

Minutes

Annual General Meeting



Held on: Thursday 9th May 2019, 7.30pm at West Surrey Golf Club

1. Attendance: 34 Members attended the meeting.

Apologies were received from: Sue Stathers, Emily Woodhouse, Pater Aitken, Ian Simpkin, David Johnson, Malcolm Dillon, Richard & Jenny Peters.

2. Approval of the Minutes held on 26th April 2018

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 26th April 2018 had been circulated to Members. The adoption of the minutes was proposed by Glenn Waterfall and seconded by Dominic Boyle.

3. Chairman's Report

I would very much like to thank our committee team for their dedication and hard work over past year. Without them the club would not function half as well as it does and a lot of work is done unseen in their free time for which we are grateful.

We have some new people on-board and they will be introduced and formerly elected later.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to Doug Smit who for the past twelve years has done a fantastic job, diligently and unrelentingly running the VETS tournaments. Sadly, he has decided to step down and pass the gauntlet on. Hopefully we will be able to build on his great work and we are looking to make announcements with regard to the VETS tournaments later in the summer.

Thanks to Debra Boniface for running the Wimbledon Ballot – Debra has done this for the quite a few years and has asked me to mention that she is happy to hand it over if we have any willing candidates.

And last but not least, thanks to Neil Conniff for his continued support with Globus.

Over the past year a key focus has been on increasing our adult membership and improving our club's offering to existing members – this has ranged from additional organised tennis sessions to the introduction of competitive playing opportunities for those intermediate players wishing to play competitive tennis against other clubs in the ADLTA lower leagues.



This has proved very successful with the men's section and we'll be looking to extend this to the mixed and possibly ladies if we can get enough players to make up teams.

MEMBER SURVEY

The Golf Club (GC) recently conducted a survey of the opinions of its members and asked for their feedback. The survey proved very successful and helped shape their offer to members and prioritise key developments – both on the course and in the clubhouse. We'll be looking to replicate this exercise over the coming months and hopefully it will help us deliver an improved offering to our tennis members. We'll keep you posted.

FINANCES

The GC acknowledged in their financial report that the tennis section continues to make a healthy contribution to the overall group income mix.

During this past year we have focussed on managing our costs and the committee team continues to seek ways of controlling expenditure whilst improving our facilities.

We are excited about the installation of new floodlights and I am pleased to report work is scheduled to take place w/c 3rd June. Not only will the new lights deliver improved illumination they will also reduce our electricity costs by up to 70%.

INTERNET

The golf club has kindly allowed the tennis section to piggy back their Wi-Fi and after an initial capital outlay of £175 for the necessary equipment, we now have a fast and reliable Wi-Fi with excellent coverage across all three courts. This new configuration has saved us £600 per year on 3G internet costs.

I would like make a special mention and thanks to Malcolm Dillon. For those that don't know him, Malcolm has been a member for nearly 10 years and works diligently, unseen behind the scenes keeping the wheels on the wagon for all things that break within our tennis world – on several occasions he's dismantled and rebuilt the ball machine, engineered new parts for it on his lathe, modified the electrics so they are more robust – and in the process saved the club a significant amount of money. Needless to say he has intervened in other areas of clubhouse repairs negating the need to outsource to third parties - again saving considerable amounts on maintenance costs. Thanks also to Malcolm for keeping the ball cupboard continually stocked.

Subscriptions 2019/20

As with any club/organisation we are continually battling with increased costs which in some cases have exceeded the inflation rate. So I am pleased to announce that the Golf Club board has agreed a modest increase in subs at the current inflation of 2.9%. We believe our fees still represent tremendous value for what we consider to be the premier tennis club in the area. Furthermore, the committee team has listened to members' feedback with regard to family membership and I am delighted to announce that from next year we have reduced family membership. For every full paying adult tennis member – one child U15 will go for free. Every child thereafter, normal parent member discounts apply. A couple of members, Paul Dudley and Dan Wells, have been doing a great job organising family sessions on Sunday afternoons – sometimes combining with a BBQ. The initial uptake has been very encouraging and for those with children who would like to get involved there is a Whatsapp group. Please contact Paul if you would like to join it.



