

LYMPSTONE TENNIS CLUB

(affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association)

Chair: Jill Dixon Treetops Grange Close Lympstone EX8 5LD Tel: 01395 224774	Treasurer: Andrew Lorenc Millbrook Cottage Longbrook Lane Lympstone EX8 5BE Tel: 01395 263068	Secretary: Liz Griffiths Northcote Clay Lane Lympstone EX8 5LD Tel: 01395 227536
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 13 March 2015

Village Hall Committee Room, 7.30pm

Minutes

Those present: John and Margaret Bennett, Paul Harradine, Barrie Bissett, Jonathan Bissett, Karen & Tony Gratton, Adrian Barton, Andrew Lorenc, Jill Dixon, Malcolm Lyon, Will Harvey, Sarah Forde, John Robertson

Apologies: Liz Griffiths, Ann and Clive Hurley, Wendy Hoare, Corinne Gimber, Dawn Chapman, Wendy and Tony Smith, Judy Fisher

Jill welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes of the 2014 AGM were agreed (proposed Tony Gratton, seconded John Bennett). They were duly signed as a true record of the 2014 AGM. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Chairman's Report

Jill's report was opened by remembering Keith Exelby who sadly died suddenly in November 2014. Keith had been a longstanding member of the club and had played regularly. Condolences had been sent to Norma, his wife, who is still playing at the club during the week.

One of the main events of the Club's year was the Open Day event on 17 May. This event had been arranged as a result of the LTA's initiative to promote tennis over the summer. With the help of Wendy Hoare and Corinne Gimber games and drills were run for the juniors in the morning. Adrian and Sandra Barton organised an excellent barbeque. In the afternoon our coaches, Callum and Paul, gave the adults a taster on how to play triples. The afternoon was rounded off with tea and cake which had been generously provided by members. Having been blessed with wonderful weather, we felt that the event had been very successful and had also resulted in the acquisition of a few new members. Whilst the day was very successful, due to the amount of organisation of such an event, it cannot be run on an annual basis.

To encourage fair weather tennis players, Wendy Hoare and Jill organised three returners and learners session for adults. This proved popular with members, so two more sessions on 20 and 27 April are planned to "kick-off" the tennis season in 2015 for those who have taken the winter off.

Jill reported that the coaching had worked well last year with the new coaches Callum Wade and Paul Macharia. An 8 week programme was run during the summer term and a further 5 week block in September for the juniors.

During the year Penny Pullen, who has coached 5 to 6 year olds after school on a Monday, decided to hang up her coaching racquet. Jill took some flowers to her on behalf of the club to thank her for her many years of coaching at Lympstone.

In addition to the organised coaching, the school ran an after school tennis club. Also, we provided keys to the courts to a number of teenage club members to allow them to access the courts during the summer holidays. It was good to see the youngsters practising their tennis!

Club sessions are proving to be popular on Tuesday evenings, but less so on Saturday afternoons, due to members having other commitments. The Christmas mince pies and triples evening was held on a Tuesday evening, which was a success, despite the weather.

The League Teams acquitted themselves well over both the summer and winter, although no trophies this year. Jill was pleased to announce that the Men's B team has returned after a year off, under the captaincy of Will Harvey

and assisted by Adrian. Jill thanked all who have run the teams over the past year and everyone who has represented the club.

The club held a successful wine tasting fund raising event during the year which enabled us to make a donation to the Village Hall. Jill thanked Tony and Karen Gratton who hosted the event.

Jill thanked the committee members for their efforts, including Karen Gratton, who has taken over organising the club rota.

Finally, Jill remarked that on her visits to other clubs during the year she appreciated what excellent courts and lighting that we have at Lympstone. Please spread the word and invite friends and neighbours to come along to the Open club session on 18 April.

Treasurer's Report & Accounts

Andrew reported a surplus of £3464 over the past year. There has been very little maintenance expenditure during the financial year. There are sufficient funds in reserve in case the lights fail. Andrew noted that the maintenance costs for the lighting are significantly less than those suggested by the LTA. The assets stand at £15798 but he stressed the importance of building a sinking fund for future work on the courts and lights.

Andrew was asked why the cost of tennis balls was significantly less in 2014 compared to 2013. He confirmed that in 2013 there were stocks of balls remaining which were used in 2014 and therefore fewer balls were purchased in 2014. It was also noted that the coaching fees were considerably less in 2014. Andrew explained that an over provision had been made in 2013 for a coaching fee invoice that was not received until 2014. This overprovision resulted in the costs in the 2014 accounts being less. Andrew agreed that he would try and consolidate the cash balances and will investigate investing in an account giving a higher return, although currently the market is offering very low interest rates on savings accounts.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Paul Harradine and seconded by Will Harvey.

Proposed Subscriptions 2015

Andrew proposed a small increase in adult subscriptions, with junior and student subscriptions remaining the same. For 2015 the subscriptions will be: Adult £56, Joint £84, Student £28, Junior £14

Members voted to accept these new rates from 1 April 2015.

Committee Room

Paul Harradine confirmed that he had attended the Village Hall meeting to represent the Tennis Club's interests. The Football Club may not be renewing their agreement with the Village Hall. It was agreed that a sub-committee should be formed to evaluate the potential of the room for the Tennis Club and our future requirements. It was noted that the Committee Room is used by the registrar when weddings take place at the Village Hall and these events are anticipated to become more frequent. Malcolm Lyon, a member of the Tennis Club, agreed to chair the sub-committee. Members of the sub-committee are yet to be agreed.

League Teams for 2015

All winter fixtures have now been completed.

We have entered 4 teams in the League this summer – 1 ladies, 2 men's and 1 mixed. Practice sessions for all those interested have been arranged for the end of March.

Coaching

Callum Wade and Paul Macharia have agreed to help with the coaching again in 2015. An Open Morning is being held on 18 April for juniors. Coaching for adults will also be made available on a Monday evening starting 11 May. Callum has also agreed to do a half hour taster session for Year 1 children on a Saturday morning to help fill the gap Penny Pullen has left.

Social Events

No fund raising events have currently been arranged, although Jill is discussing an idea with the committee. Details will be released once this has been finalised.

Paul Harradine suggested that we organise another wine tasting evening. This would be on a smaller scale than has been previously held by the Club. He will advise us of details once he has spoken with his contact.

Following successful barbeque and tournament events in the past it was agreed that this should be arranged for the summer. Details will be circulated once organised. Also a Pimms and triples evening, similar to the mulled wine and triples evening held at Christmas, may be incorporated into the summer calendar.

Members were also invited to make any suggestions for other events the tennis club could hold to help raise funds for both the club and village hall. Please contact Liz Griffiths if you have any ideas.

Election of Officers and Committee

Jill, Andrew and Liz offered to remain in their posts. Dawn Chapman resigned from the Committee due to other commitments. The remaining members are Paul Harradine, Karen Gratton, Sarah Forde, Adrian Barton and Barrie Bissett.

Any Other Business

Jill thanked Barrie Bissett for arranging the food and drink refreshments for the evening. John Bennett thanked the Committee for their work during the year.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25pm and was followed by cheese and wine refreshments.