

Great Shelford Tennis Club – AGM 2017 - Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 8th February, 8pm, Clubhouse

Apologies: Sylvia Morton, Erica Lowry, Mark Sanders, Dawn Sanders, Anna Milne, Dani Grant, Alison Sutton, Jacqui Lloyd, Stephen Chittenden

Meeting Minutes:

Minutes of the 2016 AGM and matters arising

Approved as they stand.

Treasurer's Report:

The 2016 Audited Accounts and the Sinking Fund Balance reports were circulated to members in advance, in accordance with the club rules.

Similar financial position to last year. Approx. 10k free assets. Cash flow profit £580 over the year.

The LTA recommendations for the total income to be set aside into a sinking fund was set in 2013 so expecting them to suggest an increase in the near future.

In last year's accounts, the debtors line mainly consisted unpaid match fees. There was a sterling effort this year with payment of match fees, thanks to all captains and players, the new process is working well.

Quite a few repairs were carried out last year. Will be looking to resurface in the near future. Also may have issues surrounding floodlights which are very old and have been causing concern recently – this issue will be investigated this year.

Q: what is the reason for higher fees on paypal and go cardless? This is because more members are using these methods for payment of subs. Still banking 40+ cheques each year, but most payments are made online with some set up for direct debit (go cardless) and paypal.

Thanks to Jeff for his continued efforts as treasurer.

Match Captain's Reports:

Ladies and Mixed:

Ladies Summer League – 6 teams entered. 1st team finished 4th to stay in div 1; 2^{nds} relegated to join 3rds in div 4; 4^{ths} relegated to div 6; 5^{ths} relegated to join 6^{ths} in div 8.

Summary: Room for improvement to close the gap between the top division and div 4. Teams 2, 4 and 5 all relegated but hopefully gained match experience.

Mixed Summer League – 6 teams entered. 1st team finished 3rd in div 1; 2nd team finished 3rd in div 2; 3rd team relegated to div 5; 4th team finished 3rd in div 6; 5th team relegated to div 9; 6th team stay in div 10.

Summary: no promotions but three 3rd places show potential for next summer.

Ladies Winter League – 4 teams entered. 1st team promoted back to div 1; 2nd team relegated to join 3rds in div 3; 4th team relegated to div 7.

Summary: good to see 1st team back in the top division

Mixed Winter League – 3 teams entered. 1st team finished top of div 2; 2nd team finished top of div 3; 3rd team relegated to div 5.

Summary: two trophies to collect next AGM!

Men:

Mens Summer League – 8 teams entered. 1^{sts} won, 2nd stayed, 3rd stayed div 2, 4th, 5th and 6th all finished one place above relegation, 7^{ths} relegated, 8^{ths} stayed in bottom div.

Summary: in comparison to 5/6 years ago, we're not as strong at the top end of the club, but strong in the middle.

Very pleased to report that we had 12 under 18s playing in matches, 3 of these were under 14, this is very important to the club.

Chairman summary – we are running 20 teams, a lot for a village club like ours, there is lots of effort put in by all, well done to everyone.

Junior Organiser and Coach's Report:

Mini: we have about 60 children aged between 3 and 10 playing at least once a week during term time and about another 100 who attend camps. Our mini tennis programme is particularly lucky to have such excellent young coaches like Ollie and Gio working with the children.

Juniors: we have an excellent range of players aged between 11 and 18. What is great about this section of the club membership isn't so much that they are all amazing tennis players on the path to tennis stardom but that they are all such good people. Credit must go to Matt who, although sometimes appears grumpy(!), gets on very well with all the kids at the club and sets very good standards within the coaching sessions. Particularly proud of the number of girls attending each week – around 25 playing each week and this number is growing versus a declining number of girls playing nationally.

Davis Cup Legacy: Matt ran this programme last summer, funded by and arranged by the LTA. Free coaching sessions were offered to non players (stipulation of the LTA). Marginally successful although, as with all free things, attendance was hit and miss. The club didn't gain any new players from the programme either.

Adults: coaching is always well attended and Over&In would love to be able to offer more weekday evening coaching. Real demand from existing members at all levels. This was highlighted by the demand we had in the new adults programme which was run over 7 weeks last summer. This was well attended and the club gained additional players.

Feel that club no longer meets the needs of the players at the higher level, eg disappointing to see that players like Chris Cope and Andrew Greenaway have left to play elsewhere. This needs to be addressed.

Sweden trip: took 7 club members to Gothenburg for a long weekend coaching trip. Played lots of tennis and everyone enjoyed it. Something that is hoped will happen again. Not a closed shop at all and if any members would like to join something similar then feel free to speak to Hamid.

Internal competitions: This coming year we will be running regular match play events for mini tennis players with a 4 rating, juniors with a 10.2-9.1 rating and adults with 10.2-6.1 rating. These will be based on the sense of participation and enjoyment of the competition rather than someone becoming the winner. One of the goals behind this is to increase the number of RCJ's (regularly competing juniors, an LTA measure) that we have. An RCJ is someone who plays 6 matches a year. We have many who meet this criteria but, from this year, we will record results and increase the statistic against the club's name.

External competitions: AEGON teams all did well last year, everyone enjoyed it. This year we plan to use the team tennis as a way of encouraging more players to attend the junior club session. We have entered U8 (mixed), U12, U14 and U16 boys, and U16 girls, as well as a mens team.

