

## Minutes from 2010 AGM held on 22nd February

Rachel welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanking the trustees and honorary members present, some of whom had laid out the room.

The attendance was 65 members. The running order for the meeting was displayed for everyone to see.

Olwyn read out the **2009 AGM minutes** which were adopted (proposed by Ger O'Sullivan, seconded by Larry Lyons). There were no matters arising from this.

Olwyn read out the **secretary's report** highlighting key events in the club through 2009. This was adopted (proposer Mary Walsh, seconded by Patricia Lyons).

Gerry delivered the **treasurers report** which showed the figures for 2009 and 2008 side by side. He thanked Gerald Power of Fitzgerald Power for auditing the figures for the club this year. Jackie and Trevor asked about the income from the tournaments and could it be broken out so that we can understand the exact amount taken in for the tournaments, rather than seeing a figure with costs deducted. Ger asked why the income from lighting was so much lower in 2009 compared with that of 2008. Gerry pointed out that the 2009 figure did not include the 1800 due in from Spar. We have received a cheque for 1000 now and 800 is still outstanding. We finished payment on our loan in 2008 and started a new loan in 2009. The treasurers report was adopted (Dave Kenny proposer, Tresanne Shepard seconded).

Tom Finnegan presented our **development plans** for 2010-2012. He thanked those who contributed including Louise, Dave and Derek Quilty.

Phase 1 is replacement of courts 1 and 2 - timeframe Mar/April 2010, cost approx 40K.

Mentioned that Dave negotiated discount on courts.

Phase 2 is upgrade to clubhouse, including toilets, showers, flooring, seating, Tenon partition, stove - timeframe May/June 2010 before season starts, cost 40K (25k showers, 15k other).

Phase 3 is replacement of courts 3 and 4 - timeframe 2012, cost 40k approx.

All funded by bank borrowing with no levy on subs.

Discussion followed -

- Wally asked is it worth spending money on clubhouse given it's not used. Tom responded saying need to make more hospitable or will not be used. Gerry pointed out that 60% of cost is in shower area and Sandra pointed out that if someone slips could be legal action against club. Rachel agreed that standards on tiling etc. have changed and must be met.
- Trevor asked if we could make more use of the kitchen as they do in St. Annes. Maybe provide chips etc to the kids. Gerry said this would require a fulltime person as it does whenever we run a shop.
- Caitriona asked if the children could burn themselves on the stove and asked about ongoing cost of stove. A door will be secured on the stove to ensure no injuries.
- Tresanne asked about cost of showers. Tom pointed out that electric showers drain lights so will need to talk to builders about best options.
- Clare Pollard asked if the work done will have to be redone if we were to build on a 2nd storey to the clubhouse. Tom said no plans to do so but that it has been taken into account.
- Dave pointed out that 40k is upper limit on courts and that we could reduce cost by 3-4k if carpets were removed. Also a discount of 6k has been negotiated compared to the cost of court 5. Poles and nets will be replaced.

- Joe Power asked if we could do courts 1-4 now given that 3 and 4 are slippy and may not last til 2012 given that they are 9 years in now and depreciate over 8 years.

Dave responded saying experts have reviewed and pile on courts 3 and 4 is better than on 1 and 2 so makes sense to do 1 and 2 first. There was a problem 9 years ago when they went in and there are 4 seams rather than 2 on these courts (we never paid the final payment of 9k as a result). There are more tears on courts 1 and 2 and the pile is worn down completely, possibly due to more coaching on these courts.

Marie O'Neill presented the **junior committee report** highlighting the coaching (most juniors accommodated) and asked for feedback to the committee. Need to encourage teenagers to play more. Anyone interested in receiving texts regarding tournaments should give details to the groundsperson. Marie highlighted Sinead Lohan's win at the 2009 British Open and the fact that Craig O'Neill represents DCU. Report was proposed by Dave Shepard and seconded by Larry Lyons.

The **senior committee** was then nominated. Rachel indicated that a number of applications were received for the junior committee but these are not dealt with at the AGM. They would be passed to the junior committee who would follow up. There was no need for a vote on the senior committee applications as there was no surplus of applicants.

