



## **HLTC AGM Minutes 2023**

**Meeting started at 20:00 on Thursday November 16, 2023.**

**Chair: Glyn Jukes**  
**Treasurer: Neil Cochlin**  
**Minutes Taken By: Lisa Harrison**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence received and accepted from Paul Sweet, Helen Windwood, Mark Williams, Maggie Allingham, Sheila Girling & Elaine Cloy.

**2. Minutes of the Last Meeting on 17 November 2022 and Points Arising**

Neil Cochlin discussed the potential change of the booking system for Tennis Members to MyCourts a system currently used by Squash Members, which would streamline processes for the office staff. The club currently has three options: retain the existing system, switch to MyCourts or switch to the LTA's free ClubSpark system. The remit of the new system promises easier management of tournaments and new member fees, along with potential cost savings for the club. Due diligence will be completed over the next few months, with a likely transition.

The minutes from the AGM on November 17, 2022, were proposed by Hans Lansbergen and accepted as a true record by Tessa Walder.

**3. Chairman's Report**

Glyn Jukes thanked Alex the Groundsman for his work on the grounds with the challenging weather, which we have had, and managing to extend the Grass Court playing season.

Glyn also thanked both Nigel Allingham and Tessa Walder for their hard work and commitment to coaching teams and players.

Congratulations to Josh Dunford-Smith for climbing the coaching ladder with his Level 1 achievement.

The Club Tournament was very successful with a lot of players and spectators. It was a great event with Sophie's Kitchen catering which was well received.

There was promotion by Men's 1 & 2 teams and Ladies' 1 team too. The mixed team went up to Division 1.

Thanks to both Hans and Donna for their unwavering support and efforts during their time on the Committee.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

Neil Cochlin reviewed the Profit & Loss Report, which had been distributed to all members. He confirmed a profit of £38,453.15, closely matching last year's figure. Neil explained that while subscriptions and fees are key sources of income, miscellaneous expenses remain the largest expenditure category. The Club Manager software is costly, prompting consideration of a switch to Mycourts, the booking system currently used by Squash Members, to reduce expenses.

The Sinking Fund, with a balance of £3.5K, has continued to grow without withdrawals, supported by last year's 5% fee increase, which was allocated directly to this fund. As of October 31, membership stands at 251, with 21 new members yet to pay—very similar to last year's total of 250 members.

#### **5. Approval of the Membership Fees**

The Proposal Committee met 2 weeks ago and proposed a 4% increase to reflect the current situation and people's circumstances and believe that this is a healthy compromise. Therefore, Tennis Individual Membership would move from £246 to £256 which is an extra £10, and £19 more for couples.

Neil confirmed that Tennis are the main contributors to the Club bringing in a net income of £22K, Cricket £21K, Squash £18.5K and Hockey £4.7k.

The proposal is for a 4% increase in Fees this year. There was a vote on the approval of these Fees and there followed unanimous agreement of this figure.

#### **6. Election of Officers and Committee Members**

Glyn confirmed that Hans Lansbergen and Donna Copeland are standing down and as there was currently one vacancy there were 3 spaces to fill.

Donna proposed Sophie Kitson and Tessa Walder seconded this. Glyn Jukes proposed Josh Dunford-Smith and Paul Sweet seconded this.

There was a vote of hands for these 2 appointments and all agreed unanimously. Donna Copeland has kindly agreed to stay on as Welfare Officer.

## **7. John Ivatt Award**

Glyn explained that there had only been one nomination which was for himself and he felt uncomfortable accepting this. Therefore, the Committee will get together and decide who deserves this award this year.

### **Alex the Groundsman**

Glyn introduced the AGM to Alex the Groundsman and said how grateful he was for the work which Alex does. He thanked Alex for the grass courts which were good despite the bad weather enabling members to continue playing on them into October.

Alex explained how about 4 weeks ago he used a tractor to get rid of the nasty grass, which makes the ball bounce differently, and took loads of it away. Hopefully this will mean no moss and fewer weeds for next year. Last year there were lots of worms but this year virtually none.

Alex apologised for getting the service line incorrect initially and said he will endeavour to improve. The grass is cut on Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the mornings and the baselines stayed longer this year. The lines disappear in the rain which is why the courts should not be played on when wet. He also mentioned the future use of Roundup for Weed Removal and explained that an email would go out to all Members to ensure that they wash their hands afterwards for safety reasons.

Neil asked in an ideal world what would you like extra to enable you to work easier or quicker?

Alex said that maybe a smaller roller or 'greens roller' which could run sideways would help as this would be a lot easier to handle. This would cost £5-6K second hand. This would make the removal of the old grass easier and quicker to corrow (take off the top inch of soil) as currently this is a very slow process.

Nigel Harvey thanked Alex for all his hard work with the grass courts and asked about the courts falling away along the tram and baselines and whether the edges could be raised. Alex explained that his preference would be to bring the courts down to this level but that this is a very slow process taking 4-5 years. Nigel also mentioned the longer grass around the courts, which people walk around to prevent mud forming, which can be slippery and whether this could be made smaller as it is dangerous.

There was a suggestion of a 3 Year Plan for Alex to receive the necessary tools in order to do his job properly. There was a show of hands and the decision recorded as unanimous. This money would be taken from the Main Club Fund and not our Sinking Fund.

Glyn thanked Alex for sharing his knowledge.

Glyn confirmed that Hans was in the process of getting a quote for the removal of moss on Hard Courts 1-3 which is currently a problem.

The shrubs behind the wall were mentioned too and Alex explained that as they are now quite high, it would take him approximately 3 weeks to do this. Neil added that this needs doing and people are coming to quote for all this as a bundle package including the removal of the holly tree in the corner and reducing the oak tree size.

Neil pointed out that the courts need resurfacing and painting every year plus lighting and fencing will need attention too. The total cost of this is approximately £12-13K over a decade and money needs to be put aside to deal with this.

## **8. Any Other Business**

Sarah Peay asked about revamping our on-line facilities and webpage as they are currently terribly out of date. New photos and up-to-date information are needed urgently to entice new Members. Also once a new Member joins, it would be great to inform them of social events, leagues and special sessions apart from information available now on the Notice Board which could also do with a freshen up. Neil confirmed that this is a valid point and will be noted and discussed further at the next Committee Meeting.

Glyn explained that Sophie had created an Instagram page but there is still more work to be done on the social media side but that Josh has also volunteered to take a look at this. Donna mentioned the use of Key Words which would help the Club move up the rankings.

Glyn presented Hans and Donna both with a bottle of wine for their help on the Committee and thanked them once again.

**Meeting closed at 8.53pm**