

Bearsden Lawn Tennis Club

Minutes of Bearsden LTC Annual General Meeting on 12th November 2019

(Meeting held in the Clubhouse)

Present: John Beeley, Josie Beeley, Susan Burns, Caroline Gillen, Andy Gordon (minutes), Karen Gorman, Pauline Hughes, Andy MacGregor, June McCann, Angela McKay, Derek McKay, Rob Murdoch, Fiona Quirk, Joanne Quirk, John Perkins, Lesley Pratt, Jan Shaw, Alastair Smith, Nikki Waterfield, Phil Waterfield, Gordon Wilson, Emma Wright, Keith Wright.

Apologies: Karen Christie, Fiona Dunlop, Jayne Gilkes, Kate Haig, Karen Lindsay, Jane Lewis, Katie Lewis, Carolyn Miller, Kate Ross.

Barry Morris Most Improved Player Award

This year's award was presented to Craig Christie. Craig has been highly active at BLTC over the past year, and he has been a mainstay of the junior teams. His game has come on in leaps and bounds, and he has started to play for the senior league teams too.

Welcome

The President Phil Waterfield was in the chair and welcomed members to the AGM.

Previous Year's Minute

The minutes of the 2018 AGM were circulated on the website prior to this meeting. (Proposed by Jan Shaw, Seconded John Perkins.)

SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

The first matter of the meeting was a proposal from the Committee which had been published on the website in the AGM agenda (along with a Member's Notice document).

"The AGM empowers the Committee to proceed with the administrative requirements for Bearsden LTC to become a SCIO and to wind up the CASC. When this is complete, an EGM will be called for the membership to approve the new Constitution and to ratify any other changes required."

Keith Wright briefly explained this proposal, reminding us that the 2018 AGM had voted to investigate a move to SCIO status. After much discussion during the year and meetings with (amongst others) East Dunbartonshire Voluntary Action Group to discuss what was involved, our conclusions are as follows:

Advantages:

- As an incorporated body, our Office Bearers/Committee would no longer be at risk. Such a risk could mean that, under exceptional circumstances, they could be held personally responsible for any claims, financial or otherwise, against the club.
- We would continue to receive 80% relief on community and water charges. Currently East Dunbartonshire policy is that this is extended to 100% and it is anticipated that in either situation this extension would continue.
- Our bins would be emptied free of charge, thereby saving the Club ~£400 per year, and it would solve our recycling problems too.
- Whilst not being VAT exempt, we would be able to get VAT relief on many items e.g. we could have saved some ~£2,600 on the court rejuvenation, but we would be unlikely to get any relief on the road project. Substantial savings would also be made on future projects such as LED floodlights and court replacement.

- Eligibility to apply to a wider range of bodies for grant funding e.g. Robertson Trust.
- Financial institutions may offer preferential rates of interest to charities.

Disadvantages:

- Our operations would have to be exclusively for charitable purposes, but this would not preclude for example letting out the clubhouse in order to generate income.
- Some modification may be needed in the format of our accounts, but once made things should then be straightforward.
- The accounts need to be examined by an individual who is approved by the Scottish Charities Commission; that person may be a member of the club.
- A considerable amount of work will be involved in both setting up the new entity (including formulating the Constitution), and also the winding up of the CASC. We believe that within the Committee there is the necessary background and experience to take this forward but realise that we may need some outside professional expertise to assist the Committee make this change.

Keith said that the motion is to allow us to move forward and explore the SCIO requirements. If we get to a stage where the Club is ready to change, an EGM will be called for the membership to approve the new constitution and to ratify any changes required. Alastair Smith asked if a change in our status would affect, for example, a claim to the Flightpath Fund. Keith said he thought that they would most probably look more favourably on us if we were a charity.

Phil asked the AGM if there was general agreement for the committee to continue its investigation. The proposal was passed unanimously.

Secretary's Report

Any Gordon's Secretary's report had also been published on the website prior to the AGM. Points to note from the report:

- *Courts* - Since last year's AGM, our courts have benefitted greatly from a rejuvenation process. The old, dirty, compacted sand was removed from Courts 1 to 4 in March and replaced by fresh, clean sand. Drainage has been excellent, and there have been many compliments received about how nice they are to play on. Many thanks to John Beeley for his work organising that project.
- *Summer Series Tournament* – This was the 30th year that this tournament has been held at the Club. The committee would like to express its thanks to Josie Beeley for the considerable commitment, time and effort spent organising and running these events.
- *Teams* - The Club entered 26 teams in the Tennis West of Scotland leagues and competitions this year. This includes 6 junior teams participating in the AEGON junior leagues, 6 teams in the Seniors leagues in the autumn, and 2 teams in the winter leagues. Special mention to the Ladies 1st team who stay in the very tough Division 1/1.

