

Elstead Village Tennis Club AGM 2023

Apologies for Absence

Georgia McCarthy, Simon Essex, Hazel White, Caryl Corridan

Present Members

Scott Tunbridge (ST), Susannah Hunter (SH), Lorna Whateley (LW), Shirley Bellamy (SB), Barbara Awbery, Tony Hutchinson, Corinna Hutchinson, Chiara Detsiny, James Weaver, Alex Weaver, Anne Smith, Macdonald Smith, Peter Luard, Caroline Luard, Louise Tunbridge, Chris Neil, Barbara Maddison

Approval of Minutes - 2022

All members present agreed.

Chairman's Report for the Year ended March 2023

Life as a committee member at an amateur sporting club is never straightforward and this year has been no exception! We did manage to uncover a diamond in Shirley Bellamy to manage the club membership and communications; more to follow shortly.

Coaching

Over the last year Jorge and his team of coaches have continued to be a great source of inspiration to our junior members and though numbers are down on the last few years the standard of coaching has been excellent. Jorge continues to help the other young coaches as they build their experience which will be to everybody's benefit going forward. It is fair to say that with the children now being able to take part in the great variety of sports on offer following the relaxing of the lockdown and the economic downturn, numbers have dropped but the coaching continues at a very high level.

And we are still actively looking for new young coaches to add to the group. Tennis camps have been high on the Committee agenda over the last year, and we are trying new initiatives to try to rebuild the numbers we have enjoyed in the past.

Team Tennis

Over the winter our teams have prospered. The men's A team under the captaincy of Roger Lawson followed up last summer's promotion by winning Division 2 comfortably. The B team with Scott as captain suffered the frustration of 7 weather postponements to narrowly miss promotion.

The ladies A team has undergone something of a transformation with injuries and retirements ravaging the team. However Corinna Hutchinson has stepped up to rally

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the team to a promotion from Division 1 back to the Premier League. The B team under Susanna Hunter finished in a creditable mid table in division 2 and the fledgling C team captained by Helen Flavell gained valuable experience of team tennis.

McDonald (Mac) Smith has provided a resurgence to the Mixed teams by introducing a second team for the winter leagues. The A team came within 4 points of promotion to the 1st division and the B team with the assistance of Simon Essex managed to introduce a number of new players to mixed league tennis ready for an attack on the top of the table next winter.

Once again, thank you to all the captains for their great organisational work with the teams, they wouldn't work without you!

As ever we offer our thanks to Mike Mullins for continuing to arrange all the Thursday Club Nights as well as the ADLTA meetings and the League match fixtures.

Singles and Doubles leagues

The popular ladies doubles league set up by Susanna continues to thrive with Anne Smith now in charge and the singles league continues to provide great singles play experience thanks to Mac (McDonald Smith). Two great initiatives which add to the club's tennis offering improving everyone's level for competitive tennis.

Ladies' mornings on a Tuesday have continued to grow with some regular in group tournaments organised by Barbara Awbery. Barbara has also kindly organised a number of social events for the Club over the year.

Club Championships

The Club Championships returned last year under the stewardship of Louise Tunbridge and proved a great success.

The Men's singles event was won for the first time by Jonny Callow, beating Roger Lawson in an exciting but exhausting final! These two players met again in the Men's Doubles final with Jonny triumphing again with Pete Almond against Roger and Patrick Ryan, in another great match.

The Ladies singles final featured two new players to this stage of the event and was won by Charlotte Laycock beating Pui Pride in another entertaining final. There was a new successful new pairing who teamed up for the Ladies Doubles final – Lucy Manico and Chiara Detsiny who narrowly beat the reigning champions - Louise Tunbridge and Corinna Hutchinson to win the event.

The mixed doubles final featured two new pairings and resulted in a close win for Shaun Fishburn and Chiara Detsiny over Lucy and Mac Smith.

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In the other events there were wins in the men's Doubles Plate for Mike Peck and James Weaver over Mac and David Johnston, unfortunately the men's singles plate between Simon Essex and Henry Williams has still not been played!

The Veteran's Doubles was won once again by Tony and Corinna Hutchinson defeating Scott Tunbridge and Gill Saunders.

Membership and Treasurer

Lorna continued to add her drive and organisational expertise to both of these roles and we are constantly extremely grateful for her continued great work in supervising keeping our finances in good order. Almost needless to say the club remains in a good financial position.

However, with the ever-growing cost of energy we took the reluctant measure of raising the subscription rate by an average of 10%, the first such increase in 5 years. Our subscriptions continue to remain one of the lowest in Surrey.

The arrival of Shirley Bellamy to assist us on the committee has been a breath of fresh air for her enthusiasm, creativity and drive, safe to say she has settled in quickly and is contributing well by taking over the Membership Secretary role to add to the smooth running of the club.

Susanna Hunter has been handling the Junior and Adult coaching over the last year which has been a more onerous task than usual with the fluctuations in junior numbers, but the systems are all in place to keep the administration running well. The Adult coaching is growing nicely and is something we are looking to expand in the coming years.

We all are extremely grateful that has taken over this aspect of the club's administration and she is working well with Jorge, Lorna and Shirley with the excellent coaching set-up.

Secretary & Welfare Officer

Georgia continues to do a great job in the role as Child Protection Officer, which was vital to our renewed LTA and CASC accreditations. Georgia is First Aid trained and certificated. She will keep charge of the Injuries Logbook and makes sure our First Aid kits are fully stocked.

We are still looking within the membership for a volunteer to take over the role of Secretary which we have been handling between the rest of the Committee.

Wimbledon Tickets

Unfortunately, the AELTC and the LTA have changed the way the ticket allocation works spreading the allocation amongst club volunteers and LTA members. From

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our conversations with other clubs this is not universally liked or appreciated. We'll keep you in touch with developments.

Website

The website continues to work well, and we get assistance from Nick Alder (who set it up for us) and Pete Almond, who posts up news items for us. The electronic newsletters have been great for keeping everyone up to date, I'm sure you agree, thanks to Shirley and Lorna for pulling the text together each time.

Maintenance

Our gardener Andrew continues to do a great job on the look of the grounds with the new plantings looking better and better each year.

Sian Evans has been working away behind the scenes keeping the clubhouse well stocked, supervising our cleaner and helping with the fire safety improvements we have implemented as a legal requirement. We were able to show our appreciation to Sian at the Club Championships prize giving by presenting her with our Unsung Hero Award.

Richard Knight has been working in the role of handyman for a number of infrastructure jobs including the new signage, some small fencing jobs, servicing mowers and leaf collectors.

Richard Awbery has assisted invaluable by contacting suppliers and supervising any larger improvement projects such as repainting courts 1 – 3, door handle replacement, gate handles and court cleaning. Thanks too to Chis Neill for dealing with the tennis ball orders and deliveries for matches.

Our thanks to all of them for all they do for the club.

We have the excellent CCTV set up which is attempting to deter any future break-ins. Though we unfortunately had two more break-ins, thankfully with our precautions only small incidents of vandalism took place. Thanks to the efficiency of the new shed, they couldn't break in but damaged the door which unfortunately had to be replaced.

And Finally!

I would also like to express our thanks to you, our members, for your continued support during these still challenging financial times. We hope you appreciate that the club remains a safe haven, a fine venue to be proud of and a source of pleasure for playing the sport we love.

Thank you!
Scott Tunbridge
Chairman

Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31st March 2023

Income:

Overall the accounts show that the club has had a good year financially with a surplus of nearly £10,000 after having put aside £7,000 into the Maintenance Reserve.

But subscriptions' income has dropped by 11% to £30,000 as people went on holidays and played other sports.

The overall number of members fell by 15% from 711 in March 2022 to 599 in March 2023 - 259 adults (compared with 284), 104 students & teenagers (compared with 106), 213 juniors (compared with 296) and 23 under 5s (compared with 25).

Subscription rates have remained unchanged for the fifth year in a row but are set to increase on 1st April 2023 to cover increased running costs, especially energy supplies.

Match fees from club matches totalled £1,044 and club tournament fees £256.

Interest income

is mostly from the Nationwide Business Deposit Account (£1,428).

Expenditure:

Affiliation fees to the LTA rose to £600 for the year but a refund of our fee for 2021-2022 of £500 was offset against this. (This refund was due to administrative errors at the LTA)

Purchase of balls – the increase reflects the fact that club matches have now been resumed throughout the year.

Electricity has increased by 17.5% this year, despite the Energy Bill Support Scheme rebate which totalled £400.

Maintenance of court surfaces, clubhouse and grounds - Provision for the repainting of courts 1, 2, 3 & the mini court were made in the accounts to March 2022. Included in this year's figure is £825 needed for fire safety improvements (as required by the LTA); and the purchase of new plants for the club grounds £194.

