

## **Croxley Tennis Club Annual General Meeting 31 January 2012**

**Venue:** Croxley Tennis Clubhouse

### **Present**

Committee members – Colin Hewett (CH), Paul Helbrough (PH), Glenda Midson (GM), Helen Wright (HW), Lynda Cox (LC), Mike Coster (MC), Richard Boyce (RB), Liz Burch (LB), Pauline Worby (PaW)

Members - Wayne McDonald (WM), Colin Williams (CW), Liz Beak (LBe), Laura Beak LaB), Tina Lissenden, Dave and Emily Smith, Pat Foster, Joan and Michael Bovington, Annie Carpenter, Maureen Ramsden, Ed Righton, Peter Worby (PeW), Doug Pullinger, Shirley and Gary Broadbridge, Elvin Stewart, Laurence Birch, Jeremy Ageneau, Kerry Stewart, Sue Reynolds, Jim and Fiona Avey, David Oates

### **Apologies**

Chris Hewett, Jon Taffel (JT), Jackie and Norman Yardley, Lee Smith (LS), Val North, Ian Wilkie, Mark Burch, Colin Midson, Denis Lissenden, Lesley Nash(LN).

### **Chairman's summary of Annual Report 2011**

CH quickly ran through the minutes of the 2011 AGM. All actions had been completed and there were no matters arising.

CH proposed acceptance of the minutes.

**Proposed** Peter Worby   **Seconded** Mike Coster   All members were in favour.

The 2011 report was handed out to those present and will be available on the website.

CH started by saying that 2011 had been a good year. He would like to extend his sincere thanks to the Coaching team, the Committee members, especially to Lee Smith and Mike Coster for their immense contributions during last year, and the “Teams people”. Thanks also to Jon Taffel, Jim Bray (tags), Julia Brooks (clothing), Norman and Jackie (American Tournaments), the Gardening Team-Mark, Laurence, James and Dave and Emily Smith, people from the Guild - Maureen Wells, Lisa, Richard and the bar staff.

CH added that the manner in which both the Tournament and Social sub-committees have been working is perhaps a model for the future, having a free hand in planning but reporting back to the main Committee for approval on key aspects. As chairman, CH had identified 2 major tasks for 2012, a plan for courts 4-6 and sponsorship for the Club. To succeed in these he felt he would need volunteers to come forward and suggest how they might assist in some way with other aspects of the Club eg repair and maintenance.

CH said that since Mark Everett had relocated there was obviously a need for a new Men's A team captain. Liz Burch, after almost 10 years was also stepping down but Maureen Ramsden had agreed to take over the Ladies A team. Thanks to Liz for her work and to Mark who had worked hard and led his team to promotion.

CH also said that the Report was slightly cut down compared to last years'. One reason for this is that the Club will be producing a Membership pack (target April 2012) which will include all important information about the Club, and significant ‘production’ time would be needed on that instead. Richard Boyce will be leading this task. Captains' reports will be available online and possibly in newsletters.

Finally CH said he would like to arrange a work party date for perhaps the end of February,

the date to be stated in a newsletter.

There were no questions.

#### **Treasurer's summary**

A copy of the accounts was handed out at the meeting. GM said it had been a quiet year compared to last. She added that we do need to get membership numbers up a little as we are not quite on target as specified in the 10 year plan. CH added that the sinking fund needs to continue to be built, to meet the future costs of Courts replacement/refurbishment. The key element of our income is Membership Fees, and our membership numbers need to show an increase. At present we are 5-10 members down.

PeW said the reduction in number of members was disappointing even though publicity had been good this year. CH replied that other clubs in the area also had reduced membership.

LaB asked whether consideration had been given to allow membership fees to be paid in instalments. RB replied that this is offered if necessary but at present it is not possible to set up payment by direct debit (bank requirements) or standing order (administration of such a scheme too burdensome).

