

# Farnham Common Tennis Club AGM

16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 7:30pm

**DRAFT MINUTES – TO BE AGREED AT 2024 AGM**

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**Attendees (23 Adult members, 2 U18 members) Exceeded quorum of 15**

Margret Southerden	Judy D'Arcy
Alan Polding	Millie Sutton U18
Helen Sutton	Nikash Ramrakha U18
Alan Morgan (Hon Secretary Main Club)	Shalu Ramrakha (parent)
Kirstin Stephens	Richard Spooner
Aman Kohli	Tracie Hicks
Sue Salmon	Lucinda Quixley
Peter St Lawrence	Al Hadfield
Andy Davidson	Alison Sharp
Sandra Buckledee	Bob Milne
Lyndsey Breeze	Doug Adams
Bronwen Harding	Vicky Spooner
Tim Needham	Paul Passey
Simon Bailey	
<b>Apologies</b>	<i>Gill Prout, Penny and Paul McPhillips, Karen and Rob Coull, Penny St Lawrence, Dick and Di Davies, Carol Wilson, Lou Rankin, Lawan Gilespe, James Swain, Krysia Edwards</i>

## **Chair opening remarks**

Alan Morgan opened up introducing himself as the Hon Secretary for the Main Sports Club, it's a requirement for an officer to attend the AGM's of individual sections. The existing committee resigned and then were re-elected.

Peter St Lawrence chaired the meeting after the election.

## **Election of Officers**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Incumbent</b>	<b>New nominations</b>	<b>Nominated by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>
<b>Chair / Secretary</b>	Peter St Lawrence	Peter St Lawrence	Sue Salmon	Aman Kohli
<b>Communications Officer</b>	Helen Sutton	Helen Sutton	Andy Davidson	Maggie Southerden
<b>Fixtures Secretary</b>	Sandra Buckeldee	Sandra Buckeldee	Helen Sutton	Alan Polding
<b>Maintenance Officer</b>	Alan Polding	Alan Polding	Peter St Lawrence	Maggie Southerden
<b>Welfare Officer</b>	Kirstin Stephens	Kirstin Stephens	Aman Kohli	Sue Salmon
<b>Junior Co-ordinator</b>	Aman Kohli	Aman Kohli	Andy Davidson	Helen Sutton
<b>Youth Representative(s)</b> Does not need to attend committee				
<b>Membership Officer / Clubspark administrator</b>	Sue Salmon	Sue Salmon	Peter St Lawrence	Kirsten Stephens
<b>Ladies Captain</b>	Maggie Southerden	Maggie Southerden	Kirsten Stephens	Sandra Buckeldee
<b>Men's Captain</b>	Andy Davidson	None Paul Passy Mens 1's Captain and Peter St		

		Lawrence will co-ordinate Mens night		
<b>Events Organiser</b>	Vacant	Judy D'Arcy Non committee volunteers for social events: Karen Coull, Penny McPhilips, Fi Tricker, Judy D'Arcy	Helen Sutton	Alison Sharp

## ROLES OF FARNHAM COMMON TENNIS CLUB COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON: organise/chair meetings, attend main club committee, represent tennis within main club, manage coach  
 COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER: take minutes, maintain website, send out update emails to members, liaise with LTA and county  
 MEN'S CAPTAIN: manage men's teams, run tournaments, liaise with coach  
 LADIES' CAPTAIN: manage ladies and mixed teams, run tournaments, liaise with coach  
 JUNIOR COORDINATOR: work with coach to increase and develop players under 18, liaise with parents, help organise junior events  
 WELFARE OFFICER: champion of welfare within main club framework  
 FIXTURES OFFICER: organise and maintain fixtures with other clubs  
 MEMBERSHIP OFFICER: monitor and develop membership numbers, welcome new members and overall grow the membership  
 MAINTENANCE OFFICER: monitor assets to maintain effectiveness and sustainability  
 SOCIAL OFFICER / EVENTS ORGANISER: promote social side of the club, maintain social media, run tournaments  
 YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE: a young person to ensure the voice of younger members is heard – does not need to attend committee

## Adoption of Minutes from 2022 AGM

Approved, proposed by Alan Polding and Sue Salmon. No matters arising.

## Chairman's report: Peter St Lawrence

Peter opened up by thanking Andy Davidson for his tenure on the committee as he steps down this year. The committee presented Andy with a gift to thank him.

Peter then thanked Richard Spooner for having handed over the Chairmanship to him last year.

I have been Chair for 12 months now, and will share openly that taking over as we replaced our Head Coach was a rather being thrown in at the deep end. We have now got an excellent coaching set up and in Alison Sharp we have someone who is very focussed on just our members as well as being a talented and popular coach.

It is very positive that the number of hours Alison now coaches exceeds what was going on before and in particular that she herself runs nearly all the sessions. The Adult Coaching program is much more extensive than we have ever had. This includes our first ever Adult Coaching clinics that Alison ran over the summer in addition to the Junior holiday camps. She has now arranged some support from Matt Clarke so we look to be able to cope with an uptick to cover any unavailability or as the weather improves.

Only having 2 floodlit courts is proving to be a large constraint both to winter club evenings and coaching and is now our top fund-raising priority. For example, on ladies' night we have too many people to fit on 2 courts at the moment, which is a great problem to have but means we are having to split the evening and dilute the interaction. Head Coach Alison is restricted to coaching on Tuesday and Friday evenings as there are club nights on other days, but this also has an impact on other members that may want to play on those evenings. We were delighted with the fund raising from the Ball in September contributing £15k towards the floodlights. Next step will be to secure quotes and then apply for planning permission. We will look to the LTA for an interest free loan but in the meantime further fund raising will be necessary to ensure we can put up floodlights on courts 3 and 4 as soon as possible. We need them in place prior to

the scheduled re-surfacing of 3 & 4 in 2028.

I thank all our committee and our social team for the commitment and time they give:

Alan has managed an excellent year of maintenance, so all six courts are in great shape for the coming season, Tim Needham successfully applied for a grant for a path down to court3/4/5/6. Sandra has managed the complexities of the fixture list and Helen has kept our Facebook page active and our minutes accurate and immediate. Sue continues to provide an amazing service as membership secretary and is the first port of call for many of you. Thank you also to Sue for arranging the refurbishment of the pavilion, and the very generous support of Ashford Kitchens who provided the new kitchen.

The Social Committee led by Penny, Fi, Karen and Judy have done great work including a successful Frosty Tournament and the Championships. Thank you also to Vicky and Doug who captained the medley teams for the last 2 years.

We have multiple WhatsApp groups which means there is a lot of activity, which is good to see and the courts have been busier than ever. The Club championship organised by Andy (many thanks for this) had the best attendance in recent memory (my memory span is particularly recent). It is very promising to see a few new names on trophies, and to have had our advanced juniors participating and doing so well.

We do have some posts coming vacant and hope that members will step up and participate.

- Welfare – Kirsten would ideally like to hand this over.
- Men's club captain (running Thursday nights, liaising with team captains, running championship) is a vacancy too. Thank you to Paul Passey who will captain the Mens 1st team.
- Maggie offered to step down as ladies captain to but kindly agreed to continue for another year
- Advance notice that Aman will be stepping down from running the Junior section at the end of the summer. If anyone is willing to step up to this or any of the open roles, please let me know.

Our ambition this year is to grow the membership, particular in the minis where we have lost ground due to the coaching changeover as well as the increase in mini membership fee. Head Coach Alison is in dialogue with the schools and has hosted multiple PE lessons on the tennis court with great success. With her coaching we hope to see a good influx of mini members again.

Overall, the club is suffering a drop in revenues, notably the bar. As everyone is aware utility costs and other costs have risen which against a backdrop of revenue reduction makes life difficult. So while encouraging you to play may I also encourage you to socialise afterwards and benefit from the discount afforded to members.

Peter noted that we sent out all reports via email on the 12<sup>th</sup> November prior to AGM so rather than read to you we could spend more time at the meeting discussing improvements, addressing current issues and getting input from members. Please do always send him discussion points you would like to raise to [p.stlawrence@btinternet.com](mailto:p.stlawrence@btinternet.com)

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### **Welfare Officers: Kirsten Stephens**

Kirsten took the AGM through a reminder of how important Welfare and Safeguarding is. For children and adults the priority is to ensure everything is safe and enjoyable. She reminded that although the committee has the responsibility formally but that it is a shared responsibility with all attendees and parents. If anyone sees anything that needs to be reported then it should be flagged to Kirsten, a Committee member or the LTA. She highlighted the LTA website 'safe to play'.

Report shared in advance: I continue to be the first point of contact for members, coaches, children or parents if they have any concerns regarding Welfare and Safeguarding at the tennis club, which can be discussed confidentially.

Thankfully there have been very few accidents or incidents reported this year. The accident book in the pavilion is regularly checked and the first aid kit checked and re-stocked. Welfare is an agenda item at every Committee meeting, and we work together with the coaches to ensure that relevant Safeguarding training courses are attended, certificates, policies and risk assessments are up to date, records are kept and to generally ensure that we maintain a safe and inclusive environment for everyone.

In January 2023 we introduced a new policy "Guidance for Older Junior Members and Parents" in order to highlight expectations and practical considerations from a Safeguarding and Welfare perspective.

All LTA registered venues are required to meet LTA safeguarding standards as a condition of their registration. An LTA regional safeguarding officer visited FCTC in March 2023 to complete an "Unannounced Health Check" to ensure that key safeguarding information is in place and to provide support where necessary and subject to one minor recommendation, the audit was passed.

After a number of years in the role, I am looking to hand the Welfare role over anytime in 2023/2024, if someone is interested in joining the Committee. Information can be found here <https://www.lta.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding/welfare-officer/>, in addition don't hesitate to contact me to discuss using the contact details in your membership welcome pack.

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### **Ladies Captain report: Maggie Southerden**

Ladies' tennis at FCSC has continued to go from strength to strength over the past 12 months. Never in recent years have we had so many players taking part in social, coaching, team and club championship events. We have a wonderfully friendly mix of ladies of different ages, ability levels and experience.

Monday evening social tennis ran under floodlights throughout the winter of 2022-23. When the lighter evenings arrived, we regularly had between 8 and 16 players attending. It was particularly rewarding to see Millie Sutton, Amelia Adams and Amy Carson joining in Monday evening sessions; they are continuing to make an excellent transition from junior to senior tennis. Millie has already played in senior teams; hopefully Amelia and Amy will follow suit next season.

We have also welcomed a number of players who are making a return to tennis after a break. Many thanks go once again to Judy d'Arcy who coordinates the 'Rusty Racquets' group and has been responsible for several players joining the Ladies Evening sessions when they have reached an appropriate level.

**Fixtures:** Thank you to Sandra Buckeldee for the many hours she spends on arranging fixtures with great efficiency. Your hard work is much appreciated, Sandra.

**Coaching:** Several ladies showed an interest in group coaching over the year and we thank Matt and subsequently Alison for their guidance and perseverance! We hope to put drills practice and match play doubles tactics into effect in forthcoming matches!

**Results:** Last winter our Ladies 1s came up against some stiff competition. We drew two matches and lost four. The decision to enter a Ladies 2s team proved to be a good decision with the team winning five of their matches and losing two.

We entered two teams in the Bucks Summer Shield. The Ladies 1s had been promoted to Division 7 for the 2023 season and finished as runners up (winning two matches, drawing two and losing one). The playing squad was made up of eight players. The second team played in Division 9; they won two matches, drew one match and narrowly lost two matches 5-3. A squad of nine players made up the second team. Special thanks go to Gill Prout for once again standing in as match captain for the Ladies 2s on several occasions.

We have at least 24 ladies who have shown interest in playing winter vets' matches in 2023-24. It has been a conscious decision to try to give each of these ladies at least one match opportunity. In light of the current upward trend in the ladies section, we plan to enter a Ladies 3s team in the 2024 Bucks Shield Summer League. This will be the first time for many years that Farnham Common will field three ladies teams.

Thank you to every single one of the ladies who played or agreed to stand by as reserve for the first or second teams. Your commitment and enthusiasm have been superb. We look forward to seeing the ladies' section continue to flourish in the year ahead, both socially and competitively.

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### **Outgoing Mens Captain report: Andy Davidson**

Over the winter 2022/23 Farnham Common entered the Bucks Mens' Singles league for the first time. This is a Davis Cup style format with 2 singles and 1 doubles rubber in each match, so it is great to give people the chance to play competitive singles inter-club. Whilst it is open to have up to 4 players in each fixture we completed all 5 of our games with 2 players competing in both singles and doubles. In a league where the standard was quite high, we finished the season with 2 wins and 3 loses, with 5 different players competing across the matches. An extended squad are looking forward to improving our record over the 6 fixtures in the 2023/2024 winter months.

In the summer of 2023 the men's first team had a strong season in Division 7 of the Bucks league. Whilst we lost one of our stronger players (Simon White) mid way through the season (as he moved out of the area in July), our squad was bolstered in the early summer as Ian Freeman and James Swain joined the club and we also benefited from a quickly improving teenager Nikash coming in for 3 of the 6 fixtures. In the end we finished 2nd in the table with 3 wins (2 of them 8-0), 2 draws and 1 loss (a 3-5 away at table toppers Chesham 1879) and we had 10 different players (with James, Ian and myself all playing 4 of 6) competing over the season. I feel confident that we are in a good place to build for next season (when the league will be restructured slightly) as I hand over to Paul Passey to captain the 1st team in 2024.

In addition to the Men's 1st team, it was also great that we managed to restart the men's second team who competed in division 12 of the Bucks Summer Shield, with Aman captaining the side to ensure we were getting a squad together for all of our games. The second team benefited from some seasoned veterans (like Alan Polding and Dave Barrell) that have been stalwarts of the Farnham sides for years, but it was also great to see many new people competing for the first time leagues joining in: Alex Snapes, Bill Hester, and Ivan Li and also teenagers like Alex Carson get competitive court time with the seniors. The team finished third in the competition, out of seven. The team's record was 3 wins and 2 losses but most importantly many had fun on court. We focused on putting in strong pairs, and Alison's doubles tactics training helped immensely, as did her guidance after watching a few games. Running a second team is an important part of the men's set up in developing players but also giving more people the chance to enjoy matches and the work done this year should set us up well for 2024.

We also continue to run a singles ladder to give people a chance for intra club competitive games. We had 21 members entered for the summer 2023 and was great to see some newer members getting involved and playing several games. We soon plan to supplement this with some singles box leagues which will run over the winter through to Easter.

On a final personal note, as I step down from the committee at this AGM after 3 years (and 2 of them as men's captain) I would like to thank all those that have worked with me over this time and I will continue to help support the success of competitive tennis (whether in matches or through intra club competitions) going forward.

### **Mens 2's team: Additional comments from Aman Kohli**

It was a constructive re-introduction of this team, with results helped significantly by Tuesday team coaching session.

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### **Mixed / Medley team report: Doug Adams**

Doug and Vicky ran the medley team, it was disrupted with a lot of adverse weather.

**1<sup>st</sup> team:** 5 matches, won 3, lost 2. Beat 2 of the top teams 7-1. Squad – special mention to James Swain who was a new player and supported significantly, Ian Freeman and Andy, Rohit, Paul Passey. Ladies included Maggie, Vicky, Millie and Sandra.

**2<sup>nd</sup> team:** played 6, won 2, lost 4. Stalwarts were Aman, Ivan, Alan P, ladies Lucinda, Gill, Lawan, Millie, Penny, Vicky and Fi. Narrow loss to Hambledon, if we had won it would have made it 3 wins and 3 losses.

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### **Mens Veterans: Peter St Lawrence**

This year is one of transition. Some first team players are no longer playing for the vets and the current first team are still in the blush of youth (lucky them). So we find ourselves in a tough leagues with second team players effectively playing up. This makes for a tough winter before we find the right league level. Thank you to all those stepping up!

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### **Maintenance Report 2022/2023: Alan Polding**

#### **Maintenance Summary:**

- 25 Maintenance jobs completed (4 Contractor, 19 General, 2 Working Party)
  - Maintenance spend £31,446 up from £1,200 in previous year
  - Courts 5&6 re-surfacing completed, including practise wall and pickleball markings (£24,345+vat). Noted that courts 5 and 6 are now very free draining and play much faster again after rain in comparison to 3 and 4.
  - Ball machine reliability issue resolved
  - 526 Tennis Balls recycled
  - Grant to construct path between courts has been awarded in October, this path will support younger players especially with easier access for juniors and buggies. Work likely to start in the Spring when the ground is hard enough.
  - Feasibility/scoping work to start for floodlights on courts 3&4
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Discussion in meeting around any anticipated challenges in getting planning permission for 3 and 4. There are likely to be objections according to Alan Morgan although not as many as with the original application. Question was raised about extending time permitted to 10pm. 8am to 9pm was a hard stop on the initial lights and not on Sundays.

Detailed maintenance table including 2024 planned work was sent out in the pre-read on the 12<sup>th</sup> November. The table below shows the spend for the last year.

<b>Maintenance Activity 2022/2023</b>			
Jobs Completed	25		Cost
Jobs Completed by Contractors	4	Power brush courts 1&2, Resurface courts 5&6, New kitchen units in pavilion (donated by Ashford Kitchens), Levelling area below courts 5&6	£30,770
General Maintenance	19	Ball machine £525	£676
Jobs completed by Working Parties	2		
Total Maintenance Spend			£31,446

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### **Membership Report 2022/2023: Sue Salmon**

We have a total of 260 members in November this year, including all sports members.

- This is down compared with November last year, when we had a total of 305 members.
- We have 160 adult members, so this is up on last year's figure of 155. Tennis couples have increased from 9 to 14 this year.
- Minis and juniors have decreased from 150 last year to 100 this year. Individual mini membership shows the greatest decrease, from 47 to 17.

This was likely to happen following our changes in coaching, but now we have Alison in place as our permanent Head coach, we are very optimistic that mini numbers will increase and indeed can see that building up with her lesson attendance already.

In 2023 we raised the mini (under 10) sub to £65 in line with the junior sub. Whereas this may work for other sports in the club, it doesn't seem to work so well for us. The main committee are discussing next year's subs at present.

It was sad to say goodbye to some members who have moved away, such as Duncan Wylie, Jane Atkins and Simon White and family.

We have welcomed plenty of new members this year, and it is great to see them getting involved with the club, playing matches, attending social events and even performing at the annual club ball!

The social tennis mixed groups have been popular with members this year, and our thanks go to Aman Kohli and Gill Prout for organising us all! Many thanks also to Judy D'Arcy for organising welcoming sessions for our new rusty racket members.

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### **Head Coach report: Alison Sharp**

Coaching is going very well. Heading in the right direction. I now have a good working relationship with parents, players & the club.

#### **Our busiest term was Aug - Oct 2023 (summer)**

- 9 junior sessions per week
- 5-6 adult sessions per week

#### **Our current term Oct - Dec 2023 (winter)**

- 8 junior sessions per week
- 3-4 adult session per week

All of the adult sessions this term are pay as you go. I already have a few regulars for most sessions. Sessions are going ahead, or 2-1 / 1-1 sessions being offered if we don't have numbers available for larger squads.

Indoor back up has been used for juniors and will help massively with continuity for the junior programme which is all block booking. Pickleball has already been introduced indoors for our juniors in the wet weather, and the older juniors have been doing tennis related fitness if play cannot take place outside.

Parent feedback on the use of the indoor facility has been so supportive and it means they will intend for their juniors to attend each week in the winter rather than only training during the summer.

Off the back of that, one parent has asked Alison if she might offer a Tennis related fitness class each week. Alison is considering this.

#### **Junior Programme includes**

- Tots' tennis camps 2-5 yrs (during summer)
- Red Ball 5-7 yrs
- Orange/ Green Ball 7-10 yrs
- Yellow Ball 11-17 yrs
- 16u Performance Invite
- 18u Performance Invite

#### **Adult Programme includes**

- Beginner & intermediate coaching (last term)
- Doubles Tactics
- Matchplay, coaching, coffee & cake
- Drills sessions
- Rookie Sunday morning doubles coaching on certain dates agreed with Judy.

Coach Matt is back and is doing some individuals and available for cover work. It's great to see him back as a lot of parents and players know him already.

Now my shoulder is a bit better and holding up as long as I am sensible! I am back doing a number of regular small group lessons and 121 lessons mainly on Saturdays and Sundays. This seems to be the popular times during the day when no work or school. I also have individual slots on Tuesdays and Fridays.



**Schools.** I managed to do 6 school sessions. I have offered some more over winter. My suggestion was fortnightly or monthly. I have now met the head teacher and will continue to keep the communication going.

I am looking to introduce some Pro Sharp Tennis Christmas Events for 2023. I have put a few polls out to gauge interest and availability.

- Adult Festive Doubles Tournament
- 12u Christmas Tennis Party
- Teen Christmas Singles and Doubles

Vouchers are now available to buy for friends and family this Christmas. Vouchers must be used by the end of April 2024.

I have Head Tennis rackets and some tennis clothing available to purchase. Look out for special offers in the coming weeks.

### **2024 aims**

- Introduce match plays & tournaments at the club in 2024
- Adult clinics. A weekend one has been requested.
- Increase junior membership as discussed introducing a mini fee that parents pay when paying for coaching block
- More school sessions & open events
- Junior Club Championship

It's been a great start to my journey at FCTC. Looking forward to next season and helping to continue growing the programme, junior teams and the club.

Thank you to everyone for all your continued support.

Alison 🟡

### **Prizes and Awards**

Mens Singles: James Swain

Ladies Singles: Vicky Spooner

Mens Doubles: Andy Davidson and Ian Freeman

Ladies Doubles: Maggie Southerden and Vicky Spooner

Mixed Doubles: Lawan Gilesapie and Marc Weeks

Player of the Year: James Swain

Junior Player of the Year: Millie Sutton

Neil Hutton Trophy for Most Improved Player: Nikash Ramrakha

Captains Cup: Judy D'Arcy

## Any Other Business

1: Peter modelled the new tennis shirt beautifully and reminded people that shirts are available to order. Min order of 8. Queries to him please.

**2: Mens Thursday nights** was a topic raised by Peter St Lawrence. The ladies Monday night is thriving but the Mens night is not at all well attended.

Comments from the floor and discussions included

- Possibility of removing the mens / ladies distinction and instead organise by ability
- Discussion about preserving the ladies night that is going well – effectively that ability split does happen as during summer the first hour is typically all mixing in, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> hour is organised by ability with the better players playing together and practicing for matches for example. This works well as Maggie is there organising it
- None of the 1<sup>st</sup> team members regularly attend Thursday nights and there is no-one there typically to organise it.
- There is a regular group of 6-8 ‘dads’ that play on a Saturday morning and a group of 6 who play on a Friday afternoon/evening. The interest is there, can there be a re-focus to create a night as a dedicated team night instead.
- There does appear to be a paradox. Some of the men of a lower standard are uncomfortable attending if they don’t think they are of the right standard. And some of the higher standard players don’t join as they want to play at a higher level
- Discussion in the room centred around the fact that there is no one on the day organising and co-ordinating everyone
- Alison has been at previous clubs where there was an insistence on a player joining at least 2 club nights in a month in order to be eligible to play in a match
- Possibility was raised of having Mondays 5-7pm remain ladies and 7pm onwards then mens/advanced ladies playing together
- 10 men played for the mens 1<sup>st</sup> team and similar for mens 2’s. There are around 70 men in the club
- Highlighted even if a more competitive club session is taking place, we need a mens night or appropriate club session to welcome newer members who are improvers and want to mix in with the club
- ***Conclusion of discussion – small working group with Paul Passey, Peter and Aman with input from Maggie and Alison to take this feedback and agree next steps.***

3: Question from the floor, why are we prioritising lights as the next investment rather than putting tiger turf on courts 3 and 4.

- Answer is that the lights are creating a constraint during the winter which is now a significant limiting factor for growth at the club
- Observation from the floor that the club has now allocated all midweek evenings out to either club nights or coaching. Discussion in the meeting centred on the fact that during the winter there is a floodlight constraint, which meant it was important to offer floodlit courts to the coach. It is important for Alison to be able to have enough floodlit court space in order to sustain a living as well as encourage juniors. This is why the committee agreed Alison has priority on winter events for certain times on the top floodlit courts eg Tuesday and Friday nights.
- One member felt this meant they were unable to play any more on a Friday evening and have had to move their regular Friday to the afternoon, as junior coaching is being prioritised on Friday from 4pm on the floodlit courts during the winter following this committee decision. The Chair highlighted that Friday evenings have become a very popular junior coaching night with not just younger ages but well attended invitation only sessions for U14 and U18 – and it is exactly these players that are now starting to represent the club in matches.

- One of the U18 players in the room themselves commented on how positive it is that that they are able to be coached on a Friday as well as a Saturday now. Alison added in that she has been able to attract new juniors to Friday nights since they started, including one U18 who plays at a national level and has now joined the club which is of course very good for the club
- General sentiment in the room was the importance of encouraging the juniors to play. Note that this is only an issue in the winter due to the floodlight constraints, there is no issue in the summer. One member of the audience added specifically that juniors were the future and they supported the prioritisation of courts for juniors on Friday evenings, this comment was echo'd by the majority of the room
- Alison releases courts a week ahead if she knows she does not have a full house for any of her sessions
- Vicky highlighted she'd heard that the LTA may be offering grants for clay courts, which would be more suitable for winter play. Noted by the committee.
- ***Conclusion of discussion – the root cause of these issues is the lack of floodlights on more courts. This has become a key issue now we have a very active coaching program again which we did not before.***

4: Suggestion of running **more club wide kids events like discos** to support the overall revenue of the club

- Alan Morgan commented on behalf of the main club that although private events can be held and booked, it remains a members club who can attend any time and join those events. He is supportive of the idea of hosting further events to support fund raising and the social aspect of the club
- Alan Morgan emphasised this is a sports and social club jointly. Revenue raising is going to be more important given the cost of living, and that the energy bill will be going up 130% next year
- Noted there is a bacon roll / coffee offer on a Sunday morning catered by the Steward, that most players were not aware of. The bar refurb should now make the club house more attractive to a broader group and Alan encouraged everyone to use it.
- This led into a discussion on marketing of the club to support broader revenue, not everyone was aware of the forthcoming events eg Mexican night and live band. Alan Morgan will join the tennis section FB page and share information directly there as well going forward.

5: An U18 player in attendance asked why none of their results were being recognised on the LTA website and hence contributing ranking points

- ***Lucinda and Andy will follow up with that specific query***

6: **2 Plate finals are still not played.** there was a query on whether they could be played again on the same day as the finals as in previous years

- There was an expectation that all plate matches would all be played by end of September, decision to delay the deadline was made to allow those to be played. This was due to the purpose of the plates in the first place being everyone having a chance to get an additional game
- Comment – Peter will be providing more guidelines and criteria for 2024's club champs in order to avoid the champs organiser having to make any individual decisions
- Alison suggested that next year the club champs can be organised via the LTA competition software, in which case a lot of the arranging and uploading of results will be taken care of.
- Peter highlighted that the FC winter league is now also on the LTA competition site, meaning results will also be counting towards ranking points
- The LTA software also permits box leagues to be organised and earn ranking points – this is being discussed going forward

7: Alison highlighted the Adult and Junior Christmas fun events that she has organised and encouraged everyone to attend

8: Judy volunteered thanks on behalf of the club to Alison who has done a brilliant job integrating and bringing on new groups

9: **Question on court booking time restrictions.** A proposal had been made some weeks ago to restrict the time from 2 hours to 1.5 hours in order to maximise time for members to book.

- There are periods where the courts at weekends especially mornings are booked causing issues for some people who want to plan and be able to book, especially the top courts as the tiger turf is much more popular. Tiger turf has advantages in poor weather as well as being a preference for many players
- The committee had in fact put in place that it was possible to book in 30 minute slots instead, allowing for 90 minute slots to be booked more easily
- At this point there is no analysis of whether people are in fact booking 90 minute slots rather than 2 hours, especially at the weekend.
- Noted there are 2 extra great quality courts now available in 5 and 6 so this may assist
- ***Conclusion: Send out some guidelines asking people not to book 2 hour slots if they really think they only need 90 minutes at peak times in order to***

### **Closing remarks**

Peter thanked everyone for attending and for the great interaction during the meeting. He also welcomed Judy D'Arcy to the committee, Judy has swiftly become a stalwart of the club behind the scenes and we are pleased she has agreed to step forward to join the committee this year.