

Cringleford Tennis Club AGM
6th November 2021 at 1pm
The Pavilion, Cringleford Recreation Ground

Present: Committee Members: Chris Mitchell (Chair), Amanda Bailey, Katie Brooks, Jenny Chambers, Nathan Dickinson, Rob Hall, Sally Hardwick, Paul Henery, Fraser MacMillan, Nicki Mitchell

Members: Neil H, Stuart M, Scott M, Andrew H, Martina M, Jon S, Malcolm C, Ralph B, Andrew Y, Richard S, Thomas T

Apologies received: Nick B, Isobel B, Malcolm R, Margaret R, Jane M, Paul S, Alan M, Christine M, Philippa S, Holly I, David S, Glenn E

Agenda

1. Approval of previous AGM minutes: ***Proposer SM, seconded, SH***

2. Matters arising from the minutes:

There was a need to find a replacement auditor of the club's accounts. During 2021 Jon Stanley was approached and we are pleased to announce he has taken on this role for the club going forwards.

3. Chairs Report (published in advance on the club's website):

CM did not repeat the entire contents of the report, but rather referred to its circulation and chose to emphasize a few highlights including the fact that club income has remained stable despite the Covid-19 pandemic as well as the Club being awarded Norfolk Club of the Year and Katie Brooks being awarded club coach of the year and then he opened the report up to the floor for comments and questions.

- NH wanted to know if there were any consequences of the club being "Club of the Year" which CM didn't seem to think there was other than more visibility for the club that may have been reflected in a few more new members joining.

4. Treasurers Report (printed copies were made available to attendees).

Club Treasurer, RH, talked us through the various items covering

Income:

- subscriptions of ~£10k, despite the membership fee reductions which is pro-rata higher than the previous year due to an increase in membership numbers.
- Coaching income, which has dropped due to the change in organisation where the Club coach, Katie Brooks now manages this income separately, with only a few events incurring direct income to the club, hence why coaching income is much lower this year.
- The optional "100 club" drew in £500, and the winners were to be drawn at the end of the AGM as it was not drawn on Finals day when it would normally have been.
- Guest fees, Sponsorship, Key Sales, were all normal.

- Match fees were reduced due to the cancellation of several competitive tennis activities (Winter League (NWTA), and Jewson's summer tennis).
- There was additional income in the form of Covid-19 grants which has been used to support premises improvements (court repainting, lighting modifications, replacement of old lights bulbs with energy efficient LED lighting etc).

Expenditure:

- Electricity costs are down (possibly due to the new LED lighting), and this will be monitored throughout the year to underpin decisions on if and when free lighting for members will stop.
- Insurance
- League entries
- Repairs and Maintenance: This has covered court painting costs, addressing light pollution and tennis balls. MC asked whether there was the opportunity to return to using Slazenger tennis balls. JC (Committee member in charge of tennis ball procurement) informed us that the Norfolk LTA typically agrees special deals for bulk buying of tennis balls of which she had made use over the past 12 months (procuring Dunlop AO tennis balls) and the club currently had a good stock of new balls, so no new procurement was planned in the near future. Further general discussion followed on the storage of used tennis balls since they cannot be stored in the pavilion (decision by the Parish council over which the club has no influence). It was pointed out that cold tennis balls do not bounce well, hence outdoor storage during the winter months will always lead to the perceptions of poor used ball quality.
- Equipment: including new scores boards for finals day, prizes, and the "Club of the Year" banner

PH asked if the largest costs under maintenance were for maintaining the grass courts, since these were very underused. If this is the case it might be considered a driving force for the longer-term removal of the grass courts. The committee indicated that there is current discussion about the long-term infrastructure of the courts and that during the next 12 months a proposal would be developed to be put to the membership outlining the options available to the club to cater for its growing membership.

Questions were asked about the level of cash balance as well as the yearly income surplus. RH and CM pointed to the Club's 40 year sinking fund plan which requires careful financial management of such monies to ensure that routine court maintenance (repainting, nets, fencing etc) and significant single item costs (e.g., court resurfacing costs currently £30k for two courts), can be paid for as needed.

A subsequent discussion eschewed whereby the question was asked how well the current surplus is invested, i.e., is a good rate of interest being achieved. Andrew Hardwick has been asked to use his professional expertise to investigate making any possible improvements to the current investments' plans held by the club.

MC asked about the subscriptions rates, and the need for current discounts for over 65's, which NM said would prove difficult to remove. FM suggested that if people do not wish to utilise this discount there are more than welcome to simply pay the full subscription fee even if they are over 65. MC again asked whether there was any opportunity to support

younger people who struggle to pay their subscriptions, to which the general consensus was that the current rates are very attractive compared to nearly every other tennis club in the area. JS was not in favour of creating any new subscription categories as this makes the job of the treasurer more complicated. NM advised that anyone struggling to pay the membership fee is welcome to approach a committee member to discuss any potential assistance from the club. In the end it was agreed that there would be no change to the membership rates for the coming year.

Treasurers Report approval: Proposer AH, Seconder SM

A vote was held (show of hands) which was unanimous.

5. Re-election of the current committee: Ann Starky and Jane Hendriks, who will be stepping down from the committee, were thanked for all their efforts over the past few years. The number of remaining members of the current committee is actually commensurate with the maximum number of committee members laid out in the Club's terms and conditions and thus the current committee is standing for re-election en bloc.

Committee Re-election: Proposer AH, Seconder JS

A vote was held (show of hands) which was unanimous.

8. Any Other Business

- The Draw for the "100 Club" took place. Winners will be announced by email Newsletter
- MC asked about the opportunity to receive practical defibrillator training. He was then asked to look into organising such training (previously this was coordinated by the Parish council).
- SM asked about GDPR and in particular was concerned about sharing/providing dates of birth for under 18s on the club's Membership form. The Club now uses LTA approved Clubspark for the court booking system which requires a date of birth to identify Junior members. Parents are required to book courts on behalf of Junior members, which links up with the club's Safeguarding policy for under 18s regarding the giving of parental consent. Any member concerned about providing dates of birth for their children should contact the membership secretary Sally Hardwick to make alternative arrangements.
- MC asked about organising of Club social events e.g. a Christmas Dinner. It was felt that as we are still in the midst of a pandemic, such events should be left to individuals to organise themselves if they so wished. The club usually organises a Quiz in the spring and is hopeful that this activity might be able to take place in March 2022. Jane M and Paul S have offered to help/support club social activities.

9. Date of next AGM Meeting; November 12th 2022.

10. Word of Thanks: JS voiced a vote of thanks to the entire committee and its Chairman CM

Meeting closed at 2:10pm.