

Girton Tennis Club AGM (15th March 2023)

1. Members present

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

Apologies: None

2. 2022 Minutes & Matters Arising:

The minutes were accepted.

3. Chairman's report

John reflected on another successful year with the club going from strength to strength and making a unique contribution to village life. He thanked all committee members for their contributions and suggested we really need to find new members to join the committee and to make succession plans. AF agreed to call a separate committee meeting to discuss this topic.

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 a small operating surplus last year thanks to good membership numbers and careful control of our variable costs.

Court rental paid to the PC was £2,302 and this will increase this year in line with inflation.

Coaching for members was subsidised by over £500 and other significant expenditure covered new balls and hospitality for visiting players at our home matches. 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.

AL stated that his access to bank branches is difficult since the last Histon bank closed and online Apps don't always work with cheques. He asked Membership secretary (JP) to try and get all members to pay their fees via BACS.

5. Captain's report

ML provided a detailed report on our team activities and thanked Vice-Captains Yulia and Bruce for their valuable assistance. The Men's team had eight regular players and competed in the Summer and Winter League achieving one win and two draws. Our Mixed team played in the Summer League and finished in 6th position in Division 9. It was often hard to find female match players. It was agreed that free match coaching for female players may help to resolve this and ML suggested we cover this at the next committee meeting. ML also stated that this would be his last year as Captain. JI thanked him for performing this role for the last 10 years.

For 2023, we have entered a Men's and Mixed team for the Summer League. 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. Junior Supervised Tennis

This ran very successfully for 6 months in 2022, attracting 20-30 juniors per Friday evening. Both the main courts and MUGA were often in use. VT and AR had help from 4 or 5 other adults and are keen to secure further assistance. VT stated that any adult helpers for this year must have a clear DBS check that has been done through the LTA. This is mainly an online process but requires a £10 payment (JI confirmed the club would refund this) and presentation of ID at Hills Rd. JP agreed to hold records of who has completed the appropriate DBS check. It was agreed that sessions would restart from 21/4/23 and run for 6 months.

The option of supporting one or two members to go through the LTA 'Level 1 Assistant Coaching' course was discussed and widely supported. This is a two day activity and it was suggested that those completing the course could then further assist with supporting our Friday Junior sessions. VT has one young member in mind and will follow this up soon as the next courses are in April or May.

7. Maintenance and Equipment

The PC is responsible for court maintenance and has formed a Sports sub-committee to gather information from users of the village sports facilities. AR is our nominated delegate with AF as the deputy. There has been one meeting this year and AR has made the PC aware of the need to get the courts cleaned then re-painted. He understands quotations are being sought.

AR confirmed he has bought a new stock of both pressurised and non-pressure balls. He asked that members take care not to mix these up. Further ball purchases may be required to support the Rocket Cup in 2023.

VT confirmed that the repaired ball machine is working well and asked if the external switch for the court lights has been OK. AR stated there have been no issues raised by the PC or users.

8. Rocket Cup

This competition ran for the first time in 2022 in memory of Kevin Keeves. VT reported that 22 members played, including 10 juniors. There was a good level of sportsmanship and everyone seemed to enjoy the opportunity to play. It was agreed that the competition should be organised again in 2023 and follow a similar format. However, the trophy presentation ceremony should be improved. MB suggested a gathering and maybe buffet at the George would be an option following the final matches. VT is happy to be the main organiser with MB arranging the presentation ceremony and AR buying the extra balls.

9. Membership

JP provided a detailed report of membership in 2022.

Last season we had 177 members as compared to 220 the previous year. Of the 177 members, 102 are adults, 75 juniors and the split between male/female is roughly equal. 29 families became members (down from 37 families in previous year).

The numbers had previously increased over the Covid lockdown periods and, although lower than 2022, are still very good. Junior supervised sessions and also the provision of coaching were felt to be valuable additions to the club offering for members.

Club finances and the various financial pressures that currently face our local population were discussed. There was general agreement that this year we should freeze membership costs whilst noting that this was a generous decision when costs to the club are increasing.

The rates for 2023 are therefore:

Single £68 Junior £30 Family £136

In addition, it was agreed that we will offer a discount to those paying their fees before the end of April 2023 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

AF to put information about the membership rates in the April GPN publication. JP will email the current membership with details of arrangements for simple membership renewal and our strong preference for BACS payment.

VT will continue to manage passwords for court booking via the website.

AR and BP will deliver new keys and also collect any from members that leave the club.

10. 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: Vacancy

11. Pavilion Upgrade

AR confirmed that the original plans (which had external grant support) have been scrapped and that any refurbishment would be simpler and utilise a reserve fund set aside by the PC. AR has asked that we keep the tennis equipment room but have a new external door to enable direct user access. The internal door from within the Pavilion would remain. He has also requested a paved path between the Pavilion and court entrance gate to help reduce mud getting carried onto the courts. Both requests were supported by the committee.

AR to continue liaison with the PC on this topic.

12. Coaching plans

VT reported that David Nation continues to offer professional coaching throughout the year (subsidised by the club) but that numbers have dropped. All bookings and payments are handled by David. JI suggested that we should think seriously about new coaching opportunities as this could be a way to develop our younger players and also to encourage female players to play in matches/competitions. New sessions may require a different coach. It was agreed that AF would call a separate committee meeting to discuss options. MB asked if 'tennis for tots' might link into our club but it was considered that this age range was too young to engage with us.

13. Sports Committee

As covered in item 7, AR is our main representative with AF as deputy.

14. Any other business

Girton Feast: AR confirmed that the main day will be Sat 8th 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. We will also offer a family membership pass as a prize for the FOGG raffle. VT and BP will be away that day so support from other members will be important. AR will be the main link between tennis club and feast committee.

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

15. Next Meetings

No dates were set.

This meeting closed at 21.20

A committee meeting followed the AGM and John Irwin was unanimously re-elected as Club Chairman. It was noted that JI has stated that he would like to pass the role onto someone else from next year.