

PINNER LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 28th February 2011

Present: Athar Qureshi (chair) Avesh Nandhra (vice chair) Val Fineberg (secretary) Chris Horsley (treasurer) Denise Meltzer (membership) Alison Long, Amanda Welch (junior secretary) Michael O'Neill (tournament secretary) Linda Whoriskey (social tennis) Frankie Taylor (social secretary) Nigel Buckman (coach)

1 Apologies for absence

Sue Buckman, Alice Kavalir, Jaro Kavalir, Mahmoud Rayani

Athar welcomed all for turning up and pointed out was the best attendance for a few years and this must have been down to the free drink on offer! He invited questions at any point of the meeting.

2 Minutes from 2010 AGM

Accepted as correct

3 Matters Arising

- Floodlights for Court 1: still an outstanding issue from last year – have been trying to explore the possibility for a few years now but lot of barriers to overcome i.e. neighbours/supply of power/cost – will leave for new committee to investigate.

4 Committee reports

Following reports given:

4.1 Chair – Athar Qureshi

Hi everyone and thanks for attending.

It seems only last month that I was sitting here talking about 2009 and now here we are at in 2011 talking about the last year.

2010 was a challenging year for the club on a number of levels and I'd like to talk a little about each of these as I think its important for the club to understand and then go on to address these issues:

Costs

The club's costs are something that the committee has been actively managing/reducing over the last few years wherever possible. We have undertaken a cost management programme that has systematically looked at all aspects of our spend. This programme is not yet complete but has already yielded benefits through streamlining and reducing areas such as gardening, utilities etc. Chris Horsley has led this work and I commend his latent Scottish soul in really trimming costs wherever possible. There are however, expenses that we were not able to foresee such as pump breakdowns etc that are large one off costs.

Areas however that the club is struggling with are things particularly around cleaning and waste of balls. For the last 3-4-5 years, we have continually talked about and encouraged members to clean up after themselves on court and in and around the clubhouse, but the message seems to hit deaf ears in MOST cases with some members being model citizens being the exception rather than the norm. This pushes up the costs to the club in terms of cleaning and as far as we are aware, we are the only club in the area with a cleaner coming in every day. For a members club of the size that we are, that is just not a sustainable situation and we really need EVERYONE to get their act together. We need your help – clean up after yourself and if others are not, be a good member and TELL THEM TO DO SO. If they do not comply, then report the situation to a member of the committee. We must get back to people taking on their membership responsibilities.

Social Tennis

The club committee has made many interventions and tried various approaches to making social tennis better attended and of a better standard. We have also heard no end of criticism from certain members on this subject as well. It is not that the committee has not tried and will continue to try, BUT, it is impossible for the committee to make people turn up who choose not to turn up. Its a bit of a cheek for players say of 5th team standard to want to come and play with 1st 2nd and 3rd team standard players when they themselves are unwilling to play with players who are not team standard.

Its impossible for the committee to mandate better standard players to come to social, we are after all a members club and we do not pay players to be able to force them to come. Never the less, a number of the better players do support the social tennis whenever possible, noting that EVERYONE now has busy lives and values their free time highly but just has less of it in this day and age. We need to get past this lingering wish and enjoy the tennis on offer at social and the banter and the drink and social side that comes with it and if the better players come, even better. Times have clearly changed.

However, the committee will continue to strive to find ways of improving social tennis. If you have any ideas, please share them with the committee or even step up and take on the mantle for a while and re-invigorate social tennis further, we'd love for that to happen.

Member attitudes

Again, I go back to using a phrase I seem to use a lot, "we are a members club". We are not a club such as Riverside where we pay to have everything done for us. We pay a relatively small fee (£280 vs £1300) for the opportunity to play as much tennis with balls provided we can within the restrictions of the number of courts and teams etc that play at Pinner. We need to treat the club as a members club accordingly and that means helping out not only actively on the committee but also on a day to day basis through behaviour when at the club, keeping it tidy through cleaning up after yourself, putting something right if it's out of place etc....if we all did this a couple of times in the month, the impact this would have on the club would be significant.

