

MARLOW TENNIS CLUB  
(A Section of Marlow Sports Club Ltd)  
POUND LANE, MARLOW, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE  
Telephone : 01628 483 638

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON  
THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2007  
In The Old Pavilion, Marlow Sports Club at 8pm

Present: Colin and Libby Upcott, Justin Cook, Jane Bean, Ann Gordon-Cumming, Mary Crawford, Wendy Aitken, Ian Martin, Nicola Huxley, Helen Strube, Jonathan Welch, 'Jake', Libby Cook, Rae Bezuidenhout, Jilly Williams

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Susie North, Peter & Denise Head, Nigel and Anna Bacon, Ian & Chris Benning, Sarah Gregory, Julia Hick, Alison Rae, Sue Gallagher, Ros Augustin,

2. MINUTES OF THE 2006 AGM

The Minutes of the 2006 AGM were taken as read, approved as a correct record – proposed by Ian Martin and Seconded by Libby Upcott - and signed by Mary Crawford in her capacity as Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Including report on the Sports Club)

For the committee in their role of overseeing and directing the club much of the year has been dominated by the lack of a decision about the future of club. The questions that required an answer included:

- What would Whitbread's do
- Would we get planning permission for Astro turf at the back of the club area
- Who would fund
- What would local opinion be
- How much partnership working would there be within the Sports Club and with the Environment Agency
- What would the impact of the local election be on speed of decision making
- What deals were there to be done re planning of what, where
- What would the impact of the sale of the David Lloyd clubs be
- How supportive are local councillors of the plans and how can they be used to support the clubs long term future

It has now been accepted that the aims of MSC are to:

- Secure the land to help the ground remain as a sports area for local people
- Create a unified sport club
- Create a home and facilities for a modern Marlow Hockey Club
- Develop a plan that supports greater links with other local organizations esp. those for young people

At present hockey have taken the lead and work is taking place to proceed with a planning

application for the astro. The tennis club is not required to financially support this at this stage But has indicated a willingness do so.

Finance -There will be a forecast shortfall of £1,500 for MSC so all is not well and tennis remains the most solvent section. Some additional income has been gained through letting the ground out for young boys football in the weekends and they now form a section of the club.

Tennis remains well represented on the Sports Club committee with the secretary and the treasurer being active members of the tennis section.

So back to tennis:

- All of this indecision resulted in a committee decision that we would maintain the courts and the club house rather than seek to develop and to agree to resurface courts. We do acknowledge that we cannot take this stance for ever but it seems appropriate at this stage. I can assure you that we are aware of the need to constantly keep this decision under review.

So what did we do

- Response to the questionnaire –
  - bins have been put in place outside the club house and near to the gate to court 4
  - Social events have continued to be held throughout the year and 2 of these have been geared to allow people to meet and chat rather than engage in activity (unless you consider drinking and nibbling activity)
- Flood lights have been replaced
- Junior events have been continued and membership remains high with the junior sessions on a Friday being very actively supported
- Club nights continue
  - Monday active and great night for new members
  - The 2 other club nights varied success/attendance
    - Thursday disappointing attendance
    - Tuesdays for team standard players varied
  - Sunday afternoons despite valiant attempts to establish it a time for club tennis has become a non event
- Finals days
  - Great weather
  - Good tennis especially by the younger members
  - Justin's contribution well demonstrated with the under 23s winning a number of events or being runner sup
  - Thanks to all who supported the day – umpires, players, spectators, umpire stand transporters and cooks
- Team tennis continues with men's and woman's teams playing in winter and summer leagues
- Subs – in response to requests from a number of members we introduced a student fee for this year only and refunded fees to those who had paid a full adult fee to students who turned 18 this year. Our membership fee proposals address this for the longer term
- The committee
  - Firstly I want to acknowledge the work Sue Hill has done as fixture secretary and thank her for that and wish Rae all the best in the role
  - Also thank everyone else for their work – the time they give and the effort they put in to making the club work for all of us

Mary Crawford Chair

## 5. TREASURERS REPORT

<u>MARLOW TENNIS CLUB</u>								
<u>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT</u>								
<u>FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER</u>								
<u>2007</u>								
				2007			2006	
				£	£		£	£
<b>INCOME</b>								
Subscriptions					19,768			21,375
Ball Sales					220			303
Match fee income					718			756
Visitor fees					24			36
Bank interest					1,230			578
Building society interest					229			188
Sundry income including socials					306			352
Floodlight token sales					2,046			2,661
British Tennis Foundation					250			-
					24,791			26,249
<b>EXPENSES</b>								
MSC levy				3,300			3,000	
Draw				52			52	
Tennis balls				539			802	
Affiliation/league fees				2,584			2,477	
Club tournament				293			273	
Repairs and maintenance				538			1,883	
Electricity				681			550	
Coaching and court hire				2,020			2,000	
Postage				92			-	
Sundry				105			358	
Depreciation				4,957			6,190	
Tax on interest received				46			38	
					15,208			17,623
<b>SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>					<b>9,583</b>			<b>8,626</b>
<u>MARLOW TENNIS CLUB</u>								
<u>BALANCE SHEET</u>								
<u>FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER</u>								
<u>2007</u>								
				2,007			2006	
				£	£	£	£	£

