

Tattenhall Tennis Club

Memorial Pavilion, Flacca Field, Tattenhall, Chester, CH3 9QF

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on Wednesday, 10th March 2010 at Tattenhall Recreation Club

Present: Michael Lambert (Chairman), Helen Rideal (Treasurer), Val Meeks, Jen Chambers, Rob Chambers, Mike Reece, Ann Thomson, David Thomson, Richard Chisholm, Cathy Spraggs, Margaret Rowson, Pat Black, Rhoyda Bell, Carol Rouse, Jenny Haughton, Michael Evans.

Apologies: Chris Parrott, Brian Meeks, Jackie Laurie, Margaret Harris, Sean Gamble, Paul Burns, Eric Enston

ML opened the meeting by thanking those present for attending.

1 Minutes of Last Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting had been circulated in advance. These were approved. Proposed by Jenny Haughton, Seconded by Pat Black,

2 Matters Arising

VM had written to Steve Thomas - no progress re Junior Officer.

New net Strap purchased and in place.

ML continuing as Webmaster

Rec Club articles in Parish News didn't happen – VM continues to submit for tennis.

3 Election of Officers

The following officers were elected unanimously

Hon. Chairman: Michael Lambert

Hon. Treasurer: Helen Rideal

Hon. Secretary: Richard Chisholm

Social Secretary: Rhoyda Bell

Web Master: Michael Lambert

Ladies Captain: Jackie Laurie & Ann Thomson

Mixed Team Captains: Ann Thomson & David

VM resigned as Secretary. She told the meeting that although she had enjoyed the role it was time for change as she had issues with the Central Committee which were not being resolved. She was delighted to nominate Richard Chisholm as her replacement. Helen Rideal seconded and Richard Chisholm was duly appointed as Hon. Secretary.

MR thanked VM on behalf of the club for her efforts as Secretary. He said Val had great perspicacity and had done an excellent job. He added that it was to our advantage that Carol, the Chairman of the Rec Club was a member of tennis and that Richard will find her an ally.

Junior Officer: Vacancy

Membership Secretary: Vacancy

4 Chairman's Report

Michael thanked the committee and club members for their support throughout the year. He also thanked those that had sent in responses to the Vision 2010-2015 document. He will be reporting back to the Vision group on 16th March.

ML said the main drive this year would be to increase membership and work on a scaled set of targets for developing the club – ranging from equipment to support the juniors to our goal of developing extra court facilities.

He had attended a Funding Workshop on 22nd May which was very enlightening. There is money out there – our affiliation to the LTA is key to accessing these funds.

A Welcome Pack booklet has been produced – (a few copies distributed). Pat Black will send a copy for ML to make as a downloadable option on the web site.

PB/ML

We currently have 59 adult and 22 junior members. Collection of fees is still an issue.

The junior Saturday morning drop in sessions had been a big success. In answer to a question about parents being CRB checked it was answered that in these particular sessions parents were advised that the club was not managing these sessions and that the parents were responsible for their child /children throughout those times.

ML reported that we now have a new coach, Paul Oldfield, who is working for Stephen Wright. The junior Monday and Friday lessons have restarted.

Feedback regarding the club's Vision shows control of funding and longterm sustainability as issues to be addressed.

ML

RC suggested that we keep a sense of proportion re ISA.(the Independent Safeguard Authority). The regulations don't need to be regarded as a minefield. He suggested it would be worthwhile having a separate meeting to consider how to attract new members.

5 Treasurer's Report

Details of the Tennis Club's accounts were circulated.

HR reported a very healthy balance of £4178. She pointed out that our LTA affiliation fees had still to be paid. These have been set at £9.50 per adult and £3.40 per junior.

HR asked when we should expect to be paid the tennis £10 & £5 fees. VM replied that as the tennis year starts on 1st May (for all except 2 or 3 multi sport members) we could reasonably expect to be paid at the end of June. VM pointed out that the Rec. Club had still not agreed to have a "Date Tennis Fee Paid" field on their database which was making management of the fee unnecessarily complicated.

HR replied to a question that the coaching fee was still short of expectations but slightly improved on the previous year.

It was mentioned that our current balance should be of benefit for 'matched' funding .

The 'loss' of £172 on the Christmas event was a one off. The Sportsman lunch, chosen as an 'easy to arrange' option proved very popular.

6 Coaching

The new coach Paul Oldfield started junior lessons on 1st March. He was working in Australia prior to his return to the UK. He is employed by Stephen Wright and works for 3 tennis clubs – Tattenhall, Tarporley and Hanmer.

The club needs to obtain copies of Paul's CRB check, first aid and coaching certificates. A target for £500 coaching revenue has been agreed for 2010/2011.

A 'meet the coach' event will to be arranged for adult members (possibly the 25th April tournament).

Paul agreed to visit a Saturday morning 'Drop In' session to introduce himself.

The club's coaching charge of £1.50 per court hour will continue.

ML/RC

7 Court Maintenance

It is intended to replace the padlock with a push button system. John Rideal is investigating.

The courts are due a moss treatment which will be arranged. It should be free of charge.

ML

8 Team Reports

Ladies: AT reported that the ladies came 3rd in their division last year – definitely not upset at having avoided promotion. Well done. They played all their matches with a full team on each occasion.

Many thanks to Jackie Laurie (in the sun in Dubai), who has managed to put together the 2010 schedule. AT will work out a players list as soon as the forms are returned. The 2009 system of nominating a captain for each match will continue. The contact information for the opponents will also be shown on the match lists.

