

CHILHAM TENNIS CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT 730PM ON 15 NOVEMBER 2018 IN CHILHAM VILLAGE HALL

Present:

Officers: Geoff Dear (Chair), Darril Ling (Secretary), Richard Baker (Treasurer), Liz Dear (Membership Secretary), Danny Wynne (committee members)

Members: Helen Blackwood, Tony Blackall, John Harris, Will Hinckley, David Mason, Marion Mason, Linda Noble, George Dobre, Robin Gardiner, Katie Hinckley, Marcus Fletcher, William Carey.

1. Minutes of previous AGM on 9th November 2017

The meeting approved the minutes without amendment.

2. Minutes of SGM on 12th April 2018

The meeting approved the minutes without amendment.

3. Matters Arising

The only actions to report on were club development options and there is an agenda item for this later.

4. Chairmans Report

It has been a busy year again.

On court the club has held an open day, 2 adult tournaments, a friendly tournament (The Ashes) against Bridge, and fielded mixed and ladies teams in Ashford & District League, and Mens teams in Kent, East Kent and Dover & District (midweek) league. Danny continues to run popular and well attended coaching sessions for all age groups. Through the LTA he offered a 6 week tennis for free courses for children aged between 5 and 8 and with the help of a grant from Kent Trust for Youth Sport and Chilham Parish Council the club also arranged for Danny to provide two 4 week courses of free or subsidised coaching involving 38 pupils from Chilham and Selling schools. (The feedback from a survey of the pupils parents – 50% response rate – was excellent – well done Danny). We intend to repeat both courses next year. He also ran 2 junior teams in the Aegon Kent Junior League. Mix in sessions were well attended, especially the Wednesday night club evening. Both the coaching and mixin sessions are often oversubscribed reinforcing the need the third court. The club also ran 2 very well supported American tournaments.

Off the court the club once again retained its TennisMark accreditation. This is very important for the future the development of the club as it recognises good standards and best practice at tennis venues in Britain.

The committee has updated its Club Development Plan formalising how it intends to manage and improve club facilities. This included refining plans to use the £47k allocated by Chilham Parish Council and agreeing a site plan with the recreation ground committee. The play area will be relocated nearer the sports hall so this space can be used for the third court with the courtside facility on the strip of land between the existing courts (which will be resurfaced) and the new court.

Estimates for the work indicate that the total project will be c105k. We have obtained totalling c£74k and the shortfall of c£31k will be provided from our development fund. Our latest accounts show that this will leave c£5k in our club development fund.

A planning application was submitted in May 2018 but the decision has been delayed due to lack of resources at Ashford Borough Council and the complication created by a Tree Preservation Order which has been placed on the silver birch near the current play area. The club had worked closely with a local arboriculture specialist and the ABC tree officer to ensure this tree is properly protected during the building of our third court and it is hoped

that a positive decision will be received before the end of the year.

Resurfacing our existing courts is not dependent on this planning decision so it is possible that this can be done first over the winter period dependent on the availability of our contractor.

The accounts for 2017/18 again show a significant boost to our club development fund. Membership income increased slightly and we have supplemented our annual wine and wisdom fund raiser with seven club sponsorship banners (not all up yet).

The impact of these two fund raising initiatives should not be underestimated. The annual quizzes which Pete Swan has been running for over ten years typically raise between £750 and £1000 each year and 7 banners raises a further £1750. Together they total fund raising in the region of £2500 which works out at half of the income we get from membership fees.

The quiz next year will be on Saturday 13th October and a tennis club team lead by George will be defending the title it won this year. Its a great night and it would be good to get a few more tennis club teams to supplement the regulars we have attracted from outside the club one of which commented "Thank you Pete for running such a well oiled quiz. Like I said last night it's the best quiz in Kent and we'll definitely be back next year. We'll try and improve on that 4th place." So SAVE THE DATE for next year !!

Members continued to answer the call to make donations on top of their annual membership subscription (its not too late to do this if you haven't already) and several club members volunteered their time to help out at the Chase and Chill and the club will received a donation in recognition of this.

I would like to thank the committee for their hard work during the year. A lot has been achieved and there is still more to do, but I sense a high level of confidence that we can achieve our aims.

There is a very warm friendly and social feel to the club with increased participation on and off court, a healthy environment in which to be improving facilities. I would also like to thank those members not on the committee that have pitched in to help in various ways during what has been another very successful year for the club.

5. Adoption of last years accounts

A summary of the accounts was presented by the treasurer. These showed another healthy surplus and were adopted by the meeting.

6. Appointment of Honorary Auditor

Ernie Taylor was appointed.

7. Review of Membership Fees

The following increasers in subscriptions were approved:- Family membership from £85 to £95; Adult Membership from £45 to £50; Junior Membership £25 unchanged; Senior Membership from £25 to £30. It was agreed that members should be encouraged to accept the invitation to make a club development donation.

8. Election of Officers

The following officers were elected for the 2018/19 year.

Chair – Geoff Dear

Secretary – Darril Ling

Treasurer – Richard Baker

Membership Secretary – Liz Dear

CPRGT Representative – Pete Swan

Welfare Officer – Helen Blackwood

Head Coach and Junior Representative – Danny Wynne

The chairman proposed a vote of thanks to retiring welfare officer Penny Rickards for her efforts setting up this important role for the club and this was endorsed by all present..

9. Review of Club Objectives

The following unchanged objectives were confirmed by the meeting.

To provide a well maintained tennis facility that :-

- a) is affordable to all in the parish
- b) is maintained entirely through membership subscriptions, fund raising and grant applications
- c) offers coaching through a qualified coach
- d) offers competitive tennis in local leagues
- e) provides improved facilities for members (eg a club house)
- f) promotes an active junior section
- g) provides social tournaments and non-tennis social events
- h) maintains its TennisMark accreditation
- i) supports community events

The committee was authorised to pursue these as objectives for the 2018/19 year.

10. Review of Development Options

The improvement plans that gained overwhelming support at the SGM are nearing implementation. The precise schedule is dependent upon discussions with the Recreation Ground Trust to ensure our project dovetails into its plans to relocate and replace the play area, build a Multi Use Games Area and resurface the car park.

The meeting closed at 8:25pm.

11. Next meeting

730pm 14th November 2019.