

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

27 MARCH 2019 7.30pm

MINUTES



ATTENDEES:

Mary McCullagh
Margaret Oldfield
Helen Morris
Peter Styles
Carmel O'Dell
Paul Gillett
Steve Bloomfield
Neil Moss
Andrea Pullin
Alan Pullin

Josephine Acerenza
Gill Mastrangelo
Mandy Tyler
Ben Reeves
Freddie Martin
Julie Hobbs
Malcom Simmonds
Jemma Turner
James Hope
Pip Rhodes

Martin Reeves
Fred Beechey
Nick Taylor
Graeme Hawkins
Dave Warden
Francisco Rivadulca
Adriano Panfagna

1.0	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Sharon Hedges, Colin Pow, Jason Squire, Adam Webb, Nicky Salmon, Una Honess, Tony Honess, Richard Green, Patricia Pollard
2.0	APPROVAL OF 2018 MINUTES Minutes approved by unanimous show of hands.
3.0	MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE'S REPORT BY CHAIRPERSON The Chairperson, Neil Moss, welcomed and thanked Members for attending the AGM and checked that everyone had signed the attendance sheet. The Chair passed on apologies for absence. He stressed the importance of all Club members having a say as to how the Pavilion and Avenue Tennis Club is run. The Chair approved the minutes of the 2018 AGM with a majority show of hands by the attendees Report The Chairman opened his report by stating that the most important event of the last year has been the sad and sudden passing of Andy Spence. Andy contributed hugely to the club and teams in particular with his idiosyncratic and hugely effective style of tennis putting him at the top of the ladder for the more mature man. He ran the first team for some while and won the men's vets trophy many times. The club has renamed this trophy the Spence cup in honour of him and we would like to publicly acknowledge his passing and express our sadness and sympathy to Jane his wife, his family and friends as well as our gratitude to have known him

and had him as a member.

He went on to firstly to thank the MC who do a fine job of keeping the club on track to provide our basic remit of tennis opportunity in an increasingly difficult climate of administration, safeguarding and finance.

Steve does a sterling job on the money and we are probably the richest, most financially secure club in Sussex. This is largely down to owning the grounds and the way previous MCs set us up - most clubs rent their land whereas we have a bit of prime Hove property here. Malcolm has the bar back on track with costs coming down rapidly whilst trying to maintain the level of service we would like and he also copes with the employment and human resources of our staff. This is no mean feat - thanks Malc!

Jason who is sadly absent keeps maintenance under control and runs a social session on Wednesday summer nights which has proved immensely popular and immensely social at the same time. This session will be restarting very soon now the clocks are due to go forward. I should thanks Susie French who served as secretary for some long while but has now handed over to Colin Pow who brings his inimitable efficiency to the post, although that does not extend to being here tonight. I fear as he is away on holiday.

Andrea Pullin and Alan both bring their many years of experience to the table and are so invaluable to the club, the MC and myself. By the way they won the award for adult volunteer of the year in the Tennis Sussex awards this year and Alan is going through to the next regional event so good luck to him in that.

Adam Webb deserves thanks for running the club championships so well in its new format. And of course Julie Hobbs who manages the coaching team so well and serves as such a fantastic role model for so many of our youngsters.

We have a new court booking system which has proved to be very efficient. I hope you will agree it has freed up a lot of time for Nicky Salmon, which is a good thing as she has had to devote a huge amount of time to the new safeguarding regulations from the LTA and things like risk assessments but these are all part of being a tennis club in the modern world. Many thanks to Nicky.

I would also like to thank Dave Warden who undertakes an awful lot of maintenance for us often for the price of a cup of tea.

While I am at it I should thank the excellent coaching team who help the place run as well as it does. They not only coach but also help in the personal development of so many youngsters into tennis leaders and upstanding human beings. Martin, Ben, Freddie, James and Adam and all their helpers.

You may have noticed that we have some new occupants of the old physio rooms building in Tennis Sussex. We have signed a 3 year lease with them and hope they will be an even longer term fixture here. It makes Pav&Ave a central part of Sussex tennis as well as providing a significant amount of increased income for the club. So welcome to them. We should also thank the physio rooms and wish them well for the future

The floodlight application has been put on hold pending a new application and I regret to say that the scheme which was to provide some money towards the installation has closed while we were trying to get planning permission, which as you may remember was rejected in the first instance. So we will be reviewing our options and starting the delightful process of applying for more funding again.

