

HIGHBURY TENNIS CLUB

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 23 September 2014

Present: Roseanna Pollen (Chair), Wendy Proudfoot (Club Coach), Caroline Griffiths (Treasurer), Jenny James (Secretary), Henry Horton, Judith Laurance, Dee Tamlin, Alan Rickett, Phil Wigan, Faye Billingham, Susan Hahn

Apologies: Fraser Matthews, Sarah Mulligan, Susannah Oxley

1. Club coach's/ Chair's report on prior year

The club has had a successful year, with a growth in membership and the number of teams playing.

Coaching

Wendy has started coaching Ladies 1 again, on Saturday mornings. Viren continues to coach Ladies 2 on Saturday afternoons. Wendy now provides a monthly coaching session for Ladies 3 and Ladies 4, on a Sunday and Saturday morning respectively, and also weekly mid-week morning sessions on Thursdays and Fridays for those able to play then. Both Ladies 3 and Ladies 4 also organise informal uncoached practice on Sunday mornings.

Competitions

Six teams were entered in the **Slazenger league in summer 2013**.

M1 had a very successful season, winning all but one of their matches and finishing 2nd in Division 8, ensuring promotion for summer 2014.

M2 also did well, winning all but two of their matches and finishing 3rd in Division 9, thus just missing out on promotion.

L1 had been promoted to Division 4 in 2013 and faced strong opposition. They finished 6th overall.

L2 had been promoted for the second year running and played in Division 6 in summer 2013. They also finished 6th in their division.

This was the third year of competitive play for L3, and they finished 4th in Division 9, having doubled their set percentage from the previous year.

It was the inaugural year for L4, who also played in Division 9 and finished bottom of the division, but gained a great deal of match experience.

In the **Winter League 2013/2014**, the club entered 3 teams.

The Men's team was unbeaten and topped the table in Division 8, ensuring promotion for the 2014/2015 winter season.

L1 and L2 both played in Division 5, and finished in 3rd and in 6th place respectively.

Six teams were again entered in the **Slazenger league in summer 2014**.

M1 had another very successful season, again winning all but one of their matches and finishing 2nd in Division 7. They will be promoted again next year.

Yet again, M2 did very well, winning all but two of their matches and finishing 3rd in Division 9, so promotion is eluding them.

L1 also won all but two of their matches and finished 3rd in Division 4.

L2 had a brilliant season, winning all their matches and finishing top of Division 6. They will be promoted to Division 5 for summer 2015.

L3 were given a surprise promotion to Division 8 at the start of the season and did very well in this higher division, finishing in 4th place.

L4 moved off the bottom of the table, finishing 5th in Division 9, gaining almost four times as many points as the previous season.

In 2014, the Men's team entered the Aegon league for the first time. This took place from April to June and included both singles and doubles matches. They finished 4th in Division 7.

Other events

In November 2013, the Ladies 2 team organised a very successful tournament in memory of Lynn Rickett. Despite awful weather, everyone had a good time and enjoyed both the tennis and the cakes afterwards. All profits were donated to CancerActive. The second Lynn Rickett Memorial Tournament will take place on 11th October 2014.

In October 2013, the club held a social evening at the Highbury Arts Club, run by club member, Simon Moore, and a good time was had by all.

During the autumn of 2013, Wendy, together with M2 captain, Henry Horton, started running social tennis sessions for club members on Sunday afternoons, with the aim of getting members from different teams to play together and encouraging mixed doubles. It started well, but then faltered somewhat and petered out. Those present felt that it was worth trying again.

April 2014 saw the handover of the contract to run Islington's leisure services from Aquaterra to GLL. There have been a number of initial teething problems with court bookings etc. but these have mainly been resolved.

2. Club membership report

There are currently 93 club members. This is a net increase on 2013 of eight. 11 of those who were members in 2013 did not renew their membership and there were 19 new members in 2014. There are currently 32 male and 61 female members.

Around two-thirds of members are playing competitively, with 44 women and 20 men having played in at least one match in the 2014 summer Slazenger league.

3. Treasurer's report and approval of accounts for year ending 31 March 2014

Caroline Griffiths circulated her report and talked through the salient points. Despite not having received any sponsorship in the year ending 31 March 2014, income increased by £510 compared with the prior year, largely due to an increase in income from membership fees (more members) and more income from the summer tournament. There was also an increase in the amount collected from teams for court costs for matches, but this was balanced out by a corresponding increase in expenditure on this item. Overall, expenditure increased by £699, compared with the prior year. Our year end accumulated profit totals £1,416.

The accounts were accepted as an accurate record and approved by the members. Many thanks to Caroline for all her work as Treasurer.

4. Review of club rules

Jenny James had proposed 3 amendments to the club rules, in order to reflect current practice.

Rule 4.1 states that "the club is managed by a committee of not less than 5 nor more than 9 full members". Jenny pointed out that the outgoing committee comprised 11 members and suggested that, as the club is growing, the maximum number of committee members should be increased. After some debate, members **AGREED** to increase the maximum number to 13, and the rule was amended accordingly.

Rule 5.4 states that membership subscriptions are due on 1 April each year. Jenny pointed out that in the last 2 years, subscriptions had been collected in January, as this meant that we then had an accurate record of our membership prior to the Wimbledon ballot, which takes place in March. She proposed amending this rule to say “Membership runs for a calendar year, with subscriptions due by 31 January in every year. Subscriptions are non refundable”. This was **AGREED** by the members present.

Rule 15.1 states that the club’s financial year shall end on 5 April. Jenny pointed out that for the last 2 years the accounts had been prepared with a year end date of 31 March. It was therefore **AGREED** that the financial year end date should be changed to 31 March.

5. Election of committee members

In line with club rules, the outgoing committee all stood down. Nine members of the outgoing committee - **Roseanna Pollen , Wendy Proudfoot, Caroline Griffiths, Jenny James, Henry Horton, Judith Laurance, Dee Tamlin, Susan Hahn and Sarah Mulligan** (Sarah was not present but had agreed in advance that she would be willing to continue on the committee) – all indicated that they would be willing to serve on the committee for a further year. Susannah Oxley and Fraser Matthews had indicated that they would not be able to continue.

In addition, **Faye Billingham, Alan Rickett and Phil Wigan** all indicated that they would like to serve on the committee in the coming year.

As there were fewer candidates than available places on the committee, all 12 were duly elected unanimously.

6. Any other business

There was no other business and the meeting was duly closed.