

**Hampton-In-Arden Sports Club
(Tennis Section)
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on
9th November 2005**

Present

The following 10 members signed the attendance sheet: Chris Barnes, Jayne Barnes, Alan Cutts, Ro Eccleston, Carol Grant, Nick Hone, Steve Ray, Geoff Redfern, Sheelagh Rose and Julie Williamson.

1/ Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Anne Cadman, Coralie Hammond, Katharine Martin, Joanne Ray, Ian Wasse and Sandy Wasse.

2/ Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes were proposed and seconded as a true and accurate record by Rosalia Eccleston and Nick Hone. All present voted in favour of acceptance and the Chairman duly signed them.

3/ Matters Arising

The following matters arising were noted from the 2004 AGM minutes:

Perimeter Fencing – A significant amount of repair work to the perimeter fencing has been carried out during 2005 which leaves the fencing in an adequate state to wait for the improvements to be brought about by the Court Replacement Project.

Weekend Social Play in addition to Sunday mornings – It was noted that any further organised social tennis on Saturday or Sunday would only detract from the existing social tennis allocated to Sunday mornings.

Changing Room Security – The Sports Club have recognised the issue of access to the changing areas and the only time that the back door is now open is when hockey or football matches are taking place.

Approval of tennis section rules. The draft rules were put forward for consideration by the meeting. Following debate on the footwear and clothing to be worn by Juniors on court it was agreed to leave the draft rules as proposed and leave it to the coach to advise parents when children should come with additional waterproof or warm clothing. The rules as presented to the meeting for consideration (see Appendix 1) were proposed for acceptance by Nick Hone and seconded by Geoff Redfern. All present voted in favour of acceptance.

4/ Chairman's Report

The Chairman presented members with his report for the year (see Appendix 2). The report was proposed and seconded by Alan Cutts and Carol Grant. All present voted in favour of acceptance.

The meeting thanked Steve for his report.

5/ Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer circulated members with an analysis of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 October 2005 (see Appendix 3).

Subscription fee income dropped by £122 to £10,363, although membership increased by 6% from 166 to 176. Adult members (inclusive of 18-25's) increased from 89 to 93 and junior members increased from 77 to 83. Reduced subscription fees to encourage both junior membership and younger adult members was the main reason why increased membership levels did not result in increased income.

The total contribution including all fund raising activities was £10,770, compared to £18,045 in 2003/04.

- Fund raising activities generated £4,116 during the year, compared to £8,743 in 2003/04. A total of £1,270 has been spent to date in progressing planning applications for the court improvement project. The main fund raising events were the ASICS Arden 9 Road Race held in June, the Big Racket concert held in January and two Blues Nights.

- Funds generated from the operation of the tennis section amounted to £7,924, compared to £9,302 in 2003/04. Reduced income from junior coaching following the changed method of remunerating the coach, combined with increased maintenance costs accounted for the main reasons for the reduced profitability.

The sinking fund contribution for 2004/05 remained at £5,000 per annum and although the total value of the sinking fund at 30th April 2005 of £26,800 had not been ring fenced by the Sports Club, the Board of Directors recognise the requirement to invest in the sporting facilities.

The report was proposed and seconded by Chris Barnes and Geoff Redfern. All present voted in favour of acceptance.

The meeting thanked Carol for her report.

6/ Election of Officers and Committee

No new nominations had been received and the existing officers together with Geoff Redfern, who was co-opted onto the committee during the year, were all re-elected as proposed by Julie Williamson and seconded by Nick Hone as follows:

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

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

The Secretary advised the meeting that he had received the following pre-notified questions:

- Julie Williamson questioned whether access to First Aid facilities and drinking water was adequate. The Committee agreed to publicise where adult members could obtain key cards in the beginning of season newsletter and to follow up whether the kitchen could be left open with some cupboards in the kitchen being locked instead. Julie also suggested that some “shakeable” ice packs be included in the First Aid box.
- Julie Williamson asked whether Sunday morning social play could be promoted further. It was noted that recent attendance had increased and that Social Play would be further promoted in 2006.
- Katharine Martin had raised the subject of smoking in the Clubhouse. Following recent initiatives from the Board of Directors the points made by Katharine would be incorporated in an email to be distributed to members seeking their views prior to a Director’s meeting to be held at the end of January.

8/ Any other Business

Alan Cutt’s coaching report.

- Juniors – Thank you for the help received from committee members and also to the following juniors for their assistance during the year: (Alphabetical order) Brian Killeen, Daniel Eccelston, Jacob Pratt, Simon Lynn, Sophie Cable and Will Shaw. Raw Tennis had now been launched by the LTA aimed at improving 10-18 year olds performance rather than focussing only on winning matches. The ideas would be incorporated in the Club’s junior programme. More resource is required to help talented juniors in the 2006 performance structure.
- Adults – Coaching to be relaunched in January 2006.

It was agreed to include a separate Coach’s report in the 2006 AGM agenda.

Sheelagh Rose suggested that the club consider the provision of tennis shirts and track suits for members to purchase. It was agreed to look into this.

No further business was raised and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9-10pm.

Appendix 1
AGM – 9 November 2005
Approved Rules

The Tennis Club exists for the benefit of tennis playing members. In order for the Tennis Club to function effectively, the following rules must be adhered to.

1. **Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club rules.** The tennis section is bound by the rules of the Sports Club. These can be found in the members section of the club website – www.hamptontennis.org.uk.
2. **The Tennis Committee.** A committee is elected annually by tennis playing members over 18 to administer the club. The committee will consist of a Chairman, a Treasurer and a Secretary together with any other number of committee members as shall be approved by the committee from time to time. Decisions shall be agreed by majority of votes within the committee with the Chairman holding a casting vote if required, provided that the only committee members that shall be entitled to vote are those who have elected at the Annual General Meeting of members.
3. **Subscriptions.** Subscriptions are payable each year on 1st April. The rates of subscription shall be set each year by the elected committee.
4. **Use of courts.** Only members are allowed to use the courts except in the following circumstances:
 - a. Non-members on approved coaching courses may use the courts during their coaching session.
 - b. Members' guests are permitted to play provided before playing they are signed into the Visitors Book kept in the clubhouse. A visitors fee for each visit of £5 is payable for adults and £2 for juniors. There is a limit of three occasions per season on which the same guest can be brought into the Club.
 - c. Introduction of new members. Where there is a genuine interest in becoming a new member a person may attend a maximum of three times prior to the payment of subscriptions.
5. **Floodlights.** The floodlights must be switched off by 10pm.
6. **Behaviour/Etiquette.**
 - a. Foul and abusive language is not allowed.
 - b. Racket or ball abuse is not allowed.
7. **Dress.** Sports clothing of any colour and "non-marking" soled trainers or tennis shoes must be worn on court. Footwear with ridged, studded or pimpled soles or separate heels is not allowed.
8. **Court Priorities.**
 - a. Inter club matches; tournaments; dedicated social tennis sessions and coaching courses approved by the main committee shall take precedence over other forms of play.
 - b. Members may ask other members to leave the courts under the following circumstances:
 - i. Where courts have been booked in the Court Booking sheets kept in the clubhouse. Please note that it is not permissible to book a court simply to ask another member to leave the court.
 - ii. Adult play takes precedence over junior play after 7pm except where approved coaching courses are being run.

9. Rules Specific to the Junior Section.

The Junior Section of the Tennis Club exists for the benefit of tennis playing children. In order for the Junior Section to function effectively, the following rules must be adhered to:

- a. Children will be accepted for tennis coaching usually from the age of four.
- b. Children aged seven or under must not be left unattended at the Club during coaching sessions. It should be noted that whilst children of 8 or more do not need to be accompanied by parents during coaching sessions, parents are responsible for their children before and after these sessions.
- c. Children aged seven or over at the membership renewal date (1 April) should ideally become junior members of the Tennis Club in order to take full advantage of the Club. Children who do not become members will pay a higher charge for coaching sessions and will not be able to participate in any additional activities, for example, Club tournaments.
- d. Group coaching fees must be paid two weeks before the commencement of each new course. Refunds will not normally be made for non-attendance. However, the cost of sessions cancelled due to bad weather will normally be deducted from the price of the next course.
- e. Group coaching fees must be submitted with a fully completed course application form.
- f. The Club reserves the right to refuse access to the Club to any junior for any appropriate reason. For example, lack of court etiquette or lack of respect for the coach. The Junior Tennis Committee must endorse any such exclusion if it is to be made permanent.
- g. Help from parents/carers for special events and for the normal running of the Junior Tennis Section is welcomed.