PeW asked about Guild rents. CH said negotiations are going on at the moment but rents are expected to be confirmed as reduced in time. He added that LTA fees have also been reduced, now being calculated on the number of courts available rather than membership numbers.

RB said he was in the process of auditing the accounts and could foresee no problems. Thanks to Jerry Rudge for helping GM with the end of year accounts.

CH then asked the members to accept the accounts.

**Proposed** Michael Bovington      **Seconded** Pauline Worby  
Accounts unanimously accepted by members.

CH thanked GM for her many years as treasurer. Lesley Nash has agreed to take on the task and has already liaised with Glenda.

#### **Membership**

RB said that he was disappointed with the reduction in membership although not particularly concerned. He had already had a few new members this year.

RB then asked members to contact him with ideas and suggestions for what to include in the New Member brochure.

Finally he said that the Croxley Guild membership cards were available in the clubhouse for members to collect.

LBe asked if membership fees were being increased this year and if so could the Junior fees stay as they were. RB said this had not yet been decided. LaB suggested having termly fees, perhaps included with the squad fees collected by Wayne. The Committee agreed to discuss this and feed back to members.

#### **Social**

MC said that there had been some successful events last year. The Revels is a good earner, but now needs to be revamped. The Guild had hosted some of the events last year and will probably be used again, guild members having a good time whilst contributing to our profits. He felt that there was not a lot for the Juniors socially and perhaps there was a parent who would like to join the Social sub-committee to arrange something for them. WM thought this a good idea, to add a social element for the youngsters.

PaW thanked Tina Lissenden for her help on Race night and MC added he could not manage without his band of helpers especially his “little PA” Tina.

### **Juniors and coaching**

WM highlighted the success of the 16&U boys team who had been winners and runners-up in the Herts summer and winter leagues. Thanks to Brendan Cox who had put a lot of time in with the team and also Liz Beak and Colin Williams who do a lot of work behind the scenes. He said that there are 125-135 children taking part in squads at the Club, around another 75 in the schools programme, and between 20 and 40 at pay and play (depending on the time of year). The majority of the children joining the club come from the schools programme.

He added that the Club had been recognised for its work in the community, receiving an award in the Community Club of the Year category.

### **Election of new committee**

The existing committee members were willing to stand again with the exception of GM who is being replaced by Lesley Nash. Emily Smith was willing to take on the role of Clubhouse Manager but not stand on the Committee.

PeW asked the members to elect those standing on the Committee 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

The Committee was unanimously elected.

### **Any other matters**

#### **Gate**

Dave Smith asked if a light could be fitted near the entry gate. The Club had been advised in the past that lighting the area could cause problems, but a sensor-type light was suggested. CH will look at the options. A new padlock is also required and DS suggested a new set of numbers as well.

#### **Restringing**

Colin Williams told the members that he is now doing restringing of racquets.

### **Winter tournament**

Laura Beak said the winter tournament did not get a mention at its finish last year. There was some discussion of having a winter tournament Finals Day to make it more of an event. CH promised to take comments on board.

### **Summer tournament**

Michael Bovington asked if any thought had been given to the timing of the Club summer tournament and Team matches. CH replied that much discussion had taken place considering moving Finals Day to September or starting the year earlier to start the tournament earlier but no decision made. A quick straw poll on the issue resulted in a 2/3 – 1/3 split in favour of keeping things as they are. It was thought that one year a later date would be tried but not 2012 – Olympic year.

Laura asked about the format for drawing pairs for the summer tournament. There was a long discussion and it was agreed that both the Tournament committee and Club committee would give it much thought.

CH then declared the meeting closed and members retired for delicious refreshments (thank yous to (primarily) Tina and Emily).

### **Actions**

- Committee to discuss membership fees and possible termly payments for Juniors, and feed back to members.
- Investigate light source at entry gate and replace padlock and code.
- Discussion of tournament formats, winter and summer. Possible Winter Finals Day.