

MARLOW TENNIS CLUB
(A section of Marlow Sports Club Ltd)
POUND LANE, MARLOW, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
Telephone: 01628 483638

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on
Thursday 13th November 2008
In The Old Pavilion, Marlow Sports Club at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Jane Bean, Jocelyn Finch, Jonathan Welch, Jilli Williams, Georgina Jagger, Colin and Libby Upcott, Thelma Craig, Ian Martin, Norman Street, Anna Bacon, Jane and Andrew Johnson, Sue Gallagher, Rosalind and Eugene Augustin, Helen Strube, Denise Head, Mary Crawford, Sue Hill, Justin Cook, Wendy Aitken and Mary Green.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Ann Gordon-Cumming, Julia Hick, Guy Tomlinson, Guy Wynter, Victoria and Ian Benning, Robert Daly and Peter Head.

MINUTES OF THE 2007 AGM

The Minutes of the 2007 AGM were taken as read and approved by the meeting as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As with last year the uncertainty of the future of the Sports club has been a significant in the committee's decision making. The latest position is that the Club has made an offer to Whitbread for the ground that was not accepted. However based on expert advice a revised offer has been made and a response is awaited. The planning application to be put in by the Environment Agency and the Hockey has been delayed due to an Environment Agency decision. Hockey is currently preparing to submit a bid in early 2009 for an Astroturf pitch and lights. The Club is also discussing purchase of some additional land at the back of the Club. The Tennis Committee has requested that a meeting of the committee of each of the sections be held shortly to discuss the actual commitment required of each and the ability of each section to financially support the plans. The financial position of the club is a little more stable – helped in part by the establishment of a new section – junior football.

As far as the courts are concerned these were painted in the spring and are now much safer. Thanks must go to Colin Upcott for his work in arranging and

supervising this and in all he has done to ensure that the lights are much more reliable.

We had a very successful Club tournament with a long and exciting (if not chilly) finals day. There are new names on the honours board but surnames remain the same in many cases. Thanks to Jane Johnson for her help in doing the draw. To umpires and to Jonathan for his help in getting and returning the umpire stands. As in previous years there were challenges in getting some people to play their matches which make for testing times as we get near to finals day.

We continue to enter teams in leagues and thanks must go to the Captains for all they do in organising teams and to the players. Details are contained in the two Captains reports. This summer there was a new league format and we could decide whether to enter teams of 2 or 3 pairs – we chose the former but the change in format did make for some rather one sided matches. This winter for the first time in a number of years we have one mixed team in the Vets league.

It is the end of an era for the club with Colin and Libby standing down from committee roles – they will be missed by all for their hard work and commitment to the Club – time for a new generation. We all owe them a great deal of gratitude. Also I would like to thank all of the committee for their work over the past year; thank those who are remaining on the committee and also thank Ian Martin and Ann Gordon-Cumming for their work over the years they have had the role of Junior Organiser and Secretary respectively. It is sad that we have no playing member prepared to take on these roles or replace Colin.

TREASURER'S REPORT

You should all have a copy of the Accounts, which are very simple and straightforward and shouldn't need any explanation.

The only large payment during the year was for repairs and maintenance for the cleaning and painting of all four courts, and servicing and repairs to the floodlights. This should keep the courts in reasonable condition for a while, but the next expense will be major as the courts will need relaying next time.

I would like to thank Ros Augustin for preparing and auditing the Accounts again this year, she was a great help to me. She will probably not be able to do it next year as Eugene will be Treasurer.

If there are any questions I will try to answer them, but hopefully there won't be any.

The adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Jane Johnson and seconded by Sue Hill and approved by the meeting.

LADIES CAPTAIN'S REPORT

We have been without a ladies captain for most of this year since Thelma Craig resigned from the position. Sadly it has not been possible to find someone willing and able to take on the role.

Thanks to the team captains who kept the teams going and well managed - Jane Johnson (Ladies A), Thelma Craig (Ladies B), Helen Strube (Ladies vets A) Jane Pyke (Ladies vets B). Each has contributed to the following report.

Ladies A -

In the winter in Thames Valley League, Ladies A finished 6th out of 14 teams in Division 1. A very creditable result and mainly due to a very reliable team. In the summer, we played in the two pair league for the first time. Ladies A finished second out of 7 teams. Two matches were a good standard, but the other four were very easy and not so enjoyable. Hopefully this league will be a bit more challenging next summer.

Many thanks to all the ladies who played in these teams, especially Pat Jenkins, Mo Sullivan and Jess Bull who played the majority of the matches. Special mention and thanks to Pat Jenkins, who did not miss a match all year.