Officers for 2010: Tom Finnegan (President), Louise Grubb (Vice President), Gerry Reid (Treasurer), Olwyn Beresford (Secretary)

Other members for 2010: Rachel Mulcahy, Mary Walsh, Ger O'Sullivan, David Shepard and new members Bernard Pollard, Gerry Murphy, Sandra Merrity.

Rachel thanked those members of the 2009 committee that did not go forward - Ian Bolger, Garvan Toomey, Kieran Walsh. The new committee was adopted (proposer Paul Slattery, seconder Robert Halley).

The senior committee proposed the appointment of a new **trustee** - Robert Halley - who had done great work for the club in the past. Robert had agreed to take on this position. Elaine Tighe and Jackie Kennedy were awarded **honorary membership** for their past contributions and future contributions. These proposals were seconded by Sandra Merrity.

Rachel indicated that there was 2 motions submitted by David Shepard to cover before getting to AOB. She gave Dave 5 minutes to present his first motion.

**Motion 1:** David Shepard then presented his first motion which related to the use of senior time, after 6pm, for junior coaching. Dave described how the committee could be put under pressure to provide courts and mentioned that while Friday evening is not usually a busy time it can be at month end when ladder matches are due to be played. He felt that senior members should vote on the motion to prohibit any use of courts by juniors (except when with a parent) after 6pm rather than this being decided at a committee level. Ger O'Sullivan seconded the motion.

Rachel permitted people to comment from the floor for 2 minutes each.

Sandra felt it was good in a small club like Tramore to keep things flexible and let the committee decide. This could prevent cup games for example which had previously been allowed on Sundays when approved by the committee.

Jackie pointed out that it is in the constitution of the club that all club sponsored tournaments take precedence over everything else so tournaments and cup games would not be affected by this motion.

Gerry highlighted that permission had been granted by the committee for Munster branch

coaching on Friday's following a written application and the committee can withdraw this privilege at any time. Rachel pointed out that before giving permission a member of the senior committee had visited the club 4 different Friday's to establish that courts were not busy.

Tresanne asked if the coaching was for Tramore members and was it open to all juniors. It is squad coaching now, not munster coaching. Tom said that it is up to coach to accept players, based on standard.

Larry pointed out that graph of times is misleading as during school term kids do not play during mornings. He felt we should welcome any of our junior champions to play at any time.

Marjorie said that kids are in school until 4pm but we work until 6pm so they do have time before 6pm when they can play. She also asked what the breakdown of juniors to senior members is. Gerry said 60% is family or senior but it is difficult to break out number of juniors as families may or may not have juniors who play.

Mary Walsh asked if this is a black and white motion - if it is passed does it mean we can not make exceptions, as every club does for players representing their country or province. Coaching on a 1:1 or 2:1 basis is required for the top players once they get older.

Joe Power said that court occupancy at 6pm and 9pm is poor and players rarely use 1.5 hour slots. It is tough enough to compete with Leinster squad and our contribution to Munster tennis is key. This shouldn't be a juniors vs seniors issue.

Patricia said she never had problems getting a court and seniors should try to play ladder matches throughout the month and not all in the last week.

Trevor agreed and said that we need flexibility at senior level but should be a transparent process to follow

Dermot Moore asked could players be coached before school so they don't encroach on senior time.

Dave Kenny requested that it be put to a vote.

Willie then outlined how lucky we are to attract players of this standard to the club and for our top juniors not to have to travel to surrounding counties. He said courts are never full at the times used and we won 3 national championships over Christmas and have 2 international players. We need to support this.

A vote was taken and the motion was defeated 36 to 16 members.

**Motion 2:** Dave Shepard proposed that the committee be permitted to appoint a club manager. He described how we could also get a free FAS person to do maintenance work at the club as courts are not being swept and as a result we spend a lot of money each year with the company that laid them. Motion was seconded by Derek Quilty.

Derek Quilty mentioned that they have a FAS person for 20 hours cutting grass and painting etc. at the soccer club.

Sandra asked if the club manager was in addition to or as well as Nuala and Mags?

