

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF HORSTED KEYNES LAWN
TENNIS CLUB HELD IN THE PAVILION, CHAPEL LANE,
ON TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2010 AT 8.00 PM

PRESENT: Mr David Anderson (Chairman), Mrs Wendy Waite (Secretary), Mr Mark Nelson (Treasurer), Mr Martin Haslam, Mr Rupert Ayton, Mr James Easley, Mr Alan Davies, Mr Rick Newark, Mr Rob Jones, Ms Lizzie Ockford, Mr Jon Ruben, Mr Hugh Anderson, Mr Martin Powys-Lybbe, Mrs Kathy Campbell, Mrs Jessica Anderson, Mrs Jill Thomas, Mr Gerry Waite, Mr Derek Heath and Mr Mark Wallwork.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Mr Tony Blunt, Mrs Alison Smith, Mr Dan Wise, Mr William Medicott, Mr John Thompson, Mr Richard Knowles, Mrs Pauline Poyntz, Mrs Carol Clement.

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS: David Anderson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for their attendance. He explained that we would need a formal vote to accept the subscription increase which was made last year. Generally the Club's finances were healthy. The courts had been repainted and a polymer sealant had been put on the doubles court. A new net had been placed on the singles court. David wished to express the thanks of the Club to William Medicott who had done a great deal of work to organise the courts improvement.

The Club was concerned at the very large sum of money which has to be paid to the LTA, which is based on the number of members. There was some discussion under way whether a fairer system would be to charge clubs on the number of courts they possessed. The Committee were hoping to investigate other options.

David expressed his thanks to Wendy Waite and Pauline Poyntz for their time spent on the Committee. Hugh Anderson had volunteered to join the Committee, but further offers of help would also be appreciated.

Playing activity was concentrated on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays when about 5-10 people would attend. Sunday mornings were tending towards "fixed fours" but it was suggested that a few "super" Sundays should be organised when members would turn up in greater numbers. Liz Ockford said she was hoping to organise further coaching sessions for ladies and for mixed groups on Tuesday evenings with Rob Jones during the summer season.

The Juniors were going very well with Rob Jones and there were plenty of coaching sessions on Saturdays. It was hoped that perhaps players who received coaching could be encouraged to join in with Wednesday club sessions immediately after their coaching.

Two main social events had been organised during the year – the Finals Day BBQ and the Christmas dinner at "The Crown". Our thanks again to William Medicott for organising the Christmas get-together.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING: The Minutes had been circulated to all members and there were no matters arising. The Minutes were therefore signed as a true record of last year's meeting. Lizzie Ockford proposed that the Minutes should be adopted and Gerry Waite seconded.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mark Nelson referred to the Accounts, copies of which were handed round at the meeting. The courts refurbishment had cost £6000. The Club was in a healthy position with £47,000 set aside for re-surfacing of the courts. Membership fees had amounted to £1200 for the year which was a 10% increase, but this was balanced by the fact that interest rates were down on the previous year. We were currently only receiving 1% on £40,000 in a club account. The LTA fees had increased from £900 to £1300, which included our insurance. The Juniors had generated a surplus of £800. Thanks were expressed to Martin Haslam for auditing the Accounts.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Alan Davies as Membership Secretary reported that we had 248 Adult members – 242 as Playing members and 6 Non-playing members.

JUNIORS: The Juniors were flourishing under Rob Jones coaching and he was now working from early on Saturday mornings until mid-afternoon with various groups. An outing to Eastbourne had been arranged in the summer when 19 Juniors and accompanying adults had attended the Ladies LTA tournament. The Family Day always proved very popular and Rob Jones would again bring the ball machine. It was suggested that "stand-alone" junior subscriptions may be increased for next year.

CAPTAINS REPORT: Wendy Waite read a report on behalf of the various team captains. All the Captains admitted that it was becoming more difficult to field teams and wanted to encourage members to offer their services to the teams.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Tony Blunt as President and the remaining members of the Committee were appointed en bloc, having been proposed by James Easley and seconded by Derek Heath. The Committee asked for permission at their next meeting to appoint a Secretary. Hugh Anderson was elected as a member, proposed by David Anderson and seconded by Wendy Waite.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR: The appointment of our Auditor – Martin Haslam – was proposed by David Anderson and seconded by Mark Nelson.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2009: The subscriptions from 2009 were formally adopted for the forthcoming season, having been proposed by David Anderson and seconded by Mark Nelson. The meeting was unanimous in support.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Lizzie Ockford requested that we should attempt to reinstate the October handicap. Wendy Waite explained to the meeting that it was necessary to be a British Tennis member in order to qualify for Club Wimbledon tickets. Wendy suggested a list in the clubhouse where members could indicate whether they wished to be in the "draw" and then allocate an evening when members who were interested could bring along their cheque books. This would facilitate the administration considerably.

Martin Haslam queried why the AGM had to be held in February – often the coldest month – and why we could not move the meeting to the end of March. The membership fees could then be by 1st May. This was proposed by David Anderson and seconded by Mark Nelson.

Martin Powys-Lybbe asked for clarification of club tennis balls. Match balls are financed by the club and therefore ex-match balls should be available for the use of club members. If no match balls are available, then members should bring their own for ordinary club play.

As there were no further matters, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.