

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting for Newick Lawn Tennis Club, held at 8.00pm
on Wednesday 19th April 2023 in the Clubhouse, Blind Lane.**

Jenny Smerdon welcomed all to the 2023 Tennis AGM

Before proceedings began, the Chair wished to have the sad passing of Margi Parris recorded in the Minutes. She was the Membership Secretary for several years and an avid tennis player. Margi will be greatly missed by her friends in the Club. All agreed with the sentiments expressed.

1) Apologies: Paul Oelmann, Helena Davies, Malcolm Young, Gill Hemsley, and Jane Sharman

2) Secretary's report of previous AGM on 30th March 2022: was read, adopted and signed by the Chair as a true record of proceedings.

Proposed by Paul Tonking. Seconded by Rachel Townsend

3) Treasurer's report for 2022/23 on website and copy given to those present.

Report of January 2023 is explicit and self-explanatory. Linda wanted to highlight few points within the report:

- Membership and subscriptions are down - £5,400 which is the lowest for a few years.
- Courts are cleaned and maintained yearly
- Floodlighting on double court needs updating - will discuss again in the autumn.
- Although membership is down there is £30,000 in the pot, some of which will be spent on upgrading the Club facilities.
- Need to advertise the Club on social media and encourage more coaching sections.

Jenny thanked Linda for her financial report and Willi Robertson for auditing the accounts.

4) Chair's report for 2022/23

This could be considered a 'low profile' year.

We fielded two Ladies & one Men's team in the Sussex Leagues, both Summer 2022 and Winter 2023.

The Horam League was well supported and we came out as Winners of League 2, gaining promotion to League 1 for next season.

We will be playing against the 'big guns' of Crowborough, Cross in Hand and Groombridge...somewhat of a challenge!! We are confident we can rise to it!

Membership was slightly down last year and recruitment by means of an Open Day will hopefully draw in new Members.

The courts have stood up well to the elements. They were lightly cleaned in November after the leaf and sycamore seed debris had finished falling. The contractor thought they may do one more year before needing to be repainted.

We have been slow in looking at the refurbishment of the toilets and in the meantime a new idea to put an add-on toilet block to the rear or side has been proposed to give more space inside the club house. A small group will be set up to look at this and get quotes etc and report back.

Malcolm has looked into the costings to replace the 12 floodlights on the double court. This is circa £10K and will include brackets, fitting and reducing the pole height to 6m in line with the single court.

Junior coaching has continued both on Saturday mornings at the Club and Wednesdays at the school. We thank Le Tennis.

Ladies coaching on Tuesday mornings continues to be popular and a further coaching session for Rusty Rackets was held in the summer.

The cheese and social eve on the first Wednesday of the month will continue during the summer months, so April - September. Thanks to Hilary for organising these so well.

A big thank you to Paul Tonking for his continued work to keep the website up and running.

Thanks to Matt, our groundsman, for keeping the surrounding areas of grass and hedging neat and tidy.

A huge thanks to the committee for their work this year, especially Linda our Treasurer and Hilary our Secretary.

Thanks to all the Team Captains

5) Juniors coaching (Le Tennis).

Tim from Le Tennis (Maresfield) said that coaching at Newick Primary continues on a Wednesday after school with 39/35 youngsters and also at the Club on a Saturday morning, but lower numbers. Cost of living and other interests....

Tim arranges Youth Centre and a tennis programme at Maresfield with some Newick youngsters taking part.

Cameron Barnes being a very good junior player, county level of tennis.

Ladies coaching on a Tuesday morning continues with Kyria.

Tennis balls are in short supply but Tim is happy to supply Newick Club if a problem arises.

Tim ended by saying that LeTennis had put Jenny Smerdon forward for a lifetime award for her contribution to tennis and received two awards at the Amex Stadium. Congratulations.

6) Sussex and Horam League matches 2022/23 winter

- Men's matches. - TBC
- Ladies 1 Second in div 8 up to div 7
- Ladies 2. Div 10
- Team captains should be contacted for Summer 2022
- L1. 4D. 2L
- L2. 1W. 4L
- Men div 3
- Horam League - May to July.... Winners of Division 2

6) Subscription: 2023/2024

It was agreed that subscriptions should increase slightly.

£135 Senior, £240 Couples (Partners), £285 Family and Juniors/students £25.

£25 Parent (hitting) membership to help under 10's.

Proposed: Paul Tonking Seconded: Liz Tobitt

Agreed unanimously Payment for season 2023/24 due 01.05.23

Question asked about short term membership - if people do not join for the year the amount paid is pro rata.

A monthly direct debit is too tricky to administer for a small Club like ours even if we decided to consider Club Sparks.

7) Committee for 2023/24

All Committee resigned.

New Committee: for 2023/24 Jenny Smerdon, Linda Whitworth, Hilary Bryan, Gill Hemsley, Sam Boileau, Steve Curry and Andrew Rees with a proviso to co-opt member(s) to the Committee when necessary.

Serena Woodward to relinquish role of Membership Secretary and will hand over to Gill Hemsley? Grateful thanks were extended to Serena

Proposed by : Pat Tugwell. Seconded. By Liz Tobitt

Unanimous agreement by all present

Peter Whitworth to sort new code.

- practice wall
- Andy Rees would like to see the Clubhouse upgraded and extended, which would encourage new members. Discussion followed and agreed to get. Sub-Committee of members to do. Outings, design and submit to LDC and report back to Club members. (Andy, Liz, Rachel) expressed an interest and Malcolm to be approached as well?

- Grants for improvements to Club facilities should also be looked into.
- Andy also suggested t-shirts with Club logo to encourage youngsters and maybe for league matches.

AOB

Members questions:

- Pat Tugwell, a member for 32 years, has decided to give up playing on matches and just play recreational tennis. Her organizing of the Sussex league administration will pass to another, but grateful thanks were extended to Pat for doing this role for so many years.
- Social gatherings to be arranged for opening and closing of season.
- Working Party on Sunday 30th April to tidy Clubhouse and grounds ready for new season.
- Open Afternoon, 8th May to invite Le Tennis and Inter-Sport from Lewes to encourage new members.
- Tennis competitions within the Club to start again if members are interested
- Maybe start a ladder competition?
- Tennis Club sign at entrance to Blind lane?

There being no other business or questions the meeting closed 9.40pm