Appendix 2
AGM – 9 November 2005
Chairman's Statement

Introduction

The record levels of membership achieved last year have again been increased from 166 members to 176 and the section continues to make a valuable contribution to the Sports Club. We remain one of the highest ratios of 'number of members per court' in the County.

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.

Whilst the tennis facilities are another year older and, consequently, are showing even more signs of wear and tear, there has been a tremendous amount of endeavour behind the scenes bringing the tennis court improvement project nearer to potential realisation. Further fund raising successes during the year have provided a crucial financial platform for us to build upon. The plans have been fully drawn up and discussed with all interested parties (including the Parish Council) and submission to Solihull MBC for their approval is imminent. Hopefully, the planning application will not be as controversial as several other village-based applications taking place at the moment!

Once we have the planning permission in place, the "institutional" fundraising can begin in earnest!

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 minority do not have access to these facilities and therefore other, traditional methods of communication are still important.

Adult team tennis

The Club runs three men's teams and two ladies teams playing in the Coventry & District League. Unfortunately, the Men's 1st team were relegated this year, albeit that it went to the final match of the season. The Men's 2nd team experienced a different type of disappointment in their last match of the season as they narrowly missed out on promotion, and the 3rd team managed to "hold their own"!

The ladies teams consolidated their positions in their respective Divisions, with the 2nd team having been promoted in the previous year. The interest in team tennis has been encouraging and we hope to have a Ladies 3rd team next year to increase the playing opportunities to more ladies.

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 2006 would be greatly appreciated!

Adult social tennis

Club sessions continue to be very well attended throughout the year. However, the Sunday morning session has the more variable attendance levels, particularly following the summer holidays! There was a similar issue this time last year but then it picked up. In the meantime, any ideas to help reinvigorate Sunday mornings will be listened to! Sunday morning tournaments have been tried in the past but with varied degrees of success.

Junior tennis

This time last year we were grappling with the issues of recruiting a new coach! After a period of frustration, we were delighted to see the return of Alan Cutts.

Alan soon re-established his popularity with the juniors and the already successful coaching program received a fresh impetus taking it further forward! Special thanks to Jane Hodge, Lucy Wasse and the three Eccleston's; Tony, Daniel and Carla for their contributions to maintaining the Junior coaching in what was a difficult period prior to Alan's arrival.

We are an LTA accredited mini tennis and the Club runs Red, Orange and Green mini tennis teams, all of which compete to the highest standards against other clubs in Warwickshire. For the older juniors, we enter several

teams in the North Warwickshire Doubles Leagues all of whom acquitted themselves very well against teams from much larger clubs.

For the 10 – 18 years age group, the LTA has launched "Raw Tennis", an initiative targeted at retaining the interest of teenagers in tennis at a time when they start to get a number of other distractions. More news on this will follow, but it is our intention to positively participate in this venture.

The Club's junior champions for 2005 were Rachel Finch and Conor Jones at U16 and Emily Cable and Alexander Barnes at U12. Charlotte Ray was the Solihull Schools U11 champion and Charlotte was also selected to play for the County. The Club continues to boast Daniel Eccleston as a member and he remains part of an elite performance squad based at Queen's Club. I guess that this will be the last year I'll be able to refer to Daniel as a junior!

I have already applauded the efforts of the Junior Committee. The other major part of this success is the hard efforts put in by our coaches. Alan and Jane (with their tennis assistants) work tirelessly in all sorts of weather to ensure that our youngsters' tennis skills develop and that they grow up enjoying the game.

When Alan returned to us it was possibly only for a period of one year whilst he did his TDA qualification. However, I am pleased to report that Alan has decided to stick around a bit longer!