Tresanne felt that we should go for a FAS person as free but invest other money in clubhouse upgrade

Mary said it would be good to have someone run a shop as this would encourage teenagers

Deirdre pointed out that the manager won't be there every evening to lock up so security still an issue

Dave responded saying he spends a lot of time on lighting and court maintenance currently and the manager could handle this

Mary Walsh said that green fees at the club are a disgrace - too low given the number of non members playing and rather than Dave/Gerry getting a call everytime something goes wrong the manager would be the point of contact

Patricia felt it is a good idea to get a maintenance person especially with the investment in the new courts but isn't sure about the manager idea

Joe felt that we need to research the role further. Some clubs have a director of tennis. We need to consider balance of skills needed and further consideration is required.

Rachel clarified that an amendment could be made to the motion.

Trevor was concerned about the club spending 20% of its income on this manager and said that role would have to be more clearly specified

Tom agreed that it should be teased out at committee level. The finances would need to be looked at. We are not sure at this time if how many members will renew their subscriptions.

Ger asked if we need to vote on maintenance person if they are free.

Wally mentioned that FAS supervise their staff so a manager is not needed to do this. Paul Slattery felt that someone needs to check what is being done.

Trevor pointed out that existing staff have rights and asked were they considered.

Jackie agreed that manager needed and money would be well spent but committee must chase down FAS person now as only happens once a year

Gerry said he had spoken to another club where there is a manager but that manager has 3 junior managers and nothing gets done by volunteers

Louise supported the motion but said too many gaps in areas of responsibility and need committee to rearrange roles and responsibilities.

Elaine asked if Dave would be happy to refer to the committee but Dave wanted to put to a vote. He pointed out that he won't be available this year to handle workman laying courts etc. and someone will need to be on site at 9am when they start work.

An amendment was proposed to refer the motion back to the senior committee who must provide a response to the membership by 1st June (proposer Joe, seconded by Jackie). During this time the committee will also seek to secure a FAS person for maintenance at the club.

This was put to a vote and the motion was defeated 26 to 19. The amendment was then voted on and passed with 32 yes votes.

#### **Under AOB:**

- Tresanne asked that we consider penalising members who book courts but do not use them. This is too common. Suggested that someone could provide their mobile number on the board if they couldn't get their time slot - that way anyone cancelling a court could let them know. She also suggested that 1.5 hours of court time is not used in most cases, as ladder matches in particular usually only take one hour to play. We could consider 1 hour slots for ladder games on an evening other than Wednesday.
- Gwen asked would there be a Junior committee AGM. The previous year development sessions as well as coaching sessions were mentioned but do not seem to be happening. Louise pointed out that supervision would be required by the coaches and the first step was to provide coaching hours. Gwen asked that round robins be considered for Saturday afternoons as well as ladders for juniors. Tom mentioned that we could look at this once a month if parents willing to pitch in. Also coaching does happen at this time currently and we do need to leave some time for parents to play with their kids.
- Gerry outlined an increase to fees and mentioned that we do an increase every second year. This is needed to service our loans - 2009 30k but plan to take out a further 80k to cover the developments outlined.
- Family membership will increase from 315 to 330
- Senior membership will increase from 210 to 220
- Junior membership will increase from 110 to 115
- Tresanne asked if the club has a bullying policy. Trevor referred to the code of conduct on the website but Tresanne felt more was required. Sandra will be at next committee meeting and this will be discussed at that time.

- Trevor mentioned that there is chewing gum on the new paving and courts and asked that it be banned from the club. Ger also asked that members remove cups and cans from the courts when leaving.
- Rachel asked that all members buy a key so they can lock up on leaving. Keys are available from the office.
- Mary Smith asked why the club does not run the coaching camps as this is a big earner for the soccer club and could be for Tramore tennis club too. This was agreed as a good concept and should be considered for 2010.

Rachel thanked the membership for giving her the opportunity to serve as club president for 2008 and 2009. She mentioned the huge voluntary contributions made by so many members and asked for more help going forward. Rachel then wished Tom the best in his role as president for 2010.

Tom thanked Rachel for all her work and mentioned that at the club we do a lot of things right so we should focus on the positives too. In particular the great atmosphere at the club is commented on by all visitors.

The meeting was then closed by Rachel as there was no further business.