

Blewbury Tennis Club

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 24th November 2022 held at
The Melland Room
at 7.00pm.

1. Welcome by the Chairman, Sarah Sayers.
 - Apologies received from Louise Butler, Paul Bramhill, Andrew Dance, Rosemary De Wilde, Lindy Farrell, Emma Fisher, Rob Hughes, Emma Byrne, Frances Lawrence, Jackie McCallum, Emma Mellor, Kate Mitchell, Stella Mitchell, Laura Newland, Lee Robinson.
2. Minutes of Last meeting were approved for signing after the meeting by the Chairman.
3. Presentation of Junior Trophies were made to most improved mini and junior players by the Club's president Coral Richards.
4. Chairman's Report – Sarah Sayers

A copy of the report is attached. The main points to note for the purposes of the minutes are:

 - 2022 saw a new larger committee who were all thanked for their first year of service, their support and for introducing new events and initiatives.
 - The club currently has 135 memberships (280 members)
 - The club remains solvent but costs and overheads are on the increase and just about covering themselves. A nominal increase in membership fees may be discussed at further committee meetings in 2023.
 - Match play remains highly competitive and successful. The captains were all thanked for their hard work and commitment.
 - The 10-year court refurbishment plan is on track and annual court maintenance costs are currently £1,650. Total costs of the 10-year plan this time are estimated to be £70,000.
 - All acknowledged the great benefits and enjoyment that the floodlights have brought to the club and its members. The previous committee were thanked for their hard work and dedication in getting them funded and installed.
5. Treasurer's Report – Justine Thomson presented the fund accounts which had been circulated with the agenda and provided the treasurers report. A copy of the report is attached. Key points to note for the minutes
 - Accounts have been audited and signed off as in good order
 - Closing balance for October 2022 is up by £3,286 from previous year
 - Total 2022 income £16,460 – total 2022 expenditure £13,140
 - Running costs of courts up to 2027 need monitoring. The club needs to ensure we are generating additional income for the next four years to cover them.

7. Match Secretary's report – Joe Gold presented the Match Secretary report. The final positions of all the teams and tournaments were read out and applauded along with a statement from the captains. There were a significant number of promotions and first placed teams and we now need a considerably larger trophy cabinet in the club house.
8. LTA Rules/Safeguarding – Sarah Vincent introduced herself as the Welfare and Safeguarding officer and confirmed all committee members are up to date with their training
9. Junior Report – read by Sarah Vincent on behalf of Tom Finnie, NTA. A copy is attached

10. There was a Presentation of trophies to the adults

- Most improved adult

Amanda Taylor

Highly Commended runners up - Jane Andrews, Emma Byrne and Allison Rhodes.

- Prebendal Manor Cup

The Prebendal Manor Cup is awarded to those who have made an outstanding contribution to the club. This year it was again awarded to two people:

Martin Wrench

Bradley Hammond

This year a Lifetime Membership was awarded to Deirdre Cochrane. Deirdre has been a member, played socially and competitively for 50 years.

11. Motions received from members in advance.
No motions had been received.
12. All existing officers were re-elected. David McPhail was proposed and seconded to take over the remaining administrative elements of club maintenance from and by John Dilley. Bradley Hammond has stepped down from Club Committee and was thanked for his contribution over the past year.

See Appendix A for a full list of 2023 committee members re-elected.

13. AOB
Two in absentia questions were raised
 - (i) Seniors' socials and sessions
 - (ii) Clarity on how the role of captain is appointed and whether a captain of captains role would add value to team management and selection.
 - (iii) Will the club be adding more teams as numbers increase for those interested in competitive play

The seniors' question is being reviewed already, role of captain is usually done by volunteering and the need for a captain of captains was determined not to be required.

Subject to court capacity the captains will meet on adding a new Dunlop Ladies Summer team and Newbury summer league mixed team in the first instance.

APPENDIX A: 2023 committee

Officers	Re-elected or elected
Chairman	Sarah Sayers
Secretary	Jen Gold
Treasurer	Justine Thomson
OLTA Match Secretary	Joe Gold
NDLTA Match Secretary	Allison Rhodes
Membership Secretary	Glen Meadows
Welfare officer and Junior co-ordinator	Sarah Vincent
Junior Coordinator	Vacant
Head Coach	Tom Finnie
Club Committee	Martin Wrench (maintenance)
	David McPhail (maintenance)
	Debra Davies (first aid)
	Richard Anstis
	Jane Andrews

Blewbury Tennis Club AGM 24 November 2022

CHAIRMAN's REPORT

We started the year with only 2 people on the Club committee from last year (Justine & Joe) and so the majority were new into role. However, we have some excellent committee members who have done us proud in the last year with some new events and initiatives and keeping the club running efficiently on behalf of us all.

