

BARNET LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 2 October 2011

1. Apologies for Absence

Philip and Sylvia Stewart, Judith Dawson, Lesley Seaborne, Adele Vanderkar, Bob and Barbara Price, Catherine Kenny-Tempest, Salvatore and Jayne Nicotra.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting

Jackie Czuprynski (JC) stated that under Item 4. Development Update - Constitution, the Minutes should read that JC and John Ridley (JR), not John Hall (JH), had updated the Club's constitution.

Otherwise, Martin Dawson (MD) proposed acceptance of the Minutes as a record of last year's meeting and this was seconded by Jurek Czuprynski.

3. Chair's Report

JC stated that she was fast approaching the end of her fourth and final year as Chair and commented that it has been another busy one for the club, with exciting developments as it strives to keep moving forward.

She went on to say that, as in previous years, the club relies on the hard work and dedication of its members and so once again her thanks go out to those who have served on the committee this year (several who have been alongside her the past four years), and also to the many others who have also made a difference by working behind the scenes – whether it be carrying out odd jobs, putting out the bins, helping at events, running teams (both at club level & within the club). The club would be unable to function without all this help.

BLTC has a responsibility not only to its members, but is also a part of the LTA, and with that comes certain requirements. In a few weeks we will be re-assessed for Clubmark but JC has every confidence that our status will be upheld. During the year she and JH meet regularly with our LTA development manager, who oversees our action plan and keeps us on track. JC has also attended Barnet Club's conference & been part of the Barnet Tennis Group.

Within the club, our main focus has been on getting together a sub-committee to look at re-developing our clubhouse. The chair of that group, David Tomlinson (DT) will be reporting to the meeting later. We are also in the throes of adding an extra set of floodlights. Smaller developments this year have included adding Wi-Fi to the club and also our club owl has done a Stirling job warding off the pigeons!

There is also a requirement that we continually review and develop our tennis programme. Although JH will refer to some of these in his report, JC wanted to mention some of those innovations, including the introduction of a new post of competitions manager, the club becoming a Modern Tennis Academy, holding a successful parent/child session & parent's evening and re-vamping Men's & Ladies Nights. JC thanked JH and Doug Morley (DM) for all their hard work and dedication.

On the social side, we have held 2 very popular Quiz nights and also tried something different with a games night & 2 music evenings. Thank you to all who put their time & effort into making those a success, particularly Jane Lawson and Colin Fenn.

We held 2 fantastic club finals days, memorable not only for some great tennis but also for some fantastic food – a big thank you to Jenny Davis for rallying all those with such impressive culinary skills.

We also recently hosted a North London Champion of Champions Tournament, raising in the process £1,000 for North London Hospice. A huge thanks to Greg & Maria Kraushar for making it such a success, despite the weather, and to their band of helpers Judy, Julie, Jeanette, Jane & Jenny! Thanks also to Colin Fenn for ensuring that this and other events get covered in the local press.

JC also thanked Sandy Headey and her deputy Diana Frome for doing such a good job of minuting the committee meetings.

On a sadder note, this year we lost 2 much loved members, Lyn Gregory & Margaret Littleford, both of whom would have been here today and both of whom are greatly missed. At the request of Margaret's family, there will be a tournament held in her name later this year.

Finally, JC thanked all those members who supported her during the past four years and made the job (most of the time!) such a pleasurable one. She ended by wishing her successor all the very best.

4. Club Development

New Club House Project

Although it had been DT's initial hope to have a new club house by 2013, he had now discovered that this could not be achieved. The costs would be in the region of £4-500,000 with some grants being available. He and JC visited Ealing Tennis Club which recently built a new club house for £550,000. They were able to borrow money against the collateral of their land. Unfortunately, we do not own our land as our current lease only has 21 years left to run with no definite promise of renewal. DT listed three options:

- To purchase the site. He has spoken to the relevant person at Barnet who has told him "to make her an offer." Therefore, we need to get

the site valued. If there are covenants/restrictions on the use of the land, its value could be halved. However, if it could be sold as a residential building plot, it would be beyond our budget. The committee is arranging for someone to value the site, checking on any constraints and to guide us through any negotiations with Barnet.

- Will the existing building fall down? DT has obtained a survey on the property and it should be able to last for some time yet. The surveyor has proposed a Schedule of Works for the next 20 years at a cost of approximately £20,000. We could keep the existing building going for an extended period by which time circumstances are likely to have changed.
- Relocation/Merger. DT felt that members would not be interested in moving the club. However, he has been in touch with Barnet Athletics Club who will be homeless in 2013. They do not require space in which to run as they use Trent Park, Copthall and the roads. However, they would require better showers than we have a room for circuit training and an office – all of which would be of benefit to our club members. It would have to be worked out whether we became an athletics/tennis club or they were our tenants. BAC does have some money of its own and it is able to access different streams of funding from us. DT suggested that perhaps the best way forward would be to have a Phase 1 which took care of the showers, circuits room and office. He mentioned that the club could bid for a Sport England grant of £50,000 which is meant for premises.

DT stated the club is not disability friendly. There is no wheelchair access into the club house. If the appropriate changes were made, other community groups might use the club house which could generate more income for us.

JC asked meeting to vote on whether or not DT could proceed to explore the issues as already mentioned and if any firm decisions needed to be made an Extraordinary General Meeting would need to be convened. The vast majority of members present voted in favour of DT proceeding as outline above.

Floodlights

The club made a successful planning application and all the floodlights can now remain on until 10 pm. In addition, an extra set of floodlights are to be installed on Court 1 so that the club can have three like surfaces for matches. The club have obtained a grant from the LTA to cover 50% of the costs. The project has gone out to tender with a closing date in mid-October. JC thanked David Taylor for all his hard work on this project.

5. Finance

George Panayi (GP), Treasurer, presented the audited accounts for the year ending April 2011. He reported that the club's main source of income continues to be the

membership fees, together with the bar. There has been an increase in expenses this year including repairs to the club house. The club no longer receives any sponsorship money from Pellings for its Junior Open Tournament, so this year it was not held, although JH ran a successful local competition instead. It is anticipated that the floodlights will cost £7-7,500. There is a balance of approximately £55,000 in the Reserve Fund. The club will continue to make loan repayments to the LTA for the next three years in respect of Courts 1-4.

In response to a question from the floor, GP stated that the cost of satellite TV from Nova was £600 pa as against SKY which was £470 pm. However, members had been unable to use the new service. GP stated that he would make enquiries and put the instructions up in the club house.

GP thanked the other Committee members for their support and hard work. In addition, he thanked Dave Ford, previously Treasurer, for all his help.

6. Membership

JW reported that there had been a slight drop in membership from a total of 353 to 337 this year:

Adults	145
Senior Citizens	22
Students	38
Junior	108
Social	20
Coaches	2

The current financial climate meant that fees had to be increased by approximately 3%. During the past year, JW investigated the possibility of online membership and looked at several options, all of which would have incurred an annual licence fee. However, the main issue was security for both the data and hardware. In order to implement such a system, the club would need a dedicated laptop/pc set up in the club house. JW is of the opinion that online membership is the way forward but that it should be considered in tandem with the club house development.

7. Tennis Reports

JR reported that the **Men' Teams** had had another great year:

Floodlit: 1 & 2 stayed in same league
3 & 4 promoted

Herts Winter Singles: Mid-table finish

Aegon League: 1 & 2 relegated

The club had been placed in the top Middlesex Division. The league has fixed dates and many of our players were on holiday when matches had to be played.

Middx Summer: 1 & 2 stayed up
3 & 4 promoted

Veterans: Over 45 stayed up
Over 55 promoted

Herts: No exact results known. However, 5 teams won 5 out of 6 games but still may miss promotion.

