

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 10th November 2015

King's Centre 27 Edison Road 7.30pm

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM (2014) and matters arising
3. Committee's Reports (attached)
4. Treasurer's Report (attached)
5. Captains' Reports (attached)
6. Juniors' Report (attached)
7. Subscription fees, new proposal.
8. New Club House
9. Election of Management Committee
 - Chairman – Julie Marks
 - Treasurer – Brian Eley
 - Secretary – Hugh Ball
 - Coach – Jenny HughesCommittee –
 - Wayne Peacock
 - Richard Ellis
 - Alan Jones
 - Harrison Alvey
 - John Portway

All committee members are willing to serve for another year.
10. Any other business

Dear Members.

Summer, such as it was, is over and we are back to dark nights and winter weather. Although the summer wasn't great I didn't feel that I missed too much tennis. Hopefully the winter won't be too wet and miserable and we will still get plenty of tennis.

As always I would like to thank all the committee, team captains, coach and anyone else who has helped and supported the club in any way. I would like to take this opportunity to make a special mention of Andrew Lloyd and Stuart Hobden who after many years as men's team captains have decided to step down. It is not always an easy task to get a team together, so a big thank you for the commitment you have shown to the club over the years. Quite a lot has happened this summer and without the support of many people we would not be in such a comfortable situation as we are in now. As many of you know the courts were flooded twice this summer, prompt action in clearing the ditch and lifting the manhole cover avoided the clubhouse from flooding. Wayne had a meeting with a representative from the council and it looks as though at last they are going to do something about it. For now they are going to do more regular cleaning of the ditch and next year they will look at an overflow ditch. Fingers crossed for a successful outcome. We added more pebbles around the courts this summer, most of them arrived one club afternoon, everyone there mucked in and spread them around the court surroundings, what could have been a long heavy job was completed in no time, as they say "many hands make light work" it was certainly true in this case.

In the spring newsletter I commented on the relaying of the public courts, as you can see they have been done, although there are rumours about who has been appointed to run them we have not heard anything official yet, we still have to wait and see.

A very special occasion occurred this year. 4 club members clocked up 50 years each of membership at the club, Congratulations to John Knight, Betty Jenner, Monica Smith and Jeanette Driver. It's great to see most of you still playing.

At the last AGM there was a lot of discussion about clubhouse improvements. As requested we looked into extending the club back towards the entrance gate, this was not a viable proposition for a number of reasons. Hugh has done an enormous amount of work looking at starting from scratch. We now have plans and an artist's impression of what the new clubhouse might look like. We have decided to go for one building rather than two and lots of glass doors. It should be light and airy. We also propose to lift the clubhouse up level with the two courts to hopefully prevent future flooding; there will also be a raised seating area. We believe we have come up with the best solution for the space available. It is obviously up for discussion at the AGM and any new clubhouse would be dependent on getting external funding in the way of grants and loans. We do have a healthy bank balance but this is earmarked for our program of renewing the courts.

Just recently I have noticed that people are not clearing up the courts when they have finished with them. If your "four" has finished playing and it looks like no one else will be using it, please put the balls away, take off the net band and loosen the net. Put chairs away if they are outside. A number of times recently the last few club members playing have ended up picking up all the balls and generally tidying up after everyone. This is not fair. Please do your bit and clear up after yourself.

(cont on Pg.3)

The highlight of this year must be the influx of so many new members. It is great to see so many new people on court. The last few years I have been complaining about the lack of people supporting club sessions on a Saturday. This is no longer the case. We regularly use all 5 courts and have had some really good tennis. I believe this is the case at most sessions. Hugh tells me that our adult membership has now topped 100. This is really good news for the club, there is a really nice atmosphere and I feel much happier and more optimistic about the future of the club. With so many people about afternoon teas were a great success and we are going to continue them on the first Saturday of the month throughout the winter, please sign up if you are happy to provide a tea. Last year we held a mulled wine and mince pies tournament on the first Wednesday of December. It was great fun, lots of tennis, food and drink and it raised £140.00 for St Wilfrids. We plan to do this again on Wednesday 2nd December from 6.00pm. It is open to all categories of membership all we ask is a donation of food or drink and a donation to charity. Please keep an eye on the notice board for more details nearer the time.

I look forward to seeing people at the AGM in November. Have a good winter's tennis.

Julie

Report of the Honorary Treasurer for the year ended 30 September, 2015

Membership Subscriptions	Proposed 2016/17	Existing 2015/16
Adult full member	£180	£168
Student member <i>(under 25 years)</i>	£52	£52
Off peak member <i>(weekday usage before 4pm)</i>	£90	£84
Winter Membership <i>(1st October to 31st March)</i>	£90	£72
Trial Membership <i>(3 months)</i>	£36	£36
Junior member* <i>(under 18 years)</i> *includes £1 in respect of a membership tag (shock absorber)	£39	£39
Family <i>(Couples plus their children under 18)</i>	£288	£276
Guest visit		
	£3	£3
All other conditions of membership and payment remain unchanged. Late payment of subscriptions will be subject to an additional £6 charge		

Each year we aim to make a surplus so that we accumulate sufficient funds to meet the costs of resurfacing the courts at the end of their life. To calculate the figure needed for court renewal we use LTA guidance (from 2007) on the expected life of the courts (10 years) and the replacement cost (£18k per court). That would require us to have accumulated funds of over £60k at the current date, so our total of accumulated funds, £50879, is encouraging but needs to be kept under review.

The accounts for the year show a surplus of £9339. This is an improvement over last year's figure of £7579. It results from the increase in membership subscriptions this year, plus additional income from trial memberships/new members. It also means that for the first time in 4 years we have achieved our annual target of a surplus of at least £9,000 – the minimum amount required to accrue reserves for court renewal.

A more modest increase in fees is proposed for 2016/17, in order to continue to build our funds and maintain financial stability. That also reflects our aspirations to continue improve club facilities;, which may result in both one-off expenditure and potentially recurring annual costs.

The healthy increase in income was offset by a higher figure of costs on repair and maintenance which included £1296 on replacement bulbs for the floodlights.

The Winter tournament raised £140 which was donated to St. Wilfred's Hospice.

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Brian Eley

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 30 September 2015

		2015	2014
INCOME			
	£	£	£
Subscriptions*	17728		13783
Match fees	810		785
Guest fees	253		163
Adult non-member coaching	19		23
Floodlights	559		577
Court Hire	-		132
Teas, keys etc	93		40
Interest on 12 month bond	420		624
Total Income		19882	16127

EXPENDITURE

Tournaments, trophies (net)	336		22
Repairs & maintenance	2377		632
Equipment	335		205
Administration	202		127
Team fees (LTA & leagues)	870		1047
Rent	2400		2200
Electricity	1082		1174
Insurance	1016		996
Cleaning	470		790
Retainer - coach	560		560
Tennis balls	895		795
Total Expenditure		10543	8548
		9339	7579

Revenue Surplus for the year

Brian Eley CPFA
Honorary Treasurer

3 October 2015

*Subscription Income 2015	£	2014
Adult	10399	7986
Off Peak	1142	726
Family	1872	1680
Trial	1479	645
Student/Team	364	518
Junior	2472	2196
Junior Parent	-	32
	17728	13783

	2014/15	2013/14
<i>Summary of Funds</i>	£	£
Opening balance 1 October	41540	33961
Add		
Surplus for year	9339	7579
Total accumulated funds	50879	41540
Represented by:		
Cash/cheque in hand	307	178
Bank accounts:		
- Current account	20077	11251
- Instant reserve	-	36
- 30 day notice	75	75
- 12 month Bond	30420	30000
Total balances in hand (at 30 th September)	50879	41540

I have examined the accounts and am satisfied that they represent a true and fair view of the records.

Stuart Hobden ACA: Honorary Auditor October 2015

Team Reports

Ladies 1.

Another year another win for the Ladies 1 Team in the 2014/2015 Winter League! The backbone of the Team consisting of Jenny Hughes, Kate Bloomfield and Sascha Morris were joined this year for a few matches by Julie Hanger (well, one was rained off!).

It was an unremarkable League against the "usual suspects" however the weather, illness and World Championships Teams Events (Jenny Hughes representing GBR and Sascha Morris representing Australia in their respective age groups) all tried to de-rail our march to victory!

The Ladies 1 Team was 'saved' with some truly remarkable performances from Ann and Lorna from our Seconds Team and a last minute smashing effort from Sue to help us claim our final victory of the season!

A special mention MUST go to Lorna who bravely withstood the power of the Juniors from Southdown. It truly was a HP Club Win!

The Regional Open Division 1 Ladies League looked shaky from the offset with injuries to our number 1 player Steph Trill and the loss of a new Junior to Spain leaving the Team low on numbers. We had 2 Wins from 4 matches played; though only Kate Bloomfield and Sascha Morris travelled to Park Langley to put a valiant effort against some super strong Juniors home from or on their way to USA Universities on Tennis scholarships.

Scheduling was proving to be a huge issue and inevitably after giving away a last minute walk over to Queens Club the Ladies 1 Team was defaulted from Division 1.

2016 sees the Ladies 1 Team relegated to a lower Division which is a huge shame.