Payment options

Every year, we have a significant number of members who for a variety of reasons are late paying their subscriptions and it takes an inordinate and costly use of time from both the GC admin and committee members chasing for unpaid amounts.

In order to reduce or even eliminate this, a decision has been taken to transition to an annual direct debit arrangement. For new members direct debit will be mandatory and, for existing members at least for this next year the option will be still available to pay by BACS or cheque. Of course the option to pay monthly through Premium Credit is still available and will continue to be so. In order to encourage subscriptions to be paid on time the Board has introduced a late payment levy of £25.

Membership

The club is in a very good place at the moment with strong membership numbers. In spite of the high attrition rate on renewal last year we have increased our adult membership from 185 the same period last year to 193 this year. This in spite of strong competition from other local clubs.

Junior membership (defined as U17) is running at 73. Up 20 over the same period last year.

Therefore, the total club membership is running at 264 up 26 against the same period last year.

However, every year as with most clubs we get a natural fall away of members and therefore we are continually looking to recruit new ones. Please be aware the REFER a FRIEND Waitrose voucher scheme is ongoing and we encourage any members with tennis playing friends to encourage them along to the club. We've now opened up every Wednesday evening, Saturday morning and Friday night BBQ sessions for prospective new members to come along and play tennis and experience our friendly and welcoming club.

This year we plan to combine the Godalming Staycation Day as an open day for prospective new members. Staycation is on the 4th August.

Golf club facilities

Our club hugely benefits from having a first class bar, restaurant and wonderful sun-terrace as well as fabulous showers with complimentary towels etc...I've been asked by the GC secretary James Newman, to encourage all tennis members to feel welcome and to use these great facilities. In the past there has been some confusion over accepted dress code. I am pleased to report the GC has relaxed the dress code so tennis members can now wear tennis gear in the bar area and of course as always on the delightful sun terrace overlooking the 18th green.

Birthday celebrations

I am pleased to announce it is the club's 60th Birthday this year and we are planning a Birthday Party which we have called **The BIG 60 TennisFEST!** It will be held during the afternoon on Saturday 14th September. More details to follow in due course. Our new social secretary Richard Embry will be giving some additional detail in his report. The focus will be on a fun tennis tournament and we are going to combine the event with raising money for the GC's appointed charity this year which is the Samson MS centre in Guildford.



Communication

Mindful that people get fed up receiving too many emails, we have made attempts to reduce your inbox by introducing a bi and sometimes tri monthly newsletter. Thanks to Phil Rivet for knocking it in to shape and making it look polished and professional. Please keep an eye on these communications because they do advertise and inform the membership of upcoming events. We are aiming to revamp one of the clubs notice boards which will display any upcoming event posters. And of course if in doubt you can always check out the Diary of Events on the club website or alternatively friend the club's Facebook page and receive notifications automatically!

Well that pretty much concludes my report but I would just like to finish by saying a BIG thank you to ALL our West Surrey members for making the club a thriving and great place to play tennis and look forward to another enjoyable and successful year.

Glenn Waterfall
Chairman

4. Treasurer's Report

Dom Boyle presented a summary of the club's financial statement. There were no questions from the floor.