Some members who do not play team tennis from survey comments and through general discussion, regard the team tennis access to courts as a problem. They need to change their attitude, we as a club need to serve all our members and as an example, some 80+ adults and premier juniors play for the ten teams (5 ladies and 5 mens) and Middx Cup during the summer. This represents approximately 60%+ all adult members, so we need to serve their needs through team tennis. Yes, there is strain on the courts at times in summer, BUT, team tennis only really lasts from late April to mid Aug, so there is plenty of time around that that people can play. We also get people complaining about the summer tournament....well that is also something that a large number of people participate in and enjoy, so instead of not participating and complaining, people should get involved and participate and ENJOY these events, they are tennis and isn't that what we are all here to play and enjoy?

Alternatively, some people only come and play team tennis. Well, for some of the top players, it is understandable as they have aspirations to play a high level of tennis and generally are younger and thus in the middle of career building and family commitments as well. We need to be more understanding of their wishes and wants BUT we encourage them to come take part in the club through such things as the social tennis and see this as something that they can give back to the club as well. We urge players to make it a commitment this year to play half a dozen social tennis events and the impact of that will be significant. Some players are also involved in other sports as well and therefore cannot make social, our summer is a precious time, so we need to be understanding.

General comments

It was a mixed year in terms of team tennis and we hope 2011 will allow certain teams to consolidate their positions and others narrowly missing promotion last year to go on and achieve it this year. No doubt there will be more of this from Nigel in his round up.

Final Comments

I have been privileged to have been Club Chairman for the last 5 years. In that time, I have tried to be as open and approachable as possible however, as I am definitely not anywhere near perfect, I am sure I have made mistakes, so thank you for putting up with me for this time. I particularly thank the committee for their tireless work, former committee members as well as current. It is a pretty thankless task but people have diligently been working for you and they need a lot of praise for this work. Its easy to criticise, but a lot harder to put your hand up and become a target.

A special thanks to Avesh as he is standing down this year, he has been a wonderful Vice Chairman in those 5 years and has done an enormous amount around the club.

I have also decided to step down this year as I think the club needs someone new in my role with fresh ideas, enthusiasm and energy. I have loved pretty much all of the time as Chairman although it has given me its fair share of issues to deal with, and I wish whoever comes into the role in the new committee election all success.

4.2 Vice-chair – Avesh Nandhra

Dear Members,

This is my final report as Vice Chairman of PLTC.

As many of you know, I've been actively involved in the general running of the club as well as specifically managing the bar, Wimbledon tickets, CCTV and also had involvement in the men's 4th team. It is with regret that I stand down after 5 years, but feel that this is an appropriate time to do so: I've just started my own recruitment business and this takes up most of my time and energy; I also feel that it is time for some of the younger or newer members to take an active role in our club. When I say younger, this reminds of the time when I first served the club, as Treasurer, back in 1985/86. I also ran the men's 2nd team for a few years and some of you may also remember my DJ'ing efforts at Christmas Party's - some of you may prefer not to!

My main concern when taking on the bar management, was to ensure that the bar contributed positively to the club's finances. This has not been without its challenges, as for much of the time this relies on the honesty of members when the bar is unmanned. Having said that, I'm generally pleased that the bar has run at a profit and I must thank the rest of the committee for their help in replenishing stock and generally helping out. Lewis Whoriskey is an excellent barman and I thank him for his efforts. I mustn't forget all of the younger members too for helping me unload carloads of stock – there a lot of

them, so won't try and mention all their names here. Going forward, I do recommend that the new committee looks to share management of the bar as it is a lot of work for one person. I really don't have much more to add, other than I've thoroughly enjoyed serving the club and wish the new committee every success. See you on court soon.

4.3 Membership – Denise Meltzer

Membership numbers were down marginally this year resulting in a reduction of fees in. I was asked to look more thoroughly into the reason this had occurred and it was found to be split between a loss of a few full and midweek members coupled with some of our junior members not rejoining the club as we had opened up our Junior Night to encompass members and non-members, the latter of which had to pay more to attend. We have now gone back to our old method of a members only Junior Night. There is no need for concern regarding the lower membership levels as every year we lose some of our members but also gain new members during the year. This year it has been decided to increase the subs after having a 3 year freeze on subscriptions to £295 for full members and £200 for both off-peak and midweek members. This is a rise of £15 and £10 respectively. We still have the £10 discount in place for prompt payment before 1st April.