I was on the tennis club committee several years ago and was membership secretary, secretary, Junior co-ordinator, Chairman and didn't think I would be chairman again, but here I am again. However, life is made very easy when you have a good committee.

I've been a member of this club for quite a few years, not quite so many as Coral, and it has changed significantly for the better. In my personal opinion, the two most recent factors have been transitioning from a second-hand Milton Park cast me off bus shelter to getting our own club house and secondly, the floodlights – which have opened up extended playing hours in both the winter and the summer.

Membership

We now have 280 members which is made up from the following memberships

46 £75 single

46 £50 household (limited access)

43 £120 household

135 Memberships (not people)

Due to the categorisations, this means that we have over 135 individual members.

We are a friendly club and I challenge you all to welcome new members and those who are pay and play, as they might well join the club as members.

Thank you to Glen Meadows for being membership secretary and managing the subs and welcoming new members.

Club Sessions

We have a few throughout the week, Tuesday at 7pm, Wednesday day time and Sunday 10.30am. There is now an email which goes out asking who is available and if anyone who isn't already on the mailing list wants to be, please see Joe Gold or a club committee member and you can soon be added. The Tuesday night sessions are a great success with sometimes 4 full courts and a couple of weeks ago we had 21. The flood lights have made a tremendous difference to the club and thanks to the previous committee who pursued this venture to ensure this happened.

Competitions

Joe Gold, as match secretary will give a full report. We have a good competitive spirit within the club competing in both the Oxfordshire and Newbury leagues in Mens, Ladies and Mixed with teams playing throughout the year. Due to the number of teams, we have a range of abilities. If anyone is interested in competing, please see one of the captains. Thank you also to all the many captains of the teams. It is sometimes frustrating when you are player short at the last minute but it has its rewards when you have some enjoyable tennis as a result.

Juniors & Safeguarding

Sarah Vincent will cover off the Juniors in more detail in a separate report from Tom Finnie. The Juniors are also competing, which is encouraging.

Sarah is our Safeguarding officer responsible for ensuring we look after our juniors and vulnerable adults. I remind you all, this is not a job just for the Safeguarding officer or the club committee, its is down to us all to ensure that we maintain high standards of behaviour and we protect our juniors so they have a safe environment in which to play.

Social

Martin Wrench has organised some club tournaments this year which have been well supported and also fun. Thank you Martin, ably assisted by Bradley. We had Jeremy Burbage and his grandson singing one evening after a tournament and a BBQ at the mixed tournament. We have had some fun club socials at the Red Lion, organised by Richard Anstis, thank you, which couldn't pass by without some form of competition, so I can now put down Corn Hole on my cv under skills & attributes.

Maintenance

The courts are maintained by Martin Wrench & Bradley Hammond on a formal basis and assisted by John Dille and others. However a special thank you to them all for their hard work to ensure our courts are in good condition and in particular to Martin & Bradley who are constantly checking that the courts are playable ie before a match and who both do over and above their duties.

The Courts are in good order and have been cleaned and maintained to a high standard. For those of you who are not aware, we have a 10 year court refurbishment plan. Each year:

£500 pa for moss/weed killing

£1000 for general maintenance of the courts and club house

£150 pa for general maintenance

£1650 every year

Plus

£32,000 (*) every 10 years for re-surfacing

£8000 (*) every 10 years for repainting

Therefore we need £70,000 over a 10 year period just for courts & maintenance, which is where the majority of your subs go to keep our courts, grounds and club house in good condition. * may be more with inflation.

Subscriptions

The subscription levels are determined by the Club Committee and not at the AGM. At the last club committee we reviewed the increase in our electricity bill and we may have to put the subs up a nominal amount. We do get some income from the pay and play who are not members and Justine as Treasurer will go into more detail.

Coaching

Tom Finnie is our resident coach and will be seen on court almost every week day. He is available for group and individual sessions for all abilities. Ruth Ballantyne and Richard Green have also coached for several years. Richard is now retiring from coaching and we thank him for the many years he has done this.