WSTC Expenses 2018 Actual against budget & BUDGET 2019				
	Actual 2018	Budget 2018	Variance	2019
Web/Online	£ -			
Website	£ 403.01	£ 550.00	£ 146.99	£ 550.00
Globus Online Booking	£ 720.00	£ 800.00	£ 80.00	£ 800.00
Orange Broadband Internet	£ 450.00	£ 500.00	£ 50.00	£ 500.00
Social Events	£ 711.98	£ 600.00	-£ 111.98	£ 600.00
Marketing/Advertising	£ 430.67	£ 500.00	£ 69.33	£ 600.00
Maintenance	£ -			
Grounds/Gardening Maintenance	£ 1,057.44	£ 700.00	-£ 357.44	£ 400.00
Pavilion Maintenance	£ 22.49	£ 500.00	£ 477.51	£ 500.00
Floodlight maintenance	£ 823.05	£ 1,200.00	£ 376.95	£ -
Courts	£ 37.44	£ 500.00	£ 462.56	£ 500.00
Fence	£ -	£ 250.00	£ 250.00	£ 250.00
Equipment maintenance	£ 50.59	£ 500.00	£ 449.41	£ 500.00
Cleaning (Clubhouse)	£ 1,409.59	£ 1,200.00	-£ 209.59	£ 1,200.00
Other costs				
Electricity	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00	£ -	£ 1,000.00
Coaching	£ 1,413.99	£ 1,500.00	£ 86.01	£ 1,500.00
LTA Affiliation Fees/Competition entry fees/LTA Venue Registration	£ 466.00	£ 500.00	£ 34.00	£ 500.00
Equipment Purchases	£ 93.66		-£ 93.66	£ 500.00
Tennis Balls	£ 1,519.99	£ 2,000.00	£ 480.01	£ 2,000.00
Trophies/Prizes/engraving	£ 2,095.85	£ 1,250.00	-£ 845.85	£ 1,500.00
Cleaning materials	£ 70.65		-£ 70.65	£ -
Misc incl incidental LTA course and workshop fees, incidental clubhouse purchases, milk, washing up liquid, biscuits etc...etc...)	£ 277.39	£ 150.00	-£ 127.39	£ 200.00
	£ -		£ -	
	£ 13,053.79	£ 14,200.00	£ 1,146.21	£ 13,600.00
Income	£ 32,496.00			
Contribution	£ 19,442.21			



5. Men's Captain's Report 2017/18

It has been a pleasure to captain the men's team for the last year – my thanks to Simon for passing on such a committed team and I'm pleased to say we've had another successful year.

Looking back to last summer we had three teams promoted in their respective leagues including two teams winning their Chaucer divisions. We've just started the new summer season in the Chaucer and ADLTA leagues and all teams are competing well in their first few fixtures.

We finished the winter season in March and again both our A and B teams gained promotion – to the ADLTA premier division and division three. Well done to all who played their part in another successful campaign.

Particular praise for Ian Simpkin who was the highest ranked player in division one and to Paul Jameson who answered a call to play at 8am on a cold Sunday morning after half of our team was struck down with man flu. Paul helped win 8 valuable points that proved crucial at the end of the season.

The Tuesday night match practice sessions continue to be popular and our rising star and trainee coach Justin Worthy has run a few training sessions, with hopefully more to come in the summer.

The summer tournament is well underway and all competitions have been popular with an increase in the number of participants which is great to see.

My thanks to the committee for making my job as easy as possible, especially Glenn and Phil Cadman for helping to run our B teams and particularly Phil for organising all our fixtures throughout the year – must be quite a challenge with our new men's teams.

After all our recent promotions the standard of tennis has improved hopefully we can hold our own.

Phil Rivet
Men's Captain 2018/19

6. Ladies Captain Report 2018/19

As you know I've been giving these reports for many years and each year it seems to me to be a greater honour and privilege than the year before. As a small club we appear to always challenge the larger clubs with our fighting spirit and this always ends up with the right results. I will not be reporting on the Ladies Mid-Week as I would like to leave the glory to Lena our mid week-captain.

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Summer Ladies Weekend Chaucer League 2018

As usual the tennis is of a high standard playing clubs a little nearer to home. We managed to come a close 3rd in this league which is a great achievement considering we don't have the pool of players like David Lloyd who were top of this division, but as always, enjoyable tennis against them and all the other clubs.

West Surrey Club Chamionships Summer 2018, June 30th

Ladies Singles: Lena & Mel battled it out once again with Lena being victorious in 2 sets.

Ladies Doubles: This was contested over 3 exciting sets with Lena & Alix Lidbury being the winners over Mel & Sally Crathern.

Congratulations to all finalists.

Surrey Weekend Ladies 2018/19

We are in Division 9 West we have been in this Division for 2 years but hoping that we may get promotion for next year as we are runners up to Richmond this year.

West Surrey Club Championships Winter 2019, 23rd March

This year I relieved that the weather was considerable better than last years, snow, sleet and cold wind.

A little disappointed that we had very few spectators to watch the excellent finals.

