

**Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club  
(Tennis Section)  
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on  
9th November 2009**

**Present**

The following 17 members signed the attendance sheet: Ian Poole, Nigel Jones, Julie Williamson, Gill Lewis, Geoff Redfern, Jayne Barnes, Jane Hodge, John Cable, David Betts, Wayman Morris, Ian Wasse, Chris Barnes, Steve Ray, Mark Walker, Susan Lawrence, Savio Gaspar and Charlie Rickard.

**1/ Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Sandy Wasse, Joanne Ray, Wendy Jones, Carol Grant and Rosalia Eccleston.

**2/ Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes were proposed and seconded as a true and accurate record by Geoff Redfern and Wayman Morris. All present voted in favour of acceptance and the Chairman duly signed them.

**3/ Matters Arising**

The following matters arising were noted from the 2008 AGM minutes:

- Car parking on Thursdays/lighting the path to the railway station – the views of the meeting were passed to Sports Club board and to the Parish Council. Regarding parking, as there is unlikely to be any more parking spaces provided members will need to be considerate when parking.
- Court brushes – these have now been purchased.
- Back door – this is now kept closed on a best endeavours basis.

**4/ Chairman's Report**

The Chairman presented members with his report for the year (see Appendix 1). The highlight of the year was the construction of the four new Euroclay floodlit tennis courts plus tarmac kidzone between early February and mid May at a cost of £290,000. Promotions were achieved by both the Mens and Ladies 2<sup>nd</sup> teams, although unfortunately the Mens first team were relegated from the Premier league having been promoted only last year. The report was proposed and seconded by Geoff Redfern and Mark Walker. All present voted in favour of acceptance.

The meeting thanked Steve for his report and the whole of the committee for their work during the year.

Steve Ray announced his intention to retire as Chairman as soon as the committee appointed his successor. The meeting thanked Steve for all his work as Chairman over the last eight years which was a period of consistent growth in the membership and finances of the tennis section, culminating in the construction of the new courts.

**5/ Junior Section and Coaching Report**

The junior section report for the year (see Appendix 2) was presented to the meeting as part of the Chairman's report. Steve Ray thanked Ian Poole for his hard work during the year.

**6/ Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's report for the year including the analysis of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 October 2009 (see Appendix 3) was presented to the meeting as part of the Chairman's report. Steve Ray thanked Carol Grant for her hard work during the year.

Subscription fee income increased by £5,207 from £13,337 to £18,544. Members increased by 23% from 207 to 254. Adult members (including 18-25's) increased from 105 to 130. Junior members increased from 102 to 124.

Following the construction of the new courts and consequent increase to annual subscriptions and membership numbers, the total contribution including fund raising activities increased by £8,438 from £14,575 to £23,013.

- Fund raising activities generated £6,144 compared to £5,360 in 2007/08. The main fund raising events were the ASICS Arden 9 Road Race held in June and the Oldplay concert.
- Funds generated from the operation of the tennis section increased by £7,654 from £9,215 to £16,869.

The sinking fund contribution was £8,400 in accordance with the requirements of the contract with the LTA.

Further information is given in the Chairman's statement.

The report was proposed and seconded by Geoff Redfern and Mark Walker as part of the Chairman's Report. All present voted in favour of acceptance.

The meeting thanked Carol for her report.

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

Wayman Morris was elected as a new committee member having been proposed by Steve Ray and seconded by Chris Barnes in the AGM papers. No further new nominations had been received and the existing officers were all re-elected as proposed by Julie Williamson and John Cable 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:

- Paying for lights in league matches – it was noted that the cost of lights in summer league matches was minimal over the course of the season and that players were therefore expected to pay for the lights in the match fees. It was agreed that the committee would consider whether the same or different policies should be adopted for winter league matches.
- Selection process for league matches – it was noted that the selection process for the mens league teams seemed to work well, but questions were raised about the ladies teams and team practices where the squads seemed to operate independently. It was agreed that the committee would consider whether this could be improved for the 2010 season.
- Social tennis – it was noted that playing standards were sometimes very diverse. It was agreed that the committee would consider whether any changes should be made to social tennis sessions.

No further business was raised and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8-40pm.

**Appendix 1**  
**AGM – 9 November 2009**  
**Chairman's Report**

**Introduction**

We did it! After several years of trying, trying and trying some more we now have 4 fantastic new tennis courts, new lighting and new perimeter fencing! The £290,000 project was fully funded with a number of very important contributors and the costs were in line with estimates (a rare statement when it comes to new sports facility projects – just ask the Football Association about Wembley!).

Perhaps as expected, given the new courts, a new record level of membership has been achieved increasing by 23% from 207 members to 254; 130 adults and 124 juniors. This is the 11<sup>th</sup> successive year of growth and with a large proportion of the tennis membership living in the village.

**Tennis facilities**

I have said repeatedly for several years that ultimately the success of any sports club will be determined by the quality of the sports facilities on offer. We now have some excellent tennis facilities! There are many organisations and people to thank for helping us to achieve our objective.

From a direct funding perspective, we received significant support from the LTA, the National Sports Foundation, the George Fentham Trust, the Lillie Johnson Trust and the Birmingham International Airport Fund.

The support of many of the local village organisations, including the Parish Council, was an extremely important part of the process. Without so much local support, some of the direct funding applications would not have been successful.

The support and commitment given by the Sports Club directors has been critical, as ultimately they carry the responsibility for the stewardship of the whole of the Club with tennis only being a part there of. By referring to individuals I run the risk of missing someone out and offending them, but I would like to thank John Pearson and Andy Minton, both of whom provided John Eccleston significant help.

Over the years there have been numerous fund raising events, with further events continuing in the current year. Thank you to everyone who helped to organise (and participate in) these events and to those of you who showed your support by attending these various functions.

The project has absorbed considerable time from all of the committee members but, in particular, Chester Barnes and John Eccleston have shown tremendous drive and energy to this cause and the Club will be greatly indebted to them. As some of you are aware, the project was not without the odd teething problem but John (with strong support from Lee West, the LTA consultant) did a great job in sorting these issues out on behalf of the Club.

**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 with special thanks to John Cable for his continued efforts. John quietly goes about his business and is often refreshing and revamping the site. The site is a valuable source of information and contains a number of tennis-related links. I would encourage you all to go and take a look....

**Adult team tennis**

This year we added an extra men's team so the Club now runs seven adult teams; four men's teams and three ladies teams playing in the Coventry & District League. You will recall that last year we celebrated the fantastic achievement of the men's 1<sup>st</sup> team getting promoted to the Premier Division. They had some great matches this year, but were relegated by the narrowest of margins.

On the men's side, the 2<sup>nd</sup> team took the honours getting promoted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division – the Division that our 1<sup>st</sup> team were in only a few seasons ago! The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> teams had good seasons. Despite fielding unsettled sides throughout the season both retained the chances of promotion right up until the last couple of games of the season. The men's new 4<sup>th</sup> team gave a great opportunity for some of the "young men" to play league tennis which they seemed to thoroughly enjoy, gaining some notable victories along the way.

For the ladies it was also the 2<sup>nd</sup> team who took the honours by gaining promotion to Division 5 only losing one match all season. The ladies 1<sup>st</sup> team only lost 3 of their Division 3 matches, but a few too many draws left them

adrift from the promotion places. The 3<sup>rd</sup> team again increased the competitive playing opportunities to more ladies, including some of our older junior girls. The ladies have also now begun a winter league team.

All of 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 2010 would be greatly appreciated!

#### Junior tennis

On the junior and coaching side, Ian is going to give us a quick update but I would like to say what a great job that he, together with his assistants, has been doing throughout the year. I would like to publicly thank Ian for his patience whilst the new courts were being built – we all fully appreciate that this period of time could not have been easy (for the coach or the children) changing the venues and not always having the use of “proper” tennis facilities. Hopefully, the short period of disruption has been worth it!

Ian will give you a bit more detail but good links have been established with 6 different local schools and, in line with LTA initiatives, we are trying very hard to increase the number of competitive opportunities available to juniors. Progress in these specific areas is a key factor in the LTA being so supportive towards Hampton.

A special mention concerning Madison Rumney whose talent was recognised via Edgbaston Priory awarding a scholarship to their performance coaching program.

Invite Ian to give a coaching update and outline future plans

#### Tournament successes

The Club's U16 junior champions for 2009 were Sophie Cable and Tim Jones. The Club's U12 boys champion was Rob Yates, who was also the mini green champion. Our mini orange champion was Joe Warner and the mini red winner was Jonathan Bartlett.

In the adult tournament Jane Hodge retained her Ladies Singles crown (but was taken to a tie-break in the final by a 13 year old!) and Mark Joannides regained the Men's Singles title. A full list of the winners and runners up is available on the web site.

#### Finance

As mentioned earlier, membership levels have increased significantly and so therefore has the income from subscription fees which at £18,544 were up £5,207 [39%] on 2008. In addition there is incremental income from floodlighting of £890. It should be noted that the power costs are paid by the Sports Club as it is difficult to segregate the costs between the various sections.

We did receive a £902 revenue grant from the LTA during the year, a large part of which was to help fund the start up of the schools links referred to in the Junior tennis / Coach section above. There was a £200 unspent amount brought forward from earlier years that has been used to support training of the coaches.

Other costs are appreciably lower this year, principally due to us effectively having a maintenance “holiday” year particularly with regard to floodlighting maintenance which historically has been expensive. The costs will increase next year as the LTA affiliation fees are linked to numbers of members and we do need to ensure that the new courts are properly maintained.

Prior to the benefit of any fundraising, the contribution to the Sports Club is £16,869 up by £7,654 from £9,215 last year. However, it should be noted that the recommended sinking fund amount to provide for the replacement of the courts that we have is £8,400 per annum.

The LTA loan repayments are £10,720 per annum payable six monthly commencing in January 2010 over the next seven years.

#### Social events & Fund raising

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

The Arden 9 mile race generated a further £2,774 and again we are grateful to the hard work from John Eccleston, Chester Barnes and Gavin Davies. Thanks also to the army of marshals (several of whom were non-tennis members) who are a significant part of making it such a successful day.

The Auction of Promises that Carol Grant coordinated raised £585 and Old Play gave us the considerable benefit of a free concert that raised £1,113. Geoff Redfern, Julie Williamson and Phil McCracken again ran a very successful quiz raising £438 – don't forget that there is another quiz coming soon on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November!

The Christmas Party and Christmas raffle raised a combined amount of £796 – special thanks to Carol Grant, Tania Mascord, Jenny Roberts and all the individuals that sold & bought raffle tickets.

The aggregate amount of fundraising towards the new courts is now £34,114 versus our promised amount of £35,000. We are very close to the amount we have promised but that is no reason to stop. Part of what makes the Club so special is the good social interaction that we have, although we need to keep a balance over the number of events that we hold.

#### Final thoughts

I have been Chairman since 2002 and I was Treasurer for a number of years before that.

There have been some tremendous successes over the years – membership growth, LTA Club of the Year, Mini Tennis Accreditation, Clubmark and now the new courts.....

There have been some exciting junior player developments – Daniel Eccleston going full time at Queens Club, Tony Eccleston making the final stages of the National Championships and more recently Charlotte Ray also reaching the final stages of the National Championships. Ian continues to do great work on the junior coaching side and I am sure that others will follow on and reach similar heights. Not bad for a small village club!

As ever, the above achievements are from a great team effort with the combined effect of good committees, a good coach and, in terms of the junior achievements, the role of the respective parents and guardians.

For me the time has come to step down as Chairman and “hand over the baton!” In the absence of any formal proposal this evening, I will work with the rest of the committee to ensure that an appropriate succession process takes place and I have volunteered to stay involved in certain aspects of the Club, at least for an interim period. Thank you for your support over many years.

My final plea as the existing Chairman is please look after the new courts! We all have a responsibility to protect and maintain them in their current condition for as long as possible. Follow the maintenance rules about sweeping the courts, lowering the net after play, locking up the courts etc and if you see the courts being misused or abused do something about it!

Steve Ray  
Chairman

**Appendix 2**  
**AGM – 9 November 2009**  
**Junior Section Report**

The start of 2009 was difficult because the new courts were being constructed. However, despite the use of different venues we had great support and loyalty from our juniors, so we would like to say a big thank you to you all for this.

The new courts are proving to be a big success and the children are very much enjoying playing on them. Having a fourth court gives us flexibility to run more tournaments and provide more playing opportunities. The red mini tennis court has proved very popular and acts as a visual testament to our commitment to younger players.

The coaching programme is flourishing and the children are playing more competitive tennis. For example, friendly matches with other clubs while some of our juniors are playing in the Warwickshire mini tennis leagues and LTA tournaments held at other clubs or here at Hampton. The results of competitive matches can be recorded and count toward your LTA British Tennis rating if you are a BTM member. If you are not a BTM member we strongly recommend you do so as it is free and has other benefits such as accessing Wimbledon tickets (for those aged 8 and over at 21 June 2010). Once you are a BTM member, they will contact you directly with your account details and you can monitor your progress on their website.

The older juniors are taking part in the Mens and Ladies Coventry Doubles Leagues. We have also entered four teams in the junior Aegon Team Tennis competition. Organising teams is something that parents could help with so if your child is interested in playing more competitive tennis, please get in touch with our Head Coach, Ian Poole.

So, a big thank you to Head Coach Ian Poole, his team of coaches and tennis assistants, to our supportive parents and volunteers and not least to the children themselves who show such support to junior tennis at Hampton.

