

**Hampton-In-Arden Sports Club  
(Tennis Section)  
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on  
8th November 2007**

**Present**

The following 12 members signed the attendance sheet: Chris Barnes, Ian Poole, Carol Grant, Sally Jarratt, Julie Williamson, Gill Shalley, Wayman Morris, Sandy Wasse, Rosalia Eccleston, Jayne Barnes, Geoff Redfern and John Cable.

**1/ Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Ian Wasse, Coralie Hammond, Jo Ray, Claire Scott, Lucy Wasse and Lesley Cable.

**2/ Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes were proposed and seconded as a true and accurate record by Geoff Redfern 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 2006 AGM minutes:

- 6 nations tournament – the fixtures had been spread out a bit more as requested.
- Accident report book – this is kept behind the bar.
- First Aid box – this is now stocked better than in the past and Julie Williamson has agreed to keep it stocked on an ongoing basis.

**4/ Chairman's Report**

The Chairman presented members with his report for the year (see Appendix 1). The report was proposed and seconded by Sandy Wasse and Wayman Morris. All present voted in favour of acceptance.

The meeting thanked Steve for his report.

**5/ Junior Section and Coaching Report**

The junior section report for the year (see Appendix 2) was presented to the meeting. Ian Poole thanked Jayne Barnes for all her work and Alan Cutts for the coaching programme which he had created. Ian noted that his main objectives for the forthcoming year were to put more structure into the coaching programme, to organise more competition for juniors (especially those over 10 years old) and to develop the adult coaching programme further.

Steve Ray thanked Alan Cutts for his hard work in creating a coaching legacy which Ian has now taken over and wished Ian well for the future.

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

Carol Grant circulated members with an analysis of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 October 2007 (see Appendix 3).

Subscription fee income increased by £590 from £11,479 to £12,069 and membership increased by 6% from 186 to 198. Adult members (inclusive of 18-25's) increased from 93 to 102 and junior members increased from 93 to 96.

The total contribution including all fund raising activities was £13,204, compared to £13,906 in 2005/06.

- Fund raising activities generated £4,246 during the year, compared to £5,505 in 2005/06. 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 the Big Racket concert held in February.
- Funds generated from the operation of the tennis section increased by £557 from £8,401 to £8,958.

The sinking fund contribution for 2006/07 remained at £5,000 per annum and although the total value of the sinking fund at 30<sup>th</sup> April 2006 of £36,800 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 Sandy Wasse and Wayman Morris. 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 Sandy Wasse and Wayman Morris 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 TV curtains were often closed during daylight. Could the number of occasions when this happens be reduced?
- The dustbin on court needs a new lid.
- Steve Ray agreed to question the location of the first aid boxes as the kitchen and the squash courts are not accessible to most members. It was agreed that it may be best to relocate the box next to the defibrillator.

No further business was raised and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8-30pm.

**Appendix 1**  
**AGM – 8 November 2007**  
**Chairman's Report**

**Introduction**

In spite of the declining standard of the courts, the record level of membership achieved last year has further increased from 186 members to 198; 101 adults and 97 juniors. This is the 9<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**

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. Our number one priority remains the provision of improved tennis facilities but Rome wasn't built in a day!

The existing court surfaces are now in very poor condition, with court 1 definitely unfit for league tennis. The floodlighting is low quality (with high maintenance costs) and, despite interim action that was taken to prevent the perimeter fencing from falling down, the standard is below par.

Whilst progress is slow, some significant milestones have been passed since the last AGM. Following some modifications to the project, we would like to thank the Parish Council have given their blessing to the expansion and redevelopment. The formal planning application process was also a long drawn out affair, with the deliberation over the lighting causing the greatest difficulty. However, formal planning permission is now in place and tendering documents are currently being drawn up to obtain detailed estimates from the various contractors.

In the meantime, internal fundraising has continued to provide an excellent foundation to support external fundraising. External sources of funding include the George Fentham Charity which has promised a contribution of £50,000 and we are working with the National Sports Foundation to secure "Sports Match" which will hopefully double the amount of external fundraising that we achieve. Any sources of funds are welcome, but the additional significant applications that are in the process of being pursued include SITA (who provided a large part of the funding for the Hockey astro turf), BIFFA and the LTA. Most grant applications require detailed estimates and these should be available shortly.

A common question that is asked is "which court surface will we have?" No decision has been made on this. Opinion from the membership is mixed – some preferring astro, some preferring tarmac (which is the preferred surface for junior tennis development). One of the modifications to the planning application was to allow a little extra space so that the courts can be structured to have 2 astro and 2 tarmac. The final decision on the surface will not be taken until there is greater clarity on the amount of funding available.

It is recognised that the project is becoming increasingly time critical as the condition of the existing facilities deteriorate. Every reasonable effort is being made to make this happen as quickly as possible and 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! In particular, Chester Barnes and John Eccleston have already devoted considerable amounts of their time to this cause and the Club will be greatly indebted to them when the project is complete!

**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. If you have not visited the web site recently you should! John has completely revamped it and, whilst it was very good before, it now looks fantastic and very fresh. We remain conscious of the fact that a very small minority do not have access to these facilities and therefore all important 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 great season for the men with both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> teams getting promotion. In the case of the 1<sup>st</sup> team this was the second successive year of promotion and puts them back in the lofty heights of Division 1. It was encouraging that many "new faces" played in the 3<sup>rd</sup> team this year, which augers well for the future.

The ladies teams didn't fair quite so well this year and unfortunately the 1<sup>st</sup> team was relegated but I'm sure that they will bounce back next year. The 2<sup>nd</sup> team did manage to avoid relegation and the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. Those that played achieved some impressive results and, whilst there are some good young men coming through, there is an excellent group of teenage girls coming through that bodes well for the future!

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 2008 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 maxi tennis event held in early spring was again enjoyed by a large part of the membership, with the considerable improvement of avoiding matches on consecutive weekends.

#### Junior tennis

As most of you are aware Alan Cutts has recently left us to move to Ilkley Tennis Club, an LTA performance centre in Yorkshire. On behalf of the membership I would like to place on record a formal thank you to Alan for what he has achieved at Hampton in helping to establish an excellent and well attended junior coaching program.

This has provided an opportunity for Ian Poole to join us from David Lloyd Solihull. Initial indications are that Ian has settled in very well and, whilst change is sometimes difficult particularly for the younger juniors, the transition appears to have gone well. In addition to the on court coaching at Hampton, Ian is also working with local schools in the surrounding areas further promoting the Club to a wider potential membership.

#### Tournament successes

The Club's U16 junior champions for 2007 were Charlotte Ray and Jacob Pratt with U12 tournament to be played before Christmas. It was great to see the final of the Solihull Schools Girls U13 championship contested by two Hampton members (in spite of competition from Solihull Arden / Blossomfield members) with Charlotte Ray winning and Emily Cable being runner up. Sophie Cable was runner up in the U17 age group. In the North Warwickshire Doubles, Sophie Cable and Kate Gregory played exceptionally well to be crowned U14 champions. Sophie teamed up with Jacob Pratt in the North Warwickshire Mixed Doubles and together they played great tennis to become the Mixed Doubles champions.

In the adult tournament finals Lucy Wasse was crowned Ladies Singles champion and the Men's final will be contested between Mark Joannides and Matt Hunt. A full list of the winners and runners up is available on the web site.

#### Finance

Although individual subscription fees were frozen, in aggregate they are at their highest ever level reflecting the increased membership numbers. Total fees were up £600 on 2006. The 1997/98 figures are deliberately kept on the schedule 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.

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 but this year including the new net posts on courts 1 and 3. Affiliation fees are directly associated with membership numbers.

Prior to the benefit of any fundraising, the contribution to the Sports Club is £8,958 up from £8,401 last year.

#### Social events & Fund raising

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

The Arden 9 mile race continues to grow and this year the weather conditions were much more bearable for the runners and over £2,800 was raised. The feedback from the serious runners is that they love the course and the event. We are grateful to the hard work from John Eccleston who helped the experienced pair of Chester and Gavin Davies who is not even a Sports Club member (although Gavin's son Oliver is a junior member). The help of the marshals (several of whom were non-tennis members) was also a significant part of making it such a successful day.

The season-opening quiz night again raised over £250 thanks to Julie Williamson, Phil McCracken and Geoff Redfern. The Big Racket returned with probably their best performance yet, helping to raise over £700. So thanks to Glyn Ryland, Guy Hemington, John Cable, Carla Eccleston and Joe Killeen. Also thank you to Geoff Redfern for the disco.

Overall, a further £4,246 was raised from these events in 2007 and the total amount earmarked for upgrading our facilities (the "sinking fund" plus the income from fundraising) is now almost £60,000.

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.

#### Final thoughts

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

However, the delivery of improved facilities is 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 2006/07

**Appendix 2**  
**AGM – 8 November 2007**  
**Junior Section Report**

There was a sad farewell to Alan Cutts as he left at the end of September to make a new life for himself in Yorkshire, joining Ilkley Tennis Centre. A large gathering of friends came to wish him well and thank him for his hard work and inspiration over the past two and half years he has been at the club.

Loosing a good coach is always a worry as replacements are very hard to come by. However, an excellent new coach was quickly found, chosen from an exceedingly strong short list. We warmly welcome Ian Poole to our club. We hope he will enjoy working with us and that we can respond well to his passion for tennis. Ian will be following the club's philosophy, supporting and encouraging all our juniors (and older players), whatever their abilities and aspirations.

We also welcome Dave Mountford as assistant coach. Dave is providing several group coaching sessions. One of these is something new for our club – Dave runs a cardio tennis session.

