

Abergavenny Tennis Club

AGM

Tuesday 26 April 2016

Present: Trevor Scott(Chairman), Carys Howard-Rees, Jack Grayer, Bill Rogers, Kevin Phillips, Alice Garlick, Paul Smith, Jane Smith, Peter Beynon, Geoff Ball, Jon Holmes, Tony Coles, Tim Reardon-Smith, Rachel Loose, Claire Hales, Arthur Hales, Gereint Hurst, Ian Hay, Chris Scott, Angela Sharp, Vernon Heritage, Craig Rees, David Russell, Ashley Barcenilla, John Meredith

Apologies: Carroline Morgan, Gareth Morgan

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

You will recall that at last year's AGM a presentation was made to Mike Buck for his outstanding service to the club. It gives me great pleasure to report that Mike 'Biggles' Buck has completed his glider flight and has returned to earth safely.

As you know my appointment as Chairman was for one year only and so I have treated this as a caretaker role in the hope that someone younger will take the club forward from today onwards.

In May 2015 I wrote to all members to tell them what the Management Committee's priorities would be for the year and I'd like to report on those items first:

Bill Rogers, as Vice Chairman, took responsibility for Tennismark (a new LTA accreditation which replaces Tennis Clubmark), Sinking Fund planning, the Club Tournament and deputising for me on a couple of occasions

I can report that we have been awarded Tennismark, that a Sinking Fund plan is in place (£17,500 per annum) with an estimated total expenditure on playing and non playing facilities in 2016 of £13,786 and in 2017 of £51,700 and that Finals Day will be on Saturday 10 September

The refurbishment of the clubhouse is complete and it is being well used and enjoyed by many members and guests. We aim to make increasingly better use of these facilities

I raised the issue of volunteering as I felt that there was a lack of understanding about how much we rely upon volunteers to keep our costs and membership fees down. Whilst there were notable volunteers during the year (e.g. Newsletter editor, Webmaster, marketing officer, American tournament organiser, court cleaners etc.) the problem of grounds and courts maintenance still exists especially with Tony Cole standing down. It is my view that the club will have to pay for some if not all of this work in the future

An important task for this year was to increase the support of our Head Coach at a time

when the Beacons Tennis Academy was starting to grow. The Coach Monitoring Group (currently me, Mike Buck and Arthur Hales) met with Carys Howard-Rees on three occasions to discuss the coaching programme, the management and development of other coaches, tennis events, finances and club promotion. Certain events e.g. Sytner Tennis, Rotary Family Tennis are club promotional events. We hire Carys and her team for their coaching expertise but these type of events remain our responsibility

There is now Junior sub-committee to organise Junior events

In terms of member recruitment and retention I was pleased that membership had reached by the end of the club year. It is interesting to note that 44% of these members were 349 Tots, Minis and Juniors. Whilst the membership was healthy we recognised that the club needs more members in the 18 years to 40 years age group and especially men. Consequently there is a specific recruitment plan in place to target this age group

The sixth item on our 'to do' list was to encourage team tennis. Last summer we had two men's teams, six ladies teams and two mixed teams competing. During the winter we had two men's teams, six ladies teams and two mixed teams competing. This summer we again have ten teams competing but as before only two of these are men's teams

The final item on our list concerned the social side of the club. The Management Committee felt that this aspect of club life should not be ignored and there was a concerted effort to improve the situation. The Dinner Dance and Awards Evening was reborn with great success, the Quiz Night was enjoyed by all and the 6 Nations get together around the club television was a new experience - even if the rugby score was disappointing. There are plans to increase the number of social events this year

Inevitably other items have been on the agenda during the year and I'll briefly summarise some of these now

Trustees / land registration / club structure – Following protracted discussions with our solicitors we now have in place our four new trustees (Bob Lawton, Mike Buck, Kevin Phillips and Trevor Scott) and an application has been sent to the Land Registry Office to register our land. Once that registration has been completed the club needs to consider whether to change its structure e.g. become a company limited by guarantee or a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC)

