



**Minutes of the 124th Annual General Meeting
Of Thames Ditton Lawn Tennis Club
held in the Clubhouse on Thursday 22nd October 2009**

Present:	Andrew Meatyard	Chairman
	Jane Baller	Secretary
	Graeme Boddy	Match Secretary
	Steve Banham	Bar Secretary
	Irene McClean	Social Secretary
	Gavin Wilson	Treasurer and Information Secretary
	Chris Lewis	Membership Secretary
	Bev Banham	House Secretary
	Julia Francis	Grounds Secretary

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Graham Kimpton, John Hutton-Attenborough, Peter Ellaway, Robert Taylor and Simone Halfin.

2. Minutes of the 123rd Annual General Meeting

These were approved.

3. Chairman's Report

Unfortunately, Colin Sissons, one of our retired members, passed away recently. He was General Secretary of the club for several years and contributed considerably to the club's progression. The club is indebted to him and our condolences go to his family.

The committee have voted that Pam and Peter Newman should be offered life membership because of their years of dedicated service to the club. The members present were asked if there were any objections which there weren't so this would become effective.

The club has had another successful social year with all events well attended. There have also been some very productive working parties organised, one to tidy up the grounds around the car park and one to repaint the clubhouse, both inside and out.

The subscription income is down this year as expected. The deposit account balance is down £3,000 from the previous year but there has been a considerable capital expenditure made this year. This has included landscaping and tree felling, replacing fencing on the western side of the hard courts, new netting for the grass courts, new steel posts to support the netting and cleaning of the hard courts.

An application for funding towards floodlights was made to the LTA this year. In order to ensure this was more likely to be successful, the club first had to achieve the Clubmark Award. To this end the committee have worked to comply with these requirements. One of the major concerns was the junior coaching and this led to the decision to part with our previous coaching arrangement and to offer a contract to Marc Codling. Marc is one of the most senior coaches in Surrey and is highly respected within the Surrey County Office. His appointment helped us considerably with the Clubmark application and we were awarded Clubmark in Spring of this year. We were then able to submit an application for funding towards the installation of floodlights and the construction of a mini pavilion near the hard courts to house the electrical equipment. The original application

also included a request for the second car park entrance to be moved but this was rejected and the application was re-submitted without this and with further information as requested. This was successful and we were awarded a 41% grant and a 16% interest-free loan, repayable over 10 years. There are conditions with this grant and forecasts that were given need to be kept to and junior coaching facilities need to be improved. Another condition is to have at least 70% of the membership joining BTM and we also need to remain affiliated to the LTA.

Some capital expenditure has already been made towards the floodlights, including £3,500 of electrical cable, £2,500 for the EDF connection, £750 towards bollards for the pathway and approximately £6,000 towards excavation and soil pumping stations. Despite all this expenditure, our deposit balance has only fallen by £3,000 from the previous year and is approximately £7,000 higher than when the Chairman took over the role.

Work is expected to start on the floodlights in November and be completed by February.

Next year the committee is hopeful that we may be able to consider discussions about resurfacing three of the hard courts if that is what the members would like.

Questions were invited.

A question was asked about the total cost of the floodlighting. The cost of the mini pavilion and floodlights is £123,000, although the Chairman is hoping that we can get it for less. We have a £50,000 grant and a £20,000 interest free loan which is payable over 10 years.

It was also asked if the floodlighting installation had gone out to tender. It had and three quotes have been submitted and approved. One has been discarded because of cost and the committee need to make the final choice on which company to use.

Another member asked about the disruption to play. There shouldn't be any disruption from the pavilion being built. There will be minimal disruption with the floodlights.

The plan is for the pavilion to have a keypad with all members having access including juniors. There will be separate access for the main room inside for adults only. It will be possible to view the courts from the pavilion.

The floodlights would be operated by tokens which have to be paid for to cover maintenance and wear and tear, although it hasn't been decided how this will be organised yet or what the time slots will be. This will be discussed at a later date.

The Chairman informed the members that when he joined the club there was a sum of £11,000 which was still owing to us from Sport England as part of the lottery grant. This has been chased up and we hope to receive this soon. As part of the conditions of this we had to organise a charge to be put on the property to prevent the club selling the land.

The committee were asked their opinions on different surfaces for the hard courts and whether these were being considered. The LTA won't give any money towards re-surfacing but if we are careful with the expenditure for the floodlights there may be some money left over and then we can look into the possibility of re-surfacing some of the hard courts. We will then need to look into the different options. Once we get the floodlighting and become an all-year round club, there will be more pressure on us to get re-surfacing.

The floodlights will be able to be used all evenings up to 9pm.

Another member asked if the courts could be made less slippery. The courts have been cleaned and are already better. To get them re-painted to make them less slippery would cost a few thousand pounds which would be better going towards the cost of re-surfacing.

4. Club Coach Report

Marc Codling and his team started a basic junior programme in January of this year to cater for children aged 5 – 16 of all standards and this was held on a Sunday morning. 29 children attended. The programme grew in the summer term to 48 children and over the summer holidays 57 children attended the holiday camps that were run over five weeks.

In the Autumn term the coaching programme moved to Saturday mornings because of match play on Sundays and numbers have dropped to 23 attendees. The programme is now run on two levels – one level catering for beginner players and the other level based on more experienced players who will hopefully become team and tournament players.

A basic adult programme was also put into place with groups running on a Tuesday morning, and Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Sessions were also run on a Wednesday evening for new members.

Future plans include continuing with the current Saturday morning coaching programme, setting up links with local schools, and setting up a more comprehensive junior and adult programme of coaching offering coaching during the week after school and in the evening once floodlights are in place. There are also plans to enter junior teams in to the Aegon Team Tennis competitions next April, to run a junior tournament schedule for 2010 to encourage club and outside members to gain tournament experience, and to train up older juniors to get them involved with running these tournaments.

There was a question about when juniors would play tournament matches. This isn't decided but it would possibly be Saturday lunchtimes.

It was also asked whether parents had to be CRB checked when transporting other people's children to matches. The Chairman replied that they would have to fill in a CRB declaration.

5. TDLTC Accounts (year ended 30th April 2009) and Forecast

The Treasurer gave a brief overview of the club's accounts.

There is a drop in subscriptions of £6,000.

Our retained surplus is at a negative of £7k this year as opposed to a positive £18k last year.

A question was asked whether we have auditors. We don't need an audit but we have a 'review' of the accounts by someone who is independent and respected. This has been completed by Tom Kelly this year.

6. Club Groundsman Report

Graham Kimpton was unable to make the AGM for the first time in 15 years. The condition of the grass courts this year hasn't been as good as normal. The courts are currently being re-seeded. The roots are a problem on court 6 and Graham would like to cut the tree down by a third as it would be too expensive to take it down totally.

Court 1 doesn't seem to dry out very well because of the shade from the trees. There are preservation orders on some of the trees.

A question was asked whether Graham still comes to Thames Ditton as much as he also works at Queens and Esher. He sub-contracts some of the work and the standard hasn't been as good. The grass was too long this year and the contractors wouldn't cut it unless Graham told them to. The Chairman has spoken to him about it and he has always been quick to come down and rectify the problem and has apologised.

7. Bar Secretary's Report

It is the second year that the bar has been run by members and it has settled down well. About 60-65 different people man the bar but there are about 130 adult members so a lot are not yet taking part. If more members can be encouraged to take a turn on the bar, it will mean less work for everyone. The bar made £4,500 profit this year which included the summer party. The club does make money on the bar but we want to keep the prices low to keep it busy. The beer has been changed to Fullers which is cheaper.

8. Match Secretary's Report

The club organises match play in four categories: Surrey leagues, friendly inter-club matches, club internal championships, and American tournaments and family tournaments.

Seven adult teams are entered in the Surrey leagues in the summer and six in the winter. The team captains were thanked for the work they put in.

The junior tennis seems to be progressing well under the new coaching. We need to get them back into the Surrey leagues. It is important that the junior committee is fully supported by the parents. The family tournament was very successful and we should encourage junior play integrated with the adults.

Entries for the open tournaments were up this year which is good. The championships were played in good weather and it was a good social event with the bar open and a barbecue. It would be nice to see more members turning up to support the players. Congratulations were given to the tournament winners.

9. Membership Secretary's Report

Membership figures are down partly due to the economic climate. Less money was spent on marketing this year and there is scope to promote ourselves more in the Surbiton area. There is increasing competition from Oxshott and Esher. In 2007 we spent £2k on advertising and got 40 new members in. We need to raise the profile of the club.

It was suggested that the bar could open when juniors are playing to encourage parents to come along.

The question was asked about a previous suggestion for an arrangement between us and Colets. The problem would be that they have so many members at Colets it could swamp us. There doesn't appear to be any marketing in Colets of our club and it could be worth trying that again. Any ideas to help raise the profile of the club are more than welcome.

10. Elect Club's Directors/Committee Members for the year 2009/10

All roles are up for re-election if anyone wants to nominate themselves. Also, the Vice Chairman position is currently vacant.

Gavin Wilson is standing down as Treasurer but will continue as Information Secretary.

John Hutton-Attenborough is standing down as Junior Secretary as his children are older and don't play at the club as much now. He was thanked for his hard work in the past.

Tom Kelly was elected as the new Treasurer.

Guy Bracewell was elected as the new Junior Secretary.

Irene McClean and Bev Banham are to swap roles. Irene has now become House Secretary and Bev Banham is the new Social Secretary.

11. Founder Member's Prize

Founder members are those who contributed financially to the club when we needed money to purchase the freehold. The names of all current founder members and life members are entered into a prize draw at each AGM and that person receives 10% of that contribution. Brian Waite's name was pulled out this year and would be contacted.

12. Any Other Business

The men's toilets and disabled toilet have become a dumping ground. It was agreed that these would be cleared. There is very little bench or hanging space for people changing.

A member asked about the letter he had received from Companies House. The directors names have been updated on the list and this has now been sorted.

There was also a comment that it would be nice to have a record in the clubhouse of previous competition winners. It's a traditional club and it would be nice to show the history. Brian Holmes is recording some of the history of the club and has a spreadsheet of the known winners and runners up going back over the years. There are some names that he can't find out but there may be more information available in old minute books.

It was asked if people could park better in the car park to allow more parking. Maybe something could be marked out.

A question was raised about who is entitled to have a key to the clubhouse. Anyone who pays a £5 deposit for the key can have one.

Peter Light thanked the committee members for their work.

Signed:

Secretary _____

Chairman _____

Date _____

Date _____