

EBBISHAM TENNIS CLUB

MINUTES OF AGM

HELD ON SUNDAY 8 MAY 2022

Attendance: See attached list.

Apologies: Evelyn Ansell, Gill Fitcher, Jason Moss, Charlie Pitt, Alex Barker, Leo Morrell, Callum Macarty

1. Minutes of the last AGM

These had been circulated. As there were no comments, it was proposed by Viv Nash and seconded by Glynis Mann that they be accepted. The minutes were duly approved and signed as a true record.

2. Chairman's report

Anil Gogna presented his report, his first as Chairman (copy attached).

3. Coaching report

Callum Macarty's report was read out (copy attached).

4. Election of Committee

All the existing elected members of the committee (Anil Gogna, Lesley Coles, Viv Nash, Evelyn Ansell, Gill Fitcher, Shaun Dominetto, Jason Moss, Chris Harding) were willing to continue for the coming year and were re-elected en bloc (proposed Viv, seconded Shaun Dominetto).

Callum Macarty also serves on the committee ex officio as head coach.

Lesley Coles agreed to continue as tennis rep on the management committee.

Lesley had decided to stand down as tennis welfare officer and proposed (seconded by Viv) that Sam Johnson take on the role. This was agreed and Sam was duly added to the committee.

5. Any other business

5.1. Flow of sand into the club

As mentioned in his report, Anil wanted to stress the legitimate concern that the clay will get into the club and impact both the club house but more importantly the playing surfaces of badminton and squash. Sand getting onto those courts would both make them potentially dangerous and damage the surface.

He wished to stress some of the mitigation factors that would be introduced

- Indoor and outdoor shoe policy - people will have to change shoes to enter the club.
- Brushes on the court and footwells to clean shoes before leaving and entering the courts.
- New mats at the entrance.
- Entering and leaving the courts from the car park so as to keep the area at the front of the court clear from sand.

These measures were agreed

5.2. Court Maintenance

Maintaining the courts was paramount; if they were not maintained they would deteriorate quickly, and we would not have the funds to replace them.

- Each court would be dragged after each match/session
- Areas of low sand would be identified and sand added if required.
- The area outside the courts would be brushed regularly
- We would hold a monthly 1-hour session where we would re-sand the courts and give them a spruce up with more vigorous cleaning.
- Once a year we would get the courts professionally cleaned.

It was agreed that this regime would be adhered to.

Chairman's report for 2022 AGM

Welcome everyone to the 2022 Ebbisham Sports Club Tennis AGM

Firstly, thank you all for coming and missing your Sunday lunches. However, Jon has bought some lovely cheese to look forward to after the formalities, thank you Jon. This is my first proper in person AGM after almost a year since I took over as Chairman. It may not be slick as those previously but please bear with me. I took the Chair in June 2021 after Viv took over as interim chair - Viv is a true Ebbisham stalwart who held the fort as interim chairman, her enthusiasm and wise counsel has been a fantastic help to me and all the committee as well as the wider club, so a round of applause for appreciation for Viv – thank you Viv!

In terms of this AGM, I would like to split into two parts, the more formal AGM meeting then open the floor up to any wider tennis-based conversation where members can ask questions and I want to listen to members on how we can improve on what we are currently doing.

Its important recognise that this has been a difficult 2 years for most people, covid restrictions impacted everybody and the normal lives that we take for granted. Not only on tennis but the impacts on us personally and our families. Most of us will know someone who has lost loved ones due to covid but we have come through it and we look forward.

It seems a lifetime ago that we came out of covid, tennis was one of the first sports to have restrictions lifted and we are now back in full swing. It does seem years ago when we arrived on court with 4 sets of marked balls, mostly with X, - wasn't that confusing!

At Ebbisham I am proud to say that everything has returned back to normal - our coaching programme under Callum is booming and reaching record junior membership, club sessions are well attended, internal tournaments are well supported, singles box leagues back up and running and inter-club matches back to normal.

Membership and Membership numbers

Covid did hit membership numbers significantly at Ebbisham, reducing income particularly in squash and badminton which are also the biggest sections.

That said tennis membership numbers have remained steady, during and post covid, our membership numbers are now at a higher level than pre-covid. We currently have 88 adult members (including 16 joint members) as opposed to 74 this time last year and 83 pre-covid. I am especially pleased to see the number of ladies steadily increasing as that was an area of concern in recent years. We also currently have 113 juniors compared to 70 last year and 54 pre-covid.

The tennis section is strong at Ebbisham - we have an extremely strong and loyal core and we have welcomed a number of active new members to club sessions and I hope for more in the future.