Jayne Barnes

**Appendix 3**  
**Analysis of Income and Expenditure 1 Nov 2008 to 31 Oct 2009**

	2008/09 £	2007/08 £	2006/07 £	2005/06 £	2004/05 £	2003/04 £
<b><u>Subscription fees</u></b>	<b>18,544</b>	13,337	12,069	11,479	10,363	10,485
<b><u>Floodlighting income</u></b>	<b>890</b>	0	0	0	0	0
Coaching income					2,464	5,425
Coaching fees/equipment					(2,164)	(4,486)
	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	300	939
<b><u>Social events</u></b>					9	40
<b><u>Grants</u></b>						
Funds received	<b>902</b>			670		476
Application of funds	<b>(1,100)</b>			(670)	(275)	0
Funds not yet applied b/fwd	<b>200</b>				275	(476)
	<b>2</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b><u>Other costs</u></b>						
Maintenance & repairs	<b>(255)</b>	(1,260)	(1,120)	(734)	(724)	(156)
League/affiliation fees	<b>(1,410)</b>	(1,389)	(1,128)	(1,107)	(1,066)	(1,014)
Tennis balls	<b>(400)</b>	(568)	(444)	(670)	(553)	(594)
Trophies/tournament prizes	<b>(223)</b>	(39)	(319)	(237)	(364)	(56)
Clothing	<b>65</b>	(274)				
Printing costs	<b>(154)</b>	(280)				
Miscellaneous	<b>(190)</b>	(312)	(100)	(331)	(41)	(342)
	<b>(2,567)</b>	(4,122)	(3,112)	(3,078)	(2,748)	(2,162)
<b><u>Wimbledon tickets</u></b>						
Income	<b>3,343</b>	1,848	1,514	1,650	1,166	1,260
Costs	<b>(3,343)</b>	(1,848)	(1,514)	(1,650)	(1,166)	(1,260)
	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b><u>Cont'n pre fundraising</u></b>	<b>16,869</b>	9,215	8,958	8,401	7,924	9,302
<b><u>Income from Fundraising</u></b>	<b>6,144</b>	5,360	4,246	5,505	4,116	8,743
<b><u>Facility improvement cost</u></b>					(1,270)	
<b><u>Net income before sinking fund</u></b>	<b>23,013</b>	14,575	13,204	13,906	10,770	18,045
<b><u>Sinking fund allocation</u></b>	<b>(8,400)</b>					
<b><u>Net income after sinking fund allocation</u></b>	<b>14,613</b>	14,575	13,204	13,906	10,770	18,045
<b><u>Income from Fundraising</u></b>						
Arden 9 Mile Race	<b>13,300</b>	<b>2,774</b>	2,772	2,743	2,273	1,248
Auction of Promises	<b>5,048</b>	<b>585</b>	0	0	0	4,463
Blues Nights	<b>4,216</b>	<b>0</b>	0	0	1,590	2,000
The Big Racket	<b>2,183</b>	<b>0</b>	0	736	0	1,448
Quiz Nights	<b>1,549</b>	<b>438</b>	237	273	267	0
Oldplay	<b>1,113</b>	<b>1,113</b>	0	0	0	0
Sundry donations	<b>1,058</b>	<b>0</b>	50	0	870	139
WLTA Club of the Year prize	<b>1,000</b>	<b>0</b>	1,000	0	0	0
Annual Dinner	<b>942</b>	<b>252</b>	267	293	0	130
Play Tennis Day	<b>797</b>	<b>102</b>	128	99	140	148
Christmas raffle	<b>653</b>	<b>653</b>	0	0	0	0
Barston Fete donation	<b>500</b>	<b>0</b>	500	0	0	0
Get Wrecked Party	<b>406</b>	<b>0</b>	406	0	0	0
Wine Sales	<b>379</b>	<b>0</b>	0	0	89	108
Arden 9 Mile Children's Race	<b>195</b>	<b>0</b>	0	102	93	0
Christmas party	<b>143</b>	<b>143</b>	0	0	0	0
Cheese & Wine	<b>106</b>	<b>0</b>	0	0	106	0
Karaoke Evening	<b>105</b>	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
The Manor cvening	<b>81</b>	<b>81</b>	0	0	0	0
Wimbledon Barbeque	<b>76</b>	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
Wimbledon Draw	<b>75</b>	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	<b>189</b>	<b>3</b>	0	0	78	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,114</b>	<b>6,144</b>	5,360	4,246	5,505	4,116

Note – LTA loan repayments £10,720 per annum - £5,360 payable 6 monthly commencing Jan 2010.  
Carol Grant - Treasurer 2008/09