

Girton Tennis Club AGM (26th February 2020)

1. Members present

Andy Luff, Alan Franklin, Kevin Keeves, Mark Lawton, John Irwin, Victor Travieso, Alan Richardson, Bruce Parker, James Page, Kevin Clarke, Judith Croasdell, Mathew Boucher

Apologies: Jessica Sims, Sally Thorpe, Alex Tate, Andy Bullett, Bob Killick, Simon Gurry, David Nation (coach).

2. 2019 Minutes & Matters Arising:

The minutes were accepted.

3. Chairman's report

John thanked the committee and team captains for their hard work and support during 2019. This has been a particularly successful year for our teams with the mixed team gaining promotion. AR and VT were particularly thanked for leading our junior sessions on Friday evenings which encourages many youngsters, parents and helpers to get involved with playing tennis. KK was thanked for making all the arrangements again for our successful Xmas dinner.

4. Treasurer's report

The club made a tiny operating surplus last year. Court rental paid to the PC was £2,238 but we need to plan for this to increase by the current inflation rate for our next membership year. It was agreed that Andy should offer a £250 MUGA usage donation and remind the new Parish Council staff of our informal arrangement to use the MUGA on Friday evenings during Club Nights. The club provided tennis coaching opportunities last year at a very competitive cost to those taking part. Around £1,354 from our reserves was used to subsidise this activity and this has helped establish an ongoing coaching arrangement for 2020 that is not subsidised by the club. AL, KK and ML are still signatories to the club bank account. It was agreed that AL should change the bank mandate so that a single signature is accepted and also get a debit card for the account.

AL confirmed that most members pay by BACS with an occasional cheque. He thanked KK for his support and help tracking membership payments.

5. Membership report

Last season we had 117 members as compared to 109 the previous year. All membership categories increased and it is particularly pleasing to have 16 family memberships as this helps to encourage new young players. KK presented data covering the last 10 years and it was noted that, whilst our numbers are increasing, we are not yet back to the 128 members in 2009/2010. JI suggested that we should try and target getting back to this number. VT highlighted the shortage of teenagers in our membership and will discuss this with DN (coach) as he may have ideas to attract and retain more in this age group.

The increased numbers were considered to be partly down to the continued success of our junior supervision sessions and also the provision of coaching. With expected increases in rental costs, and running two teams it will be necessary to increase our charges by a small amount even if membership numbers remain steady. It was agreed the Junior fee would not increase and a £5 early payment discount will still apply. Fees for 2020/2021, before early payment discount, will be:

Single £67	Junior £29	Family £134
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AF to put a membership advert in the April GPN publication and also mention the coaching opportunities.

KK will be allocated 4 or 5 pairs of Wimbledon tickets soon to put in the club ballot and 34 members have expressed interest in being selected. It was agreed that it would be sociable to perform the ballot at the George on a Monday evening. KK to choose suitable date, make arrangements with the George and inform our current members.

6. Welfare report – Diversity, Safeguarding and Whistle blowing

JP reported that we had no issues raised in our first year of operating this new policy. Both he and MB are up to date with the necessary training and the refresher course can be taken online when it becomes due in another 2 years.

Our diversity, safeguarding and whistle-blowing policies are displayed on the club notice board and also available via our website. JI stated that running these policies well is essential for our future success.

7. Coaching and Junior Sessions

Last year 30-34 members gained access to coaching via two blocks of 12 week coaching sessions. VT and the club managed all aspects and paid DN to provide the sessions.

This year DN is taking the bookings, managing the payments and providing the coaching. He ran a 5 week block in Feb with 12 attendees and a similar number are already booked for March. He normally needs around 8 to make a session viable but is happy with the arrangement and wishes to continue. KK will remind him that he needs to join our club in the new membership year. DN has offered to coach our teams but this would need 4-8 people at a time. ML to consider if this is viable.

KK asked why those being coached don't come to club nights. It was agreed that there could be a variety of reasons but BP (who attends coaching) offered to promote club nights when appropriate.

VT and AR ran supervised junior sessions for 6 months last year on Fri evenings. The average attendance was 22 and VT confirmed that we are getting some players from secondary schools now. There are also a few from these sessions that go into coaching. There are a variety of ages and abilities and it was agreed that it would be nice if we invited the more-able players to join the adult club night for the first 30 minutes to encourage future senior players.

Both VT and AR were thanked for their excellent work in promoting tennis for juniors. They are both happy to continue and sessions for 2020 should restart on 24th April (weather permitting).

8. Appointment of Officers

The following were proposed, seconded and accepted:

Alan Franklin – Secretary

Kevin Keeves – Membership Secretary

Andy Luff – Treasurer

James Page – Welfare Officer

Mathew Boucher – Welfare Officer

Committee Members: Alan Richardson, Mark Lawton, Judith Croasdell, John Irwin, Victor Travieso, Bruce Parker, Mathew Boucher, James Page.

Captains: Men's Team – Mark Lawton
Deputy: Bruce Parker

Mixed Team – Mark Lawton
Deputy: Yulia Shpak

9. LTA grants and policies

JP agreed to apply for an LTA grant to help develop tennis for seniors. This will be similar to the application he made last year with JS which resulted in a £150 grant.

The annual club risk assessment has been done by KK as part of our club registration with the LTA. He reported that the scope of this registration seems to increase every year.

10. AOB

It was agreed that we should support the Village Feast and open the courts to the public on Sat 11th July. Kevin reminded those present that we need plenty of members helping during the afternoon and the format will be similar to last year.

BP reported that the MUGA is now operational with new LED lighting.

AR agreed to get a new battery for the ball machine and also source new 'no pressure' balls when the offer comes through. ML stated a preference for Slazenger balls. ML also asked the club to buy two manual scoreboards to use when we have home matches.

KK confirmed that Xmas dinner will be either on Sat 5th or 12th Dec. Venue to be announced.

AF to modify the words for the Village website link to our tennis club and remove any 'turn up to play' references.

JI suggested that a Summer social and playing event might attract more families and junior players. This could include a BBQ and mini tournament but would have to be on a day when there is no cricket on the local ground. Sometime during the Wimbledon weeks may be popular. VT agreed to lead a sub-committee to work on this plan. ML, JP and JC agreed to assist.

JC reported that a number of women play on Monday evenings and that she is trying to encourage more to join and play on Friday club nights.

VT suggested the club should make better use of Facebook and Twitter. He will check the accounts that KK said we have available to see if these could be refreshed in some way.

MB offered to attend the next local LTA AGM on 18th March.

11. Next Meetings No dates were set although the 2021 AGM will be in late February.

This meeting closed at 20.55

A committee meeting followed the AGM and John Irwin was unanimously re-elected as Club Chairman.