

**Hampton-In-Arden Sports Club  
(Tennis Section)  
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on  
8th November 2006**

**Present**

The following 4 members signed the attendance sheet: Jayne Barnes, Alan Cutts, Carol Grant and Geoff Redfern.

**1/ Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Chris Barnes, John Cable, Coralie Hammond, Yvonne Jones, Jo Ray, Steve Ray, Sheelagh Rose, Clare Scott, Ian Wasse and Sandy Wasse. In the absence of Steve Ray, the meeting agreed that Geoff Redfern would take over the Chairman's role for the duration of the AGM.

**2/ Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes were proposed and seconded as a true and accurate record by Alan Cutts and Jayne Barnes. All present voted in favour of acceptance and the Chairman duly signed them.

**3/ Matters Arising**

The following matters arising were noted from the 2005 AGM minutes:

Tennis rules – the approved rules were distributed with the March 2006 newsletter.

First aid facilities update – there are two first aid boxes; one in the kitchen and one on the squash court balcony. Requests have been made to include dry ice packs, but to date these have not arrived – a point which was noted at the recent Club management meeting. It was noted that, although the club does have an ice making machine in the kitchen, ice packs were still required.

Numbers attending social tennis – Generally social tennis sessions were well attended throughout the year, although numbers dropped off towards the end of the summer. The maxi tennis tournament in the spring and the mini mixed plate tournament held in early October had both proved a great success.

Smoking – Smoking will be banned in the club house from September 2007 or earlier if a Government ban is implemented before then.

Track suits and tennis shirts – Alan Cutts is looking into the provision of tennis club kit and will submit a proposition to the Chairman for Committee approval.

**4/ Chairman's Report**

The Chairman presented members with his report for the year (see Appendix 1). The report was proposed and seconded by Carol Grant and Alan Cutts. All present voted in favour of acceptance.

The meeting thanked Steve for his report.

**5/ Coach's Report**

Alan Cutts presented members with his coaching report for the year (see Appendix 2). Alan reported that Penn Tenn would like to thank the club for their continued support.

The meeting thanked Alan for his report and for all his hard work during the year.

## **6/ Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer circulated members with an analysis of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 October 2006 (see Appendix 3).

Subscription fee income increased by £1,116 to £11,479 and membership increased by 6% from 176 to 186. Adult members (inclusive of 18-25's) remained at 93 and junior members increased from 83 to 93.

The total contribution including all fund raising activities was £13,905, an increase from £10,770 in 2004/05.

- Fund raising activities generated £5,505 during the year, compared to £4,116 in 2004/05. There was no expenditure in the year on the court improvement project. The main fund raising events were the ASICS Arden 9 Road Race held in June and four Blues Nights.
- Funds generated from the operation of the tennis section amounted to £8,401, compared to £7,924 in 2004/05.

The sinking fund contribution for 2005/06 remained at £5,000 per annum and although the total value of the sinking fund at 30<sup>th</sup> April 2006 of £31,800 had not been ring fenced by the Sports Club, the Board of Directors continue to recognise the requirement to invest in the sporting facilities.

Further information is given in the Chairman's statement.

The report was proposed and seconded by Jayne Barnes and Alan Cutts. All present voted in favour of acceptance.

The meeting thanked Carol for her report.

## **7/ Election of Officers and Committee**

No new nominations had been received and the existing officers were all re-elected as proposed by Alan Cutts and Jayne Barnes as follows:

*Chairman* – Steve Ray  
*Secretary* – Chris Barnes  
*Treasurer* – Carol Grant  
*Committee member* – Geoff Redfern

## **8/ Issues raised by the Membership (having previously been received in writing by the Secretary.)**

The meeting was advised that there had been no pre-notified questions.

## **9/ Any other Business**

The following matters were raised for the committee to look into:

- The 6 nations tournament in the spring was great, but in 2007 please could there be 2 week gaps between matches?
- More should be done to encourage adults to bring children down to play as a family.
- What is the location of the Accident report book?
- Who is responsible for restocking the First Aid box and at what intervals? Also the squash court First Aid box is unusually low on stock.

No further business was raised and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8-10pm.

**Appendix 1**  
**AGM – 8 November 2006**  
**Chairman's Report**

**Introduction**

Firstly, apologies for not being here in person, but a late change in business commitments required me to be in London this evening. Whilst it was tempting to cancel the AGM, Geoff has volunteered to be Deputy Chairman, offering to deliver my statement and run the meeting. As everyone had the date in their diaries and with Geoff & Carol available to answer any queries we decided to carry on!

