

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

Minutes of The Annual General Meeting held on
Thursday, 14th November 2013
In the Old Pavilion, Sports Club at 8pm

Present: Guy Tomlinson, Colin Lavis, Wendy Aitken, Joss and John Finch, Ann Gordon Cumming, Sarah McDonald, George Coutts, Graham McLennan, Jonathan Welch, Chris Rawlings, Julia Hick, Caroline Sherwood-Roberts, Nigel and Trudy Price?, Georgina Jagger, Graham Sweet, Paul Davey (Director of Tennis), Roger Dye (MSC Trustee), Jackie Withey (Partner, Alliot's),
(apologies to anyone not on the register but who attended)

Apologies for Absence: Mike and Diana Anderson, Ann Dunn, Mary Crawford, Thelma Craig, Eugene Augustin, Sue Gallagher, Alan Hely, Miranda Robson, Sue Crossan, Sue Robertson, Neil Record

Minutes of the 2012 AGM were taken as read and approved.

Matters Arising there were no matters arising from the previous minutes that have not been dealt with.

Chairman's Report (Guy Tomlinson)

Guy welcomed Paul Davey (our Director of Tennis), Jackie Withey (Partner at accountancy firm, Alliot's, who have kindly agreed to help prepare our accounts) and Roger Dye (one of the Marlow Sports Club Trustees with whom we've been working very closely this year). All attended our AGM for the first time.

Brief retrospective of 2012-13; challenges and future vision

Challenges this time last year: Declining membership, poor facilities, such as lack of toilets, lack of resource to develop the Club, the Marlow Sports Club debt, lack of formal usage agreement with Marlow Sports Club, fear of losing members in moving to new coaching team.

Vision: For Marlow Tennis Club to be thriving Club for the town, an aspirational place to belong. Also a place where all would have a great time on the courts and socially, and feel welcome and encouraged.

Strengths: £84k investment in new courts, and Paul and Tennis Angels as our new coaching team.

2013 Strategies: To get Paul and his coaching programme up and running as quickly as possible. By the Summer, Paul was coaching 94 juniors and 46 adults. New members have come to us directly, and via coaching. Approximately 4 out of ten of those being coached have joined the Club in the first nine months of the year. This is a testimony to Paul, and the quality of coaching, but also evidence that our strategies are working to rebuild the membership and drive new income streams from court usage and visitors. Paul was thanked for his hard work and achievements.

Membership:

While some 45 juniors left the Club following the transition the new coaching team, or to go to University, 40 had since joined, and adult numbers have risen by 11. Net membership numbers are now +6 vs. 2012 and a further 10 have joined the club since October 1st.

At Sept 30th	Total Members	LTA Members	Total Juniors	Total Adult	Off peak members	Student members (18-25)	Juniors > 10	Juniors <10
2012	231	117	80	151	23	8	40	40
2013	237	124	75	162	28	3	45	30
Diff	6	7	-5	11	5	-5	5	-10
Diff %	2.60%	5.98%	-6.25%	7.28%	21.7%	-62.5%	12.5%	-25%
Percentage of Total		52.32%	31.65%	68.35%	2.1%	1.3%	19.0%	12.6%

At September 2012

Lapsed members

2011 members not rejoined 36 16%

2011 juniors not rejoined 45 56%

New members

2012 members 44 19%

2012 juniors 40 53%

Court usage has also increased with a further 65 non-members being coaching plus 60 Y6 and Y7 Borlase boys in the Summer. Thus taking total users to around 360 (excluding visiting teams). All members are requested to write visitors names in the visitor book (to help us measure usage).

Usage agreement: A new usage agreement was signed on April 1st and secures use of the facilities here until at least 2037. The usage agreement also provides several other benefits to the Club and to MSC. It commits MTC to support MSC's charitable aims and raise funds. It establishes a restricted fund into which we can donate membership dues and on which MSC can claim back basic rate tax relief thus making donations go further. It also defines the services we can expect from Marlow Sports Club such as tree maintenance and leaf blowing. It also gives us a right to buy the land on which our tennis courts are sited in the (hopefully) unlikely event anything ever happens to Marlow Sports Club. Guy thanked Roger for helping draft this agreement, the 80% of members who have gift-aided donations to the Club and the dozen or so who have made extra donations this year. Every single penny is appreciated.

Socials: MTC has had our busiest social year in recent years. Jane and Sarah organised a range of terrific events for the tennis club (including the January Thai Curry evening, a Mad Hatters' Tea Party and Pimms evening). An Easter competition, some free coaching and play sessions with Paul and Kate have been introduced and we're introducing more Sunday afternoon sessions. By championing several MSC events, including The Marlow Sports Club Summer Ball and the Double Decker Quiz we're also adding to our calendar.

Every event has included a fund raising element as have many other initiatives including book sales, coffee mornings and light token sales. Together we estimate we've raised over £6,500 for MSC. Jane and Sarah, and all members who supported these events were thanked.

Facilities: Facilities maintenance and development is MTC's most expensive and time consuming challenge. Some quick wins now implemented; every session in the Club now has a key so they can access the toilet facilities in the MSC Clubhouse. Modest improvements now made to the Tennis Clubhouse.

There is much more to do. Many of the problems we face trace to years of neglect. The London Plane tree that drops leaves on our Courts has grown unchecked for 600 years, and the trees and shrubbery around the perimeter of our land have also grown unchecked. They are plagues on our watch.

The MSC usage agreement defines the services we can expect including tree trimming, lawn mowing and hedge clipping. Tennis court services including Autumn leaf blowing and moss-killing and washing of Court 4 and the wall area have also been requested. MSC are also in correspondence with WDC to deal with the Old Plane Tree and ensure this is chopped back. Progress has been disappointingly slow and we've asked the Trustees to give this more management attention.

Looking further out there are many opportunities to improve our facilities arising from the purchase of an additional 9.5 acres of land and proposed Phase 3 development. This will require new funding and strong evidence of needs so we wish to consult widely on this subject. Thus far 30 people have responded to our survey and if you haven't already done so please do respond.

Thank-yous:

Guy thanked all the Committee and volunteers for the enormous amount of work that goes on behind the scenes to run our Club.

Andrew Johnson has stepped down after more than a decade as Membership Secretary. We record our thanks to him for his work to liaise with the Lawn Tennis Association and for creating an amazing membership system.

Joss Finch steps down as Fixtures Secretary. Not only has she arranged team fixtures for the last ten years but also provided extremely diligent counsel when checking the various legal documents we've created this year.

Sarah McDonald and Jane Pyke, our social hostesses with the mostess, retire in the New Year. We thank-them and will see them off in style at our January event.

Wendy Aitken, our Off Peak Secretary, does an amazing job ensuring a continuous range of enticing day time events. All are welcome to these events.

Jonathan Welch, Club Captain, runs Tuesday evening tennis, helps develop our tennis skills and ensures we field and improve the performance of our teams. Thanks also to our Ladies Captains Miranda Robson and Helen Roberts for leading and supporting our ladies' teams.

Thanks also to Alan Hely, for his creative skills and technical wizardry. This ensures we get our newsletter TennisBalls and a regular flow of tweets to our inboxes every month.

Thanks also to Colin Lavis who has taken on a difficult job as our Treasurer, many aspects of Andrew's membership role. He is doing a sterling job to professionalise and streamline our systems.

Finally, thank-you to Ann Dunn, our Club Secretary who also works as our Procurement Director, Operations Director and in a new role as Welfare Officer. Whatever our needs, we can be sure Ann will be there to support us. And for that reason we're delighted to award her the John Field trophy (the Chair's award) to recognise an outstanding contribution to the Club over the last 12 months. Ann will be presented with her award on her return.

With several members of the management team having retired/retiring we seek more help to run your Club (otherwise services will suffer) and help keep fees down.

Treasurer's Report

Membership income remains the main source of funds and is broadly flat year on year as we have held fees at 2011-12 levels. Some 80% has been donated to the 'MSC/MTC Development Account' which has enabled c. £2k to be reclaimed from HMRC. New income streams from Court usage, and better management of visitor fees add a further £1.5k and £2k.

Main costs are the MSC usage agreement (£7.2k) though due to a 2011/12 prepayment appears in the P&L as £10k this year. MSC has been asked to review this sum for 2013-14.

Additional donations to MSC include Court usage fees, income from fund raising e.g. raffles, coffees, and 25% of light token income (£2.5k)

Electricity costs are offset by light token costs.

The Director of Tennis's fees are partly covered by income from Visitor's fees.

Some £8k is added to the MSC/MTC Development a/c (i.e. added to the sinking fund for future court refurbishment). Every year we aim to add c £8-10k, this is also required by the LTA. As Court 4 is now fully depreciated and approaching the end of its useful life we anticipate investing in a new surface in the next 1-2 years. Though due to the proposed Phase 3 developments we wish to consult more widely on facilities as we face a 'once in a lifetime' chance to influence the shape of tennis and sport in Marlow for generations to come.

In response to a question from Paul, any investment will be subject to further member consultation and agreement.

Club Captain's Report Winter 2012-2013 (Jonathan Welch)

Competitive match tennis is offered in three different leagues in the winter season and one league in the summer. Thanks to all who have participated.

Winter 2012-13

One Men's Team plays in the Thames Valley Tennis League
 Mixed doubles veterans in the Bucks Veteran's League - Ladies + 40 & Men + 45
 Mixed doubles with Men's & Ladies Doubles - Farnham Common League -

Thames Valley Tennis League.
 The Men's team finished in 8th in Division 1 comprising 13 teams. This is one division below the top league, The Premier League

Bucks Veteran's League Mixed
 Our team finished in 6rd of 7 teams in Division 3 and look forward to Division 4 in Winter 2013-14. There are a total of 6 Divisions.

Farnham Common League
 Our second season in the winter Farnham Common League saw us in Division 4, having been promoted from Division 5 in our second season. Four players play 2 ladies & 2 men's each match playing ladies and men's doubles and pair up to play mixed doubles. Finished 5th out of 7 teams.

