



Minutes of Leatherhead Tennis Club AGM

Saturday 28th February 2026

Trudy welcomed everyone, and made apologies that committee members Ed Stansfield and Orla Jackson could not attend. Also, Alex Jackson was not able to attend. She let everyone know that we were recording the meeting for the minutes and no one had an issue with that.

Mark handed out copies of the slides to everyone, which formed the agenda for the meeting.

Detailed information is available in this handout.

Mark explained that he had learned a lot about LTC in preparation for taking over as Chair. He found it amazing to see how much effort so many people put into making the club work. He also mentioned that the Powerpoint deck helped him organize everything he had learned and envision the future direction of the club.

Part 1 of the meeting was to give an overview of 2025

1. Memberships (Trudy Mapstone)

Trudy highlighted a 27% increase in members year on year from 397 in 2024 to 504 members in 2025. This was driven by a huge influx of new juniors (up by 79%) thanks to the Head Coach introducing a new policy for his coaching team of allowing only juniors who are club members to be eligible for the coaching lessons at the club. The rate of retention of existing members is up by 3%.

Trudy thanked members for always being welcoming and friendly to those looking around the club and new members.

2. Finances (Martin Crayton)

Martin highlighted that for the financial year ended March 2025, the club had an operating surplus of £26k which became a small deficit after depreciation. For the current year ending March 2026 he was expecting a small surplus of £5k after depreciation.

He is expecting around £67K this year from subscriptions which is more than last year due to the number of new members.

LTC have £50K in the bank currently and that this time of year is when the account tends to be at its lowest as new financial year subscriptions start coming in from April. We use these funds to try to ensure that we offer a competitive set of facilities compared to other local clubs and maintain and improve these facilities for existing and new members.

3. On Court (Jacques Krige)

Jacques highlighted that there are now over 2,600 player attendances using the club social sessions with over 1,000 adults attendances using coaching, either individually or via the different coaching groups.

Coaching staff are doing a great job coaching at schools and encouraging youngsters to come through, such that LTC now have over 5,000 juniors attending coaching session at the club. The "up and coming" juniors are also starting to fill spots in the teams which is good to see.

4. Teams (Jacques Krige)

Special shout out to the first team for winning the D&L First Division league and the Chaucer league. There is a view that we enter 3rd and maybe 4th teams into the D&L winter league, not just the summer league, so that these players can play all year round.

The focus for the next 12 months is to ensure that players of all levels are catered for, particularly top-level players. Part of this will come from the grading process, but also, we would like them to come down to the club more often and mix in.

We will also look at the courts pre-block booking system to make sure that it is fair for everybody.

5. Social (Amanda Johnston)

In February 2025 we started having end of the month socials which has increased money taken at the bar and profit for the club. Amanda thanked all the social team of volunteers.

Look back at social events:

- Spring tennis tournament and BBQ
- Quiz night with a twist, including tasting chocolate
- Wine and cheese evening hosted by Mike Watkins (which will be tweaked this year)
- Summer walk with thanks to Nigel and Annette for arranging
- Wimbledon Final afternoon event designed for families with lots of fun tennis activities provided, plus an exhibition match and free prosecco provided by Patrick Gardner
- Summer tournament finals day made good money, Patrick Gardner again provided free prosecco
- November Quiz night was also a success
- Raffle this year was run separately and this, plus the auction of a Chelsea signed football shirt and a weekend holiday let, enabled us to donate £1,000 to charity and keep @£1,000 for the club
- The Xmas Party was again a success and enjoyed by all 60 people who attended
- We had themed tournaments where the bar was open with BBQ or Pizza
- 3 school tournaments were run throughout the year attended by 5 local schools. Parents came along and experienced the club
- The Winter tournament was new this year, it ran on 4 Saturday afternoons over the winter months

Amanda talked about the calendar of social events for 2026, which are in the slide deck. She asked for people to suggest ideas, as we are always looking for new things to put on to support the club and its members.

6. Club Kit has been launched with several members sporting theirs at the AGM.

7. New Website has been created by Andrew Pearce, led by Amanda Johnston with input by Jo Hammond and is live, although improvements are still being made based on member feedback.

www.leatherheadtennisclub.com

Part 2 Looking forward to 2026

We are a big organisation now with 500+ members.

Mark has created a vision/positioning statement for the club and stated the values which are in the document under "3 Year Ambition Overview". We are a tennis club with volunteers, we all want to be here, and people really care about the club. However, we do need to keep moving forward, as we know if we don't do this, our club membership and facilities will decline.