In spite of the declining standard of the courts, the record level of membership achieved last year has again increased from 176 members to 186 with the increase attributable to the Junior membership which has increased from 83 members to 93. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> successive year of growth and it is great to see that such a large proportion of the tennis membership live in the village. The section continues to make a valuable contribution to the Sports Club and we remain one of the highest ratios of 'number of members per court' in the County.

**Tennis facilities**

Our number one priority remains the provision of improved tennis facilities. However, we are learning the hard way that such projects are a long time being realised.

This is a sports club and its success or otherwise will be determined by the quality of the sports facilities on offer. As such, the continued investment in the sports facilities is of paramount importance.

The existing court surfaces are now in very poor condition, with court 1 definitely unfit for league tennis. Part of the perimeter fencing is close to falling down and the floodlighting is low quality (with high maintenance costs).

At last year's AGM, the plans for redeveloping the courts had been prepared and submission to Solihull MBC was expected shortly after the meeting. These plans were subsequently submitted in January. Although specialist lighting advisors had been used, a number of very detailed questions were asked about this area. We were advised that the plan should be withdrawn pending the provision of significantly more lighting data. Some of this data has been extremely difficult to obtain, and it has taken time, but this has now all been provided to the Solihull MBC lighting engineer. We are now awaiting confirmation that this addresses all of his concerns and that he will support the plan when it is resubmitted. This has been a frustrating process, as any modern lighting will represent a considerable improvement compared to the light leakage to the surrounding environment from the existing lighting.

Whilst this has been going on, further discussions have been taking place with the Sports Club and the Parish Council regarding the precise location of the replacement courts. This included the possibility of the tennis courts being moved to another part of the recreation ground. However, the research undertaken confirmed that the existing plan is probably the best solution although a further meeting is scheduled with the Parish Council to ensure that they are fully supportive of this conclusion.

While a lot of work has been done, there is still plenty to do but it is recognised that the project is becoming increasingly time critical as the condition of the existing facilities deteriorates.

I hope that the result of all this effort will be a Tennis Club and a Sports Club that we can all be proud of for many years to come!

**Senior and Junior Committee**

A lot of the work carried out within the tennis section is initiated through either the Senior or Junior Committees and I would like to place on record (hopefully on behalf of the whole membership) my thanks for the efforts that each and every committee member puts into the Club. Without people who are prepared to do this, clubs such as Hampton would not survive in the long term.

More help is always needed! Even if formally being on a committee is not for you, then maybe you could manage a particular function or organise a social event! We would all like things to be done better and quicker, however, there is only so much that a few volunteers can do!

**Web site**

Our web site and our e-mail capability remains the envy of many clubs and we remain indebted to John Cable for his continued efforts in this area. However, we remain conscious of the fact that a very small minority do not have access to these facilities and therefore all notifications are also put on the notice board located in the clubhouse.

**Adult team tennis**

The Club runs six adult teams; three men's teams and three ladies teams playing in the Coventry & District League. It has been a successful season with the highlight being the Men's 1<sup>st</sup> team regaining promotion. The Men's 2<sup>nd</sup> team narrowly missed out on promotion again and the 3<sup>rd</sup> team managed to "hold their own"! It was encouraging that many "new faces" played in the 3<sup>rd</sup> team this year, which augers well for the future.

The top two ladies teams consolidated their positions in their respective Divisions. In addition, we entered a ladies 3<sup>rd</sup> team for the first time. Whilst they were never in with a realistic chance of promotion, this team did increase the competitive playing opportunities to more ladies. This included some of our older junior girls who were very excited to get the chance to play adult league tennis and they achieved some impressive results along the way!

The teams are indebted to their respective captains who have to cope with the frustrations week in, week out of making sure that four registered players turn up in the right place at the right time for every match. It is helpful to rotate the responsibilities as captain, therefore any volunteers for 2007 would be greatly appreciated!

#### Adult social tennis

Club sessions continue to be very well attended throughout the year although inevitably numbers do drop off as the winter months approach. The Mini Mixed Plate run recently on a Sunday afternoon was a great success and we will do this again. The maxi tennis event held organised by Chester in early spring was enjoyed by a large part of the membership, although one lesson learned was that for some it was too much to play five times in eight weeks! Hence, the format will be modified next year to either to spread it out more or reduce the number of teams.

#### Junior tennis

Our coach Alan Cutts, together with the PennTenn team, continues to run a very successful junior coaching program and Alan will give you a brief update in a few moments.

The Club's junior champions for 2005 were Rachel Finch and Jacob Pratt at U16 and Emily Hodge and Oliver Davies at U12. It was great to see the final of the Solihull Schools U11 champion contested by two Hampton members (in spite of competition from Solihull Arden / Blossomfield members) with Charlotte Ray winning for the 2<sup>nd</sup> successive year and Emily Hodge being runner up. In addition, Charlotte was runner up in the U13 category.