Community

We are fortunate to have our club in such a scenic area and this is often commented on from visiting clubs. We have supported Style Acre and do join in with some village events from time to time. We will not mention the Music Quiz (but we did come 2nd from bottom). It is important that we maintain an inclusive relationship with the village.

In summary, we have a club we can be proud of. We are located in a scenic environment, have courts and grounds in excellent condition, we have tennis for everyone either social, pay and play or competitive, have a healthy membership, we have some money in the bank and perhaps most importantly, we are a friendly and welcoming club.

This just leaves me with a few thank you's - in addition to those I've previously mentioned in my report:

Thank you

-to all of the 2022 committee who have worked hard on your behalf, Joe Gold, Jen Gold, Justine Thomson, Jane Andrews, Allison Rhodes, Sarah Vincent, Glen Meadows, Richard Anstis, Martin Wrench, Bradley Hammond, Debs Davies & David McPhail.

David & Bradley are stepping down and we thank them for their contribution over the last year.

- to Rosemary DeWilde and Frances Lawrence for cleaning our club house

- to Joe Gold for being match secretary, which is sometimes a thankless task and very much behind the scenes – ensuring we have enough courts and avoiding clashes for

the various home matches, for sending out the emails each week to check who is playing on Tues night or Sunday morning and for the upkeep of the website

- to Jen Gold as secretary and in particular for keeping us compliant with our constitution. It does help having someone with a legal background.

And lastly to Justine Thomson - who I can only describe as superwoman. She is a fixer and a doer and not only is she our Treasurer, managing our finances, she has taken on the cleaning of the club house, organises matches and practices, recycles old balls, welcomes new members, is a master baker and brings amazing cakes to social events to name but a few. Thank you Justine you are a star and we appreciate what you do.

Sarah Sayers

Chairman 2021-2022

24 November 2022

AGM – Match Reports

Oxfordshire Dunlop Winter League 2021/2022

Mens A - Martin Wrench - Division 1: Final position 1st (promoted)

Mens B - Sean Smythe - Division 4: Final position 8th

Ladies A - Carole Smythe - Division 1: Final position 11th

The Ladies A played in Division 1 last winter. The standard of tennis was quite challenging! The core players were myself, Ruth, Sue, Pam, Bev and Sarah Vincent. We had some very hard-fought matches and although now relegated to Division 2, we all enjoyed the tennis and felt that we had improved our match play considerably in preparation for next season. Many thanks to all the ladies who played and to those in the B team who were so supportive and willing to play at short notice.

Ladies B - Sarah Sayers - Division 3: Final position 9th

We got moved up to Division 3 having had a successful previous season and the standard was certainly higher. We had a steady squad of Debra Davies, Justine Thomson, Jane Andrews, Lynne Granger, Allison Rhodes and Rachel Marffy with assistance from the C team of Emma Byrne and Anna Rogers. Overall, we came 9/12 with quite a range of points from the top team with 69 to 26, so a mixed bag of teams. We had some good matches and some near misses with some tie breaks going against us but as we had moved up, we felt proud of our achievement. We are pleased to welcome Emma into the B squad for the 2022/23 winter.

Ladies C - Jen Gold/Maria Granito - Division 5: Final position 11th

The ladies C team are going into the Winter tournament with a team that has worked hard and is now starting to have some great games and is coming into its own. We've had a bit of a stint at the bottom of the ladder(s) but are conquering those rungs and we'd like to thank the players for their hard work and our coaches Ruth and Tom. Some trusty pairings are forming and that's really pleasing to see.

We're still up there on the quality of tennis teas too.....

Oxfordshire Dunlop Summer League 2022

Mens A - Martin Wrench - Division 2: Final position 2nd (promoted)

Mens B - Sean Smythe - Division 9: Final position 2nd (promoted)

Ladies A - Sarah Vincent - Division 4: Final position 2nd (promoted)

So summary from ladies A summer team. Division 4. Wow great result. Came second out of 8 teams. Was a bit annoying to be pipped at post by Deddington. Only 1 point in it. Lovely competitive tennis. Thanks to Sue Butcher, Ruth Ballantyne, Pam McIntyre, Bev Mackenzie, Ellie Vincent, Carole Smythe. And many thanks to those who stepped up at short notice when needed. Justine Thomson, Jane Andrews, Sarah Sayers, Lynne Granger and Deb Davies.

Ladies B - Justine Thomson - Division 7: Final position 6th

We had been promoted from last year, so it was a tough division, the team was a new one, with new pairings we coped well. The weather was VERY HOT for a few of the matches, well done those who got through these with ice packs. Overall, a good season & hopefully we will remain in the same division next year after ending up mid table.

Thanks all

Justine

Ladies C - Jen Gold - Division 10: Final position 7th

The ladies C team are going into the Winter tournament with a team that has worked hard and is now starting to have some great games and is coming into its own. We've had a bit of a stint at the bottom of the ladder(s) but are conquering those rungs and we'd like to thank the players for their hard work and our coaches Ruth and Tom. Some trusty pairings are forming and that's really pleasing to see.

We're still up there on the quality of tennis teas too.....

Mixed A - Martin Wrench - Division 1: Final position 2nd

Mixed B - Jane Andrews - Division 7: Final position 2nd (Promoted)

After taking over the reins from John Dilley the summer mixed B was my first foray into captaincy! The team were fantastic we had to overcome injury and more importantly holidays enjoyed some very difficult games but overall, it was an excellent season seeing us come second and promoted!

Oxfordshire Dunlop Midweek Winter League 2021/2022 – Mixed Only

Debs Davies - Final position 1st (Champions)

We ended up winners of this league. Good job we did not realise how important the first match v North Oxford A turned out to be.

Oxfordshire Dunlop Midweek Summer League 2022 – Mixed Only

Debs Davies - Final position 2nd

Runners Up this time. Thanks to all who helped complete our matches.

Newbury League Winter League 2021/2022

Mixed A - Debs Davies - Division 1: Final position 2nd

A close-run season. We were level on points with Kintbury, but they won by just 3 sets.

Mixed B - Sean Smythe - Division 2: Final position 3rd

Mixed C - Justine Thomson - Division 3: Final position 4th

Newbury League Summer League 2022

Mixed A - Martin Wrench - Division 1: Final position 2nd

Mixed B - Sean Smythe - Division 3: Final position 1st (Champions)

Mixed C - Justine Thomson - Division 4: Final position 1st (Champions)

Due to popular demand we managed to increase from 3 mixed teams to 4 for this summer & thank you to Brian for taking this team on. Great News for the Mixed C team this year. We managed to go through the summer season without losing a match, so topped Division 4 & have been promoted in the Winter league to Division 3. Thank you all that played you know who you are.

Justine

Mixed D - Brian Butcher - Division 4: Final position 6th

BLEWSBURY TENNIS CLUB
CASH ACCOUNTS
1 November 2021 to 29 October 2022

This is my first year as Treasurer

The accounts are prepared on a cash basis and reconciled to the balances held in the various bank accounts
Gavin Critchmore has audited the accounts in November 2022. He found them to be in order & correct

Page 1 I have prepared a new cash summary report (see Page 1) & will run through the key points

Starting balance Nov 1 2021 - £28,521.30 in cash, [REDACTED] 19,356.49 [REDACTED] £9173.01

Balance end of year Oct 2022 - £31,851.48 in cash, [REDACTED] 22,654.40 [REDACTED] £9197.00 A £286 increase

Overview (see Page 2), of income & expenditure this last year 2021 to 2022

Page 2 Income

Subscriptions £10,587.37 which is down by £411.78 - We have lost some families due to moving away & swapping memberships
- Closing out of covid we are above the predicted income for this year set for the loan 2021

Court Hire (pay & Play) £1386.90 increase of £209.34

Match Fees £2472 which is up by £1372 - we are running more teams summer/winter & midweek, Oxford & Newbury leagues

LTA Loan contributions (previously coaching) £2000.04 (will cover in more detail in a moment)

TOTAL INCOME £16,466.30

Page 2 Expenditure 2021/22

DLTA FEE - £480 annually - £360.00 paid this year accounts due to timing of registration

Tennis Balls - £2254.47, increase of £1431, more matches/tournaments - about 8 boxes left to carry forward 2023

Also set up this year link with recycling ball charity who pay us to send balls to them, income £30 in 2 runs
IMPORTANT THAT MATCH FEES ARE COVERING BALL PURCHASES 2472 V 2254. CLOSE

Maintenance Grounds - £1488.96, ie grass cutting, trees, fencing, lavender & hedge trimming.