We will have to re-group.

Both Jenny Hughes and Sascha Morris have already begun to try to recruit new players to Hampden Park to help fill the void which we have due to the lack of Juniors coming up through the Ranks. We also have the unknown factor of current Ladies 1 members who may not be willing to play the lower grade of tennis for the season in an attempt to move back up to Division 1.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our chief supporters Luke, Kathleen and Sue who really personify the HP spirit with their vocal and hand clapping support for many of our matches. We do really appreciate the help and lift we get when they are on the side lines!

Sascha Morris.

Ladies 2

Somehow or the other we got through last winter and the summer matches, and now I can hardly believe we have already played 2 winter matches. What happens to the time? We had very tough matches last winter, and won 2, lost 3 and drew 1, so came scuttling down to Div 5, which we thought would be a cinch! Our first match, however, was against Cross in hand,, and sadly for us, they had 3 of their players from their 1st team! So we lost that 3-1. Not a very auspicious start! Summer, too, in Div 2, was not easy. We won 2, lost 3, and draw 2. Not sure whether we will stay in the same division, but the standard was good, and on the whole, we had competitive games.

It's not been easy finding 4 willing and able people to play in the matches, but I am so grateful to the squad, who have made, what could be a very difficult challenge, into almost a pleasure! We have had a core squad of myself, Lorna Holloway, Belinda Marsh, Rosie Langley, with others helping out when possible. Nikky Addison, when she was fit. Sue Bruce, always willing and able, Kathleen Jones, when she could be released from her 3rd team duties, Sue Holmes, a very welcome new addition to the team, Tracy Wells who helped out on a few occasions, Kay Mitchell was another trooper. We even called upon the services of Jenny Hughes once, when we were desperate!! Our opponents weren't too happy about that!

I am so please that the club is once again flourishing, and we have more lady members. One day we might even be able to run another ladies team! What about regular Saturday teas again? That would encourage members to stay later on a Saturday. Food for thought?

Thanks to all who have played in the team over the last year.

Ann Stone (il capitano)

Ladies 3

The 3rd team ladies did really well in the summer and even though we lost a few players to Ann's 2nd team, (which we could ill afford), we always managed to have 4 girls willing to get out on the court to play! We won 3 matches, lost 3 and tied one match. The game scores did not reflect how close most of the matches were and even though we won't be promoted, we usually felt like we could have beaten the other team.

Now with all the new girls in the club, our main winter league problem will be making sure everyone gets to play a couple of times!

Kathleen Jones

Men's 2nd Team

Winter 2014

I feel we are placed in the appropriate division as all our matches were well contested and the results were close. We played 6 matches in division 3, we won 2 lost 2 and drew 2, winning 27 sets but losing 28 sets giving us mid table security.

The match against Seaford probably summed up our season where we lost 3-1 but the 3 losing matches were on 3rd set tie championship tie breaks, so close yet so far!

Thanks to these lads who played throughout - Luke T, Jez B, Dave P, Ian B-L, Mark W, Jeremy D, Wayne P, Simon G and Dan B.

Ricardo.

Summer 2015

Men's 1 Aegon League. (Div 3, Singles and Doubles)

The new league format required that we played all our league games in the early summer with little calendar space for wet weather cancellations. This put pressure on all our players as we were playing almost every weekend for 3 months, thanks to all who gave of their time.

Our first match was a long away trip to Angmering. We lost 5-1 but this score line does not do us justice. We lost 3 of the 6 rubbers on those pesky 3rd set Champions tie breaks. Mike Usher managed to get edged out in both his singles match and also in his doubles partnering Simon Gent. To add to his disappointment later in the day he tore his calf muscle and was forced to rest it for 5 weeks. Top tip get fit to play tennis don't play tennis to get fit!

If this result made us feel like we were unlucky our second match against Comptons felt worse. We won three of our four singles matches and needed just one win from our two doubles games. Dave Prosser had tweaked a hamstring in his singles but manfully stood on the court for the doubles but sadly his movement was even more restricted than usual. Top tip get fit to play tennis don't play tennis to get fit. We lost both doubles matches so earned a 3-3 draw. The oh so user friendly rules don't allow a draw so we went into the tennis version of a penalty shoot out. It's exactly like the football decider but without the psychology, goalkeepers, goals, shin pads, drama, tension, intimidation of officials, and sliding on knees celebrations. We lost in a non dramatic but honourable fashion and though we had played two opponents we were still waiting for our first league point. Our results were not reflecting our decent performances, we were playing well but not getting the breaks. We were bottom of the league and in danger of relegation but beware the sleeping giant, we were about to wake. We went on a run of form beating Crawley, Middleton, Southdown and Mayfield to finish in a creditable 3rd position out of 8. We won 56 rubbers losing just 29 in a hectic early summer tennis festival.

