is going to try to get other local coaches involved in match play between clubs.

The discussion was concluded and the meeting closed.