Tournaments

- Club championships. This was open to all Ebbisham members, and this year we had a record number of entries. Both Luke Griffiths and Liz Rowlands retained their singles titles, but there were a number of new names on the double's trophies. Once more we were able to run junior finals alongside the seniors on finals day, though their competitions were sadly severely affected by withdrawals due to covid. Well done to all the club champions – well done - let's have a round of applause!
- Last August we saw the inaugural running of a day-long event named in memory of Alan Baggett aimed at raising money for the Royal Marsden Hospital. Alan was a true gentleman who sadly passed but will always be fondly remembered at Ebbisham. A mixed doubles tournament in his honour took place, competing for a trophy kindly donated by Jason Moss who was instrumental in organising the event, Glynis Mann and Chris Graham running out the overall winners. The total amount raised from entry fees, BBQ and raffle was over £650.
- The bank holiday handicap tournaments and Han cup in March, also took place and were generally well attended – nice to see some of the silver members also taking part.

Teams

Most teams maintained their positions in the Surrey and Dorking & Leatherhead leagues but in certain areas Ebbisham continues to punch above its weight. In particular

- Men's 1 – Winter winners of Division 7
- Surrey mixed KO team – Missed out on a final on countback
- U10s won their league
- U18s won their league
- 12U girls reached final of KO stage

- We also have 2 players in the Surrey County Junior Team.
- And let's not forget that Men's 3rds staved off demotion by an end of season 4-0 win.

So, we are doing well from juniors to full teams and we wish our newest team the Men's O55 all the best in the new season. Rachel has agreed to attend all matches with resuscitation equipment.

New since last AGM

- We now have a new Tuesday morning drop-in session open to all tennis members plus silver members. This has been extremely popular and we are pleased that it has gone down well, and is well attended.
- The arrival of Suzy as me and Nicole call her, new Slinger ball machine, which has replaced the old one, for those that have not used it its worth a go and easy to use.

Court surface

I am sure some will be thinking we have been discussing court surfaces for ever, but it is finally happening. We got the go-ahead from the Club Management to resurface the courts in artificial clay. This is a major event for the club and will ensure that Ebbisham Tennis has the best quality surface that we can. Work is scheduled to commence on Monday 16 May and will take 3 to 4 weeks. The courts will be closed from next Sunday evening. I know this is not the best time for some but there is never a perfect time and we will get the benefit of the courts through the summer and this year's championships will be played on clay.

I want to talk about looking after the court surface after the statement under AOB. The funding for the new surfaces has come from current club reserves and will cost 85K. It is important for us to remember and appreciate that this has used a significant amount of the club's reserves, about 50%. I said at the last meeting that in order for the club to agree the funds a proposal was put forward that involved an increase in fees for all, not to cover the initial spend but to bring in further income that we can self-fund a replacement surface in approximately 14 years' time. We cannot just go back to club funds to do this as the pot will not be there.

The increase has been agreed at £5 Adult members, £3 Silver members and £1.25 junior members. This increase will begin in September and the delay will offset the month that the courts are not playable. So, to be clear, payments will continue during the closure but we have delayed the increase.

Lighting

Some have raised LED lighting to replace the current floodlights. I will be honest and say that I don't think that is going to happen any time soon. What I would like to do is add an extra light to court 2/3, so we increase the light on the shadow court. That will involve negotiation with the neighbours, a new covenant, followed by a planning permission application. We could consider just changing the current lights but having spent significant amounts on the courts I don't think that is financially viable. We have however replaced all the bulbs recently so we will have brighter lights going forward. I will also be looking at grants and I will keep you updated.

Club-sessions

At the last meeting the committee agreed that we would look at the potential for graded club sessions. I will say that this issue has singularly been the most potentially divisive and potentially damaging to the tennis section. I have my rationale here for any that want to see it but I will summarise briefly.

It has been raised by members that club sessions do not provide the level of competitive tennis that they strive, due to playing with members of a lower ability. This has caused some disquiet and has sometimes led to bad practice by not adhering to the peg board, or artificially manipulating the board to play with better players. It has been suggested that a graded session will cater for the better players as well as potentially attracting new members. Options for these graded sessions are numerous and the Committee has considered various grading options.

Club sessions at Ebbisham have always strived to provide a social, fun and competitive tennis experience for all members. This is sometimes hard to achieve; we need to balance the needs of individual members and expectation of the session against beginners and the financial interest of the club.

Currently Ebbisham tennis section has 67 adult members, no more than 30 attend club sessions on a regular basis. There are various reasons for not attending, such as work, family, timings, etc., but some may feel that they do not provide a level of tennis that they require. The Committee's main aim is to

make the sessions inclusive and to enjoy being a member of Ebbisham. The fact that we have a relatively small percentage of members attending club sessions, I consider those members attending regularly to be the core and heartbeat of Ebbisham and having an influential voice.

Some have said that the standard of club session has decreased, as we have not insisted on 'playing in'. One of the attractions for a new member is that we offer club sessions that they can join and automatically have a partner to play with. The majority have come from Callum's coaching course. Attendees at the Committee meeting on Thursday told personal stories of how club session has made them feel part of the club and welcomed them into Ebbisham. From club session they have made friends, found playing partners and gone on to join teams. That's what happened to me.

I don't think we can risk losing that

In order to come to a decision, I have also independently taken views from other members of varying ability levels to understand the mood from the members.

Having considered the matter carefully and taken in all differing views, there will be no graded club session on the Wednesday, Saturday or Sunday. That said we should be sympathetic and try to facilitate where possible better games on the day and also help beginners develop their game.

Playing in will be re-introduced and a minimum standard set.

We will look at holding a team/invitational night, ideally with at least 2 courts.

So, there will be no change but we will keep this under review, we will promote the Use of the peg board and matches will be to 4 whilst others are waiting, if not they can go to 6. All that said I do want club session to appeal to all and if members want to organise a competitive game that's fine, but that does not mean they play between themselves for the whole session and start feigning tiredness and sitting this one out.

Finally, a big thank you to all my fellow committee members, team captains, helpers at tournaments and Callum, this is a volunteer led club and without the time and effort those people put in we would be a poorer club for it.

That's all I have to say, hopefully not too boring, I really do want this to be a conversation so please do raise any other issues/concerns/ideas that you have

Anil

COACHING REPORT FOR 2022 AGM – CALLUM MACARTY

Teams:

Summer league 2021 :

- U8s - 3rd in their league
- U9s - 2nd in their league
- U10s- **Won** their league
- U12s- **Won** their league
- U14s- 3rd in their league
- U18s- **Won** their league

Winter league 2021/22:

- U10 Mixed **Won** their division and lost in the **last 8** in Surrey knockout
- U12 Girls **Won** their league and came **runner up** in Surrey knockout
- U12 Boys - 2nd in their league
- U14 Boys- 4th in their league

Individuals who have stood out particularly:

We currently have 2 players in the county squads- Zachary brown (U10) and Emmy Kenworthy (u9)

Membership and programme review:

In 2021

Total Players on the weekly programme: 193

Junior (orange and above) - 103	Members - 98	Non Member- 5
Red - 65	Members - 3	Non member - 62
Adult - 25	Members - 13	Non Member - 12

In 2020

Total Players on the weekly programme: 170

Junior (orange and above) - 80	Members - 59	Non Member- 21
Red - 70	Members - 1	Non member - 69
Adult - 20	Members - 10	Non Member - 10

Programme/ Membership Summary:

Over the last year the overall programme has grown by 23 players (12%) and membership on the current programme has risen by 45 people, (35%) and there also been more members who have joined as members of the club but have now stopped coaching therefore there has been good growth. Since September Alex has also been working full time which has helped enabled this growth.

Wednesday cub session:

Alex was running the weekly club session, however from March 2022 Joe Tesselment has taken over the session. Weekly numbers is generally 8-12 players

Tournaments - held 14 county tour events this year. All were fully booked except one event. All ran smoothly and we have been allocated 5 more events between now and September 2022

School links:

Current school links:
Stamford green

Epsom Primary
Southfield park
Glyn High School
Blenheim High School

Summary:

In summary 2021/22 has been a good year with good retention and growth. With restrictions now being eased I will be going into schools more and hopefully this should lead to more growth for the programme and membership. The players on the programme are progressing well which in a few years will result in some of them feeding into the adult teams

EBBISHAM TENNIS SECTION

AGM

8 MAY 2022

ATTENDANCE LIST

Name	Signature
G. Mann	Glynis Mann
J. Mann	J. Mann
V. Nash	V. M. Nash
Martin Creasey	M. Creasey
Jon TASH	Jon Tash
SAM JOHNSON	S. Johnson
S. DOMINATO	S. Dominato
GARY ROSE	G. Rose
J. HENDERSON	J. Henderson
M. GREEN	M. Green
BOBBY RAYMOND	B. Raymond
CHRIS HARDING	C. Harding
NICOLE NEOH HARD	N. Hard
EDWARD SUTTON	E. E. Sutton
LESLEY COLES	L. Coles
ANIL GUNNA	A. Gunna