Thanks to Dave P, Simon G, Mike U, Jez B, Colin G, Wayne P, Stuart H, Jeremy D, Matt D, Jack B, Luke T and Toby W.

Ricardo

Men's 1 Sussex League Div 2 (Doubles)

Solid wins over Seaford, Dev Pk and Chichester, tough losses to The Weald (who went on to win the division) and Angmering put the team in the with a shout of promotion with the last match vs Maresfield deciding the final promotion position. Against a strong team the pair of valiant vets, Richard and Wayne, saved numerous match points in the 1st match going on to win both rubbers in Championship tie-breaks, Jez Bennett and Colin Guyton waded in with 1 win to seal promotion to Div 1.

Thanks to all who played for the Men's 2nd team this summer.

Ian Brown-Little

Men's 2 Aegon Singles Div 3E

When we had opponents, the tennis was very competitive and enjoyable. Highlight was of course the thrashing of my old club Hailsham at the start of the season, even if we did have to use Stu to do it. The down side of course is that, as a result, two of the Hailsham boys have decided to join in the fun on Thursdays and Sundays under a temporary membership. With the exception of the Green, the other matches against Amherst and The Meades were close, but no cigar. We actually had an opportunity to win the league if we could have defeated Meades in our last match. We tried everything, including making the matches last as long as possible as we knew half their team had to go to a meeting of volunteers for the Eastbourne tournament. Unfortunately they preferred to be late for the meeting, rather than concede.

Well played all who took part.

Jeremy Dewing

Men's 3 Sussex League Div M7

The winter of 2014/2015 was a happy one for the men's 3rd team, for which we have to give some thanks to our friends in the men's 2nd team: Luke and Ian Brown-Little, helping us to battle a draw away to Southdown and Jeremy Dewing helping us to beat East Grinstead away. That said, Grant and Alan Mitchell held match points at home to Crowborough, which would have given us a draw but it was not to be. On a happier note Joe Jeffery, Tyrone and Mark Wilders helped us to a rare victory over Cross in Hand. Luke and David Butler also came within a champion's tiebreak of giving us a draw at Hurstpierpoint. Basically, there was never a dull moment in the third team.

The summer of 2015 was not so happy. The tennis gods gaveth: an unmerited promotion to the Sussex-wide division 7 but then they tooketh away: An early loss away to Seaford set the tone. We battled but lost away to West Worthing, battled but lost at home to Sussex County, lost again to Saltdean away, had Middleton withdraw and then when it seemed we would beat Badgers at home it rained and the match was abandoned – albeit we were awarded the tie. We will be happier next year I am sure.

I am giving up the captaincy after six years. I was grateful to be asked and have enjoyed it very much, even with its occasional frustrations. I would like to thank all those who turned out over the years: people like Jerry Lyons, Toby Lockyer, Nick Bevington, Lee Stunells and Mark Wilkins in the early years through Toby Addison, Peter Reed, Mark Wilders, Hugh Ball, Mike Usher, Luke, the evergreen David Butler, Grant, Alan Mitchell, Tyrone, Robert Francis, Jake Marsh, Wayne Peacock, Dan Banks, Thaddeus Dixon, James TF, Syed Wagib, Nigel Jones, Gary Francis, Jake Mills, Joe Jeffery, Paul Stephens and maybe others whose names I have not been able to recall and finally our coach Jenny Hughes, who has always been a wonderful source of support in helping me find juniors to bring into the team. My thanks to them all.

Andrew Lloyd

Men's 4 Sussex League Div M10E

We've had some very enjoyable and closely fought matches both during both the winter and summer seasons. In the winter we managed to come 4th in our division and so retained our place in the division.

In the summer it proved harder despite adding some new blood to the team. However, the fact that we had a better games won-to-lost ratio than the two teams above us shows how close our matches were. We were relegated but, with the new blood on board, we look forward to bouncing back next year.

Thanks to all who participated : Martin B, Alan M, David B, Joe J, Jake M, Will P, Jung T, John P, Grant T-F, Josh Z.

Hugh Ball

JUNIOR and COACHING REPORT 2015

Current Membership 77 including 7 Trial members

The 3 month Trial membership is proving to be a very good introduction to the club for juniors with the majority signing up for full membership !

Great British Tennis Weekend 16th May 2015

As part of the continuing LTA initiative in conjunction with the Eastbourne Sports Festival and Intersport, Lewes, who provided Demo rackets, we held an Open Day which was very well attended and resulted in several juniors booking on to Summer courses and becoming Trial members.