As in the past couple of years you will be receiving your subscription letter via email sometime early in March and you will be able to pay your fees directly into the bank or let me have your cheques by post or by hand. Whichever method you choose please do not forget to let me have your completed membership forms for my records.

4.4 Junior Secretary – Amanda Long/Alison Welch

Teams:

League positions show that we have finished mid-table in some age groups but did better overall last Summer than we have done in Winter – perhaps this is to be expected as more difficult to get teams together during the winter months? It does continue to be challenging to get both enough players on the squad lists and commitment from these players and families to play the matches. It perhaps needs to be looked at more closely by the incoming Junior Secretary and the Coaches as to which teams to enter in future and whether it would be more beneficial to arrange local friendlies – it is very hard to get commitment to away matches that are any distance from Pinner!

On a more positive note we have had some really good matches and some good wins, notably the Boys 12&U team who won all their matches away at Hurlingham with only 3 players last November, and the Boys 14&U team who won away at Eastcote in January in a very close fought match.

Friday Fun Nights:

Since the Committee's decision last summer to make Friday nights a members only session, we are both sad and disappointed to report that numbers have fallen dramatically. Whilst we appreciate that some of this is seasonal we are still of the opinion that it is mainly due to the above decision. Even though we still have our regular 9 attending whatever the weather we have become a little saddened by this decrease. Junior night was completely self-funding and profitable when non-members were allowed to attend, thus enabling us to arrange extra functions such as discos at no cost to the club – we are now having to be subsidised at a cost of around £30-40 a week, a matter that maybe needs to be addressed in the future.

However, in our time as Junior Secretaries we have run several successful and well attended social events for the children and have had great fun doing so! We welcome the new Junior Secretary and are more than willing to help or advise where needed.

4.5 Tournament Secretary – Michael O'Neill

The PLTC Summer 2010 Closed tournament was enjoyed by all those who took part. The tournament was well supported by the club this year with the number of entrants up by 29%. The Mens Doubles was up by 17%, but the real difference was made by the ladies. Their support of the tournament meant that the Mixed Vets, Ladies Vets and Ladies Singles draws were all up significantly.

Trial of the September Finals Day:

We moved the finals day to September this year. This was an attempt to improve entry levels (as fewer members would be away on holidays in September) and reduce the number of walk overs (as there would be a longer period over which the matches could be played).

The move to September was always going to be a trial to see how it impacted the tournament. I don't believe it achieved what we wanted. Whilst the majority of members do attempt to get their matches played on time, there will always be a minority of entrants that make very little effort to and thus hold up the entire tournament.

The likelihood is that the date of Finals day will return to July and the committee will explore different ways of improving the tournament experience for the members. As we said last year, the tournament is for the members and therefore we encourage any ideas you have that will result in more members enjoying the tournament

If anyone has any suggestions please approach a member of the committee or the Tournament Director.

Finals day 2010

I think everyone will agree the day and the evening were a great success. We were blessed with good weather, plenty of food and drink and fantastic entertainment from all of the finalists.

Thanks to all the members who umpired on the day. In particular all of the juniors who were a major help. Thanks also to Alison and Amanda who were a big help to me on the day. The party in the evening was a great success, with good food and entertainment thanks to Linda and Frankie.

New Tournament Director

As most of you are aware my life is about to get a lot busier given that Liz is now 8 months pregnant! I will be standing down to make way for the new Tournament Director...Dan Meltzer. I know that Dan will do a great job, but I hope that the members give him the support that he needs to do so.

Many thanks to all those who helped me with the running of the tournament over the last few years.

4.6 Coach – Nigel Buckman

I had an exciting year last year finishing off my Masters to become one of the LTA's 17 Master Professional coaches in Great Britain.

Coaching through the summer was busy with lots happening at the club, this tailed off somewhat towards the end of the year but as the weather improves we are looking forward to a busy summer ahead of us.

With new faces coming onto the committee I have already started working with the committee to put into places more tournaments, increase the participation of socials and strategies to help us build on membership and also stop what may be a lot of players leaving the club. This is why all members will see a difference immediately in social tennis and tournaments both Midweek, junior and full members before the membership subscriptions in April.