I would like to place on record our formal thanks to Alan and his team for all the great work they have done in the last 12 months.

#### Finance

Subscription fees are at their highest ever level, over a £1,000 up on 2005 reflecting the increased membership over the last couple of years. The 1997/98 figures are deliberately kept on the schedule not to demonstrate the financial success of recent years but as a harsh reminder of how things can deteriorate if the facilities are not maintained. For those with long memories, this was the final year of when the old "lego" courts were used when there was a decline in membership directly associated with poor court conditions.

As you may recall from last year, coaching is now "sub-contracted" to Alan (and PennTenn) with the Club gaining the benefit from the stable coaching platform. This hopefully yields happy juniors, which in turn provides happy parents, all of whom want to become members!

We regularly receive small revenue grants from the LTA that are required to be spent on specific areas. This year we have received £670 but this is required to be applied to fund coaching qualifications and some of Alan's efforts to coach in local schools.

Other costs are broadly in line with last year. Maintenance costs continue to run at a relatively high rate, principally driven by maintaining the floodlighting. Affiliation fees are directly associated with membership numbers and tennis ball costs were up due to the extra ladies team. Miscellaneous costs are higher due to the new tennis net on Court 1 purchased at the start of the season.

Prior to the benefit of any fundraising, the contribution to the Sports Club is £8,401 up from £7,924 last year.

#### Social events & Fund raising

Yet again, there have been some very successful events held in the year.

The Arden 9 mile race goes from strength to strength, raising well over £2,400. The weather conditions were more favourable (less hot!) than the last two years and the feedback from the serious runners is that they love the course and the event. With help from Chester, the real hero for organising the event was again Gavin Davies who is not even a tennis member (although Gavin's son Oliver is a junior member). The help of the marshals (again several of whom were non-tennis members) was also a significant part of making it such a successful day.

Peter Morris has yet again excelled in organising Blues Nights throughout the year raising nearly £1,590 with help from our very own Director of Sales, Jenny Roberts who is frequently so successful in getting so many people to attend such events.

The season-opening quiz night made a welcome return raising over £250. In addition, other events making valuable contributions were the Christmas wine sales, the cheese & wine evening and, with help from the Juniors, Play Tennis Day.

"Donations" mostly arose from a couple of bank accounts set up several years ago and held separate from the main Sports Club accounts. These accounts were a historic legacy and had not been used in recent years and, therefore, these funds have now been transferred into the fundraising pot.

Overall, a further £5,505 was raised from these events in 2006 and the total amount earmarked for upgrading our facilities (the "sinking fund" plus the income from fundraising) is now almost £50,000.

It is extremely important that as many tennis members as possible attend these events in order that the successes continue in the future. The people mentioned above, the Committees and several other helpers put in wonderful contributions to the tennis section and the Sports Club as a whole. I appreciate that it not possible to attend all of the events all of the time but please support wherever you can and hopefully we will all be enjoying improved facilities sooner rather than later!

#### Final thoughts

There are some great positives from the year – higher membership numbers, improved financial performance, more juniors on the coaching program, increased court utilisation, more league teams and more tournaments!

However, the delivery of improved facilities is now becoming time critical as the existing facilities continue to deteriorate. The Committee will continue to try and push on with the project as quickly as we are able but the pace of progress is not always entirely in our control. Your help remains an essential ingredient in achieving our objectives. Please emphasise the positives of the Tennis Section and utilise the courts as much as you are able throughout the year. Unfortunately, in December and January nobody remembers that people queue up to use the courts from April to August!

Steve Ray  
Chairman 2005/06

**Appendix 2**  
**AGM – 8 November 2006**  
**Head Coach's Report**

Alan Cutts and the Penntenn Coaching team continued to provide coaching stability, not to mention inspiration, support and encouragement to all our juniors, whatever their ability.

Alan and his team continued to develop the junior section. Specifically:

- More coaching hours have been delivered to more children – there are now around 164 who attend coaching sessions.
- An increase in the number of junior members from 83 to 93.
- Improved school links – we now have links with 4 schools.
- Continuation of our LTA mini tennis centre accreditation (awarded 2002). This involves entering red, orange and green teams in local leagues.
- Continuation of our operation as an LTA raw tennis site (registration October 2005). This initiative is aimed at encouraging juniors aged 10 – 18 years to play more tennis. An example of Raw Tennis in action was the "Pizza Slam" tennis tournament which was run by Alan and greatly enjoyed by the juniors. (Also enjoyed by parents who had a drink when they came to pick up their children).
- Attendance at special events:
  - 19 children were allocated complimentary tickets to the DFS Ladies Classic at Edgbaston including a "fun" session.
  - Several juniors took part in LTA talent spotting invitation-only events.
  - Alan took three of the older juniors for an exciting day out at Wimbledon.
- Play Tennis Day was great fun and probably our most successful ever with 101 registrations of junior and adult attendees. Several of our members helped with Warwickshire County's Play Tennis Day launch in Solihull town centre.
- Provision of on court experience for older juniors undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh award.

