

## FORMBY LAWN TENNIS CLUB

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN THE CLUBHOUSE ON TUESDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2010

Present: Mrs J Mulliner (Chairman), Mrs D Johnston (Hon Secretary), Mr R Dodd (Hon Treasurer), Mr D Blundell (Hon House & Ground Chair), Mr C Thorpe, Mrs S Collinson and Miss R Beardsell (Committee Members), Mr A McGibbon (Club Coach), 21 Full Members and one Life Member.

1. Apologies: Mr F Noble (President), Ms P Bentham, Mr S Kelly, Miss K Fitzgerald, Mrs U Gribble, Mrs M White, Miss K Cooper, Mrs P Shenton, Miss L Marshall, Mrs K Gie, Mrs A Seddon, Miss K Mitchell, Mrs T Worrall, Mrs S Garnett and Mrs A L Hodgkinson
2. Minutes of the 2009 AGM:  
Copies of the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held on 8 December 2009 have been made available to all members and were taken as read. They were signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by P Collinson and seconded by N Mulliner.
3. Matters Arising:  
Dave Blundell has been Ground and House Chairman for a considerable length of time and would like to step down from the post. The Committee has struggled to find a replacement. Mr Blundell has agreed to stay on the Committee as Ground & House Chairman until a replacement is found.
4. Hon Treasurer's Report for the Year Ending 30 September 2010:  
Following his appointment last year under difficult circumstances, Mr Dodd was keen to stress that none of the comments in his report were intended as criticism and he thanked the Committee, especially Graham Dodd (Hon Auditor) and Alan McGibbon, for all their assistance. Mr Dodd is always happy to discuss the club's financial matters with any members at any time.  
Mr Dodd ran through the club's various accounts. The number of members is dwindling and therefore the club's income is dwindling. Bank interest has reduced dramatically and has also affected the club's income. However, bar profits are increased.  
Club's Expenditure: Rent and rates are down. Maintenance costs are reduced. There is a note in the accounts regarding the Electricity expenses (Tom Wood has negotiated a reduced debt but the club has to pay £310 by monthly direct debit. A one off expense has been legal fees for the purchase of the club's freehold. Some notes in the Accounts refer to expenses from 2009 accounts – Employers National

Insurance Contributions are now being paid up to date. The LTA have changed the way the Affiliation Levy is paid and it will now be based on the number of courts (previously based on membership numbers) and this will be a reduced sum for FLTC. The tennis courts have now been depreciated. Rejuvenation costs will be written off within the year. It is understood that the recent rejuvenation will not increase the life of the courts by more than 3 years but should be seen as a way of giving the club time to decide how to replace all or some of the courts. This is a big expenditure which must be looked at and sources of funds investigated. RD will save money for this whenever possible but he will not be able to cover the whole amount of the cost of replacement.

Mr Dodd invited any questions. Mr Seddon asked about the Sinking Fund that had been required to be set up after the initial loan for the hard courts. Mr Dodd understood that the Sinking Fund was created to cover the cost of the hard courts replacement as a second loan would not be forthcoming for the replacement of courts laid by the initial loan. The Committee will invite an LTA representative to provide advice and/or assistance on what funds are available at the present time for court replacement. Mr Wilson questioned the wisdom of using an Ulster based bank for an investment, Mr Dodd is assured this is not a problem as the investment is underwritten by the RBS.

Mr White proposed acceptance of the 2010 accounts, seconded by Mr Thorpe.

5. Appointment of Honorary Auditor for 2011:

It was proposed and unanimously agreed that Graham Dodd should be re-appointed as Hon Auditor, who kindly accepted to continue in the post. Proposed by Mrs G McGibbon, seconded by Mrs S Wilson.

6. Coach's Report:

Teams: The Club again ran: 6 senior teams and 5 junior teams in the Southport & District Tennis League. Plus 3 veterans Teams in the Vets National Knock Out competitions.

- a) Senior Teams: 6<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> teams all maintained their positions in their respective divisions. The 3<sup>rd</sup> team were promoted to Division 3 and next year they will be in the same division as the 2<sup>nd</sup> team who were relegated. The 1<sup>st</sup> team had 4 points after the first 7 matches but then managed to get 8 points in the second half of the season (including an away win at Mawdesley!) to avoid relegation. In all, 42 men and 36 ladies played at some stage in league matches during the season of which 22 men and 21 ladies played in 10 matches or more (out of 14). A great improvement!! During the League season 14 players aged 18 and under played to a greater or lesser degree at some stage in the senior teams, the youngest being (at the

time) 11 year old Laura Burns who made her debut in the middle of the season for the 6<sup>th</sup> team.

- b) Junior Teams: Firstly thank you to all the parents/grandparents etc who helped ferry the budding young stars to all the away matches during the season. Teams were entered in the 16 and under (2), 14 and under (2) and 10 and under (1) age ranges and the 16 and under boys teams and the 10 and under team were runners up in their respective divisions.

#### Club Tournaments:

- a) Junior Tournament – July  
11 events, 44 entrants (30 boys, 14 girls) played 56 matches over the two week tournament.
- b) Main Club Tournament  
18 events, 91 entrants (55 male, 36 female) played 133 matches over the 3 week tournament. Two finals still outstanding due to a combination of weather and injuries.
- c) Road to Wimbledon (14 and under – Spring)  
Boys event proved ever popular with 21 entrants and for the first time we managed to hold a girls event by exceeding the minimum entrants requirement of 8 by one. Alex March and Holly Aitchison progressed to the County Finals in July where they both performed admirably.
- d) Other Internal Tournaments  
Fun Tournaments, Opening Season Mixed Doubles Tournament, Mid Summer Mens' Doubles Tournament etc were run during the summer months which were supported by the Members to a greater or lesser degree. In the Winter months, subject to the vagaries of the weather, bi-monthly Thursday night Mens and Ladies Doubles events are being run and periodic Friday 'fun' nights are being run by Graham Sharp/Gerry Niepel combining tennis, food, (lots of) drink and quizzes etc.

#### Coaching:

- a) Mini Tennis (ages 4½ to 10)  
Mini Tennis continues to provide an annual income stream to the club and my thanks, yet again, to all those who assist with the programme both on and off the court. Numbers have stayed relatively constant, despite the difficult times we live in and the enjoyment (and benefit) the kids seem to get out of it makes it all worthwhile – and the roof of my equipment shed has now been replaced having blown off in the recent gales!
- b) Junior Coaching (ages 10 to 16)  
During the summer months 4 x 'performance squads' were run (3 boys squads and 1 girls squad) on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday for the 'top juniors' and on Junior Club Night on a Saturday there was a 3 x hourly session aimed at

those juniors who wanted a bit of coaching but were not part of any teams or in any squads.

On an average week during Summer 2010, approximately 120 children in the age ranges of 4½ to 16 were receiving some form of coaching under the FLTC banner.

#### Individual Achievement (outside FLTC)

a) Juniors

Ben Hodkinson and Alex March have both within the last couple of months won Junior Grade 4 ranking tournaments. Ben is currently ranked 13 (16&under) and Alex 6 (14&under) in the County.

b) Others

Cameron Rushton: County ranked 23 (16 & under) currently  
Jack Pinnington: County ranked 12 (12 & under) currently

(Currently, in their various age groups)

Phyllis Bentham (County 1, National 8), represented England in 4 Nations Tournament and Lancashire Team.

Jayne Mulliner (County 3, National 17), represented Lancashire Team.

Garry Henwood (County 5, National 65)

Alan McGibbon (County 1, National 11)

The Chairman thanked Mr McGibbon on behalf of the club for all his work.

7. Chairman's Report:

Mrs Mulliner thanked various members of the Committee for all their hard work, especially Mrs Johnston, Mr McGibbon who is an excellent and dedicated coach, Anna Buckley who has overhauled the club's website and undertaken some exterior painting on the clubhouse, Mrs Collinson who has overhauled noticeboards and reframed many photographs, Mrs Hodkinson for tireless work with the Juniors, Gerry Niepel for running all the clubs socials and club nights. Also thanks to Margaret White, Gill McGibbon, Graham Sharpe (for Friendly team events) and John Bishop for his court preparation and hospitality welcoming visiting teams. Most particularly Mrs Mulliner thanked Dave Blundell for all his mostly unnoticed hard work around the club, Rob Dodd for his efforts with the accounts (and Mrs Dodd for putting up with it and the paperwork involved). The new committee members can look forward to taking an active role in the smooth running of the club. So far the club has been lucky with its finances but Mrs Mulliner hopes that she will not hear complaints if prices are increased on teas etc. The club is beginning to have to look to raise a substantial amount of money for court expenditure.

8. Review of Subscriptions for 2011:

It was proposed that subscriptions for 2011 should be as follows:

Full	£180	Discounted for Early Payment	£162
Intermediate and RR	£120		£108
Junior	£ 82		£ 74
Country	£ 40		
Associate	£ 21		
Under 10	£ 15		
Entrance Fee	£ 25		
Temporary	£ 30 per month		
Visitors	£4.50		
Junior Visitors	£2.50		

The Committee has reluctantly decided to increase subs by 5%. Mr Seddon questioned why a 5% increase was deemed necessary. Mrs Mulliner responded that the committee is looking to the future when the tennis courts will need replacing and are attempting to increase the clubs funds.

Proposed by G Niepel, seconded by H Marsh.

9. Election of Officers and Committee Members for 2011:

The following were duly elected, having been proposed and seconded:

Chairman	Jayne Mulliner
Captain	Clive Lewis
Vice Captain	Rob Sharpe
Ground & House Sub-committee Chair	Dave Blundell
Hon Secretary	Debbie Johnston
Hon Treasurer	Rob Dodd
Hon Membership Secretary	Gerry Niepel
Hon Match Secretary	Graham Sharpe
Assistant Hon Treasurer	To be left vacant
Committee Member (1 year)	Donna Adams
Committee Member (3 years)	Paul Fletcher
Committee Member (3 years)	Julian Marsh

10 Any Other Business:

- Mrs Mulliner informed the meeting that Geoffrey Buckley's funeral will be held on 9 December and extended her condolences.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm