

Minutes of Hungerford Tennis Club AGM held on 21 November 2024

Attendees

Claire Ward
Rhian Barnett
Bruce Powell (via phone)
Cliff Winckless
Shirley Winckless
Rose Somerset
Rosie Bellman
Val Bray
Mike Roques
Phil Brown
Helen Halfhead
Chris Dodd
Caroline Walker
Zuzanna Barnett
Edward George Bell
Charles Gardner
Claire Rowles
Michael Hradil
Ian Doolan
Harry Lardner
Richard Lardner
Matthew Sample
Harvey Dixon
Poppy Dixon
James Kilpatrick

(The above list is taken from all those who signed the attendance sheet)

1. Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the last AGM were approved (proposed by Charles Gardner and seconded by Bruce Powell).

2. Chair's Report (Claire Ward)

The resurfacing of Court 1 has now been completed. Claire thanked Chris Dodd and Mike Roques for all their help, particularly to Chris for project managing the process.

Club Play continues to be very popular. We are almost ready to go live with Pay & Play to engage with the community which will also help with funding applications.

Claire thanked Michael Hradil for organising the tournaments which have been very competitive and well supported.

Our junior section is doing well and we have seen a number of players progress to the senior leagues.

3. Proposed Committee for 2025 (Claire Ward)

The following current committee members are willing to stand again:

Claire Ward (Chair)
Ryan Barnett
Mike Roques
Caroline Walker
Charles Gardner
Claire Rowles
Chris Dodd
James Kilpatrick (membership secretary and head coach)
Alice Anstee (safeguarding officer)
Harvey Dixon (treasurer replacing Bruce)

Claire Ward thanked the following people:

- Mel and Steve Pennington for helping to trim the hedges
- Jacob Pennington for helping with clubspark and web stuff
- Diana Barraclough for her contribution through making ceramics to raise funds
- Zuzanna Barnett, Shirley Winckless and others for organising food for fundraising events
- Caroline and Alan Walker for organising the painting of the clubhouse walls
- Sara Culpepper for helping with social media and fundraising
- Matthew Sample for organising the quiz each week
- Chris Dodd for attending LTA meetings as well as everything else he does for the club...too much to mention here!
- Rhian Barnett, Ian Doolan and Caroline Walker for joining the main Hungerford Club Committee and to Cliff Winckless for becoming Chair of the main committee
- Debbie and Gary and everyone who helped with the Beer Festival
- Sophie Roques-Barr for cleaning the courts (in all weathers!)

4. Treasurers Report (Harvey Dixon)

We have seen an uneventful 3 months with the current balance at £9,902.29 (the balance as at September 2024 was at £9,940.00). 12 months ago the balance was at £5,627.00. Year on year we have seen a net gain of £4,275.00.

Harvey thanked everyone for all their support with fundraising efforts from Easy Fundraising to Michael Hradil's tournaments which have raised £340.

We have very limited outgoings totalling £80 plus fixed costs. Harvey encouraged everyone to submit any expenses. We are not earning any interest on our Lloyds Bank account which Harvey is going to address with Lloyds.

We are setting up Pay&Play so that all funds go straight to the tennis account rather than the main committee account.

The Sinking Fund stands at £5.9k for the tennis section and £30k overall for the main club as a whole.

5. Subscriptions (Claire Ward)

It was agreed to increase subscriptions by £3 per person due to the increase in indoor sports for the whole Club. All subscriptions should be paid directly into the Tennis Club bank account.

6. League report (Chris Dodd)

Hungerford competitive tennis has been increasing. Last winter we entered a team into the Newbury & District winter league for the first time in many years, finishing an excellent second place in the division. It was so popular and over-subscribed with potential players that this year we entered 2 teams, both so far having won each match.

The summer NDLTA league was again popular and we entered an additional ladies team, so a total of 3 men's, 2 ladies and 2 mixed teams. Most teams finished in the middle of their divisions, with men's B's being runners up. Notable was mixed A winning every match, scoring maximum points and being presented with a cup for their efforts. Worthy of mention were the men's B pairing of Ash and Michael who didn't drop a set all season.

We also entered a mixed team into the Berkshire League, again after a long break. They achieved top place having won all but one match! Greg and Harvey were first and second in the player standings too.

Some 76 players took part in various matches this year, a superb performance and well done everyone.

7. Membership Report (James Kilpatrick - JK)

JK overviewed the following stats:

	2024	2023
Total members	168	147
No of adults (77 males, 61 females in 2024)	138	116
No of juniors (18 males, 12 females in 2024)	30	31

We have not renewed our contract with Ignition Tennis and as from 1 January 2025, JK will take over as head coach.

8. Coaching Report/Plans (James Kilpatrick)

JK plans to engage more with nurserys and schools (including through Duke of Edinburgh) and increase opportunities for local youth groups. He has also run 18 one hour sessions for Mencap.

9. Pay and Play/Community Engagement /Fundraising (Claire Ward/James Kilpatrick/Claire Rowles)

We want to do more community engagement through "Pay & Play", giving the public access to Court at specific times. Payment will be £7 per hour and access will be through the separate side gate. Members will still be able to be able to book Court 1.

Claire Rowles gave an update on the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) bid submitted to West Berkshire Council. Whilst unsuccessful, part of our bid was retrospective as we had already completed the resurfacing of Court 1 and we were up against tough competition from other bids in Hungerford. The process did give us the opportunity to engage with West Berkshire District Councillors, Denise Gaines and Tony Vickers, whom we met and gave them a tour of the courts. We also met with Greenham Trust to discuss grant funding and the process which helped to identify areas which we need to improve for any future applications.

10. New Lights Proposal (Claire Ward)

Replacing the existing lights and installing new lights on Courts 1 and 2 is essential for the future of the Club. We need to submit another planning application for new LED lights. Estimated cost is in the region of £50k and we will need to do another bat survey. We also need to engage with the neighbours. Claire is looking to set up a separate group to take this forward.

11. Easy Fundraising (Caroline Walker)

We joined Easy Fundraising in 2023 and have raised £620 to date. We have 49 supporters on Easy Fundraising with 7,500 brands. Rhian Barnett has achieved the highest amount. Caroline encouraged more members to use Easy Fundraising which is free and easy to use. Claire Ward thanked Caroline for all her hard work.

12. Club Competitions (Michael Hradil)

Last September we had 51 players who signed up for the singles ladder. The big competition last year was The Road to Wimbledon with 54 players joining the competition. We will be running the competition again in March 2025. We also held the Hradil Cup competition in August with 10 mens doubles and 8 ladies doubles. Michael is looking to run more competitions and is talking to other clubs about Hungerford potentially hosting some other tournaments.

13. Garden area report/work weekends (Jay Sawyer)

We will continue to tidy up the garden area and further dates for logging will be advertised.

14. AOB

- Claire Ward was thanked for all her hard work as Chair.
- It was agreed that we need to do more to engage the press with Pay & Play and other initiatives.
- Claire Ward appealed for anyone who would be interested in being Club Secretary.