



# 2023 Annual General Meeting

The club held its 2023 Annual General Meeting on 27 March 2023. Thank you to those members who were able to attend. It was great to be able to hold the meeting in person again for the first time in three years.

Mike Bourne delivered his President's address on the highlights of the last year, and we also looked ahead to some of the activities and developments planned at the club for 2023. The presentation slides from the meeting are available on the club website and full minutes of the meeting will also be posted there in due course.

## 2022 Accounts

Paul Baxter, our Honorary Treasurer presented the club's accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022 which were approved by the meeting. A copy of the accounts is available on the website.

The club is in good financial health having built up cash reserves over the last couple of years, providing the funds for us to carry out several significant capital projects over the next year.

## 2023 Expenditure and Significant Projects

Our planned expenditure for 2023 was approved at the AGM.

### Club Running costs:

The club's operating costs increased by nearly 18% in 2022 and are expected to increase significantly again this year. Our electricity costs in 2022 benefitted from being on a fixed rate contract as well as the government subsidies. Both these have now come to an end, and we are anticipating a substantial increase this year.

We also want to position our finances to enable us to consider employing a 'club manager' in the near future. The work required to run a modern club with record membership levels is ever increasing and we are now at the point where it is no longer realistic to expect this to be done wholly by volunteers.

We plan to undertake 3 large capital projects this year:

### 1. Terrace development:

After months of design, planning, and obtaining tenders, we are now ready to start the terrace development work. The design plans have been on display on the clubhouse noticeboard for the last few weeks. In case you have not had a chance to look at these, the key features of the project are:

- Full resurfacing of the current terrace paving which is crumbling and in constant need of repair.
- Extension of paving over the beds at the edge.
- Creating improved and expanded area for events/parties/spectators.
- Longer but very gradual slope for disability access to the club.
- Steps from the terrace on to the grass area by Court 1 will be widened.
- Present BBQ area will become a planting area.
- New BBQ area to be created to right of clubhouse with screening to enhance the area.
- Additional planting around borders to replace current beds.
- A planting area will develop between the upper edge of the ramp, to the brick wall, creating an attractive approach to the terrace.

The work will start on 26 April and is due to be finished in early to mid-June. Although access to the clubhouse should be available throughout, there is bound to be some disruption, which we ask all members to be patient with. There will also be some reduction in car park capacity as a few spaces will be needed to store materials needed for the project. We will let you know more details on these restrictions before the work commences.

Thanks to Chris Lewis who is leading the project and Nikki Dobson, who has produced the design plans, dealt with the required planning applications and will stay on board throughout the project to manage the contractors.

### 2. Lane Footpath:



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Planning permission was finally granted for the proposed lane footpath last year after protracted discussions with the planners to satisfy additional ecological and planting requirements. Because of these delays we had to go out to tender again for the work. With the inevitable price increases as well as the expanded specification to meet planning requirements, the estimated project costs exceeded the amount previously approved. The revised estimated expenditure was approved at the AGM and we plan to carry out the project in the Autumn.

### 3. LED Floodlights:

Expenditure was also approved to convert the floodlights on all courts to LED this year. John Lewis is leading this project and will be obtaining quotes with the aim of carrying out the work during the summer months so that we can benefit from the energy cost savings later in the year.

### Other projects:

Potholes in the car park remain a stubborn problem. Several recent attempts at repairs have failed to solve the issue and the holes have reappeared. The AGM approved additional expenditure to undertake a more permanent solution to the problem. In the meantime, please continue to take care, and drive slowly, as you enter and leave the club.

## 2023 Subscriptions

Approval was given to increase subscriptions for the new membership year starting 1 May 2023 as follows:

- Full: £310
- Junior: £92
- Cadets: £42
- Under 26: £115
- Country & midweek: £200
- Off peak: £200
- Parent: £92
- Non-playing (including Bridge): £33
- Joining fee: £100
- Adult visitor: £8
- Junior visitor: £4

Because the club is a healthy financial position, we have managed to hold the increases to 10%, in line with inflation, despite our running costs growing by substantially more than this.

## Committee Appointments

Armand Shahverdian was appointed to the committee. The other Officers of the Club and members of the Committee were all reappointed.

Jan Stewart has kindly agreed to take over as Match Secretary with overall responsibility for team tennis as well as running the club tournament. Armand will be supporting Jan in this role.

Mike Bourne reminded members that at last year's AGM, Rob Gale announced his intention to stand down as Honorary Secretary at the end of the year having served 6 years in the role. Rob has very kindly agreed to continue for a further year to oversee what is expected be an incredibly busy period of activity for the club.

It is now an imperative to find Rob's successor. If any members would be interested in taking on the critical role of Honorary Secretary, please do come forward and contact Rob or any other member of the committee.

## Change of legal structure and update of Club Rules

The Committee has also started a project to review the Club's rules and legal structure. It remains clear that we have outgrown the current format – as an informal unincorporated association - and it is no longer realistic for the club to operate without a formal legal identity. We propose moving to an incorporated legal structure more



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appropriate for a club of our size. This will enable the Club to enter into contracts in its own name and limit the personal liability of the Committee and club members.

An Exceptional General Meeting (EGM) will be arranged later in the year to seek approval from members for these proposals.

## Important Dates

A reminder of dates of key club events for your diaries:

- Monday May 1: Club tournament starts - **Entry sign up is open now**
- Sunday May 21: Matthew Cruickshank Cup - Juniors v Adults tournament
- Sunday June 18: Junior tournament qualifying day
- Saturday July 8: Finals Day (Adults and Juniors)
- Saturday September 23: End of summer party
- Saturday December 2: Christmas party

Kind regards,  
Coombe Wood LTC Committee