

THISTLEWORTH TENNIS AND SOCIAL CLUB
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday 19 April 2016

1. **Minutes of the last A.G.M - 14 April 2015 were posted on the club's website.**
2. **Matters arising from last year's minutes - none.**
3. **Exec Report (John McNulty)**

John welcomed and thanked all for coming and summarised the main achievements over the past year.

Finance

- The bottom line for the year to Feb 2016 is £18k compared to last year's (normalised) £10.8k. This represents an increase in net profit of 67%
- Successful application to LB Hounslow for £6k grant – to help pay for new fence to courts

Tennis

- Internet League – this has continued to be a success
- Tennis Ladder – introduced in 2015/16, and off to a great start
- Mix-in sessions re-established on Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Junior competitions introduced
- Catherine Sheridan's training at Thistleworth was rewarded by being a Wimbledon Show Court Ball Girl. Well done Catherine.

Thistleworth Family Fridays – tremendous success in 2015/16; great recognition of this 'Best Practice' in LTA South East Newsletter Sept 2015. Thanks to John, Simon & to Steve for opening the bar early

LTA Focus Club: Thistleworth selected by LTA London & South East to join its Focus Club programme – LTA now supporting us on an Action Plan to achieve agreed targets of membership and programme growth and retention

LTA Tennismark Accreditation (almost) achieved: Tennismark is a way of recognising good standards and best practice at tennis venues in Britain. It provides assurance when seeking any LTA and other support. This has been enabled by:

- our adoption of new policies – equality & diversity; safeguarding; safe recruitment; recoding & publishing images.
- Appointment of a Club Welfare Officer – Steph Heximer
- Verification of good governance arrangements: Officer and Committee member details, rules and policies as now posted on our noticeboard and our website

Bridge section: continues to be very well supported; including expert tuition

Table Tennis section: continues to be very well supported; new tables purchased

100 Club: now up and running with 22 subscribers; it will benefit from more subscribers

Facilities Maintenance & Refurb

External Facilities

- Court cleaning by Warren – Court 1: £225; to be followed by courts 2,3,4. The four courts will cost us circa £900. This avoids a contractor cost of £9,500 + VAT
- Picnic benches x 5 hand built by Warren,
- New signage on the street, gateway and front door;
- Windbreaks in car park to improve image and welcome to visitors
- New LED lighting to decking

- Rubber mats on decking to reduce slipping hazard
- New lighting to BBQ & picnic table area
- Passageway by Court 1 cleared, thanks to those volunteers who helped

Internal Facilities

- internal redecoration with the help of working parties – thanks to all who volunteered.
- New tops & backs to both bars; next: complete shelving
- New workshop/store to rear – better facilitating work by Warren; freed up space on stage; next: complete decluttering backstage
- New flooring in kitchen to complement new units
- New cleaner's cupboard in gent's toilets
- Green Room: decluttered; redecorated; new storage cupboards
- New cabinet for tidy and more accessible storage of table tennis tables
- Porch: repairs to roof leaks; redecorated
- Decluttered kitchen yard; more to be done??
- New sliding door to back of bar (safety hazard removed)
- Ladies changing rooms cleared – more to be done (both gents and ladies to be upgraded this year)
- Defibrillator installed – thanks to Charlie
- New carpet in the hall
- Chiller winter switch-off – saving money
- New chairs – thanks to John & Warren. A straw poll suggested that we should keep the chairs; 19 in favour, 8 against.

Community

- Good relationships with Isleworth & Syon school, thanks to Simon Fisher. The school uses the courts twice a week
- Thistleworth Family Fridays: at its peak 200 local residents attended
- Open Day June 15 was very well attended
- Save The Children Tennis Tournament was also well supported
- Jersey Gardens Summer Fayre – this was hosted again by Thistleworth in support of the local community

Social Programme

- An engaging programme of diverse social functions was again run this last year e.g.: Murder Mystery Play; Christmas Revue; New Year's Eve Dinner Dance; St Patrick's Party; Quiz Nights

Opportunities & Challenges 2016/17

Continue investment in club assets and facilities to provide the safest, most attractive and accessible environment for tennis and social activities, including the following:

- Car park resurfacing – high priority as safety issue
- Court fencing replacement – high priority
- Courts resurfacing – in due course
- Further improvements to the clubhouse & changing rooms
- Further signage improvements – large signboard in car park; lighting to signs
- Replacement ride on mower – existing mower has had many repairs and has reached the end of its useful life
- Investigate online tools e.g. LTA Clubspark for Venues

Continue accrual of funds to provide for these investments. This will include:

- Continued cost savings by
 - utilising our groundsman's skills to minimise contract costs
 - encouraging members to maximise voluntary support
- Pursuit of grant funding opportunities including applications to Sport England and London Sports 'ClubWorks'

Continually seek ways to enhance communications with members and local residential and business communities to increase membership and support for club activities

Continue to develop, deliver, monitor and evaluate our LTA Focus Club Action Plan, with LTA support
Satisfaction survey – consider feedback and any follow-up actions

In conclusion:

This was arguably the best year in a very long time. But there is still a lot to be done into 2016/17 and beyond, in our programme of continuing improvement. A critical factor in continuing success into the future is our reliance on volunteer support. We need more people, in particular younger people, to come forward to take on tasks, and duties, to spread the load, reduce our costs, improve our effectiveness and resilience, and help with succession planning.

4. Tennis Report (John Love)

The performance of our teams during the previous year is summarised below.

Team Performance in 2015	Captains 2015	Captains 2016
Men's 1 - Finished 3 rd div 4 2pts from promotion	John Love	John Love
Men's 2 - Finished 4 th in div 7 4pts from promotion	Sanj Bains	Sanj Bains
Men's 3 - Finished 5 th in div 9 Stay	Rod de St Croix	Rod de St Croix
Ladies 1 – Finished 1 st div 4 Promotion to div 3	Sue Casey	Sue Casey
Ladies 2 – Finished bottom div 7 Relegated to div 8	Helen Wiggett	Sue Cummins
Ladies 3 – Finished 6 th in div 8 Stay	Steph Heximer	Steph Heximer

Aegon Team Tennis 2015

Team Performance in 2015	Captains 2015
Men's 1 - Finished 3 rd in Division 6 Stay Div 6	Bradley Hancox
Men's 2 - Finished 2 nd Division 7 Promotion to Div 6	Nish
Ladies 1 – Finished 2 nd in Division 5 Promotion Div 4	Martine Lowe – Sangeeta Arora

New 18u Boys team for summer – Alastair MacCallum

Middlesex Winter Floodlit league - 2 x Men's, 1 x Ladies and 1 x Mixed

Team Performance in 2015/16	Captains 2015/16
Men's 1 - Finished 5 th in Division 3 Stay	Sanj Bains
Men's 2 - Finished 7 th in Division 4 Stay	Nish
Ladies 1 – Finished 3 rd Division 4 Stay – 2pts away from promotion	Sue Casey
Mixed 1 – Finished 3 rd Division 3 Stay	Bradley Hancox

- There is a new Ladies 2 teams for coming winter – captain Jessica Jeske.
- Thanks to Sue Casey for attending the summer fixtures meeting

Club Tournament

Congratulations to the following players for their performance in last year's club tournament

	Winner 2015	Runner-up 2015
Mens Singles	Nathan Jennings	Noe Silue
Ladies Singles	Sangeeta Arora	Philippa Mukherjee
Mens Doubles	Raj Khangurra & Nathan Jennings	Noe Silue & Bradley Hancox
Ladies Doubles	Amy Love & Flicky Harris	Philippa Mukherjee & Mary Emes
Mixed Doubles	Noe Silue & Sophie Rouhaud	Nathan Jennings & Amy Love

- Thanks to those who helped with food at Finals Day
- A new start time of 11am worked well – to be continued.

