



Old College Lawn Tennis Club Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 5th March 2024 in the Clubhouse

1. Introduction

The Chairman welcomed those present and thanked them for attending.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from David Cianfarini, Anne Traynor, Elizabeth Emerson and Lorna Tidmarsh.

3. Minutes of AGM in February 2023

Minutes of the AGM held in February 2023 were approved subject to one amendment.

4. Matters Arising

The Chairman said that matters arising would be dealt with in his report to the Meeting.

5. Chair's Report

- 5.1 The Club this year could celebrate with confidence 140 years of existence. It was initially on a different site on Gallery Road and then from 1885 on the present site.
- 5.2 After 140 years the club was in a good state. Bernard and Alex would be reporting on all the terrific things which were happening in tennis, and he would like to thank them, the coaching team and the Tennis Committee for all of that had been achieved. Caroline would be reporting on the finances, where she has done a superb job. The club was in robust financial health
- 5.3 The end of 2023 saw the Club at maximum capacity, with membership of 801 in all. (625 adults, 176 juniors)
- 5.4 A Club as large as this, with turnover approaching £250K per year, was complex to manage. For some time it had not been possible to run it on a purely volunteer basis. We already have paid book-keeping and facilities management roles. Last year we outsourced much of the day-to-day work of managing the membership function which had become a very demanding role. We have also appointed a professional website manager. We expect that further professionalisation of functions may be necessary in the future.
- 5.5 Maintenance of the courts remains a top priority. A good deal of work had been undertaken in the last year and the courts were in good condition. Funds continued to be set aside for the established programme of court maintenance and resurfacing.
- 5.6 In the last year the Committee had worked hard to maintain the Club grounds and boundary. The accumulated rubbish behind the Clubhouse was removed. We have installed a new service gate and added some metal fencing by the main gate. Several hundred bushes have been planted along the Gallery Road boundary to build up the hedging, as cheaper and better replacement for the rotting wooden fencing. The waste plot between courts 4 and 8 has been planted with flowers and shrubs. The seven silver birch trees planted by court 4 have all been sponsored by

members and commemorative plaques erected. Shrubs and field maple trees have been planted on the Lovers Walk boundary.

- 5.7 The Club website is dated and hard to maintain and we have commissioned work on a new website which should be ready in the Spring.
- 5.8 A new club crest has been adopted and we are rolling this into use.
- 5.9 On the social side, there have been some excellent events, including the Art Open House weekend and member's private view, the club tournament and, of course, Manjit's Women's Social Evenings. Virunee has lots of plans for the coming months so members should watch the Instagram account for news of these.
- 5.10 Finally we had begun work (but not yet spent any money) on the planned refurbishment of the Clubhouse. This will be a long-term project and needs to be approached cautiously so that we get things right and do not waste resources.

Finally the Chairman thanked the volunteer team that works very hard to keep the Club running and indeed develop it. Big thanks to Sara who was stepping down after over three years as Membership Director. Also to Anna Leslie who gave a couple of years of hard work as Social Secretary. Special thanks also to Emma Michelle after several years as welfare office. Lorna Tidmarsh is taking this on. Also thanks for the Club Committee who work tirelessly to keep the Club in its present very healthy state.

6.0 Treasurer's Report

- 6.1 Following the query raised by Liz Rowland at last year's AGM, it was proposed that Club Rule 5.8.5 on membership subscription increases be changed to from the RPI to CPI inflation measure. The CPI has now been adopted by the UK's National Statistics Office as the official measure of inflation and use of RPI is discouraged. The Meeting adopted the motion to substitute the CPI for the RPI when

determining future subscription increases. Subsequent references in the Treasurer's Report are to CPI.

