

Pen-y-ffordd Tennis Club

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 19th November 2024, 7.30pm (Clubhouse)

Minutes

Present

Matt Perkins (MP), Nigel Edwards (NE), Nia Davies (ND), Chessca Lembregts (CL), Gareth Judd (GJ), Mags Abbott (MA), Nigel Owen (NO), Emma Wall (EW), Val Stewart (VS), Dave Hughes (DH), David Williams (DW)

Apologies

Mike Herd (MH), Claire Pugh (CP), Michaela McDonald (MD), John McDonald (JM), James Battersby (JB), Natalie Russell-Blackburn Perkins (NRBP), Katie Fussnegger (KF), Karen Glendenning (KG)

Review of previous AGM minutes

Discussed and accepted.

Review of the Year

- a. Monday/Thursday evening socials continue to be popular and are regularly oversubscribed, even heading into the colder months.
- b. The Friday daytime social has taken some time but is gaining traction. It was agreed daytime tennis is an opportunity for the club.
- c. Numbers for Sunday Club Play continue to fluctuate with no obvious reason why. The club will promote the Sunday sessions in the monthly newsletter.
- d. Good uptake on courses run by MM throughout the spring.
- e. Walking tennis is to be carried forward from the previous AGM. MH keen to set up a walking tennis session and will look to implement in the New Year.

- f. Our league teams have competed across the region, with two new league team captains in place – ND and Paul Grundy (PG).
- g. The latest singles league has proven popular, with 28 members signing up.
- h. Improvements have been made inside the clubhouse by ND and a new door lock has been fitted.
- i. The club launched a new monthly newsletter over the summer to keep members up to date with what is happening at the club, as well as a new WhatsApp Community to bring club message groups together in one place.

Membership (Appendix 2)

It was agreed that membership is positive, and the club is at a good size to accommodate current numbers, especially as access to the courts can be challenging. Numbers in July were higher than at the time of meeting, but overall, membership is up from the same time last year.

Actions:

- GJ to see if it's possible to pull an age demographic
- GJ & MP to track membership on a monthly or quarterly basis

Accounts (Appendix 3)

Routine costs have stayed consistent year on year for the last 5 years, at circa £5,500. Designated funds continue to grow for resurfacing, which is due in 2035. It was agreed the club is in a healthy financial position.

Head Coach's Report

Key Highlights

- Michaela becoming a qualified instructor and leading sessions for the first time.
- Maya Venn and Harry Gladman also became qualified level 1 coaches.
- 8 girls were introduced into tennis through Amazon Prime programme.
- 9 beginners & 8 rusty rackets took part in new sessions.

Memberships brought in through the coaching programme

Family: 5 (2 non-contract)

Adults: 5 (2 non-contract)

Juniors: 4

Adult Weekday: 4

Adult & Young Child: 1

Actions:

- Discuss availability of Ladies Team coaching sessions with MH
- Put forward to MH potential coaches' names to meet additional coaching requirements

Captains Reports

Men's First Team – Nige Edwards

The first team, captained by me although I didn't play myself in any matches (most matches being played by Tomos Edwards, Mark Bebbington, Matt Tobianski and Scott McHarrie) did well in a first season after promotion to Division 2, finishing third (out of 6 teams) on equal points with second, only missing out on a second place playoff match on rubbers won.

Men's Second Team – Paul Grundy

The second team, captained by Paul Grundy, also finished third (out of 5), in Division 4, equal on points with the team finishing second and also equal with them on rubbers won, only missing out on a playoff by having won fewer sets.

Ladies Team – Nia Davies

The Ladies team (Division 4) played 7 games over the summer and despite no wins and finishing at the bottom of the division, the ladies had a relatively enjoyable experience and were very committed to the team.

The team has recognised that playing such a broad team with no core players may be hindering our team dynamics. We trained over the summer on a Wednesday evening which were hit or miss. Some weeks we had up to 8 ladies on the court and other weeks just 2 of us.

We currently have 17 members in the ladies' team. Reflecting on our summer matches, we have looked at what works well at other clubs and for our men's team and decided for the winter league to try and focus on core players. A small group of ladies have been attending Wrexham and Ellesmere for some group coaching sessions. We would love to have the opportunity to have coaching at the club, where we could accommodate more of the ladies team, who are all eager to play.

We have entered the winter league and played one match at home against Prestatyn. This league is a tough draw with 3 out of the 4 teams from the 1st division. However, we are hoping that this will be an opportunity to build our team play, in readiness for the summer league in division 4. And with a bit of luck have better results next year.

Actions:

- Steve Davies (SD) to replace NE as captain for Men's First Team

Safeguarding (Appendix 4)

It was agreed the club is in a positive place from a safeguarding standpoint, particularly as 10% of the club's membership now have a DBS, which is impressive for a club of Pen-y-ffordd LTC's size.

Actions:

- MA & NO to incorporate the 'Safe to Play' slogan into messaging in the clubhouse
- MA/NO to attend the first session of any new sessions organised at the club to ensure the safeguarding message is passed on and proper safeguarding practices are in place
- ND & CL to ensure Safeguarding contact information is included at the bottom of each newsletter

Election of Officers

- NE stepped down as captain for Men's First Team, with SD to fill the role
- NE proposed MP to continue in his role as Chairman, seconded by CL
- MP proposed remaining current officers to continue in their roles, seconded by DH

Actions:

- ND & CL to assist MP with replenishing the clubhouse and other general tasks

Fees

Discussed designated funds (£21,000) and non-designated funds (£18,000). Designated funds estimated to fall short by circa £14,000 by the time resurfacing of the courts is due. It was agreed to move £7,000 into the designated funds to make a total of £10,000 for 2024, with £4,500 per year from 2025.

All agreed for contract membership fees to remain unchanged but fees for non-contract memberships to change as follows:

Adult Non-Contract

October – March: £10

April – September: £14

Family Non-Contract

October – March: £18

April – September: £22

All agreed to no change in light fees.

Actions:

- Transfer of £7,000 to designated funds to cover estimated shortfall – EW & CP
- EW & CP to explore whether the designated funds could be invested to generate a better return
- GJ to confirm it is possible to adjust membership fees in April & October
- Notify non-contract members in advance of fee changes – MP/ND/CL
- CL & ND to periodically check WhatsApp social groups to ensure only members are in the groups

AOB

All agreed to the club having a nominated charity for 2025.

Actions:

- MP to put poll in WhatsApp community for nominations

Example of possible new kit from a new supplier presented by ND.

Actions:

- ND to find out offering from new supplier

All agreed that as the club is in a financially healthy position, it would be positive to enhance members experience via future events, balls supplied, clubhouse improvements and potentially the installation of a gate leading to Court 3.

Actions:

- Organise members weekend/community BBQ

- Replace balls more frequently and ensure they are being repressurised
- Minor improvements to continue to be made to clubhouse
- Consider quote provided by Platt of £1,200+VAT for gate + fitting

All agreed to remove the £5 all day payment for guest fees and for fee to be £2 per half an hour, and to remove paying for social sessions.

Actions:

- GJ to remove £5 all day payment for guest fees
- NE to update website re: above changes

All agreed to biannual spring cleans of the clubhouse and courts.

Actions:

- Organise through WhatsApp community chat

(Meeting closed 21.42)