Ladies B -

In the Thames valley winter league, the Ladies B team in division 3, improved on their performance to the previous year. They won 5 drew 6 and lost two, finishing in the top half of the league. Some of the matches were played in wet gear to protect themselves against the adverse conditions-sadly a memorable wet winter. Thank you to everyone that played. The core team players were Chris Lavis, Tania Smith, Rae Bezuidenhout, Mary Crawford and Thelma Craig with a few others stepping in as reserves.

This was the first year in the Bucks summer league where you could enter three pairs or two pairs. The ladies second team opted for two pairs in division 2. Congratulations to the ladies second team ended joint leaders along with Next generation with a total of 17 points (Next Generation did not complete all their matches). Marlow won 5 matches and lost 1 to Next Generation. Well done to all who played. It was great to have a steady team. The core players were Mary Crawford, Chris Lavis, Tania Smith, Rae Bezuidenhout, Holly Strube and Thelma Craig

Ladies Vets A -

1 won 2, drew 1 Lost 3 and therefore remained in the same league and are currently working hard to remain there again. We will miss Rae who played in every match.

Ladies vets B -

Well, we are still in the same league, division 8 and can only go up! We had a good year however! Our best result was against Halton. We got full points as their team didn't turn up and so conceded the game!! We all tried very hard for the rest of the year, despite being rained off three or four times. Other than the great success with Halton, we beat Chalfont St. Peter, drew with Coleshill, Aylesbury and Farnham Common, but lost to Stoke Park and Penn & Tyler Green. We finished bang in the middle, but are going to claw our way up this year with more wins than draws....

The rotating core players were, and still are, Sarah Macdonald, Diana Anderson, Lin Wilson, Julia Hick, Sarah Gregory and Jane Pyke.

MENS CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Over the summer the club plays summer league matches in the Bucks Tennis Shield. We changed from a 3 pair (6 set format) to a 2 pair (4 set format) for the first time for both Marlow Men's teams. Matches based on a 3 pair format were taking up the majority of a Saturday / Sunday and after consulting team players, the majority decision was to go to a 2 pair format. The league is now regionalised resulting in local fixtures. Both teams had very credible results.

During the winter the club plays matches in the Thames Valley League. As with summer the 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. Marlow A was 4th in the league and although the B team did not achieve quite such a good result the league secretary decided that Marlow B would retain its place in division 1 for the winter 2008 / 2009 season.

Jonathan Welch – Men's captain Oct 2008

REPORT FROM JUNIOR SECTION

Junior progress during 2008 remains very encouraging. Numbers in the Section still push up towards 180 – there is a fairly even split between boys & girls.

Justin, the Club Coach, continues to do a great job with all age ranges – in any one-week up to 140 children are now receiving formal coaching.

The standard of overall play at all levels is improving, whilst feedback on the coaching remains positive, with a good balance of activities.

Again it was fantastic to see so many of our past & current juniors doing so well & featuring so frequently in all manner of the Finals day matches!

The Bucks County matches Division 2 – we made the early decision not to enter teams in this competitive format this year. Justin will work closely with the potential parent captains to reassess whether we have the junior & parent strength to reinstate Marlow in 2009. Justin will be soliciting feedback, so ideas will be welcome.

After 3 years as Junior Secretary the timing is now appropriate for me to step down. It has become evident that the most effective way forward for the progression of junior tennis is to have my role more closely integrated with both the Junior Coach & the Committee – with this in mind, Justin will now be integrating his role as Club Coach with that of Junior Secretary. This is a very

positive & progressive step forward & will serve the Club, the Committee & most importantly our juniors & hence the future of our club well.

I wish all the juniors on-going enjoyment & development in their tennis play for the coming season & I am sure that Justin will continue to inspire & foster a great fun environment.

Many thanks

Ian Martin

REPORT FROM OFF PEAK SECTION

We started the New Year off on Wednesday 23rd January, with lunch at the George and Dragon in Marlow, the same venue as the last two years. This year, about fourteen people attended, and it was an enjoyable occasion despite the usual rather erratic service.

We are now in our third year of holding Round Robins every two months, in order to raise money for the balls used on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Since the New Year we have held five with Coffee Mornings, and the summer event was rounded off with a buffet lunch to which everybody supplied a dish. Each one was well attended, with a turnout of between 9 and 14 players; slightly down on last year.

Our 10-11.30am sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings are continuing to be well attended. We usually have between 8 and 12 players turning up for each session, which gives us a good chance to play with different partners every 5 games.

We were unfortunate with our arrangements with our friendly matches against Wooburn Green Tennis Club this year. Our Home Match in April was not able to take place and we were unable to fix another date, but the Away Match took place as usual in June. However, we were fortunate in being invited to the Next Generation Club (also in Wooburn Green) at the beginning of October in which we won 6/3. We have invited them back for a return match in December.

Tomorrow, Justin has arranged for a few of us to play with (or possibly against) some ladies from his coaching sessions, so I am hoping that this will encourage them to join us on our Off-Peak mornings. It would be good to have some new (and younger) blood.

