

MARLOW TENNIS CLUB
(A Section of Marlow Sports Club Ltd)
POUND LANE, MARLOW, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Minutes of The Annual General Meeting held on
Thursday, 17th November 2016
In the Old Pavilion, Marlow Sports Club at 8pm

Present: Guy Tomlinson, Jonathan Welch, Miranda Robson, Paul Davey, Rachael Bone, Diana Anderson, Mike Anderson, Stephen Minshull-Beech, John Finch, Ann Gordon Cumming, Alison Rae, Gerda Lucas, George Coutts, Emma Hellewell, Keith Amos, Eugene Augustin, Rosalind Augustin, Ann Dunn, Adrian Philips, Mary Crawford, Sue Hill, Ruth Harrison, Paul Harding, Helen Strube, Damian Topping and Sally Woolven and Neil Robertson (MSC Trustees) (apologies to anyone not signing the register but who attended)

Introduction (Jonathan)

Jonathan welcomed members, our management team, and Neil Robertson and Sally Woolven. (Marlow Sport Club Trustees).

Apologies for Absence: Jilli Williams, Jocelyn Finch, Denise Head, Peter Head, Thelma Craig, Penny Sweet, Alan Hely, Sarah Gregory, Graham Sweet, David Leggett, Julia Hick, Ian Benning, Wendy Aitken, Jane Cowan, Victoria Benning, Carol Robertson, Caroline Sherwood Roberts, Ruth Harrison.

Minutes of the 2015 AGM were taken as read and approved.

Matters Arising - nil

MSC Update and Q&A with Neil Robertson and Sally Woolven

Neil began by thanking Jonathan for inviting the trustees and explained that tennis is a crucial part of the Club. He introduced Sally Woolven who is also a trustee.

Neil congratulated the Tennis section for the Sports Club of the Year award. The events that were held during the year were very good and he enjoyed them all.

The Environmental Agency have constructed a new flood alleviation scheme. The idea at the moment is to build a pipe line alongside Pound Lane - 10m strip from the fence which will be made up of 4 boreholes, pipes to drain water to be completed sometime in September next year. The work will begin in the Spring.

Work to be done on the Clubhouse is to refurbish to bring it up to scratch as a bit tatty at the moment. Redecorate bar, hall, womens changing rooms, umpires rooms.

Preparation for Planning Permission for new MSC Clubhouse is in the mix but we are still waiting for the final details of the EA flood details. In 3 weeks the plans go in.

Sports sections have put forward ideas for what to be included in the new Clubhouse. The neighbours i.e. the Dowlings don't want the building close to them,

Plan designs – glass to see all sports and still require ideas for the new land bought last year.

Planning approval does not mean we are going ahead to build – as funding has to be found first.

Paul Sambrook leads this. Ideas are – fundraise internally, companies, Sport England.

We can make amendments after planning approval received.

June next year is when we will see how fundraising is going. If no funds – no building.

Banks will match fundraising

Debt stands at £498,000 at half year.

Commercial revenue – by March down another £100,000

MSC year end is March 1st – different to ours.

The final decision will be down to members.

Questions and Answers

The floor asked if that meant that all members would be invited to a meeting or just the normal trustees meeting where only 2 members per section are present. Neil could not answer this for the trustees. Action: Neil

Have the Trustees a plan to raise the £2.4m funds and may we see this. A team has been nominated to devise a plan though this has not yet been created.

How do the trustees see Tennis going forward - Build 5th court down from Court 4. *(Ann did he say this?)*

What about Higginson Park – WDC have not tabled their report yet.

Is there a clear set of criteria as to how tennis progresses – NO

Jonathan Opening Address

Jonathan thanked everyone for their support during the year. Many events were held and 2 different ones in particular – wine tasting at Waitrose held by the off peak ladies and the Scottish Celidh run by Jane, Helen and Diana. Most enjoyable.

A year of progress:

Tennis members for the year stand at 338 up again from last year.

Court 4 resurfaced with two tone green, now a firm favourite with members.

Awards – having been nominated by Guy, our club was shortlisted for Bucks Sports Club of the Year 2016, and then shortlisted in Wycombe District. With one awards evening completed, so far, we are winners in Wycombe and District. James Cavalier, Manager of Active-In explains why MTC was selected for this prestigious award:

"What really impressed us is the balanced approach to expansion that your club has taken. Not only are you expanding, through things like the 'red ball players' and taking this through to a more performance level too, but you have expanded social activities beyond the normal club nights, things like the paella night etc. What also came across strongly was the community engagement and responsibility element through the groundworks and planting of bulbs, as well as the large scale events like the fireworks night.

Finally, something that a lot of clubs struggle with is how to balance growth like this (including the facility developments that you've made to the tennis club with the court resurfacing) but managing to ensure that the club is financially sustainable and responsible to its members. It has always been a strength of the Marlow Sports Club overall but it came across very well in your application. We feel that recognising a club in your own right, but also as a section within a larger organisation, is something that a lot of other clubs should learn from and aspire to achieve."

Marlow Tennis Club pipped 2 others on the shortlist including Wycombe District Swimming Club. The awards were presented by Olympic Gold Medallist Ed McKeever, and ParaOlympic Silver

Medallist Ian Rose to Guy and Jonathan in an award ceremony.

On the coaching front, Coach Paul has been with us for nearly four years, benefiting many adults as well as juniors.

We started the year with a social event arranged by the Off Peakers, Gerda, Margaret and team at Marlow Waitrose store. What could be better, tasting a variety of wines, good food and being amongst friends. We hope they will contribute an event in 2017.

Marlow Tennis club own version of *Strictly Come Dancing*...a wonderful evening and demands from members for a repeat. Thanks Jane and Diana and Helen

A summer evening of relaxing tennis capped off with a wonderful Paella. Thanks Diana, Jane and Helen Strube

A firm favourite; the Wimbledon draw combining relaxing tennis, food and more wine. The LTA allocate tickets based on BTM (British Tennis Members) registered to Marlow Tennis Club. The deadline to register is....if you are not registered you cannot be in the draw for tickets. Please read your Tennis Balls email to register.

Club finals day and we were blessed with a lovely day and some great competitive matches. With one lady member – Emma completing a hat trick of titles.

And finally the best fireworks show in Marlow, led by Stephen MB and Guy. Our third Monster Fireworks evening and best attended. New stalls, an online facility for bookings and stalls reporting great sales.

The committee agreed to hold membership fees for next year – no increase.

Your committee recognises we can't stand still and issues on our agenda include:

- Resolving the inconvenience / hassle of buying tokens needed for lights. Action: Jonathan.
- With membership growing: the need for an additional court. Action: Jonathan to agree with Paul Sambrook
- Providing toilet access. Action: MTC team
- More opportunities to develop your tennis. Action: Paul

Marlow Sports Club has changed immensely in the last few years, firstly buying the land from Whitbread, followed by the purchase of the land behind this clubhouse and the new all weather hockey pitch, Marlow Sport Club is making progress. The current loan the Trustees have assured all sections, will be paid off before any development of a new club house.

Treasurers Report (Damian Topping)

We continue to take a prudent approach to managing (y)our money and MTC finances are in good shape. Having invested £30k in Court 4 resurfacing we have reduced our balance in the MSC/MTC Development a/c to almost zero, however, I am pleased to say that the balance in our MTC account has increased to £48,000 allowing for future investment in re-surfacing, lighting and other improvements. Future resurfacing, for example, will cost c. £10k /court (plus VAT).

Membership/Donation income increased by 10.8% YOY to £28.5k and we become cash flow positive over c.£20k income. We set aside c. £20k every year to cover basic costs (c.£10k for court replacement, £7.5k for the MSC usage charge (of which £3.4k is MTC's 30% share of the

outstanding £400k loan @3.03%/year) and £3k for Paul's fees).

In addition to balancing our own books we are targeted by MSC to raise £10k per annum. In 2015/16 we donated £10k, showing an increase of +30% on the previous year. This was achieved by holding not only more social events (eg: Wine Tasting, Ceildh & a Junior Social) but also by an increased effort by everyone involved to make each event a success. The continued success of the Monster Fireworks Show helps further support the cause and this year proves to be no exception – Thank you to all involved – especially Stephen MB!