Sub-committees - In addition to the Management Committee we have created small sub-committees to work on finance, the club website, the members' survey and 18-40 recruitment. These sub-committees make recommendations to the Management Committee

Code of Conduct – This has been revised in order to ensure that everyone using the club is aware of etiquette and safety issues

Newsletter – There have been two excellent editions in the past year

Website – Significant improvements have been made of which the calendar is but one. The website is updated regularly

Head Coach – Carys Howard-Rees' contract with us has been renewed for 2016/17. In addition we have introduced a bonus scheme based upon recruitment in the 18 – 40 age range. Our assistant coaches have been offered discounted membership rates to encourage them to remain at the club for as long as possible. Carys and Jack Grayer were short listed for awards by Tennis Wales and we congratulate Carys on receiving two awards

Abergavenny Rotary – The club was awarded £450 under the Rotary Sports Fund Award scheme. Every Sunday afternoon we have been offering an hour's free tennis coaching to individuals and families

Finally, before I stand down as Chairman, I'd like to thank a number of people for their contributions over the past twelve months

There are those volunteers who contribute to the club outside of committee and I thank all of them for what they do

On this occasion I'd like to mention a few by name

Liz Westhorpe for the production of our Newsletter
Tony Cole for his work on grounds, courts and finance
Paul Smith for being our webmaster
Michelle Pavett and Noni Heritage for clubhouse housekeeping
Julia Jones for running the Junior tuckshop
Colin Sykes for running the American tournaments and agreeing to stand for Honorary Treasurer until business commitments forced him to withdraw
Nicola Morris as Safeguarding Officer
Mike James for sourcing donations to the club
Becky Rogers for social events and the Wimbledon Ballot
and
Mike Buck for the promotion of men's tennis

My sincere thanks to the Management Committee for their time, expertise and support over the past year and especially to David Russell for standing again, at very late notice, for the post of Honorary Treasurer

Some of the committee are standing down this evening and so I'd especially like to thank Mary Morgan (Membership Secretary), John Holmes (Legal Advice) and Ian Hay (Clubhouse Maintenance) for all that they have done in the past

New committee members Gereint Hurst (Marketing and Members' Survey) and Rachel Loose and Ginny Baillie (Junior Tennis) have already made significant contributions

Last, but not least, my thanks to Bill Rogers for being a most supportive Vice Chairman

Trevor Scott
Chairman
April 2016 26
Rotary Club

The summer steam rally raised £65k .ATC was given a grant to encourage take up of tennis for non members.Vernon Heritage asked for Members help in supporting the examiners steam rally

Chairman's Award

The Chairman recognised Tony Cole for his dedication to the Club and valuable advice on the upkeep of the courts and clubhouse

Annual Accounts

David Russell advised that the reduction in funds over the year was due to the expenditure on the Clubhouse. However, the finances were in a healthy condition with contingency reserves of £25k and available sum of £85k. In the new year the focus will be on the tennis assets. Accounts have been reviewed thanks to Adrian

Tony Cole emphasised the need for a minimum operating surplus of £18k to maintain the sinking fund

Membership report

was a good year for membership. It was the first full year starting in April not 2015/2016

May

Membership

Country	14
Senior.	169
Student.	6
Junior.	57
Mini.	83
Tot.	15
Parent of mini	5
Total.	349

Mary Morgan is standing down as membership Secretary

Last year no joining fee for those joining in April and May. Social membership introduced

Current year in parent and tot category, parents can play on mini court

Increasing number of people paying online

Club Captain

Alice thanked all team captains

Head coach

Verbal report given

Election of officers

The following officers are standing for reelection

David Russell Treasurer Appointed

Kevin Phillips Honorary Secretary Appointed

The following are seeking election

Bill Rogers Chairman Appointed

Angela Sharp Appointed

The following are seeking re-election to Committee

Alice Garlick Appointed

Carys Howard-Rees Appointed

The following are seeking election to Committee

Gereint Hurst Appointed

Rachel Loose Appointed

Ginny Bailee Appointed

Fees

Membership fees agreed

New Chairman's report

Separate document

Any other business

None