

Chesham 1879 LT&SC AGM

26th March 2023

AGM Agenda

David Griffiths

March 26th 2023 - AGM at Chesham 1879

Agenda

- **Apologies for Absence**
- **Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**
- **Matters Arising – not covered by subsequent items**
- **Proposed Amendments to Constitution**
- **Club Chairman's Report**
- **Finance Report and Approval of accounts for 2021/22**
- **Tennis AGM and Chairman's Report**
- **Tennis Coach's report**
- **Election of Tennis Committee**
- **Squash AGM and Chairman's Report**
- **Election of Squash Committee**
- **Election of Club Officers / Committee members**
- **Appointment of Auditor**
- **Vote on any motions put forward beforehand**
- **Any Other Business (including suggestions from members for consideration by the Committee(s))**

Proposed Amendments to Constitution

The following are changes being proposed to the Club Constitution together with a short explanation of why the change is being proposed. The entire document with the changes highlighted can be viewed on the Club Website, in the Members' Area. That document will be available until after the AGM.

- ▶ In Para 2.1 – insert “Padel Tennis” after “Tennis”
- ▶ ***This is to reflect the recent planning approval for the Padel project.***
- ▶ In Membership (Section 3) – replace “Associate (Adults only – Social and can play tennis and/or squash/racketball as per visitor rules 3 times per year)” with “Social – Adults only, non-playing and non-voting.”
- ▶ ***This is to allow Padel players who may otherwise not be members of the Club to become such and to have access to the Clubhouse and its facilities. The proposal to make social members non-voting is to ensure that Full Playing Members of the Tennis and Squash Club will have the right to elect the management committees and control the operation of the Club overall.***
- ▶ In Para 6.6 – delete “AGM” in bullet point 4 and replace with “General Meetings” and add “of the total number of voting members” after “or one fifth”.
- ▶ ***The first change is to add clarity so that the quorum required is the same for any General Meeting of the Club not just for an Annual General Meeting. The second change is also to add clarity.***

Proposed Amendments to Constitution

- ▶ 4 In Para 6.6 – after the 4th bullet point add “Attendance at such meetings shall be in person or at the discretion of the appropriate committee by suitable electronic on-line media platforms. For the avoidance of doubt this shall include any Club or playing section General Meetings.”
- ▶ *This should be self-explanatory and is to formalise what has taken place recently, particularly during Covid restrictions. However, the Committees are given discretion because it may not be considered appropriate to hold ‘remote’ meetings given the lack of high-quality video conferencing facilities and to encourage members to interact personally in such meetings.*
- ▶ 5 In Para 8.6 – add after “for more than 3 consecutive years” “unless that person’s re-election is agreed by a majority comprising two-thirds or more of the Members present and entitled to vote at the relevant General Meeting of the Club. If the current Chairman seeks to hold post for more than 3 years, the General Meeting shall first vote on that resolution. If the current Chairman fails to command a majority of two-thirds or more, the General Meeting shall then vote on other candidates.”
- ▶ *The current Club Chairman, