

BLTC Tennis AGM

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 12/04/2022 19:00

Attendees:

John Beynon	Sue Hill	Hillary Nettleton	Caroline Walker
Mandy Davies	Nikki Hughes	Silvia Reis	Ed Wilkins
Janine David	Nick Jones	Debra Simmons	Jana Zaborska
Mike Harpin	Aerwel Morgan	Mark Thomas	

Proxy Votes:

Mandy Davies for John Moesdale and Val Moesdale.

Quorum:

15 present + 2 proxy votes. This constitutes a quorate for the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

1.1. Apologies received from Richard Jones, Bev Webber, John Moesdale and Val Moesdale.

2. Approval of AGM Minutes for 11/11/2019

2.1. Minutes for the last AGM held on Monday 11/11/2019 were approved and agreed to be true and accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

3.1. The Covid-19 pandemic has meant that AGMs were not held in 2020 and 2021.

3.2. Email received from Val Mosedale expressing disappointment that opportunity for remote attendance of this year's AGM has not been offered. It was agreed that this can be offered to individuals in future. However, it was noted that the club's internet bandwidth and WiFi connection is not strong and that previous meetings involving a mix of live and on-line attendees has proved problematic, often resulting in a delay of proceedings.

4. Chairman's Report

4.1. JD expressed the tennis section's admiration and gratitude towards the CIC project board and hands-on volunteers (too numerable to name) for what has been achieved in the past 3 years. Obtaining funding, local authority permission, and ultimately carrying out the building work has meant that, since our last AGM, the club grounds now have floodlighting on courts 5&6; new clay courts (3&4) with floodlighting; a widened and landscaped central avenue; and has meant that the derelict bottom courts (7&8) have been reclaimed with proper drainage and construction of a ring beam in preparation for indoor bubble.

- 4.2. Despite Covid-19 return to play restrictions, the section was able to stage most of the usual tennis tournaments and competitions in 2020 and 2021. This included one-day clay court competitions, Club championships (adult and junior), Renegade Shield, and handicap competitions. The 2022 season started on Saturday 9th April with the open day competition, and thanks was extended to Deb Simmons and Kev Ellis for its running after Rich Jones had to leave.
- 4.3. Non-competitive team tennis (without promotion/relegation) restarted with the South Wales Summer Doubles leagues in 2021 and continued with competitive Winter Doubles leagues in 2021/2022. Bridgend entered a number of teams which was unchanged from the 2018/2019 seasons. The same number of teams have been entered in the 2022 South Wales Summer leagues.
- A men's team was entered in the 2021 Summer LTA National Tennis League (NTL). A men's team and ladies' team have been entered in the 2022 LTA Summer NTL.
- 4.4. For the first time, coach-led team tennis coaching sessions is being experimented. This has been started initially for men's teams on Wednesday evenings (bookable on Clubspark) and is run by Matt Murphy. It is hoped that these sessions will also become popular with ladies' teams and will become a permanent offering.
- 4.5. Junior teams were entered in the 2021/22 Winter LTA NTL. 9 junior teams (spanning most of the age groups) have been entered in the 2022 Summer NTL and reflects the increase in junior members resulting from Mark Thomas' coaching program.
- 4.6. In April 2021, the club played host to the LTA 12U Boys County Cup Qualifying event which saw the top 12U boys in Wales and South West England compete for a place in the County Cup finals. Regrettably, Covid-19 restrictions meant that spectators were not permitted. However, the club will also be hosting this year's event and members are encouraged to come and watch.
- 4.7. December 2021 saw the start of the experimental Winter Singles Box Leagues which has been open to, and well received by all standards of players. The league will end this month (April) and will restart in September. Thanks are expressed to George Williams for taking the lead in organising and managing the box leagues.
- 4.8. Looking forward to 2022/23, dates have already been set for the following:
- LTA NTL and Tennis Wales Summer Doubles Leagues (24th April - 17th July)
 - LTA 12U Boys County Cup Qualifiers (30th April - 1st May)
 - Club Championships (25th July - 17th September)
 - Junior Championships (TBA)
 - Clay Court Competition (Saturday 13th August)
 - Handicap Championships (26th September - 19th November)
 - Renegade Shield (Saturday 8th October)
 - Bulldog Squash vs Tennis (TBA)
 - Presentation Evening (Friday 25th November)
- 4.9. A reminder is given to those who have not already done so, to rejoin for the 2022/23 season in order to be eligible to take part in events and team tennis.

