

Hertfordshire Lawn Tennis Association

Minutes of the 91st Annual General Meeting of the Association

Collingwood Suite, Gosling Sports Park, Welwyn Garden City

Thursday 06 December 2018

8 pm

Agenda item	Discussion
1	<p>Apologies St Margaretsbury Tennis Club, Chorleywood Tennis Club, Wymondley Tennis Club, Letchworth Sports & Tennis Club, Hoddesdon Lawn Tennis Club, Northwood Tennis Club, Stuart Foster, Sybil Howgego, Jean Gates, Stephen Rubin, Peggy Rawlins, Hope Mailer, Elizabeth Saunders, Audrey Butler, Mike Hudson, Malcolm Fraser, Basil Wein, Tessa Terry, Peter Moore. Apologies were read out at the meeting.</p> <p>The meeting included officers and committee members of the Association, Vice Presidents and representatives from clubs and venues.</p>
2	<p>Minutes of previous AGM held on 07 December 2017 The minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 07 December 2017 were agreed.</p>
3	<p>Resolution That the following amendments be made to the association's Rules with immediate effect: In Rule 1, insert the following new definition "independent examiner" means an independent person who is reasonably believed by the Committee to have the requisite ability and practical experience to carry out a competent examination of the Association's accounts:"</p> <p>In Rule 7 (a)(1), at the end of paragraph remove "and to appoint the auditors" and insert "and to appoint an Independent Examiner";</p> <p>In Rule 7(b), at the end of the paragraph remove "audited accounts" and insert "accounts": and</p> <p>In rule 12, at the end of the paragraph remove "These accounts shall be duly audited by the auditors". and insert "These accounts shall be independently examined".</p> <p>In accordance with Paragraph 9 of the Rules the above resolution must be passed at a General Meeting by a majority of not less than two thirds of those present and voting and if so passed shall have immediate effect. The Chair announced that all rule amendments were passed unanimously.</p>
4	<p>To present and if acceptable, adopt: The report of the Committee for 2018.</p>

Trevor Adamson, President of Herts Tennis and Chair of the Herts Tennis Management Committee read out his report which is also printed in the Herts Tennis Annual Newsletter – Issue 12 November 2018. Reference was made to the Awards Dinner held in March 2018. It is important that clubs or individuals nominate people in their club or community who have done invaluable work to promote tennis.

Reference was also made to the fact that Hertfordshire won the County Cup Race, Winter and Summer County Cup, Herts assistance with junior county training for 9U-18U, County teams and various funding streams supporting mini tennis and a club based funded programme to develop talent. The Herts Tennis Coaches Working Group is now well established and has provided excellent workshops and courses subsidised for coaches working in registered Herts venues.

There are a number of funding schemes to help clubs – interest free loans up to £5000 and facility grants of £1000 available to small clubs to make improvements and these opportunities have been taken up by a variety of clubs this year. County Leagues – Championship winners are Gosling Ladies and Welwyn for the Men.

Trevor Adamson addressed the AGM about a complaint that was made in March 2018 re the Committee of 2004 and how they dealt with it. The enquiry is ongoing; reports have been submitted and then sent to an independent lawyer. The Herts Management Committee of 2004 has been charged with Misconduct in connection with them having employed a coach in 2004 whose license, following investigation by the LTA, was suspended in 2005. During the time of the 2004 investigation Herts LTA Management Committee stopped him from coaching but he was working as an administrator and this is the cause of contention.

Martin Corrie is still President of LTA but has stepped aside to allow the investigation to be carried out but has been advised to appoint a lawyer to assist and defend the case as stated in the Constitution. Taylor Walton have been asked to look into the matter and Clive Borthwick, Solicitor and Partner at Taylor Walton addressed the meeting and confirmed that, in the constitution, the members of the Herts Management Committee shall be entitled to an indemnity out of the assets of the Association for all expenses and other liabilities properly incurred by them in the management of the affairs of the Association and as such are covered financially against any complaint against the officers or the Association. Clive Borthwick read out a statement (attached). Thanks were expressed to Clive and the audience were free to ask any questions.

Martin Corrie, Treasurer distributed summaries of the County's finances and presented the annual accounts for Herts Tennis for the year 01 October 2017 to 30 September 2018 which were received and adopted. They were proposed by Lee Evans and seconded by Bridie Amos and unanimously approved.

We have three operating companies namely the Hertfordshire Lawn Tennis Association itself and two other operating companies Hertfordshire LTA (Tennis Centres)Ltd and Hertfordshire LTA (Sponsorship) Limited. Each of these entities performs a different function. The finances of each of these operations were read out. The overall financial position of the County remains sound with liquid assets of £515,000. Full approved sets of accounts are available to anyone who wishes to see them upon request.

Deuce Tennis was an area Herts Tennis had placed some investment to assist in increasing participation and the App was going into 20 clubs in the County.

A suggestion was made from the floor asking us to consider doubling the level of an interest free loan up from its current £5k to £10k.

	<p>Several questions were raised from the audience</p> <p>Q: How much provision is there for legal liability?</p> <p>A: If there is no case to answer – LTA to pay legal costs. Herts LTA are relying on the LTA insurance to mitigate the costs. The thought is we are covered by insurance but if subject of LTA case toward its own member then insurance may not respond.</p> <p>Herts Tennis does not have separate insurance to cover the potential liability. The LTA insurance does not cover a claim for an offence if made by the LTA against a County. This is a matter to be looked at for the future. If claims made against Clubs by outside organisations, then this is covered by the LTA insurance. If the LTA make a charge against a club then the club are not covered by LTA insurance and this must be looked at to ensure that there would be no problem for a club.</p> <p>Q: If misconduct 2004 – serious implications from around the County. Learning point is to seek insurance as protection. If one acts in a way which is not considered in the best interests of the game can we as a County ensure all clubs and officers would not walk away?</p> <p>Q: Herts Schools expressed concern around tournaments in the Summer whereby teachers were individually covered - query around Retired teachers and their insurance.</p> <p>Q: Re Safeguarding whether a member, guest, or visitor it is one’s own responsibility to check the court but maintaining a Risk Register provides some protection.</p>
5.	<p>Annual Fees and Subscriptions</p> <p>Venue registration fees are to remain at £110 per court (£55 per grass court) with a maximum charge of 12 courts.</p> <p>Venue Herts Annual Fee is to remain at £26 per court</p> <p>Inter Club Competitions – entry fee to remain at £20 per team for Summer Doubles League.</p> <p>Lee Evans reported that the number of players had increased and the winners overall were Gosling Ladies and Welwyn Men.</p> <p>The number of walkovers was still disappointing in the higher division Men’s competition. Lee thanked all participants in the competition, all colleagues who oversee the Senior competitions and representative county teams and to Jennifer Keates who runs Mini Tennis. Particular thanks were also expressed to Mary Ford and Pauline Isaacs at Rickmansworth Tennis Club for their excellent work in hosting the Herts County Championships. The entries for the 2019 Herts League closes in mid-February 2019. The 2019 2 pair knock out competition finals will be hosted by Hoddesdon in October (date to be confirmed). Following a discussion led by the floor, to enable more clubs to enter the Herts League and other competitions run by the county it was proposed that a working group be set up to consider whether smaller clubs could join forces to enter teams.</p>
6.	<p>Arrangements for 2019</p> <p>Herts LTA presentation of Awards evening 16 March 2019.</p> <p>Annual General Meeting – Thursday 05 December 2019.</p>
7.	<p>Elections</p> <p>Elections of officers and Committees of the Association. The Constitution states that nominations for the election of officers must be received before 01 October. The current</p>

	<p>Officers and committee members are all willing to stand for re-election for 2019 and were elected.</p> <p>Trevor Adamson – President and Chair Martin Corrie – Treasurer Helen Elliott – Honorary Secretary Carole Draper Lee Evans Bridie Amos Janet Corrie Matt Willcocks Stuart Foster</p> <p>There were no new nominations for Vice President.</p>
8.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Queenswood School were National School Champions and will be representing England at the World Championships in Italy in June 2019.</p> <p>Question from the audience – The numbers playing tennis are dropping and the committee were asked if we have lost any clubs – no clubs have dropped out.</p> <p>At the Hertfordshire Sports Awards held at the University there was only one tennis related shortlisting – Is this an indication that the profile of tennis is dropping.</p>
9.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>Thursday 05 December 2019</p>
10.	<p>There being no further business Trevor Adamson thanked those present and closed the meeting at 21.20</p>