JR said that the Team of the Year was the Men's First Team which will be playing in the Championship League next year. He went on to thank all the Team Captains:

Herts:

1 st :	Adrian Smith
2 nd :	Greg Kraushar
3 rd :	Doug Morley
4 th :	Albert Durbal
5 th :	Doug Morley

Middx:

1 st :	Liam Power
2 nd :	Howard Potheary
3 rd :	Albert Durbal

Veterans: Dave Hinwood
Charlie Orris.

JR thanked all the Captains for their hard work over the season. He went on to say that he was intending to be away for several months next year so there really needed to be an overall Men's Captain. JC gave a huge thanks to JR for all his efforts on the Club's behalf over the year, not only in running the teams but also in keeping the bar going.

Ladies' Report: As there was no overall Ladies' Captain, the report was given jointly by Judith Madejczyk and Jane Crowley:

Herts:

1 st :	Judith M
	There were several injuries to players in this team
2 nd :	Jane Crowley
	Won 2 matches out of 6
	Both teams are demoted.
3 rd :	Jenny Davies
	Played 7 and won 5 so promoted.

Middx: 1st: Sue Littleford
Runners up and promoted
2nd: Su Pryor
Runners up and promoted
3rd: Lesley Seaborne & Jane Wynn
Third – won 3 out of 7 – so stay up

Veterans: No information

Floodlit: Tough leagues
1st: Division 1 – relegated
2nd: Division 4 - relegated

There are captain in place for all the Floodlit WinterLeagues in which we are entering the following teams:

4 Men's
2 Ladies'
1 Mixed.

JH'S Report: The format for **Men's and Ladies' Nights** were changed for this summer and JH thought that this had gone well with more members turning out. However, he would welcome some feedback from members. **Juniors' Night** continues as does Mini-tennis with Sam Littleford and George Vivien keeping the little ones entertained. The **Tournaments have been well attended.** JH gave his thanks to Jean-Marie Fabry for organising these despite complications with the LTA software.

Forms for forthcoming events – **Team Tennis** and the **Internet Singles League** – forms will be issued shortly. The latter started promisingly last year but then faded away. JH said that he would welcome any new ideas for events/competitions.

Both Adult and Junior Coaching sessions are going well. The Junior Fitness Sessions were a success and JH has received some requests to run them for adults. Therefore, he is proposing to run on court trials for speed, endurance and agility.

JH and DM thanked JC for all her efforts over the last 4 years and the many hours that she has worked on behalf of the club.

9. Election of New Committee

The majority of the existing Committee was not standing for re-election. However, DT had agreed to stand as Chair and he was proposed by JW and seconded by MD. GP was prepared to stand again as Treasurer and he was proposed by JC and seconded by SH. CF, Press and Publicity, was prepared to stand again and he was proposed by ND and seconded by SH. There remain vacancies for Secretary, Membership Secretary, Ladies' Captain, Men's Captain, Bar Manager, Maintenance Secretary, and Child Protection Officer.

10. Any Other Business

Doug Morley, Coach, asked JC to remind everyone of the Club's etiquette rules. In particular, people should not walk on courts behind players when points are being played. JC pointed out that there are two gates for Courts 1-4, so members do not need to use 1st gate to access end courts.

JC pointed out that highlighted copies of the Club Constitution had been put out on the chairs. On 1 October 2011 the incorporation of the LTA took place which has meant that the Club's Constitution has had to be revised. The required changes were agreed.

JC closed the Meeting at 2.55 pm and thanked everyone for attending.

(Received after meeting)

Catherine Kenny-Tempest (CK-T) sent a message that she was happy to continue to check and re-stock the small First Aid Kit which is in the kitchen cupboard. She wanted to remind all members that there is a mouthpiece for emergency use. In addition, the Accident Book is with the First Aid Kit and should be filled in whenever an accident occurs.

CK-T is willing to continue to be informed of any New/Retired/Weekday members who would like to play during the day.