

Farnham Common Tennis Club AGM

19th November 2020 8:00pm

DRAFT MINUTES – TO BE AGREED AT 2021 AGM

Attendees

Simon and Jean Bailey
Dick and Diane Davies
Alan Polding
Kirstin Stephens
Lucinda Quixley
Sue Salmon
Paul and Penny McPhillips
Richard Thomas (club chairman)

Margret Southerden
Andrew Davidson
Richard Spooner
Helen Sutton
Stephen Wright
Sandra Buckeldee
Aman Kohli
Rob and Karen Coull
Jill and John Prout; Bronwyn Harding.

Apologies

Adoption of Minutes from 2019 AGM

Approved, with no matters arising.

Committee report (Richard Spooner)

This year the committee has comprised of Paul McPhillips as Fixtures Secretary, Sue Salmon as Membership Officer, Alan Polding as Maintenance Officer, Kirstin Stephens as Welfare Officer, Aman Kohli as Juniors Co-ordinator, Karen Coull as Social Secretary, Maggie Southerden as Ladies Captain, Rob Coull as Communications Officer (resigned May 2020) and myself.

Thank you for attending the Tennis Club AGM, the first ever to be done remotely by Zoom. The quorum is fifteen which thankfully has been exceeded.

The tennis club has had a strange year, which I am sure will be remembered for the lockdowns, which prevented tennis being played. The gradual opening up of the courts in May, initially for singles only using two sets of balls, to the resumption of doubles and then back to lockdown again. Unfortunately, there were no Bucks Shield matches played but we did get a few winter league matches completed in early Autumn. Many of the traditional social events were also lost to the virus such as the Grand National tournament and the summer BBQ.

The club championship, however was particularly successful with a strong and large field. We had a splendid finals day witnessed by a large number of spectators who enjoyed not just the tennis but also the tea and cakes and some the beer! The men's singles was a good tussle with Matt Chapman defeating Simon White in two closely contested sets. Sandra Buckeldee had the distinction of winning all three of the Ladies/mixed titles.

The virus did wonders for our membership numbers since the indoor centres were not allowed to open and the squash players turned to tennis. Membership now stands at an all-time high. Sue Salmon, our membership secretary has compiled the following:

- The good news is that membership has continued to increase this year. Overall from a total of 200 at the end of 2019 to a total of 248, a 24% increase on last year.

- Adults have gone up from 82 to 112 members, an increase of 37%
- Juniors and young adults from 38 to 55, an increase of 44%
- Minis have stayed steady at 81 members.
- In particular, family membership has expanded significantly from 13 to 25 memberships.
- We would particularly like to thank Stephen for encouraging younger players to join the club and continuing the beginner and improver classes for adults.

We would also like to thank Richard Thomas, our chairman, for managing the Webcollect system and helping with membership queries during the year.

The committee has worked efficiently and harmoniously throughout the year with each volunteer playing his or her part. It is with considerable regret that both Rob and Karen Coull and Paul McPhillips are all standing down from the committee after many years of hard work. They will be hard to replace and volunteers are sought to replace them. Like last year, we would like to thank Simon Bailey who while not on the committee this year, has done a considerable amount of work for the club in keeping the website up to date and also in registering the club with the LTA.

Lastly, but not least, we would also like to thank the members of the Main Committee who do a huge amount of work to keep Farnham Common Sports Club up and running. Managing the club during the pandemic is problematical with some very tough decisions needing to be taken. The stress on our finances has been particularly keenly felt and a great vote of thanks to the tennis members should be made for keeping their subscriptions up. So, my thanks to you all.

Comments: Richard Spooner says thanks and adds, that the tennis portion of the club is very efficiently run, and a special thanks to Richard and Sue. Sue is on top of membership issues. Special thanks also to the committee, Alan Polding, and Stephen.

Welfare, Health and Safety (Kirstin Stephens)

I continue to be responsible for the role of Welfare Officer for the tennis section of the sports club, and liaise with the rest of the Committee and our tennis coaches to ensure that we provide a safe and inclusive environment for children and adults at our club.

The various safeguarding policies were reviewed and updated in April and copies are available in the tennis pavilion and also on our website.

Since March, we have kept the website updated and members informed of the latest government and LTA advice regarding Covid-19 and its impact on tennis activities and play. We continue to monitor and ensure compliance with the rules and all health and safety guidelines regarding Covid-19.

There is an accident record book in the pavilion; there have only been a few minor incidents this year, and the first aid box has recently been checked and re-stocked.

If any tennis members have any concerns about welfare or health and safety, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Comments: Richard Spooner thanks Kirsten for the work being done in Health and Safety.

Men's Teams Report (Richard Spooner on behalf of Paul Morgan)

From the heady days of life in the Premier Division of the Bucks League, the last eighteen months or so have seen a downturn in the fortunes of our men's teams. Following withdrawal from the Premier League, Summer 2019 saw our first and second teams finish bottom but one and bottom in Divisions 5 and 9 respectively. Winter 2019/2020 saw no improvement and we finished bottom of Division 6 in the over 45's league. All in all, we won one match out of seventeen which, for a club of our standing and membership is disappointing.

The Covid crisis in 2020 caused the cancellation of the men's tennis leagues but conversely created an upsurge of interest in tennis and a number of new members to the club. This was reflected in both added interest and the quality of play in the men's singles tournament. Unfortunately two of the better and potential first team members have now left the club and together with our coach and ex first team captain now play for a local rival.

We have managed to incorporate one good new member and persuaded another to represent the team this winter. Results so far are a couple of narrow losses and a draw which is an improvement that I am sure will continue.

Summer 2021 (provided it is Covid free) presents a challenge for our club. If we are to take team tennis seriously then we must look to improve our results. This means that we should actively look for players to improve our standards, that we concentrate on and develop the talent that we have within the club, and that we develop a team ethic, camaraderie and togetherness that includes players of all standards. It has been done before and I am sure that we can do it again.

Ladies' Captain's Report For 2019-2020 (Margaret Southerden)

I am pleased to report that the ladies' section has only lost six matches since the AGM last year. Sadly, the bad news is that the remaining fixtures were cancelled!

On a more serious note, thank you to Kirstin Stephens for captaining the ladies' team during the 2019-2020 Bucks Winter League season. Four out of the six fixtures were played and the remaining two fixtures were cancelled due to coronavirus restrictions in the first lockdown period.

Farnham Common entered one team in the summer Bucks Shield League but no matches were contested in the summer months, again due to coronavirus restrictions.

The first two scheduled 2020-2021 Bucks Winter League matches were played, both of which we lost. The third match was cancelled due to inclement weather. No further matches will be played until coronavirus restrictions are lifted.

Thank you to Paul McPhillips for arranging the fixtures.

Despite our lack of success in matches, I feel that the ladies' section is undergoing a resurgence. Several enthusiastic new members have joined in the past few months, boosting numbers at Monday evening tennis sessions. It was also encouraging to welcome some younger members to Ladies' Evenings during the summer. There are several informal groups who play regularly throughout the week. I feel that there is a growing sense of camaraderie and I look forward to seeing the ladies' section go from strength to strength in the future, both socially and competitively.

Head Coach and Junior's Report (Stephen Wright)

Numbers and Participation rates:

- The increase in membership is partly down to the decisive action taken after the first lockdown over the Summer. We ran 6 weeks of tennis lessons during the term and we were very creative with our Summer Camp offer this year. We had over 160 players in our Summer Camps compared with just over 100 in 2019 and 81 players 2018.
- We continued our reciprocal arrangement with CSPTC and SPLTC and offered FCTC members the opportunity to attend lessons at CSPTC and SPLTC at members rates. This is a great benefit to FCTC members and allows them access to coaching sessions that they otherwise would not be able to attend.
- With the increase in junior players playing at FCTC we also have an increase in adult members playing at the club too as mums and dads like to join in activities that their children enjoy taking part in. We should have plenty of players to choose from in the 2021 Summer leagues providing they take place next year.
- Our links with the local village schools have also contributed to increased membership growth at FCTC. Some players from our local schools do join local clubs such as SPLTC however the majority join FCTC.

Aspirantes:

- The Aspirantes programme designed to coach County players was put on hold this year however the County is looking to reintroduce the programme in 2021 and clubs will be invited to apply to become part of this programme next year.

Junior Leagues, Match Plays & Parent/Child Tournaments

- We could not enter any junior teams into the Summer leagues this year as the Summer leagues could not run due to Covid. We did however run match plays in March and one match play in October.
- Sunday Match Plays usually run regularly throughout the year. The Bucks LTA promote our match plays via the County newsletter and via email to clubs throughout Bucks. We are the smallest club to run match plays regularly. They take place roughly 9 months of the year. Match plays give the club free advertising in the County, and also build awareness of our club within the local area. The most important reason to run regular match plays is because they benefit FCTC junior players who hope one day to make the transition from junior tennis to adult tennis and therefore need the regular competition.

- Parent/Child Tournaments – we were not able to run our usual parent/child tournaments this year however we will plan to run these in 2021

Coaching Team, assistants and the committee:

- I would like to thank everyone involved in building and growing the club for the 4th consecutive year. FCTC is a hub for the local community; a great place to get out in the outdoors, breathe in some fresh air, release some stress by hitting balls and tennis is a great sport for mental health which is particularly important during these times. Everyone has contributed to the success of the club including the committee, the coaching team, mums, dads and guardians of juniors who attend coaching and of course the members who regularly play at the club. Thank you to everyone for their support this year and I look forward to continuing to grow the club in 2021.

Junior of the Year Award – George Davies

George is a role model for our younger juniors at the club. He is involved in all areas of the coaching programme including: term time sessions, private lessons, holiday camps and match plays. George has started his tennis leaders qualification a year ahead of schedule. It gives me great pleasure to award George as the Junior Player of the Year this year.

Maintenance Officer's Report (Alan Polding)

Summary of 2019/2020 Maintenance

- Maintenance spend £466 down from £1552 in previous year
- 18 Maintenance jobs completed (1 Contractor, 3 Working Party, 14 General);
- Courts 1&2 - Moss killing completed. Power brushing delayed. Floodlight cleaning postponed, following advice;
- Courts 3&4 - Moss killer spraying completed. Fence repairs completed;
- Courts 5&6 - New net on court 6, new net anchors, tarmac patch repairs completed. Moss killer spraying completed;
- Weedkilling inside courts now being undertaken by groundsman;
- 250 Tennis Ball recycled, contributing £62.50 to the club.

2020 / 2021 Planned	
Description	Cost
Change Court Locks	✓
Courts 1 & 2	
Power Brushing and Moss Treatment	£900
Courts 3 & 4	
Mosskill	£50
Binder Coat & Repaint	£3,000
Courts 5 & 6	
Moskill	£50
Annual Total	£4,000

Comments: Richard compliments how the members muck in and help with the maintenance and what needs to be done, and it is recognised.

Election of Officers

<i>Role</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Proposed By</i>	<i>Seconded By</i>
Chairman/Secretary	Richard Spooner	Sue Salmon	Paul McPhillips
Ladies' Captain	Maggie Southerden	Sue Salmon	Karen Coull
Men's Captain	Paul Morgan	Alan Polding	Richard Spooner
Fixtures Secretary	Sandra Buckeldee	Maggie Southerden	Paul McPhillips
Communication Officer	Helen Sutton	Karen Coull	Maggie Southerden
Maintenance Officer	Alan Polding	Paul McPhillips	Richard Spooner
Welfare Officer	Kirstin Stephens	Aman Kohli	Sue Salmon
Membership Officer	Sue Salmon	Kirstin Stephens	Aman Kohli
Juniors Co-ordinator	Aman Kohli	Alan Polding	Kirstin Stephens
Events Co-ordinator	Andy Davidson	Richard Spooner	Aman Kohli

Prizes and Awards

Men's Singles	Matt Chapman
Ladies' Singles	Sandra Buckeldee
Men's Doubles	Conor Sheehan and Andrew Davidson
Ladies' Doubles	Bronwyn Harding and Sandra Buckeldee
Mixed Doubles	Sandra Buckeldee and Alan Polding
Player of the Year	Sandra Buckeldee
Junior Player of the Year	George Davies

The Captain's Cup is awarded to Robert and Karen Coull for their outstanding service to club and their committee service, which exceeded six years.

Approval of Updated FCTC Rules

These were shared in the meeting invite, and no issues were raised, and the updated rules are adopted.

Any Other Business

Main committee update from Richard Thomas:

- Membership stayed solid; subs reduced for cricket but the juniors had an extended season; there are problems with rugby membership due to restrictions around covid, we hope after January or late in spring it will come back.

- Tennis Membership has stayed strong, and good in take of minis.
- Richard is thankful people continue to support the club and thanks to all members.
- Income from the Bar is down, and even after the first lockdown it was only breaking even.
- Financially the club is ok due to government grants and schemes.

Meeting closed 20:46