

Great Shelford Tennis Club – AGM 2025

Date of Meeting: Monday 10th February, 7.30 pm, held in the GSTC Clubhouse

Committee members present: Angharad Harris (AH), Nicole Holmes (NH), John Coleman (JC), Susanne Graepel (SG), Ifthi Sharif (IS), Simon Lancaster (SL), Judith Forgham (JF), Caroline Clulow (CC), Sarah Thacker (ST), Monika Jacquinet (MJ), Dan Fitzsimmons (DF), Nick James (NJ).

Meeting Minutes:

Introduction by Chairman

AH welcomed everyone to the AGM. There were 28 attendees in total.

Voting in the meeting would be via a show of hands in the room. There would be time for questions at the end of each section.

Apologies for absence

NH: Apologies for absence were received from: Sarah Richards, Trevor Godsell, Norman & Catherine Anderson, Jan Bull, John Patterson, Annie Clarke.

Minutes of last AGM (2024)

The minutes of the 2024 meeting were circulated in advance. There were no comments/queries, and the minutes were ratified.

Summary of the Year

AH highlighted the strength of the Club with 510 current members; roughly 50:50 male / female split and >150 U15 members.

Coach's Report:

Matt Sanders (MS) presented on behalf of Hamid Hejazi and Over & In. Coaching has had another very good year. Coaches working at the club are Matt Sanders, Will Ingle, Will Rogers, Alex, Attila and Ash. Particular mention is made of Ash's development over the past couple of years. Lucy Ranner is Over&In admin support and has also agreed to take over Club Welfare role. With Olly's departure to the Maldives, Will Ingle has taken over responsibility for the Juniors coaching programme and Matt will now focus 100% of his time at Great Shelford.

There are currently 9 mini coaching groups, 9 junior coaching groups, 10 adult groups. There are 50 hours of 1:1 coaching per week. Holiday camps attract approximately 200 children, predominantly aimed at <10yrs.

Matt gave a dedication to Olly and thanked him for all his amazing hard work and friendship over the years.

Q: There used to be coaching for a child with Down Syndrome – is there still this provision?

MS: He was unaware of the situation but would check with Hamid.

Captain's Reports:

NJ: Thanks given to all team captains.

From the men's results, it was noted that teams had slipped down divisions and a number of 1st team losses - this is attributed to losing some top players, so players are moving up teams to fill the spaces. From the ladies' results, it was noted that there had been good results in the winter league, and the ladies are looking forward to the summer league. The number of ladies attending match practice sessions has been low. There was also a reminder that match sessions designated 'open' are open to all. AH provided a reminder that volunteering for team captaining is welcome and important for the club.

Club Tournaments:

MJ: Winter handicap tournament saw Liam & Caroline vs. Pippa & Pierre in the final. The summer event saw 11 men's pairs and 8 women's pairs. In the singles there were 16 ladies (with Kerry the winner) and 50 men (with Ash the winner). Santa event was sadly cancelled due to the weather.

The 2025 summer event will be as follows: 15th (L), 22nd (M), 29th (Mixed) June doubles finals. 20th Sep for singles finals. 20th April for sign-up deadline.

DF: Dan is new to role of Junior tournaments and has arranged the Club's inaugural event on 23 Feb – 12 signed up between 10-14yrs. Hoping to hold c.6 competitions per year.

Clubhouse Development

JC outlined the proposed development with accompanying slide projections. Highlighted the estimated cost of c.£200k for the full redevelopment versus £182k estimate for refurbishing existing clubhouse as outlined last year. New building would be timber framed and composite clad to ensure low maintenance.

Cables and tree roots mean the plot has to be on the existing site but will definitely include a toilet.

Estimated 3-4mths build timeline. Would love to get it started in 2025.

PC have to approve as the landlord and it will go to Council meeting on 19th Feb.

Questions arose:

- What's on the roof? Can it be ecological?
- Heating? Proposed ceiling mounted with air-con / heating functionality
- Open plan? Yes, with kitchen & social area. Coaches will have a store and there will be a supplementary room.
- Changing room as per Sports England recommendation? Would have to give up footprint for changing room
- Bike racks?
- Outside drinking water?

Costs: £200k with £50k from sinking fund and £150k to raise.

New role of Projects & funding secretary created and Susanne Graepel has agreed to fulfil this role.

Ideas for fundraising include: Benefactor boards, local business sponsorship. Difficult to get grants as need to raise lots of money first.

Comments: Looks very nice / fantastic. Old building will cost more in long-run

Treasurer's Report and Subscription and Entry Fees for 2025/26

Three items to cover:

1. The 2024 year and accounts
2. The year ahead
3. Election of auditor

1. 2024 year and accounts

- P&L and Balance sheets already circulated
- Note summary P&L, and cash position
- Points to note re accounts:
 - As members will have seen from the balance sheet, the overall position of the club remains very healthy and we have had a very strong year:
 - We have increased the overall net assets (equity) in the club by bit over £22k to about £143k
 - We are holding a healthy cash balance of over £120k, leaving us well prepared for future ordinary demands on the club's reserves – though not the scale of the redevelopment we've been planning for.
 - In terms of the 2024 story, it was an as expected increase in income, given fee increases, but quite a skinny year in terms of costs. Key points:
 - A modest increase in income (about £2.5k)
 - But a good reduction in operating expenses by about £3k

- No big expenses on the courts this year
- So we showed an increasing operating surplus from £16k last year to £22k this year

2. The year ahead

- As noted above, we are in a very healthy cash position
- We are likely to again have usual costs for maintenance on cleaning / painting of the courts. However, at some point we may have to look at court resurfacing, but much more likely and more expensively, re-fencing, which will be significant costs (£60k estimate) and one reason to maintain a decent level in our sinking fund.
- Membership levels remain high so no reason to assume income levels won't remain strong.
- We do need to maintain our healthy position. If the clubhouse redevelopment goes ahead as per previous discussion [adjust as necessary!] we will want to start with a healthy normal operating position, if we want to be able to apply for grants, do fund raising etc.

3. Election of auditor

Propose to use ComptonHardwick – local firm, fees have remained the same last three years

Subscriptions and Entry fees for 25/26 season

- Note no correspondence received on proposed new fees.
- Proposed headline increase of senior adult membership of £175 to £185 represents a 5.7% (compared to 2.9% rise last year and 6.3% the year before). All other subscriptions have gone up by roughly the same percentage. Note joining fees and late payment fees held at the same levels.
- The committee remains very conscious of the effect of the cost-of-living pressures on many of our community and also note that we have a healthy cash position. However, as per previous discussions, there were three main reasons that we thought a repeat of last year's very modest rise was not appropriate:
 - 1. We had a bit of a cost 'holiday' this year. It seems imprudent to assume that will continue.
 - 2. We know there is an increasing risk year on year of the need to replace the fencing and that's expensive
 - 3. We need to maintain healthy surpluses to fund more of the clubhouse redevelopment ourselves.
- And so, we thought the £10 increase in the full adult membership seemed appropriate.

SL: Outlined the Club is planning to register with HMRC as a CASC which would enable us to benefit from Gift Aid of 25% on donations. There were no objections or questions.

Election of committee

The proposed committee was circulated.

Proposed changes to the committee:

Project Secretary (new role) – Susanne Graepel
 Junior Tournament Secretary (new role) – Dan Fitzsimmons
 Women's Captain – Mel Boyle to replace Ifthi

Vote to approve the proposed committee for 2025/26:

28 in favour

0 against.

Any other business

AH asked if anyone with tech or e-mail expertise would volunteer their time it would be most appreciated (or knew anyone that might).

Rich Bull wanted to check if used tennis balls go to charity (which they do)

No further business. The prize draw for all attendees took place.

Meeting closed at 9pm.