

Highbury Tennis Club
Minutes of AGM held on Monday 26 September 2019
at 61 Highbury New Park

Present: Caroline Griffiths, Wendy Proudfoot, Philip Wigan, Poonam Lloyd Williams, Yvonne Bennett, Ruth Barrett, Jane Grimston, Eleanor Wilson, Barbara Reissner, Caterina Paolazzi.
Apologies: Caroline Davidson, Sophie Hare, Sarah Mulligan.

1. Welcome and apologies.
2. Report from Club Coach and Captains.
 - (1) The squad numbers for all the teams are very healthy.
 - (2) In the women teams, the Firsts have struggled, having lost some key team members due to re-location abroad and some injuries; however, there are also some great new players. The First team and Third teams have had good successes but were ultimately demoted, whilst the Second and Fifth teams maintained their position. Congratulations to the Fourth Team who were promoted.
 - (3) There are three men's teams with a good number of players but also a high level of turnover. A continuing problem for the men's teams is court availability which they continue to discuss as well as discussing integration and how to ascribe new players to the correct team level. The First and Second Teams have done well, saying at levels 2 and 4 and the Third team has been promoted.
 - (4) There have been a lot of other tournaments and competition, which has been great. The Mixed Doubles has attracted a good level of players and the Mixed Doubles Vets have gained promotion. Sarah Mulligan's Women's Doubles league is popular with a lot of matches being played. Flo of the firsts has arranged a Wednesday hit for players which has been going well.
 - (5) The Club is healthy with a lot of people playing and the fluidity between the teams is better. There are 125 members and Wendy gets about 5 inquiries a week. If their standard/aspirations are not appropriate for the Club, then they are directed to other appropriate groups such as the Islington drop in.
3. Welfare and safeguarding. Last year the Club introduced a Welfare and Safeguarding Policy, Reporting a Concern Form, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and Complaints Procedure of which all club members were notified. A dedicated safeguarding page has been created on the Club Website with all the documents and guidance and a dedicated new email address for welfare has been set up and appears on the Club website. All coach accreditation has been fulfilled and the welfare officers are arranging the necessary updating of their accreditation. BR is attending a welfare forum with officers from all clubs. There have been no complaints or welfare issues except a complaint regarding the lack of first aid supplies in the hut. This is a matter for Islington Council and the matter has been raised with them.
4. The Annual Summer Tournament was run by the Steering Committee with great assistance from the local tennis league and other individuals. The Committee

Steering Committee has offered to run the tournament again in 2020 and this was agreed. The Steering Committee has been informed, with our thanks for taking it on.

5. The Steering Committee has asked for a club woman to sit on the committee and Susan Hahn has kindly agreed to do this.
6. Approval of minutes of AGM held on 17/09/18.
7. Treasurer's Report to 31st March 2019 was prepared and presented by EW. Finances are strong, with a significant net profit even after the donation of money to purchase two benches which have been installed on the Courts. The annual accounts for year ended March 2019 were approved.
8. The meeting discussed the very welcome approach made by Christchurch for the Club to use some of their facilities to host players and dinners after home matches. There have been very interesting meetings as well as discussion with all team captains by email and at the meeting. The Club is very grateful that the Church has considered our needs and integration and our special thanks to Joy Grover for her involvement. At the moment, there is a range of views as to how workable, useful and costly the use of the facilities would be. However, an immediate potential issue is that the facilities may have to close at 10pm; if that were the case, then it was agreed that the idea would be unworkable. It was agreed that we would seek to clarify this with the Church. As yet, no determinative answer has been received.
9. Election of Committee Members – Alex Hicks and Philip Wigan resigned due to an overload of commitments and Roseanna Pollen has also resigned as Chairman after many years of excellent service. We are very grateful to them all. The following existing members were re-elected; Wendy Proudfoot, Caroline Griffiths, Sarah Mulligan, Poonam Lloyd Williams, Sophie Hare, Barbara Reissner, Eleanor Wilson and Caroline Davidson. Mitch Sedgwick has been elected as a new committee member. Additional male members would be very welcome.
10. AOB. Thanks to PLW for hosting.