Values:

1. Care and respect – there are varying views about the way the club moves forward, but there is respect for different opinions and we are all committed to making the best decisions to move the club forward
2. Friendly – our image in the marketplace is that we are a friendly club and that people are welcoming
3. Inclusive – from beginners to top team players, cardio sessions and pickleball
4. Active – New corporate sponsorship and so much involvement by members in running the club
5. Trusted – Fair fees and opportunities for all to play with a reputation for being welcoming

3 Year Ambition Overview

Vision until 2029: a tennis club run by **volunteers** with the energy and vision **to drive continuous improvement** in the **club's offering**, community engagement and the overall standard of play by **members and teams**, with **high quality facilities**, outstanding **coaching**, varied **social events** and **inclusive tournaments** that can manage **600+** members of all ages whilst retaining an **inclusive, friendly** and **caring** culture. **600+ members** of all ages whilst retaining **culture**

Objectives

1. To implement a clubhouse refurbishment (plan for member review in Summer 2026)

We have a good clubhouse, it works, but it could be better. We want it to be as attractive to members, potential members and visiting teams. Visiting clubs complement us on our facilities and courts. To complement the excellent social events, we need to have a good space and facilities.

We have 2 tenders in progress, once those tenders come back, we will have a view on costings which we will present to members in due course for members to decide.

2. To develop an integrated player pathway (onboarding, grading players, teams, facilitated sessions, tournaments)

We will be looking at how the club sessions work and progression for us as players. Some people are happy with where they are, but many members want to progress. We are aiming for everyone who wants to progress to be put on a pathway to progression.

There are ongoing discussions about how to balance coaching that members want and members access to courts at the right times in order to play. Once data and discussions have been had, the committee will be looking to make changes.

3. To investigate alternative surfaces for courts 5 & 6 (plan for member review in Summer 2026)

There are implications which ever route we go. Money needs to be spent on keeping the courts up to a good standard and a lot of court maintenance is done by volunteers.

We have undertaken a review of balls and will move forward with the Wilson US Open balls.

Pickleball is played by a minority of players. We will speak to everyone who plays and would like to play to ensure what we provide is representative, relaunching it if needed.

We will investigate padel which would bring a lot of people and money to the club, but getting land for it is hard.

Recruitment and Retention

Is about ensuring we have a good offer and how we attract new members and on-board them. We have a positive and strong culture. Our commitment as a committee is to create clear timely and regular communication. Please give us your feedback when we ask as it is very useful. If we don't get your feedback, we don't know what you are thinking. Our aim is to create great member and visitor experience. We have strong well managed finances.

Roles and Responsibilities

One of the things Mark did when he joined the Committee was to understand who does what at the club, not only the Committee, but non committee volunteers. The slide also shows the work groups ongoing. He explained the role of the work groups, that they have authority to make minor decisions, but major decisions need to go to the main committee who take an overview of the club. Alex is positioned as an advisor and is not formally on the committee.

LTC is a limited company with currently 3 company directors which are listed in the slide. Subject to vote, Mark may join as one of the Directors.

Financial Overview (Martin Crayton)

Martin has taken a view on what we can forecast moving forward. As you can see membership subscriptions are pretty constant and increasing slightly. "Bar and other" is constant but we would like that to increase. The Social Programme is making a good amount of money for the club and thanks to Amanda's leadership and the support of members, we may be able to increase this amount. Operational costs are relatively constant, although they will rise with increasing prices. We also have money in the bank, and this is what we can invest in improving facilities. We are still in the process of gathering some of the costs. Once this is done, we will come back to members to ask for approval as to how the club spends the money.

Part 3 is when members asked questions

Question 1. A member asked about grants from the LTA

Martin explained that we have applied for grants from the LTA in the past and currently now only offer loans to clubs that are expanding their offering, so we would only qualify for a loan if we were increasing the number of courts or introducing padel.

Question 2. Nigel Catlow asked Martin about the financial report

Martin confirmed that what was in the report was correct and that once membership fees have been received, the club will have approximately £75,000 in the bank this summer available for capital projects.

Question 3. A member asked how we would decide what to do with the surface on courts 5&6

Trudy answered that the work that Orla was doing drilling down into court usage in relation to the hard and clay courts will give us a good guide as to how many people are using courts 5 & 6 and therefore whether we keep or change this surface.

Richard Verdin advised that we need to be careful with the hard/clay court data, as people try to book the hard courts, but they are being used by the coaches, so these members book a clay court instead. Releasing courts was also mentioned as important by Richard.

Question 4. Nigel Catlow asked about the surface of courts 5 & 6

Nigel noted that we ask the coaches to use the hard courts because members prefer the clay, so this has to also be factored into the data analysis. Nigel would like us to get on with the court surface job as he feels that there are people clustered on to the clay courts.

Mark highlighted that the Committee needs to get a better view of finances before making any decisions.