5. Treasurer's Report

5.1. Balance at 2019 AGM - £2500

5.2. Balance at 2022 AGM - £2245

5.3. Expenditure:

- LTA Club Registration, half of which is paid by the CIC. This is the cost of affiliating Bridgend Tennis Club with the Tennis Wales and the LTA and is a sum based on the number of floodlit and non-floodlit courts - £720
- Sprayer for courts - £1000
- Team League Entry fees (recouped from match fees) - £32/team
- Sundry Purchases (Tennis Balls, Net Winders, DBS fees, Roll-of-honour Boards)
- Bank charges (£6/month)

5.4. Income:

- Team Match Fees - £1/player/match
- Club tennis championships/competitions

6. Management Committee

6.1. Executives and some other members of the tennis committee have been in office since the committee was re-formed in 2016. The current members are happy to continue in their roles.

6.2. NJ asked if anyone present was interested in serving on the committee to which the answer was no. Since no approach has been made from any individual volunteering their interest in serving on the committee in the past 5 years, NJ proposed that the status quo be maintained for the coming year. This was agreed unanimously via a show of hands.

7. CIC Development Projects

7.1. MH provided a thorough overview of recently completed clubhouse projects and the status of currently active projects both inside and outside the clubhouse. Completed clubhouse projects are the ladies' and gent's ground floor toilet facilities, the ladies' first floor changing facilities, and the ground floor kitchen/food preparation area. Soon to be completed is the new front entrance with hallway area and signage.

Mike acknowledged the efforts of all the volunteers in carrying out this work, as well as the salaried staff, in particular Jana and Mark Thomas.

Court 8 is currently fenced off and out-of-action due to the danger caused by Ash die-back on the stability of several large trees on the embankment above. Ben Williams and his tree specialist have compiled a professional report which has been submitted to BCBC to assist in the removal of TPOs on 13 trees in the region of court 8. Ed Wilkins has also written to the leader of the council in an attempt to expedite the process. The unavailability of court 8 has naturally impacted Mark's coaching so that a court usually available for member bookings has had to temporarily be allocated to the coaching program.

Removing the trees is likely to cost in excess of £10K.

7.2. The progress on erecting an air-hall (bubble) over courts 7&8, although delayed by the necessary removal of dangerous trees, has been further facilitated by a £94K grant from Sports Wales. It is thanks to Ed and Jana and their work with Tennis Wales that the club has been successful in securing these funds.

Courts 7&8 are to remain as tarmac asphalt for the time being since the air-hall will be seasonal, inflated for 6 months of the year and open to the elements for the remaining 6 months. The courts are scheduled to be painted in June/July 2022.

It is hoped that concerns raised by the neighbours and brought before the council planning committee will be allayed once the air-hall is inflated and been in use for 6 months. Alternative, court surfaces may then be considered should the temporary status of the cover change at any time in the future.

The contract transfer Sports Wales funds and purchase the air-hall has now been signed in anticipation that the report submitted to BCBC to address remaining planning condition relating to light leakage, is satisfactory and accepted.

Looking ahead, a consultation process will take place regarding fair usage of the air-hall facility. It is anticipated that Mark will use the facility for coaching and members will be able to book at a discounted rate. Based on air-hall management at other clubs, booking will likely be available in 3-month blocks and will not use the sliding 2 weeks currently used to book outdoor courts via Clubspark.

7.3. The primary on-going costs for 2022 are ~£10K to remove tress on the embankment next to court 8 and ~£30K to replace the clubhouse roof. This is in addition to the usual clubhouse running costs of £12K/month.

Income generation for the CIC comes from bar takings, function room hire, the coaching program (~£20K/annum) and membership fees. Note that there are now twice as many adult members and 5 times as many junior members than in 2019.