Summer 2013
 We have one team that plays in the Bucks Tennis League division 2 of 6 divisions. The team finished in 2nd place (7 teams) and may get promoted to the top division.

A large number of members have played in matches (Rob, Nick, Paul M, Alan, Gary T, Guy T, Phil, Mark H, Graham, Andrew J, Chris R, Richard, Harry, Conor, Paul D, Mary, Emma, Sue H, Chris L, Helen R, Annabel, Miranda, Karen, Joss and Mike and Diana Anderson. Thanks go to all those who have played.

Ladies A team – summary (Miranda Robson)

Winter 2012-13

The Ladies A 2-pair doubles team had a good season in the Thames Valley Winter League and ended up about half way up the table in division 3

Summer 2013

The Ladies A team had a great summer season playing in the Bucks 2-pair Shield and finished at the top of division 3 so they will be promoted to division 2 for summer 2014.

Standings of Women's Doubles - Division 3								
		Points	Played	Rubbers	Sets	Sets %	Games	Games %
1	Marlow TC L1	13	7	48 - 8	48 - 8	85.7%	324 - 171	65.5%
2	David Lloyd MK L2	12	7	41 - 15	41 - 15	73.2%	296 - 196	60.2%
3	Chalfont St Peter TC L1	9	7	31 - 25	31 - 25	55.4%	251 - 223	53.0%
4	Beaconsfield TC L2	8	7	27 - 27	27 - 27	50.0%	240 - 236	50.4%
5	Wendover LTC L2	7	7	33 - 23	33 - 23	58.9%	269 - 221	54.9%
6	Marlow TC L2	4	7	15 - 41	15 - 41	26.8%	170 - 285	37.4%
7	High Wycombe LTC L1	2	7	19 - 37	19 - 37	33.9%	197 - 283	41.0%
8	Wraysbury LTC L1	1	7	8 - 46	8 - 46	14.8%	172 - 304	36.1%

Now

We have welcomed a number of new players to the team over the past 10 months which is

great news.

Director of Tennis's Report (Paul Davey)

The coaching programme continues to expand and now exceeds Clubmark requirements. 2014 plans include introducing a box league, more weekend adult courses, 5 weeks of tennis in the Summer school holidays, more away camp for juniors and to support the Sunday afternoon play.

Off Peak Report (Wendy Aitken)

Off Peak mornings take place on Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am (though come along a few minutes beforehand). All are welcome. These sessions continue to be well attended with anything from 4 – 12 players with members increasing this year. New members have been welcomed and have raised the standard of play.

Five round robins were played this season with refreshments afterwards; this has proved an enjoyable way of raising funds for purchasing balls.

Once again a New Year social was very well attended.

Election of Committee and Officers

The committee's proposals for the officers and committee for 2013/14 were accepted unanimously. Jonathan and Wendy were re-elected. Carol Charlett agreed to take on the Fixtures role in a non-Committee capacity which was unanimously approved and for which we thank her.

There were no nominees for the vacant Social and Operations roles. If you would like to find out more about these roles please contact Guy as soon as possible (07768 292736). As an interim measure the various sections of the Club will take responsibility for arranging different social functions from mid January 2014.

The Committee for 2013/14 is as follows:

Chair – Guy Tomlinson

Treasurer – Colin Lavis

Secretary and Welfare Officer – Ann Dunn

Club Captain – Jonathan Welch

Off Peak Secretary – Wendy Aitken

Social Secretary(ies) – Jane Pyke/Sarah McDonald (retiring January 2014)

Fixtures Secretary – Carol Charlett

Communications Officer – Alan Hely

Operations Director (to help maintain/renew the court surfaces, lights, Clubhouse and

surrounding area, liaise and manage MSC, support/steer Phase 3 development with MSC)
- vacant

Resolutions

The Chair disclosed 8 proxy votes to apply.

Resolution 1 to amend the Constitution including to incorporate within the LTA and introduce a new class of member (country member for overseas residents visiting the UK for up to 4 months of the year and students living 30 miles away from Marlow for 8 months of the year was approved by majority vote (1 abstention). Approval of this resolution means that the Club is very close to qualifying for LTA Clubmark. This is a project on which the Committee have been working for the last 4 months.

Resolution 2 to authorise the Committee (at their discretion) to donate up to 50% of Gift Aid receipts from HMRC to MSC to assist in paying-off the Marlow Sports Club land purchase debt and invest in sporting facilities for the Marlow community was approved by majority vote (1 vote against).

Resolution 3 to increase membership fees for 2013/14 in line with inflation was approved by majority vote (1 vote against).

Resolution 4 to approve the accounts for 2012-13 was approved in line with inflation was approved by majority vote (1 abstention).

Appointment of Auditor

Resolution 5 to appoint Alliotts as auditors was approved unanimously.

To consider any formal resolutions received from members in advance of the meeting

None received

Any Other Business

Ann G-C proposed that brooms be purchased to help clear the Courts of leaves. This was agreed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm