



Minutes of LTC Committee AGM Meeting held at 11.15am on 2nd March 2025

These minutes should be read in conjunction with the Information Pack that was prepared and distributed in advance of the meeting, and which can still be accessed from the Governance section of the club website.

Resolution 1: The minutes of the AGM held on 3rd February 2024 were approved.

Proposer: Sue Barnard

Seconder: Jo Hammond

1. Chairman's Report – Ed Stansfield

The coming year will see three members of the previous Committee leaving their roles. Mike Watkins, Nigel Catlow and Rebecca Ussher have all decided to stand down. Rebecca will also no longer serve as a Director of the club. Together they have given a combined 25 years of service to the club, providing energy and continuity in the club's governance. All three have played a key role in developing the club's infrastructure and social programme during their tenures and the club is extremely grateful for their service.

The Directors would welcome interest from any member who felt that they wished to join the Committee, especially someone to represent the interests of the teams.

Progress on the 2024 objectives:

- i) The Pickleball experiment divided opinion. Although the trial sessions were well attended, the feedback was that very few members were interested in playing regularly. Although throwdown lines, bats, balls and nets had been made available for members to organise their own games, take up had been very low.
- ii) The clubhouse project was put on ice given the hiatus in the social programme in the first part of last year. But some updating of the clubhouse seems overdue and the Committee hope to progress it in 2025.
- iii) The main achievement from 2024 has been to obtain planning permission to put lights onto Court 6. This was first attempted in 2007, but our recent success reflected the efforts of both the current and previous Committees. By succeeding in getting lights on Court 5 in 2019, Nigel Turner's Committee allowed us to make a strong case that this had not caused any issues with our neighbours. In addition, Nigel Catlow invested significant time and energy into ensuring that the design of the proposed installation on Court 6 would have the best possible chance of success.

Objectives for 2025:

- iv) **Floodlight installation** – this will be our primary objective. The work will involve the installation of 3 new columns along the edge of Court 6, as well as some strengthening work to the fence and the installation of some banners to reduce the light spillage into the garden of Canon Court. Lead times on orders for the light fixtures themselves can be

several months, so the work is unlikely to start before the Summer. Every effort will be made to mitigate the disruption, but we are hopeful that the work itself can be completed in a week – give or take a couple of days.

Resolution 2: The Committee's plans to install floodlights on Court 6 at a cost of £30-£32,000.00 was approved.

Proposer: Ed Stansfield

Seconder: Martin Crayton

- v) **Website refresh** – the club's website currently feels rather dated and the Committee intends to overhaul it. The objective will be to make it more attractive to prospective members by offering a more modern look and feel and better showcasing all the club has to offer. We also hope to improve the functionality for current members, providing more information on events and club news, hopefully allowing us to reduce the number of email communications that are sent.

Andrew Pearce has volunteered to lead the project – but we would welcome offers of help in terms of providing images or help with text editing from anyone with an interest.

- vi) **Clubhouse improvement** – the restarting of the club's social programme suggests that it is now time to refresh certain aspects of the clubhouse, such as the flooring and some of the furniture. We also hope to tackle the perennial storage issues in the clubhouse and to improve the way that the bar and kitchen function. Plans will be presented to members for approval before work commences.

2. Treasurer's Report – Martin Crayton

Details of the club's financial accounts for the year 2023/24 can be found in the LTC 2025 AGM Information Pack. However, the key takeaway is that the club posted a loss of around £6,000 compared to a small surplus of just under £7,000 in the previous year. The key driver of this loss was an increase in depreciation charges which, in turn, reflect the increased expenditure on upgraded court surfaces and floodlighting over the past year or so. The club continues to post a healthy surplus when income is compared to running costs.

The Committee has also extended the lease on our premises which had been due to expire in April 2026. By extending the lease for a further 25 years, the club's recent investment in our playing facilities has been protected.

Resolution 3: To receive the LTCL Accounts for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 was approved.

Proposer: Martin Crayton

Seconder: Ed Stansfield

3. Membership Report and Subscriptions for 2025

Membership levels have held up well with a small improvement in our retention rate for adult members. The club receives a steady stream of enquiries from prospective members and the feedback that we get once they have visited the club and/or attended a trial evening session is that we are the friendliest and most welcoming club in the area.

To ensure that we cover our running costs and generate sufficient funds to continue to invest in our facilities, the following subscription fees were proposed for the coming membership year.

If renewed by 1st April

Adult	£275	£255
Young adult	£137.50	£127.50
Junior, Junior Parent	£88	£80
Student	£88	£80
Mini and Mini Parent	£46.50	£42
Social	£50	£50

Resolution 4: The increase in membership subscriptions to the rates shown above was approved.

Proposer: Trudy Mapstone

Seconder: Sue Barnard

4. Social Report – Amada Gemmell

The new social committee has been formed, led by Amanda Johnston with assistance from Trudy Mapstone and Jess Joyce among many others. They kick-started their programme with a successful Quiz Night in October, then decorated the clubhouse in time for Halloween, provided decorations, snacks and manned the bar for the coaches' Davis Cup event in November, before rounding off the year with a Christmas party.

Members have been asked to comment on the type of events they would be interested in attending over the year ahead and this feedback has been reflected in the proposed social programme for the coming membership year. Full details of what is in the pipeline can be found in the Information Pack and on the club's website. FYI the next dates of note are the quiz night on Friday 14th March, the one-day tournament on 22nd March and the new Friday night bar opening – next falling due on 29th March.

5. Coaching Report – Alex Jackson

Alex was unable to attend the AGM, but the Information Pack provides more details of how the coaching programme continues to develop at Leatherhead Tennis Club.

The highlights include the establishment of distinct Foundation, Development and Academy sections in all our junior coaching, which have seen several players selected for County and Regional training, as well as a further expansion in our adult coaching offer. We are also pleased to welcome new coach, Matt, to the club. The popularity of our coach-led sessions can be seen in the fact that there were over 10,500 attendances at these sessions in 2024.

6. Team Report – Scott Dowsett

The teams have generally had a successful year with several of the men's teams finishing as champions or runners up in their respective leagues. The majority of our ladies and mixed doubles teams also finished in respectable mid-table positions.

7. Election of Directors and Committee

Resolution 5: To appoint Ed Stansfield as Chairman and Director, Martin Crayton as Treasurer and Director and Trudy Mapstone as Membership Secretary and Director of Leatherhead Tennis Club Limited was approved.

Proposer: Amanda Johnston

Seconder: Jo Hammond

Resolution 6: To appoint the following members as the Management Committee was approved.

Ed Stansfield - Chairman

Martin Crayton - Treasurer

Trudy Mapstone - Membership Secretary

Sue Barnard - Club Secretary

Jo Hammond – General Member

Amanda Gemmell – Chair of Social Committee

Proposer: Ed Stansfield

Seconder: Trudy Mapstone

8. AOB

A question was asked about whether it would be possible to introduce a Ladies 3rd team.

This is something the Committee would be happy to look into but there may not be enough court capacity for it to be in the Dorking & Leatherhead Summer league. In addition, we would need to find a willing captain, something that has been an issue in the past. More generally it was noted that team players should expect to take a turn as team captain at some point and not simply rely on the willingness of others to take the lead.

The Committee would also be keen to give the team players and their successes more profile within the club and will be looking to see how this can be achieved alongside team captains.

A question was asked about whether it would be possible to reassess when new balls were put out as some groups who did not regularly attend club sessions felt they were missing out.

The Committee is happy to look at alternative ways of distributing the balls. Some members suggested that we experiment with alternative brands as the Dunlop Fort balls do not seem to be as robust as in the past. The Committee highlighted the new drying rack that has been introduced to attempt to ensure that at least the balls could be dried between sessions.

Some members felt that there was more interest in pickleball than had been recognised and asked whether the Committee would consider running more trials.

The Committee noted that most of those who had attended the trials had indicated that they would not play pickleball instead of tennis and few felt they would add a pickleball session on top of their other existing commitments. The fact that the take up of the throw down lines, balls and nets etc. appears to have been so low, suggested to the Committee that the right decision had been taken. Members were free to use the noticeboards to gauge interest if they wished to organise their own sessions at times when the courts were quiet. And the Committee would

consider allocating court time for occasional pickleball sessions if a member or members were willing to organise this.

A question was asked about whether members could be reminded to cancel their bookings if their plans changed so that others could use the courts.

The Committee agreed that we need to get better at this as a club and would remind members of the need to cancel courts with as much notice as possible.

A comment was made that Courts 5 and 6 are underused and that this was almost certainly due to the tarmac surface. It was suggested that, with the tarmac still in excellent condition, the club has a 2-3 year window to put them back to clay or another surface without having to relay the tarmac sub-base.

Some members felt it was important to offer choice of surfaces while others noted that a small minority of members still preferred the tarmac. Others said that while they had voted for two surfaces initially, the experience of the new clay courts had led them to change their minds. The Committee is happy to research new surfaces as and when time and resources allow.

Nigel Turner also added his personal thanks to Mike, Nigel and Bex, by highlighting how effectively they had all worked together during his time as Chairman.

9. Meeting Close

The Committee re-iterated its thanks to Nigel Catlow, Rebecca Ussher and Mike Watkins for all their hard work over the years. They also took the opportunity to thank:

Sheila Budd, Trevor Cook and Mike Collins for their help with the clubhouse and bar.

Alison Foster and Julia Crowe for all their work on safeguarding – the club recently passed an unannounced LTA inspection with excellent feedback.

Everyone who has helped Amanda re-invigorate the social programme.

Scott Dowsett for all his work as team co-ordinator, as well as team captains and players.

Almut Dirks for her help with communications.

The Tournament Committee.

Derek Wardle and Souheil Wehbe for all their work helping to maintain the clay courts.

The coaches.

Attendees:

Julia Crowe
Diane Ashley
Paul Carton
Shirley Carton
Derek Wardle
Rory Stoneham
Trevor Cook
Neal Standen
Wendy McEvoy
Kay Williams
Tabitha Black
Beryl Eisenegger
Mark Evans
Mike Watkins
Nigel Turner
Chris Argyle
Lyndsay Wrobel
Andrew Pearce
Nigel Catlow
Lynne Garne
Natalie Alon
Jeff Burnett
Claire Royall
Chris Herbert
Rebecca Usher

LTC Committee

Ed Stansfield
Trudy Mapstone
Martin Crayton
Jo Hammond
Susan Barnard
Amanda Johnston

Apologies:

Mike Collins
Hugh McKenzie
Tim Schuy
Sheila Budd
Ros Anwyl
Phil Anwyl
Souheil Wehbe
Alex Jackson