Someone asked, as part of this discussion, when the court surfaces and club refurb would happen. Mark advised that there were many factors in play such as: when plans and costings could practically be done, when there was time in the club's schedule, weather, etc. Jacques suggested that September/October is usually better because the tournaments are over and the weather is still reasonable. Dan asked that about prioritisation of the major projects – clubhouse refurb and re-surfacing of courts 5 and 6. Mark said that once the costings were gathered, the Committee will present its proposals to members including budgets and timings for feedback.

Question 5. Is cash at the bank in an interest account?

Martin said "Yes" and advised that it would generate about £1K in interest in the current financial year.

Question 6: Any thoughts about off peak/peak memberships?

Trudy advised that we discontinued this a few years ago and do not feel it is necessary, as our club membership is already relatively inexpensive. While an off-peak membership option could be used to attract new members, we currently have sufficient new members and therefore do not feel the need to introduce this at present.

Question 7. Is our membership too cheap?

This member suggested that members could pay higher fees this year so that we could accelerate achieving the club objectives more quickly. Martin said that not everyone wants to pay higher fees and we don't want to alienate existing members who may leave and what we had gained will then be lost. Yes bigger clubs cost more to join, but the committee feels the fees are appropriate for our club.

Question 8. Someone asked whether with more new members, getting courts could become an issue.

Trudy said that the committee are aware of this and it is something that will be considered as part of looking at the bookings and attendance.

Question 9. Comment by Nigel Catlow – other clubs are playing competitions during the day so he believes that there is an opportunity for LTC to join more teams into the leagues.

It was advised that this is possible, although we have struggled in the past to find people to captain teams, which is part of what is stopping this happening.

Question 10. A member asked about the website.

Amanda advised that a new website was being launched shortly. She thanked Andrew Pearce for kindly offering to create the website, to Gordon for his drone lending and footage and to Jo H for curating.

Question 11. Can my daughter get coaching here even if she isn't a member?

Trudy advised that from last August/September Alex and the coaches have prioritised members over non-members for coaching, therefore this member's daughter would need to be a member to receive coaching at LTC.

Amanda demonstrated the new website briefly to members.

Part 4. Resolutions

1. Approve last year's minutes – Proposed: Ed Stansfield Seconded: Trudy Mapstone. Ratified by a majority show of hands.
2. Directors of the Club - Martin Crayton, Trudy Mapstone, Ed Stansfield with Mark Evans joining. Proposed by Jacques Krige Seconded: Trevor Cook and ratified by a majority show of hands.
3. Re-elect the committee as detailed in the slide - Proposed: Ed Stansfield Seconded: Amanda Johnston and ratified by a majority show of hands.
4. To receive the LTC accounts April 24 to March 2025 - Proposed: Martin Crayton Seconded: Ed Stansfield and ratified by a majority show of hands.
5. Approve the increase in membership prices to: £285 for Adults and £145 for a Young Adult, Students, Juniors and Parents £90, Mini Parents £50 and Social £50 (excludes early bird) - Proposed: Trudy Mapstone Seconded: Orla and ratified by a majority show of hands.

Nigel Turner thanked Ed for being Chairman over the last 4 years*.

Trudy remembered people lost to us over the last year; Louise Cummins and Bernard Burbridge.

Derek Wardle reminded members to drag the courts properly and Trudy added, to knock the clay off their shoes before entering the clubhouse.

*After the meeting Nigel Turner added that he also had wished to thank all of the committee for their hard work over the last year. Unfortunately, a further question was raised & answered before he had the chance to say it openly to the meeting. He has expressly asked for it to be included in the Minutes.

The meeting was ended.

Attendees:

Jo Hammond	Trudy Mapstone	Martin Crayton	Mark Evans
Amanda Johnston	Kay Williams	Beryl Eisenegger	Trevor Cook
Jacques Krige	Nigel Catlow	Souheil Wehbe	Sheila Budd
Julia Crowe	Wendy McEvoy	Richard Verdin	Neal Standen
Mike Collins	Joshua Dirks	Volker Dirks	Derek Wardle
Andrew Pearce	Paul Carton	Shirley Carton	Natalie Alon
Rob Robinson	Emily Von Reibnitz	Dan Carpenter	Nigel Turner
Fran Bryant	Mel Guest	Katie Panda	Tracey Brooker
Kirsten Hosie	Shelagh Linford	Chris Herbert	Lyndsay Wrobel
Heather Ranger	Leigh Dymond	Monica Heilpern	Paul Sue
Stephanie Poujade	Rob Appleby	Sarah Kirmatzis	Diane Ashley
Tom Mason			

Apologies:

Clare and Paul Aylen	Jane Paul
Almut Dirks	Jeff Burnett
Paul Jackson	Hugh McKenzie
Lynne Garne	