- 6.2 Caroline reported that overall annual revenue increased by 59% to £213K over the year due to both increase in the number of members and membership fees.
- 6.2 During the same period, total expenditure increased by 31% from £116K to £152K. The main increases are attributed to inflation impacting our running costs, the growth of the club membership and, as the new courts have now been in use for more than one year, a higher depreciation on wear and tear provision from 18% to 36%.
- 6.3 The club's net operating surplus increased from £17.9K to £58.3K due to increases in all categories of income and careful management of costs.
- 6.4 Capital expenditure was modest in 22/23 and future capital expenditure is to maintain the current courts. This is before considering the potential refurbishment of the clubhouse.
- 6.5 Cash balances have now recovered after the 2022 new courts and resurfacing project. As at 30th September 2023 the club had £164K banked and should have sufficient cash to fund future expenses. To be prudent the cashflows include a seasonal adjustment to allow for the six months from 30th September to receipt of the next year's subscriptions. The cash position as at end of February 2024 is in line with the seasonally adjusted estimate. The projected Capex plan should generate a surplus for other potential projects.
- 6.6 The cash flow forecasts assumed carpets on 5 and 6 would be replaced in 2025/26. In 2028 replacement surfaces for 1 and 2 and carpets for 7 and 8. Replacement carpets for 3 and 4 in 2033. In response to a question from Alyson Fox, the Treasurer confirmed that the replacement of carpet on courts 5 and 6 is an adjustment from previous cash flow forecasts made after consultation with Director of Club and Grounds and others on the Committee. This deferral is possible because of the current maintenance programme.

6.7 The 2023 budget supports the Committee's future plans. It assumed a 5% inflation rate which is lower than the CPI increase in September 2023 (6.7%) and higher than the Bank of England forecasts (circa 4.7%). This year the budget was discussed and signed off by key Committee budget-holders before being reviewed and approved by the full Committee in February.

6.9 We used the budget and the Capex plan as the starting point for our long-range cash forecasts. The Committee considered several adverse alternatives to the expected outcome and concluded that the Club is in a stable financial position and should meet its financial obligations when they fall due for the foreseeable future.

7.0 Appointment of Independent Examiner

It was reported that Malcolm Kemp was willing to stand as Independent Examiner.

8.0 Membership Director's Report

Sara Pearce was pleased to have been Membership Director and to have simplified the membership system. She hoped that the next incumbent would enjoy the job.

9.0 Report from Director of Tennis, Head Coach and Men's and Ladies Captains

9.1 Bernard Stillwell reported that he and Alex worked well together and met frequently. Alex Heath then provided a re-cap of the last year's tennis activities.

9.2 There was a slide outlining the structure of the coaching team with four club coaches of whom Alex and Hamid were level 4 and Wayne and Luke at level 3. There were also some programme coaches, Miles Speer and Amy Sergeant at Level 2, and Jorge Diez Alvarez at level 1/2

9.3 The junior programme had extended to 250 across afterschool and camps. It was split into Development,

Squad and Academy. Recent focus has been on improving academy structure to retain our best juniors and offer a clear pathway for promising players. Competition had been encouraged and our u12 boys were currently in the knockout stage of the Surrey National League.

- 9.4 The outreach programme with schools had been piloted in 2023 where Alex scouted enthusiastic boys from St Georges Primary to select 4 students to attend our camps free of charge. This programme would be extended this year to 2 schools.
- 9.5 In Coaching and Club Play: the structure of Wednesday evening play has been tweaked to encourage more higher-level players to attend, so that a reasonable mix of players was achieved. Hamid's contribution to this success was acknowledged.
- 9.6 The new format for the Club championships would be implemented again this year where all players would be available to play during a two-week period June 8th to June 22nd. Teams would host the social events on separate nights.
- 9.7 Alyson Fox provided said that one of the six ladies' teams was likely to be promoted, another remaining in its division and likely relegation for the rest.
- 9.8 James Gubb reported that out of the 7 men's team, three had already secured promotion, another three might be promoted depending on the results of their last match with another with an outside chance of relegation.

10.1 Election of Club Committee and Tennis Captains.

10.1 Club Committee.

The chair reported that the nominations had been posted on the website and that as none had been contested the following had been appointed:

Club Chair	Nigel Thorpe
Vice Chair	Ivan Savage
Director Clubhouse & Grounds	John Barton
Members' Representative	Manjit Roseghini
Social Secretary	Virunee Viravong
Chair of Tennis	Bernard Stilwell

10.2 Tennis Captains

The meeting elected James Gubb as Men's Captain.

11.0 Endorsement and Appointment of Treasurer and Executive Secretary

The appointment of Caroline Beck as Treasurer and Joy Jackson as Executive Secretary was approved by the members.

12.0 Any Other Business

12.1 There were member questions about the potential refurbishment of the clubhouse. NT reiterated that current plans excluded any provision for the costs of this as a very detailed examination would need to be done to determine the best course forward, and this would take time.

12.2 In response to a question about the 2033 lease, NT confirmed that the Committee was aware of this. To reduce the risk of this becoming a future issues NT maintains a good and close relationship with the lessor (Dulwich Picture Gallery).

The meeting concluded.