

EBBISHAM TENNIS CLUB
MINUTES OF AGM
HELD ON SUNDAY 21 MAY 2023

Attendance: see attached list

Apologies: Evelyn Ansell, Sam Johnson, Stefan Horsnell

1. Minutes of the last AGM

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

2. Chairman's report

Anil Gogna presented his report (copy attached).

In his report AG had asked for suggestions as to how the money raised at the Bright Ideas for Tennis Day might be used to help the local community. Suggestions were then made as to organisations we could support by offering free coaching; these included the Mary Francis Trust, mental health support groups at St Barnabas and Christchurch, refugee groups etc. AG also stressed that he was intending to make 2023/24 his last year as Chairman, but agreed to see through any projects, eg lighting, that he had started.

3. Coaching report

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

Questioned about the progression of juniors to the adult ranks, CM said he would select those juniors he considered ready to progress to attend adult club sessions.

4. Election of Committee

The current committee (Anil Gogna, Lesley Coles, Viv Nash, Evelyn Ansell, Gill Fletcher, Sam Johnson, Shaun Dominetto, Jason Moss and Chris Harding) were all willing to continue for the coming year. An appeal had been made to members asking if any were willing to join the committee, but none had been forthcoming. Nicole Hard then proposed, seconded by Jon Tasch, that the present committee be re-elected en bloc, and this was duly agreed.

The current tennis rep on the management committee, Gill Fletcher, was also willing to continue. LC proposed, seconded by VN, that she be re-elected and this was duly passed.

5. Any other business

Recycling of used balls LC stated that at present the office recycled balls used for club sessions and matches via the Recycaball company who pay us 15p per ball (in reasonable condition). We do not at present recycle members own balls. Several members donated used balls for the Africa tennis charity at open day, but they were not taken. She proposed extending our recycling to include members balls and this was agreed. A large plastic bin would be sourced by the office and placed on the patio. As it was not fair to ask the office to handle the extra work, we would need a volunteer to sort balls and send off for recycling. CH volunteered to take this on.

Chairman's report for 2023 AGM

Welcome everyone to the 2023 Ebbisham Sports Club Tennis AGM

Firstly, thank you all for coming and missing your Sunday lunch's however Jon has bought some lovely cheese and wine to look forward to after the formalities, thank you Jon, that's www.nealsyarddairy.co.uk.

This is my 3rd AGM, 2nd in person since I took over in June 2021. Some may say too long.

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.

Formal

Excuse if I need to read parts of this out for the detail,

Covid is now gladly a distant memory and everything is back to normal.

Courts are busy, membership numbers are stable, more on that later, junior members are strong and we have an increasing number of cross members from other sections.

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 82 adult members which is the same as pre-covid with a number on the point of re-joining. 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 103 juniors (probably higher as figures are out of date and several are due to join following their term's trial period) compared to 54 pre-covid. Over the past year we have welcomed 5 advanced juniors who are now playing with the adults and there are at least that number waiting in the wings to join the adults shortly. In addition, there are about 16 silver members who play tennis as their main sport.

The tennis section is strong at Ebbisham - we have an extremely strong and loyal core. We have welcomed a number of active new members to club sessions and I hope for more in the future. The numbers wishing to play competitively has grown, so much so that we are this season running 2 extra teams.

Please do promote the tennis section particularly those that have classes with Callum.

Tournaments

- Club championships. This year we had a record number of entries. We had new Champions this year in Arron and Rachael. Once more we were able to run junior finals alongside the seniors on finals day, Well done to all the club champions – well done - round of applause!!!!
- We also ran various tournaments over the year including the Alan Baggett Tournament which has become an annual event.
- The bank holiday handicap tournaments also were generally well attended – nice to see some of the silver members also taking part.
- Bright ideas for Tennis Day – Thank you Robbie for nudging me. This was a great day for both the juniors and adults. I personally really enjoyed the coaching and it has helped my doubles game. We raised nearly £700 which we will look to allocate to some community programme. I'd like to do more of this kind of stuff and we are looking at options.
- It is also down to the members to raise these ideas with us, or even arrange yourself with our help.

Teams

Not great results wise but I'm comfortable with that. Whilst we want to do the best we can, I think we have found our rhythm and acceptable mediocrity is not a bad thing. The important bit is that we have a lot of different faces and people playing matches which is great.

For this year, we have new Teams - Ladies 1, O55 and Mens 4.

Callum's Coaching Contract

This will be renewed on 31st May 2023 for a period of 3 years. It gives us certainty and locks in the coaching for another 3 years.