Let's highlight a few aspects of the junior section for 2007:

- More coaching hours have been delivered to more children – there are now more coaching sessions available. These take place on every day of the week during term time, except Sunday and Monday.
- An increase in the number of junior members from 93 to 96.
- School links – we 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
- Retention of teenagers and the running of girls only groups. These aspects of coaching programmes are particularly encouraged by the LTA
- Some of our juniors enter external competitions, for example, 16 children entered the North Warwickshire Doubles Leagues. Sophie Cable and Kate Gregory won the Under 14 girls section of this competition. Sophie was successful a second time with Jacob Pratt when they won the Under 14 mixed category. Charlotte Ray is the Under 12 Solihull Schools champion, with Emily Cable runner up. Sophie Cable was runner up in the U17 age group.
- Winners of our own Annual Club Tournament were:
  - 16 and Under Boys - Jacob Pratt (runner up: Will Shaw)
  - 16 and Under Girls - Charlotte Ray (runner up: Sophie Cable)
  - The 12 and Under age group matches will be played before Christmas when Ian has had chance to assess the children and encourage them to compete.
- Attendance at special events:
  - 20 children were offered complimentary invitations to the DFS Ladies Classic at Edgbaston including a "fun" session at the tennis factory.
  - Several juniors took part in LTA talent spotting invitation-only events
  - Alan took a group of juniors for an exciting day out at the Davis Cup at the NEC and a group of mini tennis players from our club performed a demonstration of tennis in front of the crowd waiting for the Andy Murray match.
- Play Tennis Day was great fun and our most successful ever with 108 registrations of junior and adult attendees.
- On court experience for older juniors undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh award was provided.
- Looking forward to 2008, the Club coach, Ian Poole, has plans to develop the coaching and playing programme. In outline these are:
  - More and improved competitive play outside the normal coaching sessions. This will include both fun and more serious competitions. Opportunities to compete against players from other clubs will be offered.
  - A more structured approach to group and private/shared lessons. Specific aims of the coaching will be made clear.
  - A greater number of more private/shared lessons for both juniors and adults will be available.
  - The availability of daytime coaching sessions will be increased.

Thanks!

Thanks to the juniors, coaches, parents, volunteers who have helped to make this year so successful.

More help required please!

If you would like to become a member of the Junior Tennis Committee or help out at specific events, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Jayne Barnes, Junior Committee Secretary (tel 01675 443572 or email [jcbarnes@tesco.net](mailto:jcbarnes@tesco.net)). Thank you!

Jayne Barnes  
28 October 2007

**Appendix 3**  
**Analysis of Income and Expenditure 1 Nov 2006 to 31 Oct 2007**

	2006/07 £	2005/06 £	2004/05 £	2003/04 £	1997/98 £
<b><u>Subscription fees</u></b>	<b>12,069</b>	11,479	10,363	10,485	4,558
<b><u>Coaching</u></b>					
Coaching income			2,464	5,425	1,677
Coaching fees / equipment			(2,164)	(4,486)	(1,495)
	<b>0</b>	0	300	939	182
<b><u>Social events</u></b>			9	40	371
<b><u>Grants</u></b>					
Funds received		670		476	0
Application of funds		(670)	(275)	0	0
Funds not yet applied			275	(476)	
	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
<b><u>Other costs</u></b>					
Maintenance & repairs	(1,120)	(734)	(724)	(156)	(1,703)
League / affiliation fees	(1,128)	(1,107)	(1,066)	(1,014)	(381)
Tennis balls	(444)	(670)	(553)	(594)	(509)
Trophies / tournament prizes	(319)	(237)	(364)	(56)	(188)
Miscellaneous	(100)	(331)	(41)	(342)	(876)
	<b>(3,112)</b>	(3,078)	(2,748)	(2,162)	(3,657)
<b><u>Wimbledon tickets</u></b>					
Income	1,514	1,650	1,166	1,260	406
Costs	(1,514)	(1,650)	(1,166)	(1,260)	(406)
	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
<b><u>Contribution pre fundraising</u></b>	<b>8,958</b>	8,401	7,924	9,302	1,454
<b><u>Income from Fundraising</u></b>	<b>4,246</b>	5,505	4,116	8,743	
<b><u>Spent on facility improvement</u></b>					
Lighting Survey			(470)		
Planning Costs			(800)		
	<b>13,204</b>	13,906	10,770	18,045	
<b><u>Utilisation of Contribution</u></b>					
Transferred to "Sinking Fund"	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	
Net funds raised	4,246	5,505	2,846	8,743	
Contribution to Sports Club	3,958	3,401	2,924	4,302	
	<b>13,204</b>	13,906	10,770	18,045	
<b>Note: Balance on Sinking Fund at 30 April 2007 was £36,800</b>					
<b><u>Income from Fundraising</u></b>					
Arden 9 Mile Race	2,845	2,366	1,490	1,248	
Auction of Promises	0	0	0	4,463	
Blues Nights	0	1,590	626	2,000	
The Big Racket	736	0	1,448	0	
Donations	0	870	139	0	
Quiz Nights	273	267	0	335	
Play Tennis Day	99	140	148	180	
Annual Dinner	293	0	130	0	
Wine Sales	0	89	108	183	
Cheese & Wine	0	106	0	0	
Karaoke Evening	0	0	0	105	
Wimbledon Barbeque	0	0	0	76	
Wimbledon Draw	0	0	0	75	
Miscellaneous	0	78	29	79	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,246</b>	5,505	4,116	8,743	