Ladies Doubles:

A very exciting close match with Lena & Mel edging out Claire & Jo 3-6, 6-2, 7-5. Well played and thank you for keeping us on the edge of our seats.

My thanks go out to my enthusiastic ladies who always play if other commitments allow so Lena, Mel, Emily, Claire, Paola, Alice, Jo, Judith, Sue & myself my heartfull thanks. Special thanks go to Lena for being our AMAZING Mid-Week Captain of the year.

Denise Woods
Ladies Captain (April 2019)

Midweek Ladies Captain report 2018/19

The mid-week ladies team has had a successful year playing lots of great tennis.

Summer Chaucer league – Ladies mid-week

We are pleased to announce that the mid –week ladies topped the table beating their closest rivals David Lloyd Woking by 4 points this year.

Winter Surrey mid-week

The mid-week ladies team were promoted last winter and now in the top division which is a step up in level and we finished a respectable joint 3rd on points and rubbers, but 4th overall due to winning less sets. My thanks go to the following team players, Jo, Claire, Mel, Emily, Alice, Paola and myself (Lena) and Denise & Emily for supporting and being ever present.

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Our season was plagued with injury with Emily and myself being out much of the season. We started slowly but clinched a must win match against David Lloyd Raynes Park on their indoor courts and finished with a highly contested match draw against Westside Wimbledon who before us were unbeaten and are the division winners. Whilst we didn't win the league we certainly provided the best and most delicious lunches!

My thanks go to the following team players, Jo, Claire, Mel, Emily, Alice, Paola and myself (Lena) and Denise & Emily for supporting and being ever present.

Lena Kirby
Mid-Week Ladies Captain (April 2019)

7. Mixed Captain's Report 2018/19

It is a pleasure to present my first Mixed Captain's Report at this year's AGM.

Firstly can I begin with thanking my predecessor David L-Horsfall for handing over the teams' organisation in such good order. Thank you for his efforts while he was the Mixed Captain on behalf of the Club. Also, many thanks to Phil Cadman for his organisation in arranging the fixtures for the coming season.

Secondly, let me say a few words about the two Mixed team's performances over last year's Chaucer Summer Tournament. A big thank you to all of those players who played for both teams throughout the season. There were some very exciting and tight matches played to an excellent standard throughout the season.

The Mixed 1 team played very well over the season and managed to win every game of the division, therefore coming top of Division 2 and being crowned deserved champions. Very well done to Lena, Mel, Claire, Ian, Phil Rivet and Duncan for their fantastic efforts. Best of luck to the team for the season ahead in Division 1.

The Mixed 2 team played well also, however the league was very tight and we narrowly missed the chance to be promoted. We hope to go one better next season while competing in Division 3. Again, many thanks to all of the players, Denise, Emily, Alice, Judith, Sue, Andy, David and Phil Cadman for their commitment and efforts.

Finally, let me conclude by saying a big thank you to all of the players and fellow members for their support for both the Mixed Teams and I wish the players my best wishes to have fun and play some good tennis in their matches over the coming months.

Paul Dudley
Mixed Captain

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8. Social Secretary's Report

SUMMER FINALS DAY

The big day is on Saturday 22nd June. Juniors kick off at 9am and the adult ladies and men's singles at 11.30am followed by doubles matches at approx. 1.30pm and the mixed doubles at 2.30/3pm. There's a *BBQ between 12 – 1.30pm (£3/adults and £2/children U16). For the die-hards we continue into the evening with resident DJ Neil C. The *BBQ will fire-up again at 6.30pm (charge £7/head). There will be a complimentary barrel of beer, wine and soft drinks for the evening event.

*Veggie options will be available. Pay cash on the day.

See [website](#) for more info

AMERICAN DOUBLES EVENT 7th July

I have teed-up an American doubles event - it's a couple of weeks after the finals day, which most people won't be playing in anyway and the summer holidays will follow soon after, when people will be heading away. As a spin on the standard American doubles format, there will be a retro theme with additional points awarded for dress, equipment, playing style etc - entirely subjective of course - but just a bit of extra fun! So the perfect opportunity for those that've been itching to wear that fetching retro tennis gear and play with your wooden bat!

Prizes, Pimms and BBQ will follow play.