Treasurer's Report

Accounts - Keith Wright presented the annual income and expenditure accounts, and thanked Ashley Donnelly and Michael Giovannetti for auditing them. Points to note included:

- The balance sheet shows a deficit for the year of £1,224.26.
- Fixed assets are at £357,733.
- Our total current capital is £27,635 in our current account, with £45,144 in savings accounts (sinking fund).

Income: Keith drew our attention to the £3,500 drop in membership subscriptions – due to a drop in membership from 234 to 207. There was also a significant drop in income from the 200 Club. The Awards

Night in 2018 was a good earner though. An EDC grant came in to cover some coaching costs, and this goes out in the expenditure side.

Expenditure: Keith said the court rejuvenation was the major expenditure this year. This is incorporated into the accounts in the depreciation costs which are up £4,300 this year (and will depreciate over 3 years).

Alastair Smith asked what the committee was doing about letting out the clubhouse to interested parties, as a source of extra income. Keith said we would consider opportunities. Phil commented that it would need to be the right kind of organisation using the clubhouse – one that was flexible and could match our requirements. We would not turn down income. Yoga and Pilates were mentioned – and something over the winter would probably suit us better than the summer when there are a lot of league matches on. There was some thought that a partition might be needed first.

Alastair asked if there was a breakdown of the reduction in membership numbers. Keith gave a brief summary – explaining that there were fewer family memberships, and a smaller number of juniors too.

The Treasurer's report was proposed by Andy MacGregor and seconded by Nikki Waterfield.

President's Report

Phil Waterfield welcomed those present to the 132nd AGM. He said it was a huge honour and challenge to be president, and it had been a learning curve. He thanked his wife Nikki for her support during the year, and also Andy and Keith for their input. He also wanted to thank our outgoing Vice President John Perkins, and to Andy MacGregor (our Welfare Officer) for their hard work on the committee this year.

Social Events – Phil said that the Club has enjoyed a great year socially, after he handed over the social convenor's role to Susan Burns last year. It started with the Kilt Walk in April with 6 members (and Bella the dog) walking from Clydebank to Balloch, raising funds for the Judy Murray Foundation. We held a Pre-Wimbledon event, and a Captain's event (to coincide with last home match of the summer leagues) - and both were well-supported social events. The James Black Mixed Doubles trophy was a great afternoon too. The Book Club has been a great success as well – 26 members now! - with a social event coming up in December. The Awards Night at Douglas Park Golf Club (thanks to Susan for her hard work) was a hugely enjoyable event – with an excellent live band, and lots of dancing. There had been an important presentation on the night to Jan Shaw – “Doubles Partner of the Century” – and Derek McKay gave a fabulous speech.

Courts and Grounds – The full rejuvenation of the courts was done this March, and the courts have been so much better to play on. Even in the rain, as the drainage is so excellent. Thanks to Ecosse for their work – and also to John Beeley (and groundsman Fred Davidson) for their tireless work in continually maintaining the courts to a high standard. We have some ideas that we're working on to refurbish the practice wall – either grants or our own funds.

Members and Teams – Phil pointed out that we have lost some top players this year, and we need to replace them, and have more juniors coming through. No summer teams were relegated, and there were promotions for Ladies 2nd, Ladies 3rd and Mens 1st Senior teams in the autumn. He mentioned the strong juniors at under 10 level, but noted that most of our junior teams have struggled this year. We need bigger squads for these teams.

Fundraising – There should be a cheque for £2,088 coming to BLTC soon from the Co-op Local Cause Fund, and thanks to Susan for organising our participation in that scheme. Phil also exhorted members to join the *Easyfundraising* scheme, as the club benefits every time members buy something online.

Goals for 2020 – The work on becoming a SCIO is going to be a big task for the Club. Phil would still like us to get a TV for the clubhouse, and will be taking this up with the committee. He also mooted the idea of “pre-season friendlies” for our teams, and said there should be more social events for juniors (the recent Halloween event was a fantastic success).

Coach's Report

Our coach Gordon Wilson addressed the meeting with his annual coaching summary:

- Gordon said it was his 10th AGM!
- In February, Gordon was awarded the Level 5 LTA qualification.
- Junior coaching (tour group sessions currently have 59 players in total – all members), which is healthy – but we do have some difficulty retaining kids in the older age groups. Five blocks of training throughout the year, as well as holiday camps during the school breaks.
- Development coaching – for non-members and members – and some participants eventually turn into members.
- Outreach – some schools work (e.g. Bearsden Primary School kids using the courts – Wednesdays and Fridays).
- Tennis For Kids sessions are now offered at other clubs as well, so we have some competition in that regard.
- Open Days – first one in April was a wash-out, but second in September was well attended (37 kids signed up). This one was pushed by the LTA – and we had banners at Bearsden Cross – flyers went to school kids, and there was a tie-in with the Murray Trophy which was taking place in Scotstoun.
- Family Quorn Cup (our winners Jamie and Craig More went to an LTA event in Manchester).
- Halloween Party – about 30 kids took part, and it was very enjoyable evening with costumes and cakes.
- Gordon had taken over captancy of Red, Orange and Green teams this year, and he really enjoyed watching them competing.
- Winter league matches have started – and the teams have had some good results recently.
- Summer Camps were probably busiest ever this year (early drop-offs and late pick-ups now available).
- Thanks to Andrew Christie, Brandon, Joanne Quirk, and Liam Gordon for their help with the coaching this year.
- Adult coaching – coffee morning sessions have been slightly less busy this year. Drills Nights have started up again. Beginners classes – numbers have been very low this year.
- Cardio Tennis sessions starting up this week.

John Beeley asked how many participants in the Tennis For Kids classes have become members. Gordon responded that one or two had joined the club, but it might take another couple of blocks to convince them. John mentioned Oran McBride winning the Scottish Under 8 Open Championship this year. Phil wondered if another parent/child fun doubles event could take place in the calendar – it might encourage participants to think about joining the club. Alastair Smith asked what steps we could take to attract junior players and maintain their interest in the club – especially more playing time.

Subscriptions

Our Membership Secretary Keith Wright then spoke to the meeting about next year's membership subscriptions. The committee felt that a 2% rise was justifiable, and broadly in line with inflation.

The subscriptions for season 2020 will be as follows:

	2020 Subscription	(2019)
Senior	£204	£200
Reduced Senior (1994-2002)	£102	£100
Day	£96	£94
Junior (2003-2006)	£85	£84
Junior (2007-2011)	£56	£55
Mini (2012-2014)	£36	£35
Mini tots (born 2015-2017)	£21	£20
Family (for 3 members resident at same address)	£415 (+ £15 for each	£407 (+15)

The committee approved the revised subscriptions. Proposed by Phil Waterfield, and seconded Fiona Berlouis.

Election of Office Bearers

President	Phil Waterfield	proposed by Jan Shaw, seconded by Derek McKay
Vice President	(left vacant)	
Treasurer	Keith Wright	proposed John Perkins, seconded Jan Shaw
Secretary	Andy Gordon	proposed Susan Burns, seconded Nikki Waterfield
Honorary President	John Beeley	proposed Keith Wright, seconded Rob Murdoch
Honorary Vice President	Josie Beeley	proposed Fiona Berlouis, seconded Caroline Gillen

Committee Members **Joanne Quirk, Susan Burns, Rob Murdoch, Pauline Hughes and Fiona Berlouis** have agreed to stand again, and were elected unopposed. AGM was happy to proceed with five members only, and the committee will attempt to fill in the vacancy(s) as soon as it can.

Alastair Smith asked if the structure of the committee would change if we became a SCIO. It is thought the structure would be much the same.

Election of Match Secretaries

The match secretaries/team captains were elected as follows:

Mens 1 st	Paul Mazoyer	Ladies 1 st	Joanne Quirk
Mens 2 nd	Andy MacGregor	Ladies 2 nd	Esther Morgan
Mens 3 rd	Rob Murdoch	Ladies 3 rd	Karen Lindsay
		Ladies 4 th	Brenda Proud
Senior Mens 1 st	Phil Waterfield	Senior Ladies 1 st	Ashley Donnelly
Senior Mens 2 nd	Andy Gordon	Senior Ladies 2 nd	Esther Morgan
Mens 60+	Keith Wright	Senior Ladies 3 rd	Carol Hamilton
		Senior Ladies 4 th	Fiona Jones
		Ladies 60+	Caroline Gillen

Monday Floodlight	Keith Wright (Winter league)
Sunday Afternoon	Paul Mazoyer (Winter league)
Clydesdale Cup	Joanne Quirk

Election of Auditors

Ashley Donnelly has agreed to be an auditor of the club's accounts again next year, along with Michael Giovannetti.

Questions and AOCB

New Allander - Josie Beeley said that she is a member of the committee advising on the facilities at the New Allander. Only one court is proposed and is next to a 5-a-side football pitch!

Defibrillator - Josie also mentioned the Most Improved Player Award in honour of Barry Morris who died of a cardiac arrest. Josie said she was willing to fund the purchase of a defibrillator for the club.

The End

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.