Coaches: Sam Jacot is completing his gap year with Over&In and has been a superb addition to the team. Gio is also doing a great job around his studies and big thanks to him for his contribution in taking on the junior committee role. Ollie and Matt have been superb as always and special thanks to Matt for all of his efforts performing the mens captaincy role.

David Rice: is no longer playing but thanks go to the club from both Hamid and David for the club's support. It was a great opportunity for Hamid to work with one of the best players in the country and he feels he is a better coach for it. David would particularly like to thank Stephen Chittenden who put his hand in his pocket to support David and this is something that he will never forget.

Aljaz Bedene: Over&In is now sponsoring him, he's British number 4, and hope that he will make an appearance at the club this year, at the open day, and perhaps present awards at the club dinner if he is in the UK. Hamid can provide tickets to ATP tennis events if anyone is interested.

Committee: big thanks to all the committee members. Without them there is no club. Special mention to Sarah Franklin and Stephen Chittenden for all their efforts as they are stepping down from the committee this year.

Overall, been at the club 12-13 years now and I am now getting closer to one of my goals which is to live in Shelford!

Chairman summary: we are very privileged to be linked to Over&In. They are the heartbeat of the club, they have driven the development and growth of the club in terms of the tennis as well as socially and from a community-wide aspect. Thanks very much to Hamid and the team.

Expansion plans for GSTC at the new Hauxton site:

A reminder that the goal was to have 4 floodlit courts and for GSTC to end up being an 8-court club.

John Hammond, from Hauxton PC, kindly attended to provide an update on the project to develop the of Bayer site: Hauxton pc looked to partner various clubs. Football pitches are up and running, used by Whittlesford Warriors (juniors) and Cambs ladies use it for summer training. Thriplow cricket club also partnered and about to build a new wicket.

No changing facilities currently so can only be used by juniors.

Planning application is in for the pavilion – for tennis, football and cricket use.

Already in receipt of a grant for indoor games.

Hauxton PC want the area to be a centre of activity, used by all.

The third and final sport to set up a partnership with is tennis.

The two courts that were there did not match the LTA guidelines in terms of space required around each court so they have been ripped up.

Should we wish to go ahead, the lead time required until completion is about 2 years, including planning, site clearance (former agri site), and building, so the earliest we would have the courts would be the end of 2018.

- (i) If we wanted to redevelop the two old courts (adjacent to the a10) with no floodlights, we could do that straight away with no planning consent needed.
 - It was agreed by those present that we would not proceed without floodlights.
- (ii) If GSTC commits to wanting to apply for planning for floodlit courts, we have two choices:
 - (a) to apply for planning for 2 courts with floodlights to be built on the site of the old courts
 - the courts would be right on the cricket boundary and there is only space for 2 courts a little distance from the planned pavilion.
 - It was felt it would be too dangerous to have courts in this position so this was a no-go.
 - (b) to apply for planning for 2, 3 or 4 courts with floodlights to be built adjacent to one another on the piece of land towards the rear of the site. The Hauxton PC would first have to seek permission from the developers to acquire the land under Section 106 of the planning act. They will only seek this permission once they have agreement from GSTC (or another club if GSTC decides not to proceed) that we wish to move forward to the planning permission stage. The window of opportunity for seeking the land under S106 is between now and to approx. the end of April 2017. We have to make a yes/no decision in this timeframe, therefore.
 - Lots of discussion around costings, required membership numbers, fund raising requirements, the need for a fund raising committee.

Q:cost? 180k for 4 courts with floodlights. Maybe 25% to be raised by a fund raising committee.

Q:cost of cleaning site? No cost to GSTC.

Q:new houses? 210 homes with young families mostly plus 32 behind the sports field.

Chairman summary: It was felt that there weren't enough people present to put it to a vote, so we will send a voting request to the membership imminently. Many thanks indeed to John Hammond for coming along and sharing the most up to date information with us.

Election of Committee and President for 2016/17 Season:

The proposals were circulated to members in advance, in accordance with the club rules, and no objections were raised.

Penny Saich (President)
James Diver (Chairman)
Victoria Roles (Secretary)
Jeff Scripps (Treasurer)
Hamid Hejazi (Head Coach)
Matt Sanders (Mens Captain)
Jacqui Lloyd (Ladies Captain)
Gio Cinque (Junior Captain)
Rufus Curnow (Social Secretary)

At the meeting it was proposed and seconded that Rik Henson would take on the responsibility for 'facilities and maintenance'.

Chairman summary: Huge thanks to Stephen Chittenden for all of his help and work over the past many years. His maintenance role is being assumed by Rik Henson, thank you to him and thanks for joining the committee. Thanks to Sarah and thanks to Victoria for taking over the club sec role. And thanks for the rest of the committee, great committee, lots of work, very positive.

Subscription and Entry Fees for 2017/18:

The proposals were circulated to members in advance, in accordance with the club rules, and no objections were raised.

Honorary Membership:

Proposed to give this to Neil Harvey. Was a member for 30+ years and set up the Neil Harvey foundation. Approved by the members present.

Club Rule Changes:

The details of three rules changes were provided to the members in advance, in accordance with the club rules, and no objections or questions were raised.

Any other business:

Request for the pavilion to be used for club meetings in the future.
Playscape update – just to inform the members that the committee is in regular discussion with the Playscape committee to ensure that their plans don't adversely affect GSTC or its members/guests in any way.

The meeting concluded at 930pm