It's our club's 60th so come and join in the BIG 60 TennisFEST! Saturday 14th September...

Come and celebrate on **Saturday 14th September** with a fun packed day of tennis with a festival atmosphere! Six teams of eight (mixed standards) singles and doubles combinations = 50 plus people on all three courts at the same time - join a team and/or support a team - barracking compulsory!!

The winning team will win the acclaimed Paul Jameson Charity Cup. We'll be teaming up with the golf club's appointed 2019 charity and raising money for the **SAMSON Centre for MS** in Guildford. There'll be a £10 donation/entry fee per player to enter (includes BBQ food). Non-competitors will be asked for a donation for BBQ food. Guide price for kids U12 = £1.

So don't miss out...sizzling BBQ, great tennis, family fun, fab raffle prizes, cupcakes to die for. It can't get any better.

All entry proceeds and money raised through the raffle will go to the SAMSON Centre for MS, Guildford.

The aim is to make this a fun day inclusive of all playing levels. We will organise teams once we've received all the entries. Book early as we will cap at 48 players.

Event starts at 1.30pm

BBQ cooking starts 4.30pm

Finish around 6.30/7pm



And in the Autumn pipeline...

EVENING BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION 4th OCTOBER

A crack team has been put together to organise an evening's Birthday celebration which will take place on 4th October. Details to follow in due course...

BLUES BROTHERS QUIZ....November

Rory and Neil have teamed up to present a fun packed quiz with a Blues Bros theme. More details to follow...

9. Club and Court Maintenance Report

Court Surface

Courts 2 and 3 were re-coated last year and this has made a great improvement to the grip, especially in the wet. Unfortunately the painters were reluctant to do court 1 until we were able to tell them we were absolutely satisfied with them in the wet. By the time we did this after a long dry summer they were unable to complete Court 1 until last week. The Court will be available on Monday 13th June, and we welcome feedback from members using it in the wet.

Floodlights

After much careful consideration and site visits to other clubs we have chosen a Company from Woking, Luminance Pro, to supply the new LED floodlights and these are scheduled to be installed from June 3rd and the work is expected to take 4 days. There will be some disruption to play but we hope to have the courts available in the evenings. The light units are similar in appearance to our existing ones but use much less energy and should be virtually maintenance free.

Debrillator

We have had our defibrillator for two years now and I am pleased to say thus far it has not been used in anger. We did run a defib and CPR training course when we bought it and it's probably time to run another if there is sufficient demand. I have asked Glenn to put a response form on the website and given sufficient interest we will organise another course. Saturday morning following the club session was popular last time, but we will review this when we know the demand.

Grounds Maintenance

This month we say farewell and a very big thank you to Sue Woolard White who has looked after club surroundings for the last few years, and is now leaving to spend more time in Spain. Sue always took special care to make the club look it's best for tournament final days and we shall miss her. So we have a vacancy. Spare gardeners seem to be a threatened species in this part of the world but if anyone knows of a gardener looking for an extra couple of hours a month please let us know.

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General

With the exception of the ball machine, (which now qualifies as a veteran) nothing much has broken this year.

As always there are regular reports of the club house, store cupboard and courts being left unlocked so Members are reminded to please check these are all left locked when leaving, and to report anything they notice in need of maintenance, even the odd dead light bulb or fixing falling off is worth reporting and helps to get it fixed sooner.

Malcolm Dillon
Health & Safety/Maintenance co-ordinator

10. Election of Committee Members

The following members were elected to the committee:

Membership Secretary: Paul Taylor-South was proposed by Denise Woods and seconded by Phil Rivet.

Social Secretary: Richard Embry was proposed by Paul Taylor-South and seconded by Phil Rivet.

11. AOB

Robin Gorringe asked that the upcoming annual Golf/tennis Invitation Day be mentioned and advertised. It is diarised for Sunday 8th September.

Rosemary Gorringe advised that any tennis club members wishing to have their name and contact details published in the hard copy GC diary should contact Tara Cosser in the office ASAP. Email wsgcoffice@wsgc.co.uk

Prize giving for winter tournaments followed AOB.

Meeting concluded at 8.40pm.