FIXED ASSETS	Cost	Depreciation	net		
Court 4	28,318	11,328	16,990		19,821
Floodlights 1992 - 10 years	11,729	11,729	-		-
Fencing 1987 - 10 years	3,755	3,755	-		-
Tennis wall 1991 - 7 years	3,300	3,300	-		-
Resurfacing 2000 - 5 years	18,701	18,701	-		-
Wall resurface 2001 - 5 years	1,557	1,557	-		128
Floodlights 2003 - 10 years	10,502	7,350	3,152		4,202
Floodlights 2004 - 10 years	9,470	3,788	5,682		6,630
	87,332	61,508	25,824		30,781
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Bank Current Account		418			-
Building Society Account		9,393			9,210
Bank Reserve Account		51,899			35,908
Debtors and Prepayments		272			1,000
		61,983			46,118
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
Current Bank Account		-			68
Sundry creditors		1,860			468
		1,860			536
Net current assets			60,122		45,582
<b>NET ASSETS</b>					
			85,946		76,363
<b>Represented by:</b>					
Accumulated Surplus					
At the start of the year			76,363		67,737
Add this year's surplus			9,583		8,626
At the end of the year			85,946		76,363



The club plays winter league matches in the Thames Valley League.

Format is 2 pairs ( 4 sets ) with matches played on a Saturday or Sunday. The league was restructured for the winter season 2007 / 2008 due to the Premier league increasing in size to 14 teams. Each subsequent division had the top 7 teams promoted into the league above. This meant for the first time both men's teams were in the same division.

The league rules insist on two teams from the same club playing in the same division play their match as the first fixture of the winter season. The Men's A beat Men's B 6 sets to 2.

The final table is shown below taken from the Oxfordshire Tennis website. The league secretary decided that Marlow B would retain it's place in division 1 for the winter 2008 / 2009 season.

Men's' report -

#### Men's 2007 2008 Winter Thames Valley League

Mens One		Play	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
<b>COMPLETE</b>	Thame	12	9	2	1	69
	Oxford Sports					
	B	12	8	2	2	66
	Blewbury	12	7	1	4	66
	Marlow A	12	7	3	2	57
	Wychwoods	12	7	1	4	52
	North Oxford					
	C	12	5	2	5	50
	Banbury	12	5	2	5	48
	Goring B	12	4	3	5	48
	Wantage	12	2	6	4	42
	Faringdon	12	4	1	7	37
	Bicester B	12	4	1	7	35
	Marlow B	12	0	4	8	28
	Woodstock B	12	1	2	9	18

Completed by Jonathan Welch – Men's captain April 2008

## 7. REPORT FROM OFF PEAK SECTION

We started the New Year off on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January, with a meal at the George and Dragon in Marlow, the same venue as last year. This year, about sixteen people attended, and although the service was slightly shambolic, we all enjoyed ourselves, despite the fact that once again, no men players joined us.

This year we have successfully continued our new system from last year, of raising money for balls, by holding a number of Round Robin Coffee Mornings. Once again, we have held four since the New Year; this time in March, May, July and September, and our final one for this year will be next Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. The summer event was rounded off with a buffet lunch to which everybody supplied a dish. The weather was kind to us again this year, albeit a little windy, and we had a turnout of between ten and nineteen players, which was up from last year.

Our 10-11.30am sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings are continuing to be well attended, with between 8 and 12 players turning up each time.

This gives us a good chance to play with different partners every 5 games.

Once again we played our friendly doubles matches against Wooburn Green; the Home match in April, and the Away in June. If we can get more people interested in joining the team, we are considering contacting other clubs for next year.

My apologies, yet again, for us not being able to play our Doubles Final on Club Finals Day. This was owing to a holiday commitment by a new member who stepped in to replace someone who was sick.

Overall I think that we have had an enjoyable year, and I would like to thank those people who have helped provide refreshments for our Coffee Mornings.

Jane Bean – Off Peak Committee Member.

## 8. REPORT FROM SOCIAL SECRETARY

The year started off in April with a good number of people tidying up the courts, surrounding areas and the club house followed by a tennis tournament on the Sunday. Juniors in the morning and seniors in the afternoon. We have a wonderful array of cakes for afternoon tea.