LTA LOAN - £4500.00 paid but income from LTA 2020 so Net this year - £2500

Club Running Costs & Interest costs

ELECTRICITY, £1083.12 up from last year by £540.89. Due to flood lighting of courts & increase in elec pricing.
Committee to review Memberships fees & court hire pay & play in new year.

Fire & Safety Checked & Certificate issued annually - for electric gate & lighting needed for insurance £325.00

Bank charges £81.00 (bike fees) for collecting our membership & pay & play £322

TOTAL EXPENDITURE £13,146.31

Page 3 Membership Income... income about what predicted for this last year, but we do need to review again **in the New Year**

Page 4 Future Expenditure to be aware of.

We have a 10 year Court / Club House maintenance plan, see Page 2

NEED TO BE AWARE RUNNING COST OF THE COURTS FROM NOW TO 2027 ARE APPROX £40,000 (inc. court resurfacing 2027 £30,000)
SO WE NEED TO ENSURE BETWEEN NOW & THEN WE ARE GENERATING EXCESS INCOME TO COVER THESE FUTURE COSTS
INCREASED OUR BALANCE THIS YEAR BY £3286 BUT ESTIMATES SAY WE REQUIRE 6000 TO 7000

Committee will review in New Year 2023 Memberships, Match Fees & Play & Play

We have responsibility & need to ensure that we have the money available for future court maintenance

possible fund raising event for club but needs members to support for this to work

Page 5 LTA LOAN

Overview - The club borrowed £25,000 interest free loan from the LTA 2021, the agreement is that they give us monthly £167.77 a month
Total annually £2000.04

We made payments first year 2021 of £3000, this year £4501 so balance is now £17,000

next year we will get income from LTA 2020.04 & pay £2000 so no cost liability to the club going forward

On Page 5 I include a statement of account from LTA to show the balance is now £17,000

That concludes the Treasurers report unless any questions

Blewbury Coaching Update - Thursday 24th November 2022

Good evening all,

First of all, I am sending my apologies for not being with you tonight. Our little one decided to appear a little bit later than planned - all is well with Leah and Jonah.

Strength & conditioning programmes have already begun to ensure he is hitting toddler level fitness come the Christmas break - who says that a two month old can't hit the heights of children 4 years his senior...

One aspect that did keep me occupied was the continued success of the Blewbury coaching programme. Both junior and adult groups have carried on improving since the end of last year. The number of active players has again stopped just shy of 100 (currently sitting at 96) - a fantastic effort given that the programme still runs three days a week.

In all but two of our junior sessions, we still have a number of junior players assisting Tom with sessions on Wednesdays & Fridays. Some have since completed their awards (congratulations to them), and still wish to participate...the help is very much appreciated! The eventual plan will be to get these boys onto a Junior Tennis Leaders Award - which will provide the necessary stepping stone to any of them interested in taking up the profession. There isn't a date set as yet, but most likely this will take place towards the warmer part of next year.

Blewbury has continued to run summer & October half term camps under the NTA banner, bringing in existing players, but also to encourage newbies to sign up and give tennis a crack. One initiative we began in August is the introduction of the Ukrainian camps hosted at Portcullis & Brightwell Tennis Clubs.

We had a really good uptake and even saw some Blewbury players come along and play at the same time. The Tim Henman Foundation has been incredibly generous and is supporting this with significant funding in many areas of South Oxfordshire - still doesn't fancy a set against Bradley Hammond I hear!!!

The Style Acre sessions continue to thrive on Wednesday mornings. Allison Rhodes & Paul Tuvey have given their time to assist with the adults in creating a wonderfully relaxed environment for those to come along and hit some balls (some even manage to stay inside the court!). There were rumours that ITV and Channel 4 came knocking to do a Christmas advert, highlighting the work that local communities do around disability sport provision. Sadly it didn't come to anything this year, so this does mean we will blow their socks off in 2023!!!

As ever, there will be tennis coaching sessions over the Christmas break. Dates will be swiftly sent out to parents from Tom in the coming weeks. His expected return will be Wednesday 8th December. In the meantime, George Fitztryk will be doing an amazing job in Tom's absence - he has been warned about a couple of individuals (they know who they are!!).

If there are any questions or queries about new sign ups or general coaching trivia, please get in touch with Tom (Head Coach) and he will be happy to answer anything on the subject. New players are still encouraged to sign up through the National Tennis Association website - it would be great to get above 100 come the new year!!

Many thanks team,

Tom Finnie
(Head Coach - Blewbury Tennis Club).