

Girton Tennis Club AGM (3rd March 2022)

1. Members present

Andy Luff, Alan Franklin, Mark Lawton, John Irwin, Victor Travieso, Alan Richardson, Bruce Parker, James Page, Bob Killick.

Apologies: Matthew Boucher

2. 2021 Minutes & Matters Arising:

AL confirmed that he now has a debit card for the account, can operate it online and that a single signature is now accepted. The minutes were accepted.

3. Chairman's report

John reflected on another challenging year with both Covid issues and the sad loss of Kevin to cope with. James and Victor took on several extra tasks and, with help from AR and others, have kept Kevin's previous role of Membership Secretary running smoothly. JI said the club is going from strength to strength and makes a unique contribution to village life. He thanked all committee members for their contributions and suggested we really need to find some ladies to join the committee to ensure a balanced approach. JP agreed to contact a few members directly to encourage committee participation.

4. Treasurer's report

AL gave a thorough description of the club accounts and these were accepted.

The club's finances are stable and there was an operating surplus last year thanks to a larger number of members and reduced costs (eg no home match catering). Court rental paid to the PC was £1,726 which included a rebate due to court closure during the second Covid lockdown. We were able to offer subsidised coaching to members throughout the year and a special coaching programme was run for ladies last Summer without cost to the participants.

It was agreed that we would donate £300 to the PC in recognition of our use of the MUGA on Friday evenings (April to Oct). AL will write to confirm dates and times required for this year and arrange payment of the donation for last year.

AL confirmed that the 8 unauthorised direct debits to our account last year have been fully repaid by Barclay's and that no further unexpected payments have occurred. He will arrange for another debit card and access to the account for our Membership secretary as this makes the job of managing membership fees simpler.

5. Captain's report

ML said both the Men and Mixed teams achieved some good results last year and thanked the vice-captains (Bruce and Yulia) for their help in taking charge of the matches when ML was absent. Eight men played in their matches and twelve players participated in the Mixed matches. Given the number of club members, it is a shame that more do not play in the matches. The use of coaching to improve confidence was discussed and maybe getting enough ladies to enter a separate team in 2023. This will get further attention during the year.

For 2022, we have a men and mixed team entered. The men start in League 11 of 12.

The mixed team starts in League 9 of 10. In both cases, promotion or relegation is possible!

All home matches will be on Tuesday evenings. AL will include this information when he writes to the PC to avoid any potential double-booking issues.

6. Membership report

JP provided a detailed report of membership in 2021 and said that everything had been left in very good order by KK.

Last season we had 220 members as compared to 152 the previous year. Of the 220 members, 134 are adults, 86 juniors and the split between male/female is roughly equal.

The increased numbers were considered to be partly down to the continued success of our junior supervision sessions and also the provision of coaching.

It was agreed that fees for members would be kept at the 2021 new-member rates. These are:

Single £68	Junior £30	Family £136
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In addition, it was agreed that we will offer a discount to those paying their fees before the end of April 2022 to encourage early membership interest. The discount will be approximately 15% but rounded to whole pounds. The discounted rates will be:

Single £58	Junior £25	Family £116
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AF to put a new membership advert in the April GPN publication. JP will email the current membership with details of arrangements for membership renewal via a simpler process which is intended to reduce the need for forms and data entry/deletion. VT and JP will consider and propose a suitable approach.

VT will issue a new password for court booking but will keep the old password in operation for an overlap period of around 1 month. JP will issue the new password to members as they join or renew their membership.

Around 82% of members pay their fees via bank transfer and we would like to encourage more to do this if possible. It was agreed that we would stop issuing shoe tags but court keys will continue to be available for members to purchase. AR and BP will deliver new keys and also collect any from members that leave the club.

7. Appointment of Officers

The following were proposed, seconded and accepted:

Alan Franklin – Secretary
James Page – Membership Secretary
Andy Luff – Treasurer
James Page – Welfare Officer

Committee Members: Alan Richardson, Mark Lawton, John Irwin, Victor Travieso, Bruce Parker, Mathew Boucher, James Page, Andy Luff, Alan Franklin.

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

8. Pavilion Upgrade

AR said that there had been no formal communication about the current PC plans or timescales for this work. The court lights can now be controlled from the locked box outside the pavilion. Once we are notified, it is likely that we will need to vacate the tennis club room and store the equipment. Several of those present suggested that some form of path between the pavilion and courts would be useful. If not a full path, then a better surface near to the court entrance should be considered to reduce the wet mud that gets carried into the courts currently.

AR and AL are in communication with the PC about court cleaning and will ask that an entrance upgrade should be considered as part of this activity.

9. Coaching plans

VT reported that the Junior supervised sessions ran very successfully with up to 50 youngsters taking part on the 4 courts (2 hard, 2 on MUGA) over a 6 month period. The sessions would not have been possible without excellent support from many parents and helpers including AR, JP, Ben, Niya and one or two youngsters undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh awards. The plan is to make these sessions available again from 22nd April until the end of October. AR has talked to the new PC booking clerk about use of the MUGA and AL will confirm our informal arrangement when he next writes to the PC.

David Nation has provided professional coaching throughout the year and is happy to continue his arrangement with the club. Currently two sessions are running on Saturdays. Members pay a subsidised fee of £5 per session. All bookings and payments are handled by David.

The ladies-only free coaching sessions attracted over 40 enquiries and 24 were able to take part last Summer. The coaching was well-received and resulted in at least 6 new club members.

10. Any other business

Welfare: JP confirmed that there had been no issues raised and that he can continue to be the club Welfare Officer as well as Membership Secretary (MB has resigned from his role of Welfare Officer but remains on our committee). AF to update the club noticeboard.

Girton Feast: AR confirmed that the main day will be Sat 9th July. He will be organising a fun run around the recreation ground and asked for volunteers to help steward etc. The club agreed to support this village activity and to open the courts. VT requested that we have an area reserved for a gazebo and activities along the back fence of the courts. The area previously used at the side of the courts is not good as it is a main thoroughfare for people and vehicles. AF/AR agreed to raise this with the Feast committee.

VT proposed that we should run a friendly tennis championship for Junior and Senior members during the Feast week and the winners could be awarded a 'Rocket Cup' – in memory of KK. The committee were keen to support this activity. JI will investigate suitable prizes. AR will check if KK's Widow would like to be involved in any way eg awarding prizes.

Xmas Dinner: It was agreed that we should try to run a club dinner again this year on Sat 17th Dec at the Golf Club. ML will start making enquiries.

11. Next Meetings

No dates were set although the 2023 AGM is likely to be in late February/early March.

This meeting closed at 20.50

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