Aegon Ladies Tennis Week, June 2015

Another LTA initiative involved 3 mornings of Secondary and Junior School coaching on our courts and the public courts behind us. Over 200 children enjoyed a coaching session followed by a visit to Devonshire Park to watch the tennis. All the children and teachers were given info about our club.

Junior Club Championships Finals 6th September, 2015

Another great sunny Finals Day played alongside the adults. 7 singles and 2 doubles of all different age groups took place. Full report is on the club website.

Best Junior of the Year, 2015

Best Boy

Aaron Brown retains the shield this year after his very successful Finals day. He won the 18 and under singles and the 16 and under singles together with the 18 and under doubles. He has continued to improve throughout the year and always shows great enthusiasm and effort.

A special mention for Harrison Alvey who came a very close second. Harrison is the club junior rep and attends the committee meetings. He has set up the club Facebook page recently and regularly keeps it up to date with club news and photos etc. He also helps me with junior coaching on a Saturday morning and has grown in confidence and gets on very well with the other juniors.

Best Girl

Emily Hughes, no relation to the Coach !

Emily is 12 years old and is one of our younger girls but has been a member for several years. She has steadily improved over that time and regularly comes down for extra practice with her Grandfather. She is also very brave as she is nearly always the only girl at Sunday Aces with all the boys. She always tries to enter any tournaments that are run when she is able to and we need more of the other girls to follow suit !

Adult and Junior Tournaments

Len Travis Trophy

13 juniors and 15 adults took part on Sunday 3rd May 2015

Winning Adult Andrew Lloyd

Winning Juniors Harrison Alvey and Ben Taylor sharing the trophy!

Kelvin Inman Shield

20 juniors and 12 adults took part on a glorious sunny Sunday 11th October, 2015

To make sure I had a full compliment of juniors I invited some 6 and 7 year old juniors, who were very new to matches, to play as lots of the older juniors had other commitments. This tested the adults to the limits as they played with red, orange and yellow balls on 3 different size courts !

Winning Adult Nina Liebenberg

Winning Junior Molly Crosbie, age 7 !

Parent and Child Tournament

11 enthusiastic pairs played on Saturday 27th June

The younger juniors played with Mum's, Dad's or Grandad's on a smaller court with orange balls and the older juniors played with yellow balls on the full court.

Winning yellow ball pair Dad, Gary and Jordan Mills

Winning orange ball pair Grandad, Clive and Raphael Badawi

Road to Wimbledon 14 and under Boys singles event

This round robin singles event took place at the club throughout May with 4 boys taking part. The winner was Aidan Brown and the Runner up was Ben Usher.

Aidan and Ben then went through to the County stage where Aidan had a very close match played at Cross in Hand in torrential rain on the artificial clay but unfortunately lost in the end and due to the weather didn't get any consolation matches. Ben also lost his first match but did win 2 consolation matches.

Aegon Junior Team Summer League 2015

We entered 3 boys team this summer. The 18 and unders unfortunately only played 1 match but they did beat local rivals Rompa! The 14 and unders also only played 1 match and lost to Angmering so both age groups finished 4th. The 16 and unders fared a little better by beating Partridge Green but losing to Amherst and finishing 2nd in their league.

As always lots of teams enter then often pull out at the last minute which is a great shame as our juniors are always keen to play!

Junior Sunday Aces

This Sunday evening Junior club night continues all through the year with all ages battling to finish top of the ladder and winning the most games to win the Points competition!

2014

Ladder	Winner	Joe Jeffery
	Runner Up	Cosmin Mititelu
	Third	Harrison Alvey

Aces Points	Winner	Joe Jeffery
	Runner Up	Mitch Coleman
	Third	Harrison Alvey

Facebook

As mentioned earlier Harrison Alvey has done a great job setting up our Facebook page and keeping it up to date with all club activities. It would be very good if club members who use Facebook could add to the page with comments or match reports etc so that visitors to the page get a good idea of what the club is all about!

Other regular events, including Summer and Easter camps, school holiday fun tournaments, singles box leagues, friendly matches with Bedes all continue to help improve the juniors matchplay. Our two other regular weekly sessions in the Coaching programme continue to be popular. Thursday evening adult group regularly has 10-12 players attending and Cardio Tennis on Mondays has a hardy crew of 4 or 5 on the odd occasion! Any new faces are always welcome !

Finally as always can I take this opportunity to thank the Committee and all our members for the support given to the juniors and the coaching programme and to everyone who helps in lots of different ways throughout the year and especially the encouragement given to the older juniors progressing into the adult ranks!

Jenny Hughes