Mike and Dave Smith have recently reviewed the financial projections of the club's business plan and have concluded that generated income will cover the on-going costs plus the 7-year, £57K/annum commitment to pay back loans.

Consideration for use of surplus funds for 2022 are:

- Disabled changing & toilet facilities on the site of the old kitchen. Ed and Jana are investigating grant opportunities. Ed asked if this could be the focus for future tennis section fund raising.
- Taller floodlights for courts 5&6 (requiring planning amendment).
- Improved floodlights and pole mounts on courts 1&2.
- Development of junior court and practice walls behind courts 5&6.
- Integrated courts & club management system (~£5K + monthly cost). Bank charges for the existing system are high at ~£8K/annum.
- Resurface courts 5&6 as artificial clay (~£40K).

7.4. A formal traffic management policy has been necessary in order to comply with planning permission conditions. Access to the car park when not at capacity

continues to be managed as best as possible. It is noted that peak-time charges for parking at the HALO recreation centre have re-introduced and so the club is currently liaising with BCBC in an attempt to negotiate a favorable rate for club members.

8. Tennis Program for 2022/2023

- 8.1. The junior & adult coaching program currently sees 250-300 participants each week and continues to expand, most recently introducing coach-led doubles practice for the men's teams and the informal Wednesday evening men's social group. Mark and the tennis committee remain open to suggestions and feedback on the coaching program.
- 8.2. See item 4.8 for bullet list of team tennis and club tennis competitions. On completion of the team summer leagues, it is the committee's intention to re-introduce social tennis on Friday evenings to add to the sessions already available 9:00-12:00 on Sunday mornings.
- 8.3. The tennis committee are hoping to organise social events throughout 2022 and are open to suggestions from members. Consideration has already been given to an open-air cinema on the club lawns between the clay and lower courts. Mandy Davies will make inquiries into a local community cinema.

On Friday May 6th, the singer **Aubrey Parsons** will be performing at the clubhouse. Meeting attendees were encouraged to buy tickets and attend.

Ed Wilkins once again suggested that tennis section fund raising tough social events may have a theme, namely raising money for the disabled changing facilities.

- 8.4. The LTA County Cup qualifiers for 12U boys is to be held at the club on Saturday 30th April and Sunday 1st May. Offering to host this event is a good will gesture in recognition of the £250K loaned to us by the LTA and reflects well on us should we wish to secure further investment from the LTA in the future.

It was accepted that we need to better publicise these types of events as well as other tennis section social events. Currently, notifications are posted via social media platforms (Facebook and WhatsApp groups). It was agreed that a "What's on this week" notice board could be introduced for display in the clubhouse foyer, and a poster advertising significant events for the coming months.

- 8.5. Court scheduling is always being reviewed with the intention that a fair balance is struck between provision of courts for junior and adult coaching groups, social mix-ins, team tennis and general book and play. In particular it is a point of principle that the section caters for non-team players.

Ed Wilkins re-iterated that our CASC status means that pay-to-play must also be made available to non-members at all times. Furthermore, it is a good source of income to the club.

The question was raised about court blocking. Jana said she is keeping tabs on this. If anyone is found to be absent having booked a court then their free booking status on Clubspark is temporarily revoked, thus prompting the individual to contact Jana and

be receive a warning. JD suggested that the tennis committee should be made aware of repeat offenders if further action is to be taken.

Hilary Nettleton suggested another member satisfaction survey to obtain feedback on court scheduling. It was agreed that this was a good idea and so Hilary and the marketing group will progress doing this.

- 8.6. Mandy Davies relayed questions received from Val and John Moesdale. These related to remote attendance of AGM meetings via Zoom (see item 3.1) and notices to members via email, social media, and posters (see item 8.4).
- 8.7. Other than suggestions raised in previous items, no further proposals on the future direction of the tennis section were put forward from the floor.

9. AOB

- 9.1. John Moesdale, Nikki Hughes and Hilary Nettleton put themselves forward to assist the committee with activities, etc.
- 9.2. JD thanked all those who attended the 2022 AGM.

Meeting Closed: 20:20