

CHILHAM TENNIS CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT 730PM ON 9 NOVEMBER 2017 IN CHILHAM VILLAGE HALL

Present:

Officers: Geoff Dear (Chair), Darril Ling (Secretary), Richard Baker (Treasurer), Liz Dear (Membership Secretary), Penny Rickards, Pete Swan, Danny Wynne (committee members)

Members: Aidan Blackall, Tony Blackall, Helen Blackwood, Martin Hammer, Sally Moses, Linda Noble, Paul Woods.

1. Minutes of previous AGM on 2nd December 2016

The meeting approved the minutes without amendment.

2. Matters Arising

The only actions to report on were club development options and there is an agenda item for this later.

3. Chairmans Report

It has been a busy year again.

On court the club has held an open day, 2 adult tournaments, a friendly tournament (The Ashes) against Bridge, and fielded mixed and ladies teams in Ashford & District League, and Mens teams in Kent, East Kent and Dover & District (midweek) league. Danny continues to run popular and well attended coaching sessions for all age groups. Through the LTA he offered two 6 week tennis for free courses for children aged between 5 and 8 and with the help of a grant from Kent Sport and Chilham Parish Council the club also arranged for Danny to provide a ten week course of free coaching involving over 20 pupils from Chilham and Selling schools. We intend to repeat both courses next year. He also ran 2 junior teams in the Aegon Kent Junior League. Mix in sessions were well attended, especially the Wednesday night club evening. Both the coaching and mix in sessions are often oversubscribed reinforcing the need the third court.

Off the court the club has once again retained its TennisMark accreditation. This is very important for the future the development of the club as it recognises good standards and best practice at tennis venues in Britain.

The committee has also produced a Club Development Plan formalising how it intends to manage and improve club facilities with a club house and a third court. This included refining plans to use the £47k allocated by Chilham Parish Council and agreeing a site plan with the recreation ground committee. The play area will be relocated nearer the sports hall so this space can be used for the third court with the courtside facility on the strip of land between the existing courts (which will be resurfaced) and the new court. Estimates for the work have been obtained and an outline budget set at £98k. Initial funding calculations suggest that using £20k of our club development fund to supplement the money allocated by the parish council will leave a shortfall of £20k. Grant applications are being submitted to Ashford Borough Council and Kent Sport and it is hoped that this will reduce our shortfall by £15k. If these funding applications are successful, the club could be in a position to complete its improvement plans by the end of 2018, but there is still a lot of work to be done.

The accounts for 2016/17 will again show a significant boost to our club development fund. Membership has increased and we have supplemented our annual wine and wisdom fund raiser with several new initiatives that have been well supported. We now have club sponsorship in the form of banners, there was an extremely successful garden party including an auction of promises and many members answered the call to make donations on top of their annual membership subscription. Several club members volunteered their

time to help out at the Chase and Chill and the club received a generous donation in recognition of this.

The club has an excellent record of balancing its books and building up a substantial sinking fund through attractive membership packages and fundraising, a significant part of the latter comes from the annual wine and wisdom organised by Pete Swan. All this puts the club in a good position when applying for the grants it needs to improve its facilities. I would like to thank the committee for their hard work during the year. A lot has been achieved and there is still more to do, but I sense a high level of confidence that we can achieve our aims.

There is a very warm friendly and social feel to the club with increased participation on and off court, a healthy environment in which to be planning improved facilities. I would also like to thank those members not on the committee that have pitched in to help in various ways during what has been a very successful year for the club.

4. Adoption of last years accounts

A summary of the accounts was presented by the treasurer. These showed another healthy surplus and were adopted by the meeting.

5. Appointment of Honorary Auditor

Ernie Taylor was appointed.

6. Review of Membership Fees

The following unchanged subscriptions were approved:- Family membership £85; Adult Membership £45; Junior Membership £25; Senior Membership £25. However, it was agreed that members should be encouraged to accept the invitation to make a club development donation.

It was noted that an increase in these fees would need to be considered once the new facilities were in place.

7. Election of Officers

The following officers were elected for the 2017/18 year.

Chair – Geoff Dear

Secretary – Darril Ling

Treasurer – Richard Baker

Membership Secretary – Liz Dear

CPRGT Representative – Pete Swan

Welfare Officer – Penny Rickards

Head Coach and Junior Representative – Danny Wynne

8. Review of Club Objectives

The following unchanged objectives were confirmed by the meeting.

To provide a well maintained tennis facility that :-

- a) is affordable to all in the parish
- b) is maintained entirely through membership subscriptions, fund raising and grant applications
- c) offers coaching through a qualified coach
- d) offers competitive tennis in local leagues
- e) provides improved facilities for members (eg a club house)
- f) promotes an active junior section
- g) provides social tournaments and non-tennis social events
- h) maintains its TennisMark accreditation

The committee was authorised to pursue these as objectives for the 2017/18 year.

9. Review of Development Options

Pete Swan provided an update on the progress that had been made with the recreation ground committee with regard to the clubs improvement plans and answered questions. A layout had been agreed and a site plan was circulated to members to illustrate this (see AppendixA). This showed that the club could expand into the area currently occupied by the play area. It was noted that mini tennis could be achieved using throw down lines on existing full size courts, and that a new play area would be installed close to the Sports Hall.

The meeting closed at 8:52pm.

10. Next meeting

Date to be agreed in November 2018.