Social events & Fund raising

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

The start of the year saw the first public appearance of The Big Racket! Joe Killeen, John Cable, Guy Hemington, Glyn Ryland and Carla Eccleston had the audience rocking with a successful evening raising almost £1,500. A memorable evening rewarding all of their hard work of several months practice! Thanks also to Geoff Redfern for the DJ support.

Peter Morris has yet again excelled in organising Blues Nights throughout the year. Please give your support to the next one which is being held at the Sports Club on Saturday 3rd December. A special thanks to our very own Director of Sales, Jenny Roberts who helps so frequently and successfully in getting so many people to attend such events.

The Arden 9 mile race took place on a blistering hot day in June, growing in size from the inaugural event last year. The weather conditions were not ideal for the runners and unfortunately some did struggle in the heat but, as far as we are aware, with no long term after-effects. To put the exceptional weather conditions into context, at a half marathon held in France on the same day around 600 runners required medical attention! Although we have some learning points for next year, running magazines continued to rate the race very highly! With help from Chester, the real hero for organising the event was Gavin Davies who is not even a tennis member (although Gavin's son Oliver is a junior member). The race again raised over £1,000 and it has the potential to grow & grow. 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.

Other events making valuable contributions were the Christmas wine sales and, with help from the Juniors, Play Tennis Day. Whilst not a fund raiser, the Annual Presentation Dinner was an excellent evening.

Overall, a further £4,116 was raised from these events in 2005 and the total amount set aside for upgrading our facilities is now over £38,000.

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!

Tennis facilities

There are some non-tennis members who do not fully appreciate the extent to which the tennis facilities are deteriorating and that, irrespective of the merits of an extra court, a substantial sum is required just to replace the current facilities on a like-for-like basis.

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.

Everyone has to have in the forefront of his or her mind the basic issues that need addressing and, where appropriate, remind others of our objectives. The basic issues are as follows: -

1. The perimeter fencing is in extremely poor condition. It is close to falling down and is a potential health & safety issue.

2. The existing lighting is very poor and high maintenance.
3. The existing court surfaces were a low cost, short-term option (selected due to plans to relocate the courts as part of the wider redevelopment of the Sports Club) and we are now beyond the life expectancy of the surface that was selected.
4. As a consequence, the quality of the court surface is visibly declining.
5. The foundations of the courts have deteriorated to such an extent that to spend money on the top surface without addressing the problem with the foundations could be money completely wasted.
6. All of the above needs addressing, irrespective of any decision to increase the number of courts. 75% - 80% of the £130,000 estimated total cost would need to be incurred on the matters referred to above, with the remaining 20%+ being a tremendous opportunity to add a 4th court at a relatively low incremental cost.

While a lot of work has been done, there is even more still to do. Hopefully, 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!

Final thoughts

To maximise the utilisation of our sports facilities, the environment of the club needs to appeal to the whole family. Many adult members only join because their children want to participate in sport!

There is a lot to look forward to as we enter an exciting period of change at Hampton Sports Club. With the Astroturf project complete, attention can now be applied to other Sports Club requirements, with tennis being a significant part of these developments.

Your help is an essential ingredient in achieving our objectives: -

- a) Please give your support to any events that are taking place. If you can't help to organise, please try to attend!
- b) Please emphasise the positives of the Tennis Section!
- c) Please 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 July!

Steve Ray
Chairman 2004/05

Appendix 3
Analysis of Income and Expenditure 1 Nov 2004 to 31 Oct 2005

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

Note: Balance on Sinking Fund at 30 April 2005 was £26,800

Income from Fundraising

Arden 9 Mile Race	1,490	1,248
The Big Racket	1,448	0
Blues Nights	626	2,000
Play Tennis Day	148	180
Donations	139	0
Annual Dinner	130	0
Wine Sales	108	183
Miscellaneous	29	0
Auction of Promises		4,463
Quiz Night		335
Karaoke Evening		105
Tennisathon		79
Wimbledon Barbeque		76
Wimbledon Draw		75
Total	4,116	8,743