This summer everybody managed to stay relatively fit and healthy, and in Marlow; and consequently we were able to hold our slightly unconventional Mixed Doubles Finals actually on Finals Day, something not achieved for several years. As we have more lady players than men, some couples were more mixed than others.

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. I am resigning from the Committee as I am moving to the West Country in the next few months (assuming our house sale goes through). I have been a member of the club for 20 years and will miss everybody.

Jane Bean

REPORT FROM SOCIAL SECRETARY

Jilli reported on the various activities during the year starting with the annual spring clean and opening of the season tennis afternoon. The BBQ in June was very popular as usual and the tennis, cheese and wine evening, both were well attended and enjoyed by all.

Finals Day evening in the Sports Club Old Pavilion was also very successful. It has been decided not to hold a Christmas party this year as the attendance has not been as good for the past 2 years. It will be considered again in the future.

Jilli thanked all who had helped with the various functions during the year.

REPORT FROM CLUB COACH

The last year saw our coaching programme as busy as ever. Groups for adults and juniors alike seemed to be extremely busy.

The new year started with our annual indoor tournament at Bucks Indoor Centre. It was well attended and was a great way to speak to players and parents and adult members about joining the on coming term.

Although there were no Marlow juniors in local leagues, they were given the opportunity to play in match play and tournaments organised by me.

All the normal trips happened, Wimbledon, Surbiton, Queens Club, Stoke Park, Davis Cup (at Wimbledon) and the Masters at The Albert Hall. Libby and I took our juniors and adult members to these events.

The Ilfracombe trip was as popular as ever with 27 people travelling for a week- long tournament. Two weeks before we held the junior BBQ – only 30 people attended due to very bad weather, it still went ahead with everyone having a great time.

Once again I feel pleased with the progress of our players in the coaching programmes and can see the next year as even more positive.

Justin Cook

12. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The committee members retiring this year are – Libby Upcott (Treasurer), Ann Gordon-Cumming (Secretary), Thelma Craig (Ladies' Captain – resigned earlier in the year), Rae Bezuidenhout (Match Secretary – resigned earlier in the year), Ian Martin (Junior Representative), Colin Upcott (Grounds).

The committee's proposals for the officers and committee for 2008/9 are as follows –

Chairman	Mary Crawford
Treasurer	Eugene Augustin
Secretary	no volunteers
Ladies' Captain	no volunteers
Mens' Captain	Jonathan Welch
Match Secretary	Jocelyn Finch

Junior
Off Peak
Social

Justin Cook
Jane Bean
Julia Hick/Jilli Williams

At the meeting Jane Bean advised that she would be leaving the district but proposed that Wendy Aitken take over from her. This was seconded by Mary Green. Libby proposed Eugene Augustin for Treasurer and this was seconded by Andrew Johnson. Jocelyn Finch was proposed by Jane Johnson and seconded by Thelma Craig.

All the above nominations were accepted by the meeting.

The position of Ladies' Captain remains unfilled – Jane Johnson will continue to run the Ladies first team and various captains will be appointed for the other teams. Finals Day will be organised by Mary with help from other members.

A member suggested that it might be a good idea to have a junior on the committee, but it was felt that Justin could be the junior representative.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

There was a long discussion on subscriptions as it was pointed out to the meeting that if we were unable to find a new Secretary we might have to pay someone to do this job.

The meeting voted to increase the subscriptions by approximately 3.5% for the 2008/9 season. If, however, it becomes necessary to pay for a Secretary then the meeting agreed that the committee could raise the subscriptions in relation to the costs involved.

The new subscriptions for next year will be as follows (unless amended at a later date)

Full	105.00	to	109.00	3.81%
Joint full	187.00	to	194.00	3.74%
Full family	250.00	to	259.00	3.60%
Student	57.00	to	59.00	3.51%
Senior	65.00	to	67.00	3.08%
Off-peak	65.00	to	67.00	3.08%
Family off-peak	175.00	to	181.00	3.43%
Junior (5-7)	29.00	to	30.00	3.45%
Junior (8-18)	57.00	to	59.00	3.51%

14. RULES AND REGULATIONS

Mary asked members to take a copy of the Rules and Regulations and e-mail any comments to her. A copy will be posted in the clubhouse so that the new Rules and Regulations can be accepted by the members.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

As mentioned by Libby in her report, Ros Augustin will not be able to do the audit for us next year as Eugene will be Treasurer. Eugene proposed Ruskells to be our auditors and this was seconded by Ian Martin.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Norman Street proposed a vote of thanks to Colin and Libby for the work they have done for the club over the years. The committee were thanked for their work during the year, particularly Mary who, as well as Chairman, had taken on most of the responsibility of Ladies Captain after Thelma resigned.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.