

Strensall & Towthorpe LTC



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2021 AGM Minutes

Held via remote Zoom meeting, 8th March 2021 at 20:00.

Present: Ross Welsh, James Whitwell, Mark Haworth, Clark Howard, Ryan Gale, Dan Simmonite, Craig Elmer-Allison, Richard Harrison

Meeting opened: 20:03

Apologies: None

1: Resignation of committee members

It was discussed that Sue Tymon and Lesley Rennolf have both stepped down from the committee, resigning from the positions of Treasurer and Club Secretary respectively. They were thanked for their years of service to the club, and we wish them well.

2: Chairman's report

The past year has been difficult for everyone, most certainly away from the tennis courts, but thankfully now, it looks like we will slowly start getting back to how things were, or as close to that as possible.

For the club, it was a very quiet year. We were locked down just before the start of the new season in April, not knowing how things would unfold as the months progressed.

As a result, we took the step to drastically alter our membership program, renewing existing 2019 members for free in 2020, and significantly reducing pricing for new members, with the hope of increasing member numbers, and capitalising on the fact that tennis was gladly one of the first things to resume once the main restrictions of the first lockdown were lifted.

We enjoyed a very good influx of new members, for both adults and juniors, and we saw good court utilisation over the summer months, being able to track this using the newly implemented booking system via the website and mobile app.

I hope this membership base will continue, and hopefully grow further as the 2021 season begins in a few weeks' time.

While we still do not know the full picture ahead, I am happy that tennis can resume, and we re-open with an exciting new website, and coaching partnership with Ben Orton of ABC Tennis. Having

seen Ben's plans for the year, he has a lot to offer the club and our members with various coaching opportunities, something we have lacked in recent years. This begins with an Easter holiday camp for juniors on 5th April. I encourage everyone at the club to help us get the word out, either liking and sharing our social media posts, or by word of mouth if you know someone who you think would be interested.

We look forward to the hopeful resumption of competitive tennis later in the year, with the recent news that the York leagues will not begin until after 21st June, something we were hoping would start at the usual time of end of April.

For now, though, it will be great to just be back on the courts, and I am sure we will be able to put some activities in place for our members through club tournaments and ladders, with social events to follow, depending on government COVID guidelines.

3: Treasurer's report

As previously mentioned, 2020 was a very quiet year for the club, and in terms of finances.

The reduction in membership fees for new members meant less money coming into the club per head as we would normally have, but it did have the effect that we saw a very good increase in new member sign ups, generating £916.19 in fees, even at the very low prices we set.

We hope these new members have enjoyed being able to use the courts and will remain with us into 2021 in the hope things return closer to normal and we can offer more for them.

Without any league tennis, and the restrictions on social tennis, there was no expenditure for usual items, such as match balls, league fees, racquet vibration dampeners etc. We also received a refund from the LTA for the venue registration fees for 2020, totalling £330.

We paid out £550 to SCYSA in October for the hire of the clubhouse and its facilities, and the 2021 venue registration fees were paid to the LTA, increasing this year to £360.

We also made the investment in 2 new nets, for courts 2 and 3 as they need replacing. This came at a cost of £242.91.

Overall, this has led to a slight increase in assets, totalling £4392.98, up £95.54 from last year.

Heading into the new season, we will require ongoing court maintenance costs, such as weed killer, new brushes and potentially new sand and netting around the fencing. The hedges are also in need of cutting, and we are awaiting a quote. This was last done in 2019 at a cost of £570.

Professional court maintenance has been investigated, with all quotes coming in between £7,000 - £10,000. A service like this is looking increasingly required and fundraising for this should be a priority for the club this season, COVID restrictions dependant of course.

Finally, I am currently in the processing of dealing with the bank to update the account to have Internet banking and a debit card, to make ongoing expenditure much easier to manage.

4: 2021 season

The upcoming season was discussed and what will be possible to take place in terms of social and competitive tennis, as well as coaching.

Social tennis can resume as per LTA guidance, ensuring COVID protocols are followed. We will aim to run club competitions throughout the year to engage with the membership base.

It was announced shortly before the AGM that the York Leagues will not commence until after 21st June when all social contact and travel guidelines are lifted by the government. As part of this, it was decided there was no need to make preparations at this time, i.e. purchasing match balls. Ryan Gale is in possession of 1st team match subs, so will use this money to purchase balls when required.

Our new coaching partnership with Ben Orton of ABC Tennis begins this season, and he is planning to run a junior camp in the Easter holiday from 5th-9th April.

5: Membership fees

Fees for the 2021 season were discussed. We lowered prices significantly last year to bring in new members during a difficult and shortened tennis year. It was agreed that this year we need to return our fees closer to our normal rates, but also considering there will still be impacts of COVID on what we can offer our members and we need to ensure we still offer value for money.

A package comprising of a household was proposed with the aim of helping to introduce members of a household to tennis, where currently only a minority play. The aim of this would be to get their partner and/or juniors out playing tennis and generating interest in the game and building long term memberships. It was agreed this would be a good idea to help transition new members from last year who joined based on price, into becoming regular members of the club without a large price increase.

Adult membership price was agreed to reduce to differentiate between it and the household package and show clearly where the value in the costs are.

Junior and student prices were agreed to remain at their 2019 rates.

Adult: £65

Household: £90

Student: £50

Junior: £35

6: Coaching and advertising

Coaching partnership with Ben Orton was discussed, and how he is looking to drive interest in coaching for both juniors and adults, which in turn will hopefully result in more new members joining the club.

Advertising around this, and the club re-opening on March 29th will be advertised via social media and we will look at running a paid campaign targeting the advertisement to people in the village and surrounding areas.

7: Election of committee members

Club Chairman: Ross Welsh Proposed: Ryan Gale Seconded: James Whitwell

Club Treasurer: Ross Welsh Proposed: Ryan Gale Seconded: Mark Haworth

Membership Secretary: Mark Haworth Proposed: Ross Welsh Seconded: James Whitwell

Club Secretary: Craig Elmer-Allison Proposed: Ross Welsh Seconded: Clark Howard

1st Team captain: Ryan Gale Proposed: Ross Welsh Seconded: Clark Howard

2nd Team captain: Clark Howard Proposed: Ross Welsh Seconded: Mark Haworth

Social Media Secretary: Dan Simmonite Proposed: Ryan Gale Seconded: Clark Howard

Committee Member: James Whitwell Proposed: Clark Howard Seconded: Mark Haworth

8: A.O.B

Court maintenance was discussed, and it was agreed that moss killer needs to be applied to the courts ASAP. We need to get this put down in advance of the Easter coaching camp beginning 5th April. Ross Welsh to purchase 4 bags of sulphate of iron. James and Mark to look to apply this at the earliest opportunity, as well as replacing the nets on courts 2 and 3.

Hedge cutting has been quoted for at £240. Clark to arrange and book in the work to be carried out at next available opportunity.

Meeting closed: 21:28