Unfortunately membership numbers are slightly down again this year. This is partly down to the fantastic boom we had 3 years ago and is symptomatic of a general decline in tennis and other sports participation but we will be trying hard to remedy this with at least 2 open day and other schemes in conjunction with the LTA. The MC is always acutely aware of the need to keep membership and revenue up.

3.1 HEAD COACH'S REPORT

- Many of our adult and junior players and teams have enjoyed a busy and successful year.
- The Sussex adult leagues have seen some excellent results from our teams. Our Ladies 3rd Team Captain Josephine and her players are thrilled to have gained promotion this winter after jointly topping Division 10 with the impressive record of not losing a championship tie break all season and from what I hear, there were quite a few close battles! The Ladies 2nd Team played consistently well over the last 6 months only just missing out on 2nd place by 1 point plus our Ladies 1st Team who came 4th in their group last summer, were pleased with their performances in Division 2 this winter after being promoted last year and ended up finishing 3rd in a high level league. The Men's 1st team also got promoted last winter into Division 4 and after clinching points from some very tough matches, they were happy to finish mid table. The Men's 2nd Team managed to win their last fixture which helped them stay up in their division and in the words of their captain, "we have a large pool of seasoned talent and interest and we can only get better as we mature although apparently this is true for cheese but may be stretching it a bit for these players to be honest"! Our Men's Supervets team also acquitted themselves well finishing mid table and it was great to see so many members wanting to get involved. The Mixed Vets were successful last summer in achieving 2nd place in their group and they are looking forward to trying to improve on their results this coming season. Every captain has mentioned to me how great it is to have such a large number of members wishing to play and the amazing commitment they have shown to the matches so many congratulations to everyone involved.
- And now a big thank you to our Men's, Ladies, Vets team captains and organisers over the past year – Jon, Neil, Gill, Patricia, Morna, Suzi, Josephine, Dave and Kasia - good luck to all our teams in the upcoming summer season, especially our new Ladies and Men's 3rd teams and their captains Jemma and Fran. If you are interested in joining one of the teams, please speak to any of the captains for more info as new players are always welcome!
- The 2018 Club Championships were again held earlier in the summer and were a great success, congratulations to our Ladies champion Amanda and Men's champion Tom BT. Once again Nick Rivett offered to sponsor the event, many thanks to him and Jo for their generosity and thanks also to all those who helped make the Finals Day a very busy and special occasion.
- Last year's Club Open Days were popular despite some challenging weather and this year's Open Days have been planned for Saturdays May 18th, July 20th and possibly September 28th which again link in with the LTA's 'Nature Valley Big Tennis Weekends'.
- We are excited to be part of the Davis Cup Legacy scheme 'Tennis For Kids', for the fourth year running which means we will be giving children who have never played tennis before the chance to attend a six week course and the LTA hopes that thousands of children will participate nationwide.
- During the summer season clubs can enter the LTA Team Tennis Competition with teams ranging from 8&U up to adult teams. Last year Pav & Ave entered 9 junior

teams in these competitive singles and doubles Sussex leagues. Of our 9 junior teams entered, all kindly captained by parents or Coaches, the following teams were crowned Sussex Champions, 8&U Mixed A's, 9&U Mixed A's, 9&U Mixed B's and the 10&U Mixed A's whilst the 10&U B team came runner up in their division.

Congratulations to all the players who have contributed to our team's successes over the past year and especially to all our captains.

- Some of our members have had a great summer and winter season by competing in and winning County, Regional and National events all over the country. Sonay played in her first junior Grand Slam last summer winning her first round doubles match at Wimbledon and a few have played in ITF events which are international 18&U tournaments including Sonay and Alicia - after some impressive results both domestically and abroad, their junior world rankings have risen dramatically, Alicia is currently ranked 316 and Sonay 128 in the world. Recently, Alicia travelled to Finland reaching the final of both singles and doubles of the Grade 4 event, also in the same week Sonay travelled to Lithuania reaching the semi-finals of the doubles and winning the Grade 2 singles beating 3 players ranked inside the world's top 80, a fantastic achievement for both players.
- Sam, Toby and Alex were selected for the boys 18&Under Sussex County Cup team which did really well by recently winning Group 2 gaining promotion to Group 1 where they will compete with 3 other counties for the National title next year. Jojo, Alicia, Sonay, Tiana and Saffron represented Sussex in the 18&U Girls County Cup Group 2 winning many matches between them to help Sussex stay up their division.
- At the Sussex Tennis Awards ceremony, several of our juniors were awarded their 'County Colours' for representing Sussex in their various age groups and a few of them were also awarded the 'Fair Play' award. Alicia won the 'Outstanding Achievement' award, Lola and Alex won the 'Most Improved Junior Girl and Boy' awards, Jeremy was part of the winning 'School Team of the Year' and Sonay won the 'Pat MacNamara' award and Toby the 'Brian Edwards' award, which are voted for by the players and captains of the 18&U team.
- Congratulations to Kate who was part of the winning 'Senior Team of the Year' after a successful campaign captaining the 50's Sussex Ladies team to win the National Title and to Andrea and Alan for receiving the 'Robert Cushing Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement', a very unexpected and special surprise for them both. Neil, Jason, Malcolm and Adam were all shortlisted for various awards so a very successful evening for Pav & Ave.
- As you are all aware, Jack left the Club in September and we were all sad to see him go after being such a big part of the Club for many years but we wish him well with his new venture. When we see him at various events, he always wants to know how the Club and members are doing.
- The Club staged its 11th Pav & Ave Open Junior tournament during the Easter Holidays with children from different counties in the UK of county, regional and national level taking part alongside many of our own players. The event was kindly sponsored by Pure Tennis Holidays and Nick Rivett Sport and a big thank you to all those who helped make it run so smoothly.
- During the last week of August the Sussex County Closed Championships were held at Southdown Club and it was another amazing year for Pav & Ave players, well done to our numerous Sussex singles and doubles Champions plus Runners Up ranging from the 8&under age group up to the Adult events.
- It is fantastic to see so many more of our members competing and congratulations to all the seniors and juniors who have played in tournaments, team matches or the increasingly popular internal leagues which we are very grateful to Jason for

organising. Thanks also to the members who give up their time to help with organising and running the adult social tournaments which have been supported well this past year.

- Tennis Sussex are running a number of 8&U Fun Days across the County to try to help increase the number of younger children playing tennis and we were pleased to be asked to get involved. A number of our team of Coaches are County Captains for the 8&U, 10&U and 14&U age groups and with the help from some of our juniors, they had their work cut out organising the sessions for over 50 boys and 40 girls in the bubble but all the players and parents went away happy and many had lots of positive things to say about the Club.
- Sussex is again the host County for some of the Junior Inter County Cup Team events and another request has been made by the LTA to have Pav & Ave host the 10&Under Girls competition which we have done for many years now, a great compliment to our Club. We will welcome the 5 County teams at the end of May including Sussex.
- The LTA has recently changed the Player Performance Pathway and Pav & Ave applied to become an LPDC (Local Player Development Centre) and we are very pleased to have been selected as one of only two in the County and one of fifty in the Country. As an LPDC, our main objective is to provide regular, high quality local training for aspiring players aged 10 and Under which links in well with our overall Club junior and adult programme.
- It has been really great to continue having Sound Tennis (tennis for the visually impaired which uses a ball with a bell in) and Grace Eyre, (a charity supporting people with learning disabilities to achieve their dreams and wishes) enjoying their tennis at the Club.
- Apologies if I have left anyone or anything out. Finally I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our Coaching Team of Martin, Ben, James, Freddie, Adam and Andrea who all care so much about the Club and players - they contribute in many different ways to help. Also big thanks to Neil, Steve, Malc, Jason, Colin, Nicky, Dave, Ann, Gill, Pasquale and Josephine, plus all our members for their hard work and support over the past year.

4.0 TREASURER'S ANNUAL ACCOUNTS REPORT & APPROVAL OF YEAR 2018 ACCOUNTS

The Treasurer, Steve Bloomfield, opened his report (copy of accounts sent to members via email prior to the AGM and copies available at the meeting), by stating that generally tennis is struggling as a sport and that our main membership was down on previous years and this seems to be a continuing trend experienced by most tennis clubs. Martin felt we could be asking Tennis Sussex to help as much as possible with promoting the game and Peter offered his continued help with some extra PR for the Club. Steve continued to say that although we are doing well compared to some other clubs, a slight concern is that our profit for 2018 of £13,729 is nearly half of what it was the previous year. Some of the main reasons for this are that our subscription income is down £6800 and electricity costs which significantly affect the running of the airhall have gone up considerably. Steve informed the meeting that Alan Pullin had done a study of the airhall costs for the year 2018 which showed an excess income over expenditure of £11,948 proving its value even taking into consideration possible future replacement costs. He went on to say that the LTA recommends clubs of our size to try to put £20,000 in to a sinking fund each year and this amount doesn't include anything towards an airhall replacement so ideally we should be aiming to save £25,000. Steve mentioned the Club's reserves are down £8000 but this is due to Court 1 expenditure. He welcomed the increased income the Club will receive from Tennis Sussex's new rental and the knowledge that Malc and the Bar Stewards are looking at ways of cutting costs and running the Bar more

	<p>cost effectively. Before opening up to questions, Steve assured the meeting that the Club is still in a good financial position. A query was raised by Dave regarding what looked like an increase in expenditure for 'Grounds and Gardening' but in fact the same amount had been spent as in the previous year. Another question followed by Mary regarding the increase in 'Advertising and Printing' and it was explained that the Club had used more advertising in local press etc. and that this extra cost had paid for itself with some new memberships.</p> <p>The accounts were approved by a unanimous show of hands and seconded by the Club President.</p>								
5.0	<p>APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS FOR THE 2019 ACCOUNTS</p> <p>Unanimous show of hands by attending members to remain with the existing auditors Parkers of Hove.</p>								
6.0	<p>SET MEMBERSHIP RATES FOR YEAR 2019</p> <p>The Treasurer reminded the members that the MC had decided to freeze membership rates last year and that our rates are similar to other local clubs. Consideration has been made by the Committee on various options and Steve's feelings were that we probably should put the fees up and that although a 2% increase might be justified, he felt that by going with a 1% increase, it keeps an adult annual subscription under £300 which sounds better but that he and the MC also felt the best thing was to let the members decide so he put the following three options to the meeting;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Freeze the rate - Increase by 1% - Increase by 3% <p>A short discussion took place and then the Chair asked for a show of hands for each option;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Freeze the rate – 3 - Increase by 1% - 22 - Increase by 3% - 2 <p>Neil confirmed that the 1% increase would be added to the subscription rates and that membership renewal forms would be available from the weekend.</p>								
7.0	<p>ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (MC)</p> <p>The Chair pointed out that we have a maximum of 12 members on the MC and we are not full and that we had received one application to join the Committee from Jemma Turner who then gave a brief introduction and explained her many roles in the Club including a playing adult, Ladies 3rd Team captain, parent of a competing junior and that with her business background, she was hoping to be able to help with some ideas for attracting new family memberships.</p> <p>Ballot papers containing the names of those standing for election for the Management Committee were handed out to members attending the AGM and Neil added that anyone wishing to maybe join the committee in the future to please speak with him as new members are welcome.</p> <p>There were 22 ballot papers handed in and all approved the proposed MC.</p> <p>The newly elected members are as follow:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Neil Moss</td><td>Chairperson</td></tr> <tr> <td>Steve Bloomfield</td><td>Treasurer</td></tr> <tr> <td>Colin Pow</td><td>Club Secretary</td></tr> <tr> <td>Andrea Pullin</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Neil Moss	Chairperson	Steve Bloomfield	Treasurer	Colin Pow	Club Secretary	Andrea Pullin	
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	<p>Julie Hobbs Adam Webb Malcolm Simmonds Jason Squire Jemma Turner</p>
8.0	<p>ELECTION OF PRESIDENT WHO IS A NON-MC MEMBER</p> <p>The Chairperson asked for a show of hands in favour of re-electing Alan Pullin as Club President. There was a unanimous show of hands. Malcolm Simmonds seconded the motion.</p> <p>The Chairperson took the opportunity to thank Alan for his huge contribution to the club over the years and for always being there to offer guidance plus the benefit of his experience when required.</p>
9.0	<p>RESOLUTIONS THAT THE MC HAS AGREED TO BE TRANSACTED AT THE AGM</p> <p>No resolutions had been put forward.</p>
10.0	<p>MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS</p> <p>No resolutions were put forward.</p>
11.0	<p>DATE OF NEXT MC MEETING</p> <p>The date was set for 3rd April 2019.</p>
12.0	<p>AOB</p> <p>Margaret enquired as to whether the number of times a visitor can attend the Club a year was maybe too high (the meeting wasn't sure if it was 10 or 8 times) and the Chair explained that there were some friends / relatives of members who lived quite a distance away but enjoyed playing at the Club when they were visiting and that to the best of his knowledge, he didn't feel the regulation was being abused although accepted we are always reliant on members honesty to sign in guests and pay the visitor fee.</p>
	<p>CHAIRPERSON'S CLOSING COMMENTS</p> <p>The Chairperson thanked those members who had attended and for everyone's help over the past year.</p>
	<p>8.30 MEETING CLOSED</p>