As you are no doubt aware earlier this year we introduced ClubSpark which is an online tool designed to make it easier to manage our members, send out payment reminders and also take payments online. Whilst ClubSpark has proved to be extremely popular with our members, the knock on effect is that we are unable to claim Gift Aid for online payments resulting in a shortfall of £2.4k YOY. On the plus side ClubSpark significantly improves the members experience when paying subscriptions and will be utilised more going forward. That said, despite the Gift Aid shortfall, we still managed to donate £11.8k (including Gift Aid) compared to £11.9k LYR – A tremendous result!

At 30th Sept	2015-16 £	2014-15 £	2013-14 £	DIFF £	DIFF %
Membership /Donation Income	28450	25678	22465	2772	10.8%
Other income	19836	14640	10571	5196	35.5%
Total	48286	40318	33035	7968	19.8%
Cash at bank - MTC	48000	28653	16511	19347	67.5%
Cash in MSC/MTC Dev A/c	-600	30168	34665	-30768	-102.0%
TOTAL	47400	58821	51176	-11421	-19.4%
Capital expenditure	30583	8463	0	22120	261.4%
Donation to MSC	10043	7706	3442	2337	30.3%
Gift Aid claimed by MSC - Estimate	1800	4240	2286	-2440	-57.5%
TOTAL DONATIONS TO MSC	11843	11946	7781	-103	-0.9%

Director of Tennis Report – (P Davey)

1. Coaching Groups / private lessons

Both Adult & Junior groups are well attended with new participants each month. The conversion rate of guest players to members is c. 70% particularly amongst the 10 & unders. Most months £450-600 a month is being paid to the club in the form of guest and court fees from coaching activities.

2. The Mixed Singles Leagues

I introduced Red & Orange ball leagues to great success this year. The next singles league session will start in the new year. Again this is for all ages & levels.

3. Teams & Team Practice.

The Tuesday evening team practice continues to be well attended. This year I worked with the ladies & mens 2nd team in a more specific role. This has allowed us to introduce several of the stronger junior players into the men's and mixed teams.

For the first time we entered a girls 12 & U team into the Aegon junior leagues and promptly won. The boys 14's team also won their league. Also a mention to Paul Morgan who has played twice for the Bucks over 45's mens team.

4. Junior Club Night

This year I and several volunteers who I, the kids and their parents sincerely thank ran the Tuesday junior club night on a weekly basis. This proved to be a great success with numbers over 25 regularly attending – I had 16 this week on a very wet evening . When the clocks go forward we will restart the weekly sessions.

5. Resources

Paul to place an advertisement to increase coaching resources so we have extra help in place for Easter. Action: Paul.

Operations Director's Report

1. Court 4 resurface

The court has proved to be a real success. It drains well & has excellent traction in the wet.

2. Tree pruning / leaf collecting

The tree pruning alongside court 4 has made a real difference to the foliage that falls on the court and Chris & I have been able to keep on top of leaf collection from the other 3 courts.

3. Cleaning of Courts 1-3

We cleaned courts 1-3 early this year. This made a real difference to the court traction but I am aware that there are small patches of moss reappearing. We do need to wait for a dry period before we can address this.

4. Floodlights

We changed 7 ignitors in the lights that play up the most frequently and 1 lamp on court 4 last month. The contractor said they hadn't been changed in along time so others may start to go soon. They all worked fine last night but please let us know if you are aware of lights that regularly fail. Note to Paul: 2 north middle and east lights on Ct 2 continue to fail in cold weather.

Junior Development Report (Emma)

It's been a busy year on the junior side and as Paul has already mentioned the Junior section and coaching programme is going from strength to strength. I'm just going to talk about a few important initiatives that we've done at the Club this year which have all helped to reach out to the community and drive membership, as well as enhance the junior membership experience and involve them more in the club.

