

Croxley Tennis Club Annual General Meeting 22 January 2013

Venue Croxley Tennis clubhouse

Present

Committee members – Colin Hewett(CH), Paul Helbrough(PH), Helen Wright(HW), Lynda Cox(LC), Liz Burch(LB), Richard Boyce(RB), Mike Coster(MC), Lee Smith(LS), Pauline Worby(PW), Wayne McDonald(WM).

Members – Tina Lissenden, Dave Smith, Bev Hall, Sue Reynolds, Liz Beak(LBe), Michael and Joan Bovington, Maureen Ramsden, Jonothan Solomons, Jon Taffel, Jenny Wright, Melvin Chin, Jeremy Ageneau, Elvin Stewart, Edd Righton, Kerry Stewart, Jeremy Shindler(JS).

Apologies

Brian Linskey, Annie Carpenter, Lesley Nash, Dennis Lissenden, Pat Foster, Ian Wilkie, David Oates, Janet Dann, Kate Bray.

Chairman's opening comments

CH welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them all for turning out on such a cold, snowy evening. He then informed those present that Peter Worby had recently had a quadruple bypass and wished him well from everyone assembled. Lesley Nash had also had an operation on her knee that day and was already home and walking around.

Approval of minutes from last meeting

Copies of the minutes were available and CH drew attention to the actions.

Junior membership fees – much discussion had taken place but it was decided by the committee to leave things as they were. It was thought to be too much of an administrative burden for WM and JS to take on more work.

Lighting and padlock at gate – Much thought had gone into improving the lighting at the gate but with no satisfactory resolution. It had been decided by the committee to encourage the Guild to ensure the light near court 4 was always working properly. The padlock had been replaced.

Tournaments – LS and LB had led the thinking on tournaments and in the best interest of members had decided to leave the format as it was but would have a designated Winter Finals Day, at present being 23 March.

CH then mentioned the new member's pack which RB and LB had started putting together and would hopefully have ready for April. He is also hoping to put Team captains' end of season reports onto the website and in a newsletter.

CH then proposed acceptance of the minutes.

Proposed Elvin Stewart **Seconded** Joan Bovington All members in favour. There were no matters arising.

Annual Report 2012

CH thanked LS and PH for preparing the report and added that the booklet is useful to hand out to prospective and new members.

He also gave thanks to all the volunteers who have helped during the past year and the coaching team who have worked really hard. CTC had been approached by LTA and TDRC to lead an outreach programme at Scotsbridge and Baldwins Lane.

Despite CTC's success CH said that many members had drifted away over the years and the aim in 2013 was to try and reach back to these people. He asked all members to help in making everyone feel welcome and to assist new members to integrate into the club.

On being asked if he had anything to add RB said that the post-joining experience was very important and everyone's responsibility.

CH then updated the members on the refurbishment of courts 4,5 and 6. This was the most important project financially, possibly £60000 to £90000 and probably would not take place until 2014.

HW asked what surfaces might be considered. CH replied drainage was a problem on these courts and it might be better to keep a similar surface.

Treasurer's report

A copy of the accounts was handed out at the meeting. In the absence of LN and Jerry Rudge, CH ran through the accounts and answered any questions. LN had prepared a report for the booklet.

CH then asked the members to accept the accounts.

Proposed Jon Taffel **Seconded** Mike Coster. Accounts unanimously accepted by members.

Membership report

RB thanked JS for his administrative work behind the scenes, his hard work being much appreciated. Thanks also to the coaching team and LN for their involvement.

On being asked for the number of members he replied that there were 280 now, compared to 320 two years ago. The number of senior members was slightly down and juniors significantly down. Other clubs in the area were also suffering a reduction in membership.

Jonathon Solomons (JSo) asked if it might be worth doing a leaflet drop in the new housing area or have a Durrants Day.

RB continued by saying that he was looking into new categories of membership, particularly for students and those just starting work, and perhaps winter membership. He would welcome any ideas from members.

Michael Bovington asked if there was a maximum capacity for 6 courts. CH replied that the LTA would suggest 420 (to include mini courts) but he thought 360 would be preferable.

Social Secretary's report

MC started by thanking Tina Lissenden for all her work in making the fund raising happen. Income was slightly down on last year, the dinner and dance and other events not being that well attended. A lot of income had been generated from non members but he would like to see more from members, the emphasis being enjoyment as well as fund raising. The summer had been quieter this year due to the Olympics.

MC said he would welcome any ideas for events and felt that next year he should step down and make way for new blood.

Marketing

LS said his aim is to raise the profile of the Club, let people know what is going on through leaflets, posters etc. The RakAttak material is to be revamped for this year and new artwork has been produced for T-shirts and other clothing, thanks to Tom Bennett.

He added that there seems to be a gap in our demographic of 16-30 year olds, and is hoping to attract them by using more online information in the form of Twitter and Facebook. Texting

information was also suggested. CTC is already on Twitter and has approx 100 followers. It was suggested that the membership form could include a question on how members would like to receive information.

JSo said he was a fan of social networks and perhaps a video of the Club could be sent out on Twitter. He offered to help LS with this.

LBe then said that at present only one email per family is entered on the membership form and that perhaps each member should have their own contact, perhaps a mobile number as well. RB will look into this.

JS commented that it is essential that members update their details throughout the year.

Juniors and coaching

WM said it had been a busy year and looked even busier for next year with new challenges ahead. He aims to get junior players playing out of squad times by creating events for them and for adults. There will hopefully be something for everyone.

JSo said he had joined the club in August and was impressed by the coaching for juniors and also by the effort everyone puts in to all aspects of the club.

Election of committee

The existing committee was willing to stand for another year. The members were asked to elect those standing on block.

Chairman – Colin Hewett

Secretary – Paul Helbrough

Minutes Secretary – Lynda Cox

Treasurer – Lesley Nash

Membership Secretary – Richard Boyce

Social Secretary – Mike Coster

Publicity and Marketing Manager – Lee Smith

General member – Pauline Worby

General member – Helen Wright

General Member – Liz Burch

Head Coach – Wayne McDonald

Proposed Tina Lissenden **Seconded** Michael Bovington

The committee was unanimously elected.

Any Other Business

Visibility on court JSo asked if some sort of screen could be put on the fence around the courts to improve visibility of the ball. CH replied that if too dense a mesh is used the fence will bend in the wind. He would investigate further, weighing up the costs and benefits.

Michael Bovington then asked about something to stop the ball bouncing off the back wall. This had already been discussed by the committee with no solution but CH said he would look into any cost-effective, durable and helpful answers to the problem.

Promotion of matches playing MC thought that as there were some very good teams playing in matches it would be a good idea to advertise these. All information is on the website but HW suggested using Twitter or some other method to draw people's attention to them.

Associates LS asked the procedure for an associate to become a full member. The reply was that the member should approach WM, the head coach, or RB, the membership secretary, to be assessed. LC asked if a full member could revert back to an associate. The answer was yes, if the member no longer wanted to enter tournaments or play on a Saturday morning.

Approved juniors HW asked if there were any girls coming up to be approved juniors. WM said not at present but hopefully in 18-24 months time. She added that the lack of 16-30 year olds would support the idea of a young person's category of membership. RB replied that he had set up a small committee to discuss this.

Actions

- RB to look into adding extra contact details for members, personal email addresses, mobile phone numbers etc. Also question on preferred method of contact.
- CH to investigate meshing and other possibilities to help visibility on courts.

CH then declared the meeting closed and invited everyone to the Guild for refreshment.