Repairs to Clubhouse and Grounds – main clubhouse door repair £388; 2 new nets £302; patio door repair £54; gate handle repair £35.
Break Ins - new shed doors were purchased for £670; and panes of replacement glass for veranda cabinets & a new clock £280.

Machinery, tools and equipment - this represents a new hob and oven in the kitchen.

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Marketing – includes advertising in Elstead Village News and Thursley Parish Magazine, and Open Day expenditure including new brochures, banner and pop-up banner.

Accountancy and admin fees – represents administration fees paid to Membership Secretary.

Trophies and Engraving – represents cost of trophies for Club Championships 2022.

Keys - includes new padlocks for gates £399.

IT and Software - represents subscriptions for accounting software £389; webhosting and emails.

Coaching:

Coaching numbers have dropped off this year. Coaching income is down 23% and coaching expenses down 12%.

Balance Sheet:

The Net Book Value of Tangible Fixed Assets - depreciation is reflected in the Maintenance Reserve.

Debtors:

Interest income received on 1st April 2023 represents most of the debtors figure. Coaching fees and match fees not received at 31st March have now been received.

Creditors:

Junior coaching expenses - this represents coaches' fees for the month of March 2023, not yet paid.

Maintenance Reserve:

The Maintenance Reserve is held to cover unforeseen eventualities including the resurfacing of the courts. The year-on-year cost of repairs and maintenance to the courts and clubhouse are covered by annual income.

The Maintenance Reserve is held at Nationwide in a 90-day account (currently £84,000), and at Redwood Bank (currently £20,000)

£7,000 of surplus income from the day-to-day running of the club was paid into the Maintenance Reserve during the year ended 31st March 2023.

Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC):

The Club is registered with HMRC as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC).

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A Company Tax Return was submitted to HMRC for the year ended 31st March 2022.

The Club's accounts will next be examined by accountants in March 2025, in accordance with the Club's policy of an audit every three years.

Lorna Whateley
Honorary Treasurer

Proposed by Corinna Hutchinson ; seconded by Chiara Detsiny. Approved.

Short Term Development Plan

- 1) Try to halt the dropping number of juniors. Get a bigger presence of the Club's Head Coach, especially on a Saturday. Increase and improve the Outreach Programme - go out to more local schools
- 2) Run junior camps in half terms and holidays.
- 3) Recruit new coaches. Advertise with the LTA. Find ladies/teenagers to train up, if necessary.
- 4) Clean and possibly repaint Courts 4 & 5. Look into changing the surface of Courts 4 & 5 or 1, 2 & 3. Carry out a survey of members. Create a sub-committee to test different surfaces by visiting different clubs.
- 5) Appoint a new Club Secretary
- 6) Change the code on the padlocks on access gates

Medium to Long Term Business Plan

- 1) Look at new LED lighting. Wrecchesham LTC and Camberley LTC have recently installed new LED lighting. ST noted that EVTC's immediate neighbours are difficult to please.
- 2) Install a padel court between court 1 and courts 4 & 5. Do a feasibility study. Do a survey of members. Keep racket sports together at EVTC and try to oppose Elstead Cricket Club putting up a padel court. SH to arrange a meeting for Kristian Hunter to present the facts and figures to the Committee. Apply for Planning Permission.
- 3) Make pickleball available to members on existing courts. Paint pickleball lines on the mini court, and buy some removable pickleball lines for the tennis courts. Buy rackets and balls

Any Other Business -

- 1) A ball machine for members to hire. It could be put in the shed. Specific times when it can be used. Battery operated. Look at getting a 2nd hand one from a tennis coach. Try to get one which isn't too noisy.
- 2) Rubbish – ST to continue to follow up with Elstead Parish Council (EPC) about whether we could get a fortnightly rubbish collection.

Louise Tunbridge gave a Vote Of Thanks to the Committee for their work over the past year.

Tony Hutchinson proposed Scott Tunbridge as Chairman; seconded by Corinna Hutchinson. Approved.

Chiara Detsiny proposed Lorna Whateley as Treasurer; seconded by Tony Hutchinson. Approved.

Peter Luard proposed Shirley Bellamy as Membership Secretary, seconded by Chris Neil

Barbara Awbery proposed Susanna Hunter as Committee Member & Coaching Programme Administrator; seconded by Macdonald Smith . Approved.

Lorna Whateley proposed Georgia McCarthy as Welfare Officer; seconded by Scott Tunbridge. Approved.

The Meeting was closed at 5.30pm.