1. Junior Numbers – we now have 130 juniors at the Club. 60 11-18 year olds and 70 U10. Obviously there are more non-member juniors in Paul's coaching sessions. This is an increase of 15 from last year. Our target is 150.
2. Junior Socials – we've held two really successful socials for the juniors this year, on a Friday night at the beginning and end of the season – April and September. Paul and I run a round robin tournament with a bbq afterwards. It's a great opportunity for all ages from 5 upwards to get involved and socialise. Parents also stay and watch with a few drinks which add to the lovely atmosphere. We raised around £100 on the night for the Tennis Club and both evenings with between 20-40 kids taking part. Special thank you to those parents that help out on the BBQ in the evening.
3. Open Days – We took advantage of the national Great British Tennis Weekend initiatives and held 2 super open days in April and May. We were blessed with amazing weather for both, which helped but attracted 70 plus participants, including over half of these juniors on both dates. Some were members, but a lot of new faces and sign ups. We ran mini tennis coaching, adult mix ins and then a parent/child tournaments for the 2nd one in May, where over 50 kids took part in the coaching.
4. The Club Tournament – We hope you all enjoyed the format of the Club championship finals day and the great atmosphere of the day. We thought it worked brilliantly and we will continue to make it a family event. We had some super junior final showcase matches at 3pm with lots of people watching and we were really proud of all the juniors that took part.
5. Junior Involvement/Integration in the Club – great to see more juniors being involved and taking an active part in the Club. We now have a few regular juniors at team practice night on Tuesday's as well as them taking part in the Men's club senior matches and Farnham Common mixed matches.

Lastly – we are open to ideas and suggestions on how we can make our club more friendly and accessible to juniors – so please do let me know.

Men's Captains report – Winter 2015 / 2016 + Summer 2016 (Jonathan)

We offer members competitive match tennis in different leagues in the winter and summer. It is our club strategy to encourage competitive match play at all levels.

Winter 2015/ 2016

One Men's Teams play in the Oxfordshire / Thames Valley Tennis League, playing 12 matches.
 Mixed doubles veterans in the Bucks LTA League, Ladies 40+ & Men 45+, playing 6 matches.
 Farnham Common League - Mixed doubles, no age restrictions, playing 6 matches.
 Oxfordshire / Thames Valley Tennis winter league 2015/16.

The Men's team finished in 12th place in division 1, there are 7 divisions. New members playing in team for the first time Phil D / Richard P / Ross H, Kieran C, Harry R and Dan N. Relegated to division 2.

Bucks Mixed Winter League 2015/2016

The mixed doubles team are in division 5, there are a total of 6 divisions. Finished 5th out of 8 teams.

Farnham Common League 2015/2016

Our fifth season in the winter Farnham Common League saw us in division 4, having been promoted from division 6 in our first year and division 5 in our 2nd year. Four players play 2 ladies & 2 men's each match playing ladies and men's doubles and pair up to play mixed doubles. No age restrictions. Finished in 1st place of 7 teams. – winning 6 matches with remaining match a draw. Promoted.

Summer 2016

We have one men's team that play in the Bucks LTA Tennis League division 1 of 6 divisions. The Men's team finished in last place in division 2 of 8 divisions.

We have a new Men's 2nd Team and our Captain Adrian Phillips will provide update shortly. We have a mixed team that played in division 3 of 5 divisions. Relegated the previous year, found us finishing in 5th place out of 7 teams in division 3.

New for Summer 2016

We entered a new men's team in the summer league, this team is being captained by Adrian Phillips.

Thanks to the following that played matches last winter 2015/16 and Summer 2016
Paul M, Alan H, Richard, Ross, Stephen MB, Conor H, Damian T, Kieran C, Phil D, Alan B, Dan N, George C, Jacob R and Ladies that played in Mixed Bucks Vet's and Farnham Common matches:
Emma H, Carol C, Sarah H, Miranda R, Ruth W, Lin W, Thelma C, Chris L, Margaret F and Gillian
Completed by Jonathan Welch – Men's / Mixed Veteran's and Farnham Common Captain.

Mens' Second Team (Adrian Phillips)

WINTER 2015/16

In the winter of 2015/16 we entered a team in the Bucks Veterans (as we did in 2014/15). We had eight over 45s play and we finished bottom of the bottom division with no points!

However, we did improve! Our set win rate climbed to 22.9% from 12.5% the year before and our games won rate improved to 38.8% from 28.8% the year before.

SUMMER 2016

In the summer of 2016 we entered the Bucks Summer Shield Division 9 (the bottom division). We finished bottom but we did get 3 points for one win and a draw!

We won 25% of our sets and 37% of our games which was very similar to 2014/15 summer league
We fielded 11 players (up from 9 in 2015) of whom two were juniors.

WINTER 2016/17

This winter we are entering the Berkshire Winter League as it is age unrestricted which means we can play more juniors and younger adults. We have at least three juniors scheduled to play and at least 2 new adults as well.