Court surface

So, we have new courts, almost a year old, and they look and play fantastically. This was a big financial commitment to the club but we got it over the line and the battles seem a distant memory.

We have just had our annual maintenance and top up of clay and we also have a small store of clay which we can use to top up.

Windbreaks- you will have noticed the windbreaks, and thank you to all those that assisted in putting them up. I know you will hate me but my OCD means that we may have to slightly alter the far side to make it symmetrical, but we can do that another time.

We still have a few Ebbisham stickers to put up (which I am not allowed to do as I am too slap dash apparently) – it's a nice little touch.

In terms of court furniture, and structural activity I think we are there. Courts, windbreaks and they look good. My next project is the back and having discussed with people some sort of plant-based screening and flowers at the back.

Just wanted to say a big thank you to those that help, it really means we get stuff done quicker because of funds, and we only have capital costs and don't have to get quotes etc.

Court Sweeping

Little bug bear - whilst most are good on sweeping, we must start from the fence and work our way in. If we don't, we will start to have ridges and all the clay will be pushed off the playing area. Please, please do this, and if you are the last person on court make sure that you do as that's the most important sweep.

Rant over.

General maintenance – assistance with sweeping whilst waiting is always a help - just to keep on top of it.

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 have had an initial meeting with the neighbour and they have not said no which is a positive. We are waiting for some plans to be drawn up, we will then need to negotiate with the neighbours and adjust the planning permission as well as the covenant that we have with the neighbours. It will be complicated but I think it's doable but it will have to be done slowly and with tact with the neighbours as well as the council.

Club-sessions – Great to see they are being used and hopefully over the summer they will continue.

Socials – we can discuss afterwards – but I would be interested in your thoughts.

We now have a new Tuesday morning drop-in session open to tennis all members plus silver members which was added. This has been popular and we are pleased that it has gone down well, and well attended.

Finally - a big thank you to all the committee particularly Lesley. We are looking for new members, maybe a social.

That's it! I think this will be my last year as Chairman, I still have a few things on my list to do but I will carry on those with those in the background, hand over the mantle. If anyone is interested, please speak to me.

Anil

2022/2023 TENNIS COACHING REPORT

Teams:

Summer league 2022:

- U8s - 4th in league
- U9s - 2nd in league
- U10s- 2nd in league
- U12s Girls- 2nd in league
- U12 Boys- 3rd in league
- U14s- Won their league

Winter league 2022/23:

- U8s- 3rd in their league
- U10-Won their league and lost in Last 16 of Surrey Knockout
- U11 Boys- 2nd in their league
- U12 Girls - Won their league and came runner up in Surrey knockout
- U12 Boys - Won their league and came Won Surrey knockout
- U14 Boys- 2nd in their league

Current season:

5 out of our 6 are currently 1st in their league

Individuals who have stood out particularly:

Jessica Kenworthy and Sofia Manyak - came runners-up in Surrey 2 seasons in a row
Alex Eysers and Dylan Talbot- are the current champions of Surrey

Membership and programme review:

In 2022

Total Players on the weekly programme: 206

Junior (orange and above) -122 Members -104 Non Member- 18

Red -57 Members -2 Non member - 55

Adult -27 Members -17 Non Member but children in programme- 4 Non Member - 6

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

Programme/ Membership Summary:

Over the last year the overall programme has grown by 13 players (9%) and membership on the current programme has risen by 9 people, (8%). With 18 (orange and above) currently non members this term potentially there will be another 18 juniors joining at the end of the term (as per club policy) which would be an overall rise of 20%.

Since September Alex has gone to university, in his place I am using a couple of level 1 coaches to assist me instead but it has meant 1 adult group had to be removed from the programme although despite this the overall number of adults on the programme has still grown

Wednesday cub session:

Joe was running the weekly club session over the last year, however from April 2023 Will Baker Gonzalez has taken over the session. Weekly numbers over the last year were roughly 6 although this term has gone up to 8-10 players

Tournaments - held 17 county tour events this year. All were well attended and ran smoothly. We have been allocated 9 more events between now and September 2023
From our club we have had 1 Champion and 7 Runner ups in these tournaments

School links:

Current school links:

Stamford Green

Epsom Primary

Southfield Park

Glyn High School

Blenheim High School

Langley Vale

Summary:

In summary 2022/23 has been a good year and the club and the programme have continued to grow. As you can see the number in all sections have grown except the red programme which has reduced slightly as players have moved into the junior section (orange and above) hence there is some space to expand the red programme, the rest of the programme is currently pretty much full. I am addressing that currently by going into 4 schools this term which will hopefully bring in more players

The older juniors are also progressing well and are now starting to feed into the adult section of the club.