Mixed: DT reported that the Mixed Team had had a superb season. All those who wanted to participate had been involved. The final placing of being nearly bottom of the IV league means there is definitely room for improvement. It is worth mentioning that everyone who came to play at Tattenhall was impressed by the wonderful setting and hospitality – perhaps the overall scores were not that important.

9 Tournaments

There will be a start of season tournament on 25th April. It will be advertised in the Parish News and invite non members to participate.

VM

After discussion it was agreed to abandon the 2009 mixed and ladies championships as few matches had been completed.

There was a request that members respond to match requests and make every effort to complete their games so that the finals can take place at the end of September.

The very successful Wimbledon at Tattenhall tournament will take place again in 2010. An end of season tournament was also requested.

10 Membership

There has been some improvement this year but the management of membership is still not very satisfactory. There seems to be no follow up on lost members. A return to having a Rec Club membership Secretary was mentioned.. (VM volunteered to do database entry).

VM suggested that as the Rec Club has become more successful it is now too big to expect one person to fulfil the role of Treasurer and Secretary.

After discussion it was agreed that we should aim to follow the lead of the cricket club and do more direct management of membership by having cheques/monies sent to Tennis first for passing on to the Rec Club. **Committee**

11 Vice Presidents

The recommendation that the club adopt Vice Presidents was made last year but not followed up. To summarise the meeting discussion....

Many sports and social clubs have Vice Presidents. The role is usually offered to past members who have made a significant contribution to a club. It is intended as an honour for the past member and a way of ensuring they are invited to events. In return VP's offer an extended profile and perhaps prestige to the club with the possibility of some financial support.

There was a comment that the term Vice President was rather 'bureaucratic.' It was also commented that there was no clear benefit to the club.

It was suggested that the matter be returned to the committee for discussion. ML recommended that the committee consider appointing 2 VP's. A number of names were put forward as possible VP's – Margaret Harris, Nick Toosey, Ken Davies, Tim Salt, Mike Woollard, Jean & John Kershaw, Thelma Williams.

12 Social Secretary's Report

Rhoyda thanked everyone on the Social committee – Helen, Pat, Cathy, David and Jen.

Sunday 31st May was the first event of the 2009 - a tennis tournament was held and to make it more sociable, Helen had an idea to have a Sunday lunch afterwards. We went to the Sportsmans; partners and family were invited and a good time was had by all.

Back by popular demand, Wimbledon at the Recreation Club was on 5th July. This was a great success, we were lucky with the weather and the Pimms went down a treat.

Rocktober 10th Rock 'n Roll evening. Many thanks to Paul Burns who kindly offered his band 'Backfield' to play at the Barbour Institute. Brilliant evening, great music, over 90 people attended, most had nothing to do with the Rec. club. Shame if you missed it. Money raised about £650, was split between the Tennis section and the Barbour. Excellent publicity / posters by Pat. Lots of people were dancing – even the bar staff after a few glasses of wine!

Saturday 5th December our Christmas Dinner. Decided to have a change from the Recreation Club and go to the Sportsmans. It was easier to organise and wasn't dependent on numbers. Great food, good atmosphere, well attended 28 people. Although one or two thought the music was a bit loud!

We hope you have enjoyed the events. Ideas and extra help always welcomed – please let us know.

DT asked if there were any events planned – perhaps involving the Summer Ball marquee. The marquee could only be available on the Sunday and might be too big for an

economical event.

There are no plans at the moment for the Rec. Club to hold an Open Day in 2010.

It was suggested that it might attract new members if we planned something to take place after the Village Fete.

13 **Vision 2010 – 2015**

The Rec Club has a project addressing this at the moment – all sections being consulted. Issues raised by tennis are: control of funding, transparency of funding, what are our fees used for, have we a sustainable development plan. The Rec Club seems to be considered as a cricket club with Add ons. On the positive side it is a great facility.

The new courts and garage conversion to a Club room are still on our agenda. CR mentioned that the Netball section's vision is to have a multisport court. Tennis appreciate the Chairman's backing on the court project. The Rec. Club could not raise these funds alone – hence the need to increase membership.

ML

ML will report back

14 **Web Site & Publicity**

ML has worked on the site – it is much improved. He made a request for pictures. We are also on twitter.

ML suggested that we start a Facebook page for young people as they don't read emails .

ML requested that everyone uses the club 'Strapline' on emails.

ML was asked to make sure we are linked to other appropriate sites .

ML

On publicity, the Rec. Club has a four page promotion going in the A41 and Village News in April. PB asked why we weren't using the Parish News.as that goes to every house in the village. VM thought this was because of space restrictions in the past. Carol to send Pat a copy for the Parish News.

CR

There was also discussion about doing a leaflet drop round the village – cost thought to be around £80 to produce and deliver 1500 black and white leaflets. It was thought that any leaflet drop would need to have particular event focus. A small group to work on that project – Val, Mike, Rob, Helen, Richard were suggested.

15 **A.O.B.**

The meeting was delighted to celebrate Mike Reece's imminent 70th Birthday by presenting him with one of Rhoysda's special chocolate cakes – complete with candles.

MR suggested that we should look into the possibility of a friendly match against Bickerton or Malpas. Sunday afternoon or midweek if for the oldies.

MR

ML proposed buying a Ball machine – cost £800 to £1500. ML proposed some fund raising specifically for a ball machine.. The practicality of storing the machine and making it available for members was raised and needs to be addressed. It would be battery operated.

The meeting agreed that a collapsible rebound wall should be bought and stored in the cupboard – cost £40.

The meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.