Internet League

- Now completed its 11th year (200 matches each year)
- THIS OFFERS good competition throughout the winter months
- 44 players competed over the winter months
- Good intro to new members
- Great to see bar used and players competing

Tennis Ladder

- Introduced last summer – raised at AGM
- Senior Ladder – 37 players (127 matches played)
- Junior Ladder – 22 players (90 matches played)
- Flexible arrangements – dates
- Acknowledge that singles play is a requirement by members

American Tournaments

- 3 tournaments during the summer months – Bradley/JVL/Matt.
 - 4 May; 24 May; 28 June.
- Sign-up in advance with partner – 18 players participated

Club Tournament

- Entry forms on noticeboard
- Finals day 17 July
- Award of trophies to be done after matches

Courts

- In April 2013 the 3 green courts were rejuvenated at a cost of £7.2k
- Green courts better than expected this winter – sweepers purchased
- Warren tasked with cleaning green courts – court 1 done
- The green courts have been down 20yrs – resurfacing will be required in the next few years.
- Fencing – needs attention

Floodlights

- Thanks to Joe for audit
- The online booking system is working well

Match Suppers

- All members who play in a team to share workload
- Dates on website – All online
- Swap if not convenient
- Cost - £25

Club sessions

- Saturday afternoons & Sunday mornings club sessions are suffering from poor attendance.
- Tuesday & Thursday evenings need more players.

LTA

Thistleworth is 1 of 31 clubs in the South East to have been selected by LTA to take part in Focus Club initiative. This requires quarterly meetings with LTA to go through our business plan.

A Questionnaire has recently been issued to all members. 50 responses received. 8.52 satisfaction from members – very good. The main feedback was;

Good	Improve
Friendly, range of competitive play, court availability, social events,	Club sessions, changing rooms, midweek sessions, lighting outside clubhouse, fencing, car park, balls

Website

- If you have not done so already please visit the club website at www.Thistleworth.net and let us know your thoughts, it is quick and easy to add new content.
- All Summer League Fixtures, suppers, rules,
- Social functions online
- Online Floodlight Bookings

Family Fridays

- Started 8 April – this provides a major income stream for the club. Please help us to spread the word.

5. Treasurer's Report (Bill Heximer)

Year to 28th February 2016

With a net profit of £18,046, the financial year to 29 February 2016 exceeded the record breaking figures of the previous year of £10,865.

In summary, income grew by £9,425 to £60,958 but expenses grew by only £2,244.

Nearly all sources of income grew but notable increases were :

Lettings £2,788

Bar trading £2,372

Subscriptions £2,208

Social events £1,245

Within expenses, light and heat costs were reduced by £1,920 as a result of a change of supplier but maintenance costs grew by £3,715 principally through general improvements of the clubhouse.

As a consequence of the profitable year cash and bank balances increased by £17,155 to £51,617. The improvement in the financial health of the club now considerably increases the committee's capability to undertake some much needed capital improvements. These include resurfacing the drive and re-fencing the courts. Furthermore, a sufficient reserve of cash can be maintained for future court resurfacing with the help of a serviceable level of external loan financing.

6. Social Report (Steph Heximer)

The Social Committee have organised many events over the past year, however they are always looking for new ideas and helper to join the committee.

7. Acceptance of previous years accounts

The previous year's accounts were accepted.

8. Election of Officers to the Executive committee

There were no new nominations to join the Exec committee. All existing members are to remain.

9. Election of Officers to the Tennis committee

There were no new nominations to join the Tennis committee. All existing members are to remain.

10. Election of Accounts Auditor

There were no nominations; Ivan Berti agreed to remain as club auditor.

11. Resolutions

The following resolutions were submitted ahead of the meeting;

1. The club cease providing new tennis balls for use by members.
2. An additional fee is added to member's annual membership fee which can be spend over the bar or to attend social functions. This would apply to adult tennis members only.

Both resolutions were discussed at length. A vote was taken and both resolutions were declined.

12. Any Other Business

Questions and issues raised from the floor;

1. It was suggested that we introduce a Doubles Ladder League
2. A sign is required for the table tennis cupboard informing people of the defibrillator.