

COOMBE WOOD LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 11 March 2020 at 8.00p.m in the clubhouse.

Attendees:

Robert Gale, Heather McAtackney, Paul Baxter, Nicki Tattersall, Jan Stewart, Lester Korzilius, Heather Korzilius, Gopalan Narayanan, Nandini Narayanan, Chris Durkin, John Walton, Ian Stewart, John Gordon, Belinda Grove, Andy Brownen, Meryl Lloyd, Gary Jordan, Louise Davis, Chris Lewis, Allan Lloyd, Pete Bell, Bob Blunden, Val Jermy, Mary Cruickshank, Matthew Cruickshank, Mike Bourne, John Lewis, Wendy Seigel, Ghulam Mustapha, Tessa Clarke, Campbell Brown, Alex Capes.

1. The President, Mike Bourne, opened the meeting.
2. The minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting were approved.
3. Mike Bourne then gave his report on the activities of the club over the past year. He first apologised for the need to curtail the social aspects of the evening, including pre-meeting drinks, because of the rising concerns over Coronavirus. He emphasised that the committee consider that the wellbeing of our members is of the upmost importance and so have taken a prudent approach to the evening. We will continue to monitor the potential impact of the coronavirus, both on club activities and our finances and will assess the impact of any official government, NHS or LTA guidance as and when it appears and communicate to members accordingly.

Highlights of the last year included:

Safeguarding

Mike emphasised that Safeguarding considerations are at the heart of the club and are properly considered in everything we do. The safeguarding measures that were put in place under the leadership of Matthew Cruickshank have been built on by Val Jermy, our welfare officer. We are in the process of completing a biennial

update of our key Safeguarding and other policies to ensure they are in line with the latest LTA guidance. Members were asked to look out for the updated policies when they are sent out. The LTA has notified us that the club will be subject to a Safeguarding audit this year.

Centenary

2019, our centenary year, was a truly momentous year in the club's history.

Several special events had taken place in celebration:

- The All England Club generously hosted a wonderful day at the Wimbledon grounds for a few representatives from clubs celebrating their centenaries, including 6 people from the Coombe Wood.
- The highlight of the year was the Centenary Ball on the 15 June in a splendidly decorated marquee on Court 1 with 150 attendees.
- There was also a special Centenary 'Family Fun Day' for our Junior members and their families taking over the whole of the club courts and grounds on a beautiful sunny afternoon in September. A fantastic atmosphere was generated on the day, and it was one of the most popular and enjoyable events ever held at the club. A Centenary American Tournament was held where players had the chance to play with wooden racquets.
- Finally, we acquired a clubhouse clock to commemorate the Centenary on a longer lasting basis.

These events could not have happened without the commitment of the committee and a significant number of helpers, with quite a few people contributing on many fronts. Thanks were extended to everyone involved, particularly to Chris Lewis and Meryl Lloyd for leading the arrangements for the Centenary Ball and Family Fun Day respectively.

Tournament and teams

The club tournament was once again a great success with good weather and an excellent turn-out for Final's Day. Congratulations were noted for Tim Thomas for winning the men's singles for the second time, defeating Daniel McQue in the final. Two new members competed in the Women's singles final and congratulations were given to Judit Farkas who defeated Louise Ferguson in a keenly contested final.

Team tennis at Combe Wood continues to be popular with 14 teams in total. The ladies were the star performers this year, with the ladies' first team winning both their summer and winter leagues and the ladies second team finishing second in their winter division.

Our Mixed team is doing very well in the newly launched Surrey knockout competition and are now through to the semi-finals.

The men's Over 55's team continue to have good results finishing 3rd in Surrey top Division in the summer league

It was noted that the club is always keen to hear from new players. Members interested in playing for one of the teams should contact Daniel McQue or Nicki Tattersall

A survey of members had been carried out as a result of which there have been a number of small changes made to social tennis and court priorities.

New singles box leagues have been launched in response to the demand for more singles play. Jon Rushforth and Mark Fox were thanked for running this.

Juniors and coaching

Ollie and Harry Lloyd and the assistant coaches have run some fabulous programmes for people of all standards and the proof of this can be seen in the increase in membership numbers.

The junior section is the fastest growing section of the club with approximately 200 children now involved in junior coaching throughout the year. There has been a great handover in the running of the junior section from Meryl Lloyd to Chris Durkin over the past year.

Building on this, we now have a 'performance' section at the club, where juniors of a higher standard are invited to participate in an extra session during the week to further their tennis and ultimately represent the club in matches throughout the year. Thanks were extended to those parents who helped captain a team last year – their help is greatly appreciated.

Our annual junior club championship qualifying day was a huge success again with around 100 participants playing to qualify for finals day.

Chris Durkin has introduced a number of new initiatives including Junior players of The Month Awards for each of a Mini Tennis Player (10 and under) and a Junior Player (11 and older). These are chosen by the coaches each month, and with trophies to be held for a month and a medal and a certificate to keep.

Jazz Judkins has been a tremendous support to Ollie as an assistant coach and has contributed significantly to these programmes. She will be stepping down and was thanked her for all her efforts.

It was announced that Edward Charlton will be joining Ollie's coaching team and has already been a popular member of the Saturday morning coaching programmes.

