
Wingrave Tennis Club

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Held 15th Dec 2010

Held at Wingrave Pavilion

1. Present

Martin Swadling, Neil Pitman, Michelle Croft, Andrew Liversidge, Steve Packer, Emma Boddington, Robert Boddington, Mark Croft, Jan Walmsley

Apologies were received from Sandy Roost and Paul Vaughan

2. Chairman's Report

Firstly I'd like to thank my fellow committee members. Neil, Sandy, Michelle, Andrew and Paul who have all worked incredibly hard, and given a lot of their own time to the club over the last 12 months.

So how have we done in 2010?

Successes

- Visibility
 - Village Fete – The tennis club ran the raffle this year with Sandy and Michelle doing a sterling job sorting out the tickets and all the prizes.
 - Members of the LTA / British tennis, which has multiple benefits – Neil will update us later.
 - Allocation of Wimbledon tickets has been a great success as we have used them as an incentive for early payment of fees. This year we got 9 pairs of tickets which were all allocated by an open draw for those who had paid on time.
 - Fundraising
 - Wine & Wisdom – Again a full turnout, raising over £1,500 for the club. Keeping us in the black but also putting a tennis club event on the village social map. The addition this year of the excellent auction arranged by Andrew helped double the takings. We again face the dilemma of keeping the event at the club and potentially losing revenue or moving to a large venue but risking atmosphere and support for the club.
 - Coaching
 - We have been running free coaching at Club nights on Mondays. Ross Neary a young but very competent coach from Leighton Buzzard, has been running group training and I've had nothing but positive feedback. In fact it's prompted me to start a course of 1-2-1 lessons with Ross and if he can sort out my game he will be a good coach!
 - Michelle will give us more details later but it is certainly something we intend to carry on with in the spring.
 - Emma Boddington & Gerry Wyatt continue to do a great job with the kids on a Saturday morning.
 - Teams
 - We now regularly put out
 - Men's team on Sunday mornings captained by Robert Boddington
-

- Mixed 1st team – Jane Samways, who is currently away sick and we wish her a speedy recovery. Emma has stepped into the breach in her absence.
 - Mixed 2nds – Paul Vaughan
 - Men's 2nds – Paul Vaughan
 - A big thank you to the captains who put in a huge amount of effort in chasing up players, collecting subs, sorting out food etc.
- Quality of our tennis is improving and we are winning more matches this year (Mixed 1's promoted & Men's 1's promoted). Putting out 4 teams for a village / club this size is admirable and we are encouraged by the fact that we have a growing squad making it easier to get teams out.
- Court / Club environment
 - The new windbreaks look great and are definitely helping diffuse the wind. We still intend to add hedging early next year.

So what are our key challenges for 2010?

Challenges

- Membership
 - Has remained pretty static so a focus for the coming year will be to recruit new members.
- Club environment
 - By using the pavilion for as many events and meeting as possible we're trying to make it a real home to the club. We would like to stamp our mark on the place so if any of you have old photos or other memorabilia; we would like to get some framed and put up around the bar area.
- Chairmanship
 - I'm afraid that I have taken the difficult decision to stand down from the committee; I have recently become a school governor and will shortly start a new job. I would like someone to take on the role of Chair who will be able to devote the time to take the club to the next level. I've thoroughly enjoyed my time in the chair and I'm very pleased with the work we have done over the last 5 years as an all new committee.

The meeting expressed great appreciation of Martin's work and achievements during his time as Chairman.

3. Treasurer's Report

Wingrave Tennis Club made a net surplus for the year 2009/10 of £1,154. This is an increase on 08/09 of £697. The main reason for the year on year increase is an extremely successful Wine and Wisdom Fund Raising event held in June 2009. The proceeds from this event were just over £1000. This doubled the previous year's fund raising total. Additionally, whilst subscriptions have remained fairly constant, the popularity of the junior coaching sessions on Saturday mornings have delivered a profit of £153.

Regarding expenditure, there have been some ups and downs. Our LTA insurance has got marginally cheaper however floodlight costs have increased in line with general energy prices. Also, ball costs are greater due to more teams playing matches and some stock being held as at March 10. It should be noted that beyond 31 March 2010 the cash reserve has continued to grow with another successful Wine and Wisdom Evening raising funds of £1300. Our cash reserve balance as at end of October 2010 was £4,400 however there are the WWRSA fees to come out of this in the coming weeks of circa £1300.

4. Club Secretary's Report

This year the LTA have changed the method of calculating affiliation fees from being based upon the number of members to being calculated according to the number of courts.

This has led to a reduction in cost from appx £400 pa to £250 per year whilst still retaining the benefits of an excellent liability insurance policy and Wimbledon ticket allocation.

The number of Wimbledon tickets allocated is still based upon the number of British Tennis Members affiliated with the club – this currently stands at 46.

5. Membership Secretary's Report

The current number of members stands at 56 following a loss of 10 and gain of 12 members over the last year.

6. Election of Officers

The following committee members were re-elected :

Sandy Roost – Treasurer
Neil Pitman – Club Secretary
Andrew Liversidge – Membership Secretary
Michelle Croft – Committee Member
Steve Packer – Committee Member and Club WWRSSAL Representative
Paul Vaughan – Child Protection Officer
Jan Walmsley - Elected as a new committee member

Mike Curry continues to act as fixtures secretary.

As the club does not currently have a Chairman it was agreed that the committee would collectively take on the role of Chair with Steve Packer acting as WWRSSAL representative for the club.

7. Club Membership Fees

The committee has reviewed the rates to be charged for membership in 2011/12 and the new rates will be as shown below. The following factors were taken into account when determining the rates

- Other local club rates
- The need for the club to at least break even without fund raising
- Providing special rates for seniors
- Providing some coaching at club nights
- Continuing to offer excellent value for money

Club Membership Rates 2011/12

- Individual - £ 65
 - Family - £ 115
 - Senior - £ 35
 - Junior - £20
-

The rates are still amongst the lowest in the area (especially for families) and offer

- Well Maintained Courts
- Floodlights
- Free Club Night Coaching
- Friendly Village Club
- Coaching for Children on Saturday mornings (small extra charge)
- 2 Mixed and 2 Mens Teams Competing in Aylesbury Vale Leagues

Assuming membership stays the same this will generate appx £300 in additional revenue. We also expect a £150 pa reduction in LTA fees as a result of the change in charging policy. This gives appx £450 per year which can be spent on coaching which really is a huge plus for a club of our size and rate structure and can be used to encourage new membership.

8. Junior Coaching

It was noted that very few of the children attending junior coaching are members and that it would perhaps be a good idea to provide an incentive for the juniors to join by offering a discount on coaching fees. This issue will be picked up for action by the Committee.

The idea of introducing an additional coaching session for younger (6-11) children after school was raised. The committee will progress this by surveying the likely demand for coaching, defining the child protection requirements and liaising with Wingrave school.

9. Child Protection Policy

Paul Vaughan has created a draft Child Protection Policy for the club, based upon the LTA boilerplate. This will be reviewed at the next Committee meeting and when agreed will be published on the club website.

10. Club Coaching

Michelle Croft reported that professional coaching was offered at a number of club nights earlier in the Autumn. The coaching had been received extremely well and the Committee will be working to make a more permanent arrangement for club nights with a professional coach.

11. Courts, Facilities and Hedging

The club needs to make its claim on it's allocated s.106 monies (£1,250) for a hedging windbreak by the end of May 2011. Failure to do so will result in the monies being returned to the developer. The Committee has decided to implement a Leylandii windbreak around the exposed sides of the court and is currently working through the process of obtaining approval via the Parish Council.

A request was made to consider extending the fabric windbreaks across the entire court surround. The Committee will take the action to consider this, but it was noted that the fencing on the far side of the court is not considered to be sufficiently strong to support wind breaks.

12. Club Teams

It was noted that match rearrangements should be co-ordinated via the Fixtures Secretary, Mike Curry, in order to avoid any clashes. The committee expressed gratitude for the work that Mike Curry has undertaken as Fixtures Secretary.

13. Casual Play

Jan Walmsley raised the question of determining the best method for arranging casual games amongst members. Ideas such as texting or using Facebook were raised. The issue will be further discussed at the next Committee meeting.

14. Presence in the Communique

The lack of any presence of the club in the Wingrave Communique was noted and it was felt that the appearance of regular articles about the club, in a similar fashion to those written by some of the other sports clubs. Jan Walmsley volunteered to take this task on, with input coming from other committee members and team captains.