In May we had an afternoon tournament which was well attended. The BBQ round robin evening was very popular although a bit cold, the hot food went down very well. In July we had the cheese and wine evening following a mixed tournament which marked another sociable evening.

September brought the finals of the Club tournaments with prize giving in the pavilion followed by a great choice of lasagnas, cottage pies and delicious puddings all donated by the players.

The penultimate social event was a Bingo night with fish and chips from the Penguin cafe at half time.

The Christmas dinner was held at Harleyford Golf club to mark the end of the social occasions of 2007

Jilli Williams

## 9. REPORT FROM CLUB COACH

The year started with our annual tournament at Bucks Indoor Centre. Over 60 players attended with at least 40 of them from Marlow Tennis Club. Competitors competed at Mini Tennis – red, Orange and green. For the established Junior, a doubles tournament was arranged involving 18 players between the ages of 12-18 years. Helping with the juniors in this event were our new tennis leaders (to be explained in more detail later in the report).

Coaching started in the spring term with almost 100 places filled for the twelve weeks. In the summer term 125 places were regularly filled within our programme. The same could be said for the autumn term, with extremely high numbers of again 125 places. This is amazing bearing in mind we had so many days of rain that interfered with our coaching. The hardy youths still came out with their rackets! Adults on the other hand didn't seem to enjoy the bad weather and so whilst coaching them in the spring term the numbers dropped considerably. The summer term seemed to be much busier.

Camps were arranged each half term, Easter and Summer holidays. A total of 6 camps were arranged, varying from 3 to 5 days with many juniors enjoying the mini games and fun tournaments set up for them.

The Junior barbeque was arranged the Sunday before Wimbledon began. 25 juniors and adults attended, which is less than a third on previous years. Torrential rain caused the closure of Pound Lane on this day and my car couldn't be moved for hours, while the firemen had to pump the water away. (the 120 hot dogs and 120 hamburgers and numerous loaves of bread were not all eaten!!)

A tennis leader's course was arranged for 14-18 year olds. A total of 12 attended and all have helped in the junior coaching at some stage this year. 9 of which also helped at the Thames Valley Games. They deserve a good hand for that they have done and achieved.

We entered 2 teams into the Thames Valley Games and one of these came third, the other 5<sup>th</sup>.

Trips to Tennis Tournaments were as follows

10 adults and 10 juniors saw the Davis Cup at the NEC. 2 juniors came to Surbiton Tournament with me, seeing our top British Players. 2 Juniors came to the Queens Club, meeting up with the Delgado family. There were 4 trips to Wimbledon with a total of 5 juniors and 10 adults attending the various days of the Championships. The Davis Cup at Wimbledon was a great day out with 4 adults and 4 juniors taking the seats.

The now annual, Ilfracombe Tournament, was attended by 24 people, 2 of which played. (7 adults, 14 juniors)

The winners included

Jack Groves – men singles

Libby Cook – runner up in the under 20's

Guy Wealthall – winning the under 18's against Thomas Moll.

Olivia Drew – won the under 19 girls.

All the above excursions and Tournament will be offered again this year, starting again in December with 20 tickets to the Masters at the Albert Hall. Many of these tickets will be taken by the adults attending winter coaching.

Justin Cook

Coach

#### 10. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 2007/2008

The committee members retiring this year – Sean Ratcliffe (Chairman) and Mary Crawford (Ladies Captain) Sarah Gregory (Social).

The committee's proposal for the officers and committee for 2007/8 are as follows:

Chairman	Mary Crawford
Treasurer	Libby Upcott
Secretary	Ann Gordon-Cumming
Ladies' Captain	Thelma Craig
Men's Captain	Jonathon Welch
Match Secretary	Rae Bezuidenhout
Junior	Ian Martin
Off Peak	Jane Bean
Grounds	Colin Upcott
Social	Julia Hick/Jilly Williams

These were agreed unanimously by the meeting

#### 11. SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR NEXT YEAR

Proposed Subscriptions – 2007/08

	£	<u>2007/08</u>	£	2006/07
Full individual	105		101	
Full husband + wife	187		180	
Full family	250		24	
Student	57			
Senior	65	0		
		0		
Off peak individual	65		62	
Off peak husband + wife	111		107	
Off peak family	175		168	
Junior 5-7	29		28	
Junior 8-18	57		55	

Two new groups were added. Student and Senior.  
These were agreed unanimously by the meeting

12. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

Ros Augustin has agreed to be the auditor for the following year.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The question was raised as what to do about the slippery courts.

Too much cost for new courts with no lease in hand £65,000 + for 3 courts – would need to be dug up and started again.

Or

Cleaned and painted, water is not soaking away – this will give another approx 3 years life at a cost of approx £4,500.00.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

Ann Gordon-Cumming, Secretary  
1st November 2007