We have a good coaching team at Pinner and all coaches will be more involved in helping each position on the committee.

All members will shortly receive details of all upcoming tournaments happening throughout the year and planned social functions for both junior and senior members.

I know with more personal verbal communication more members will be taking part in more events at the club whether social or competitive.

The new committee will be listening to the members through the response of the questionnaires and responding to each concern personally.

You will all have received an email recently showing a slight increase in coaching charges for this year. You are all members of a great club, it runs through my veins and I look forward to the club growing throughout the year.

Any questions I will be happy to take now or after the meeting.

Many thanks

4.7 Social Secretary – Frankie Taylor

2010 had some successful social events but also, sadly, a few events cancelled due to lack of interest.

We had an Irish night on a Wednesday night at the end of March with a ceiledh band and a supper provided and it was a really big success with everyone who came. We had about 50 people at the evening who joined in after social tennis or just came for the entertainment.

Our annual Finals Day was moved to early September last year and we had, as usual, a fantastic day with the tournament run by Mike and a lot of people supporting the tennis throughout the day. In the evening we had a DJ and a buffet meal and, once again, we made a healthy profit. It's always an event that is well attended in the evening as well as through the day and last year was no exception.

Our Christmas party had great promise – we had a live singer, a DJ and two casino tables offering blackjack and roulette. The committee worked hard to promote the event and around 70 people were due to attend but unfortunately we were thwarted with the weather as we had the worst snow of the winter. However, a good few die-hards put on their wellies and made it despite the treacherous conditions and with an i-pod and an abundance of food, a really good night was had with the bar and ticket sales making a profit.

Again, it's all fun due to the attendance of our members and their friends and so thank you to everyone for supporting the social events organised throughout last year.

4.8 Social tennis – Linda Whoriskey

Social tennis has been ticking over this year but unfortunately there have been quite a few rainy days.

On the whole social tennis has been successful both Sunday and Wednesdays.

I have enjoyed my role as social tennis secretary but am now stepping down to take up another role on the committee. Thanks to all who have supported social tennis and many thanks to Lewis for manning the bar.

5 Presentation of Accounts

Treasurer – Chris Horsley

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2010

Accounts:

The Accounts show a net loss for the year of £9,729 with subscription income down once again (9% down for 2010 and 2.3% down for 2009).

Once again, the main social events were financially successful and contributed greatly to the bar revenue.

Bar revenue has decreased by 11% to £13,791 contributing net profits of £2,273 at a margin of 16.5%. The performance of the bar is disappointing and the committee do recognise the inherent risks associated with the operation of an "honesty bar" and are continuing to monitor and improve controls over stock and takings.

Overall expenditure has decreased by 3.7% from £53,498 to £51,499.

Summary of financial performance:

The financial performance for the year was disappointing.

The budgets prepared early in the financial year did show that financial performance for 2011 would be under pressure. Operating costs are constantly reviewed and it was decided that the main focus should be to seek to attract new members to increase the clubs revenue. To this extent, new initiatives have been introduced such as the summer fun day.

However, although operating costs have been successfully reduced (at a time when most costs are rising), the club's overall revenue has continued to fall.

It is clear that if revenue can not be increased for 2011, a further programme of cost cutting will be required and that such a programme may impact on some luxuries that members have become used to.

Capital Expenditure:

There was no significant capital expenditure during the year.

Capital base and cash-flow:

It is disappointing to report a loss for the year, however on closer inspection it can be seen that the loss is derived entirely from the depreciation charge and reduction in subscription and investment income. In cash terms, the club continues to operate positively.

The club's asset base remains strong with cash reserves of £72,525 (2009 - £67,701) and net assets amounting to £117,941.

Accounting Records:

The accounting records are available for inspection at the meeting.