We have had some 2nd team coaching from Paul with well attended sessions on a Monday night.

So far we have lost 2 games and won one- with a blend of youth and experience in our victorious team!

We are looking to field at least 12 different people , up from 8 in the Winter of 2015/16

Overall , I am looking to give as many men and junior men who are of a reasonable standard a chance to play and our increased participation shows this is working.

Ladies Captains report – Winter 2015 / 2016 + Summer 2016 (Miranda)

Winter 2015/16

Our ladies team play in the Oxfordshire Thames Valley league playing 12 matches and won division 3.

Name	P	W	D	L	SF	SA	SD	Pts
<u>Marlow LA</u>	12	10	1	1	69.0	27.0	42	69
<u>Abingdon LB</u>	12	8	2	2	67.0	29.0	38	67
<u>Thame LA</u>	12	7	2	3	65.0	31.0	34	65
<u>Goring LB</u>	12	7	2	3	58.0	38.0	20	58
<u>Portcullis LB</u>	12	7	2	3	58.0	38.0	20	58
<u>Watlington LA</u>	12	7	1	4	56.0	40.0	16	56
<u>Oxford Sports LB</u>	12	5	3	4	53.0	43.0	10	53
<u>Blewbury LB</u>	12	5	3	4	52.0	44.0	8	52
<u>Witney LB</u>	12	2	3	7	39.0	57.0	- 18	39
<u>North Oxford LD</u>	12	2	4	6	35.0	61.0	- 26	35
<u>Faringdon LB</u>	12	1	3	8	33.0	63.0	- 30	33
<u>Witney LC</u>	12	2	2	8	25.0	71.0	- 46	25
<u>Brackley LB</u>	12	0	2	10	14.0	82.0	- 68	14

Summer 2016

Promoted into division 2 in the Bucks Ladies 2 pair league, the top division is division 1. Marlow ladies finished in 6th out of 8 teams, a great first season in a tough league.

Thanks to the following that played ladies matches last winter 2015/16 and Summer 2016:
Emma H, Mary C, Carol C, Sarah H, Miranda R, Louise G, Ruth W, Alison S, Thelma C, Chris L,
Margaret F, Sue H, Gillian N and Lucette R.

Off Peak Report (Gerda Lucas)

The Off-Peak Section had had another enjoyable year. We have 22 members and regularly fill 3 courts on our club mornings. The weather has been very good this year so a lot of tennis was played. Wendy Aitken has continued to organise 5 Round Robin events for us which are very sociable and always finishes with tea/coffee and cakes.

Four Fund Raising event was the Wine Tasting Evening at Waitrose Café on Feb 5th which was well attended. We raised £310 from this evening and have since handed £160 to Marlow Sports Club in October from donations at the Round Robin mornings. I am trying to arrange that the Off Peak rep does a 2 year term so that more people get involved with club affairs. Meanwhile I hope to organise a lunch and fundraising in the New Year for the Off Peak members.

Tennis Hut Development

Ideas for developing the hut were shared and discussed. Objectives are to add toilet facilities, improve insulation, prevent leaks, and create a facility that we can be proud of, enjoy and that helps attract and retain members. It was unanimously agreed that we should proceed and the team were empowered to develop and work through the detail. The window to submit a funding request will be July 2017 and we will aim to submit proposals to the LTA at that time.

Resolutions

The Secretary disclosed 9 proxy votes to apply.

Resolution 1 to approve the accounts 2015-16 Prop Eugene Sec Ros

Resolution 2 to hold subscriptions for 2017-18. Prop Mary Sec Sue

Resolution 3 to introduce a social/non playing membership from 2017 £25.00 all

Resolution 4 to reappoint David Johnson to review our accounts was unanimously approved and we are grateful to him for his support. Damian will pass on a small gift on our behalf.

Election of Management Team and Officers

There were no nominations for the position of Chair and Jonathan will be spokesman for the committee.

The rest of the Management team was voted unanimously.

Stephen Minshull Beech agreed to join the team as Clubhouse Construction Director.

There were no nominees for Social Coordinator and all club sections will be allocated events to run in 2017. Action Management team.

This year's John Field Trophy is awarded to Stephen Minshull-Beech. Guy presented Stephen with a small gift of thanks.

Meeting concluded at 10.10pm