Social activities

Nandini Narayanan was thanked for her work as Social Secretary. As well as the centenary events, the finals day barbeque proved to be a great success yet again. Saturday teas are also greatly appreciated and Nandini and Belinda were thanked for organising these

Members were asked to share with Nandini any ideas they might have for future social events.

Grounds and facilities

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Meryl Lloyd was thanked for overseeing the resurfacing of the artificial grass on courts 6 and 7 last autumn.

Jan Stewart was thanked for leading the work on the much needed refurbishment of the changing rooms.

Regular maintenance is undertaken with Heather McAtackney overseeing SSP who look after the courts.

James Cruickshank who does a wonderful job clearing leaves and other rubbish from the facilities.

Nigel from Willow landscapes continues to keep the grounds looking fabulous.

The major project planned for 2020 is the improvement of the lane to create a safe pedestrian footpath. It was noted that development of the lane was something we have been considering for many years whilst waiting for the right time and availability of funding to do so. One of our non-committee members, Bob Blunden, has very kindly volunteered to lead this project and has already devoted a lot of time to develop the proposal and obtain the necessary quotes. Bob was thanked for taking this project on.

We have also now have some club clothing which can be ordered on-line via the link on the club-website.

Membership and finances

It was noted that membership numbers are up and it is encouraging that the biggest increases were for juniors, their parents and under 26 year-olds.

Compared to 2019, junior and cadet numbers rose by 18% to a total of 313. The number of parents taking up membership so they can play with their children has increased by 54% to 54.

Full adult membership numbers increased by 6% to 254, while the under 26 membership category increased by 20% to 36.

At the current time there does not seem to be too much pressure on court availability as play is nicely spaced out to cater for the needs of the various membership categories.

The strong membership numbers mean that our finances are in a very healthy state, and our reserves are at a satisfactory level.

Matthew Cruickshank who has helped both Paul and Ian with much of the admin involved is stepping down from the Committee after several years service, most notably in leading the project to update the Club's safeguarding and other key policies two years ago. Matthew was thanked for his valuable service.

Mike finished his address by noting that the Club is run by volunteers and it is their work which makes it such a success. He said thank you once again to the Committee. Members are strongly encouraged to help with running the club and to consider joining the committee. It is not that onerous as the jobs are well spread out and Rob Gale would be very happy to talk anyone interested through what is involved.

4. Mike then handed over to Paul Baxter who presented the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019, copies of which had been made available to the meeting.

It was noted that:

- Total income for 2019 had increased to £111,809 from £94,767 in 2018 mainly due to higher subscription fee income.
- Expenditure excluding projects for 2019 was broadly in line with the previous year.
- The main Projects in the year were: resurfacing of courts 6 and 7 (£53,337), Centenary events (£10,869) and Changing room refurbishment (£17,373).
- Overall the club had a deficit for the year of £23,136, compared to a surplus of £41,080 in 2018.
- The club remained in a healthy position at the year-end, with net assets of £89,913, including cash balances of £69,519.

5. A resolution to adopt the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019 was approved by the meeting.

6. A resolution to approve the subscription fees for the membership year starting 1 May 2020 was approved with the fees to be held at the same level as the previous year, as follows:

Membership category:

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|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| • Full | £265 |
| • Under 26 | £100 |
| • Country & midweek members | £170 |
| • Off peak | £170 |
| • Parent | £80 |
| • Non-playing (including Bridge) | £30 |
| • Junior members | £80 |
| • Cadets | £36 |
| • Joining fee | £100 |
| • Visitor's fee | £7 adult £3 junior |

7. The election of the officers of the club and members of the committee were approved as follows:

Officers:

- Mike Bourne - President
- Heather McAttackney - Chair
- John Walton - Honorary Auditor
- Robert Gale - Honorary Secretary
- Paul Baxter - Honorary Treasurer

Other committee members:

- Ian Stewart - Membership Secretary
- Belinda Grove - Grounds Secretary
- Meryl Lloyd - Juniors Secretary
- Daniel McQue - Match Secretary
- Nandini Narayanan - Social Secretary
- Val Jermy – Welfare Officer
- Oliver Lloyd
- Gary Jordan

- Jan Holman
- Chris Hughes
- John Lewis
- Chris Durkin
- Nicki Tattersall

8. An update was given on projects carried out in 2019, principally:

- Resurfacing of courts 6 and 7
- Changing room refurbishment
- Centenary Ball
- Family Fun Day
- Centenary Clock
- Club clothing shop launched
- Electrical repairs & certification work
- Tennis survey & court priorities review

9. The rolling 5-year expenditure plan was outlined. This includes:

- Biennial review of club policies
- Review of club Rules and legal structure
- Integration of coaching bookings in to membership systems
- Development of the lane
- Phased conversion of floodlights to LED
- Improvements to the terrace
- Re-surfacing of courts 4&5

10. Details of the Lane footpath project were provided and expenditure for 2020 was approved as follows:

• Normal club running costs	£45,000
• Lane footpath development	£31,000
• Phase 1 LED conversion	£20,000
• Various one-off repairs/maintenance/other	£17,000
• Other/contingency:	£10,000

It was noted that all projects were subject to review and delay if the coronavirus outbreak results in club activities being curtailed or possibly even full closure of the club.

11. Ian Stewart outlined the Wimbledon Ballot process.

12. Key dates for club events in 2020 were noted although it was again emphasised that all dates were subject to review depending on how the coronavirus situation develops.