Following points raised and answered:

- Issue of floodlights being left on when courts not in use – membership has to take responsibility
- True period of depreciation – aggressive depreciation over 6urs, would rather have assets written off sooner then carry ones that have no value
- Interest down – difference due to rates, savings are in bonds giving as good a rate as can get at present time
- 50% increase in light/heat – utility charges have risen dramatically + always some wastage, no longer locked into a contract
- Cost of social tennis organiser – now cut as unaffordable luxury
- Fun day – generated positive vibes but only 1 new member, however, costs involved were minimal
- Fluctuations in Bar costs & profits – have put in place systems controls as opposed to people control, reduced access by others, tab system stopped, considerations for a vending machine – led to further discussion about expectations of the bar and that when open gives good atmosphere but recently seems to be shut a lot of the time (new members viewpoint) but members unwilling to volunteer services to man which led to discussion on having bar rota – tried this in the past but not successful and huge amount of administration involved and volunteers not forthcoming – some suggestions given such as look at what other clubs do, have mixture of paid staff & volunteers . Again leave for new committee to take forward.

6 Subscription rates

Proposal read by AQ

Proposal:

The Club committee propose to raise the current club membership fees as outlined in the table below. The fees have remained static at the level set in 2008 to reflect the change in economic circumstances at that point and beyond. The Club has also been actively running a programme of cost reduction where ever possible in order to maintain that 2008 level. Discounts for early payment, age and family membership will remain as per 2010. We remain very competitively priced as compared to other local tennis clubs offering similar environments.

However, the last 12 months has seen a rise in all aspects of the Club's major costs despite the cost reduction programme. This and the need to continue to put money aside each year towards the courts' resurfacing (needed every 7-8 years) have necessitated this increase.

A point to note is that in order to minimise further increases, the major factor is for the Club members to do more (which used to be the case) in areas such as cleaning up after themselves, reducing the

wastage of balls, not leaving lights & heating on when not needed. As these are LARGE costs for the club and something that a little individual effort can make a large collective difference.

Category	2010 Subscription	Proposed 2011 Subscription
Full	£280	£295
Midweek	£190	£200
Off-peak	£190	£200
Student	£145	£150
Social	£15	£20
Coaching Adult / Junior	£40 / £20	£50 / £30
Premier Junior	£110	£115
Junior	£85	£90
Mini	£55	£60

Proposed: Athar Qureshi Seconded: Chris Horsley
Passed unanimously

7 Election of New Committee

The uncontested nominations for the committee were as follows:

Post	Nomination	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Sean White	Chris Horsley	Athar Qureshi
Vice – Chair	Roger Levy	Val Fineberg	Denise Meltzer
Secretary	Val Fineberg	Athar Qureshi	Denise Meltzer
Treasurer	Chris Horsley	Linda Whoriskey	Amanda Long
Men’s Captain	Dan Meltzer	Athar Qureshi	Avesh Nandhra
Ladies’ Captain	Linda Whoriskey	Val Fineberg	Frankie Taylor
Membership Secretary	Denise Meltzer	Val Fineberg	Frankie Taylor
New membership	Nigel Buckman Dan Gericke	Adam Hornby	Chris Horsley
Junior Secretary	Lindy Toogood	Amanda Long	Alison Welch
Social Tennis	Frankie Taylor	Avesh Nandra	Denise Meltzer
Social Secretary	Amanda Long Alison Welch	Denise Meltzer	Nigel Buckman
Tournament Secretary	Dan Meltzer	Alison Welch	Amanda Long

Discussion on nomination of NB/DG to be point of first contact for new members – DM to deal with existing members

Committee voted in en block

Suggestion made that committee members should come down to club to introduce themselves – chair should put a blog onto website and information posted onto notice board in club house

8 Junior membership

AQ recapped on reasons for being on agenda – raised as non-members attending junior nights without any affiliation or long term commitment to the club. Issue of using club facilities when not actual members. Can allow ‘taster’ sessions for 3-4 weeks but then need to commit or become a coaching member. NB raised point that LTA bases grants etc on club members. Club needs members and why should juniors join if not a requirement of attendance – also has implications for insurance purposes + parents actually paying more in the long term for non-members. AQ stated that issue was debated by committee for long time and still feel intent was correct, however, policy decision has led to drop in numbers as not as many have signed up as expected. Issue for next committee to take on.

9 AOB

9.1 Social Tennis

Issue of tag system NOT being used – has annoyed some members who have not stayed – agreed should be in use even if not busy but members can also take responsibility – if issues then need to report to committee

Meeting closed at 10 p.m.