Looking forward to 2007

- More competition is planned
- More adult coaching will be on offer
- Simon Lynn will take his DCA
- Leaders awards will be on offer for those older juniors who are interested

Alan Cutts  
Head Coach 2005/06

**Appendix 3**  
**Analysis of Income and Expenditure 1 Nov 2005 to 31 Oct 2006**

	2005/06 £	2004/05 £	2003/04 £	2002/03 £	2001/02 £	2000/01 £	1999/00 £	1997/98 £
<b>Subscription fees</b>	11,479	10,363	10,485	10,373	8,884	8,354	7,510	4,558
<b>Coaching</b>								
Coaching income	0	2,464	5,425	5,489	4,652	4,733	3,402	1,677
Coaching fees / equipment	0	(2,164)	(4,486)	(3,936)	(3,156)	(3,391)	(2,123)	(1,495)
	0	300	939	1,553	1,496	1,342	1,279	182
<b>Social events</b>								
Proceeds	0	9	40	2,382	1,551	1,195	934	699
Costs	0	0	0	(2,176)	(1,031)	(850)	(624)	(328)
	0	9	40	206	520	345	310	371
<b>Grants</b>								
Funds received	670	0	476	0	4,616	400	0	0
Application of funds	(670)	(275)	0	(2,315)	(1,650)	(400)	0	0
Funds not yet applied	0	275	(476)	2,315	(2,966)	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Other costs</b>								
Maintenance & repairs	(734)	(724)	(156)	(216)	(627)	(941)	0	(1,703)
League / affiliation fees	(1,107)	(1,066)	(1,014)	(766)	(674)	(747)	(653)	(381)
Tennis balls	(670)	(553)	(594)	(600)	(635)	(510)	(630)	(509)
Trophies / tournament prizes	(237)	(364)	(56)	(363)	(322)	(486)	(80)	(188)
Miscellaneous	(331)	(41)	(342)	(473)	(357)	(261)	(647)	(876)
	(3,078)	(2,748)	(2,162)	(2,418)	(2,615)	(2,945)	(2,010)	(3,657)
<b>Wimbledon tickets</b>								
Income	1,650	1,166	1,260	894	904	572	366	406
Costs	(1,650)	(1,166)	(1,260)	(894)	(904)	(572)	(366)	(406)
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CONTRIBUTION pre fundraising</b>	<b>8,401</b>	<b>7,924</b>	<b>9,302</b>	<b>9,714</b>	<b>8,285</b>	<b>7,096</b>	<b>7,089</b>	<b>1,454</b>
<b>Income from Fundraising</b>	5,505	4,116	8,743					
<b>Spent on facility improvement</b>								
Lighting Survey		(470)						
Planning Costs		(800)						
<b>CONTRIBUTION after fundraising</b>	<b>13,905</b>	<b>10,770</b>	<b>18,045</b>	<b>9,714</b>	<b>8,285</b>	<b>7,096</b>	<b>7,089</b>	<b>1,454</b>
<b>Utilisation of Contribution</b>								
Transferred to Sinking Fund	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	3,400	3,400	0
Net funds raised	5,505	2,846	8,743	0	0	0	0	0
Contribution to Sports Club	3,401	2,924	4,302	4,714	3,285	3,696	3,689	1,454
	13,905	10,770	18,045	9,714	8,285	7,496	7,489	1,454

**Note: Balance on Sinking Fund at 30 April 2006 was £31,800**

**Income from Fundraising**

Arden 9 Mile Race	2,366	1,490	1,248
Blues Nights	1,590	626	2,000
Donations	870	139	0
Quiz Night	267	0	335
Play Tennis Day	140	148	180
Cheese & Wine	106	0	0
Wine Sales	89	108	183
Mini Tennis	78	0	0
The Big Racket	0	1,448	0
Annual Dinner	0	130	0
Miscellaneous	0	29	0
Auction of Promises	0	0	4,463
Karaoke Evening	0	0	105
Tennisathon	0	0	79
Wimbledon Barbeque	0	0	76
Wimbledon Draw	0	0	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,505</b>	<b>4,116</b>	<b>8,743</b>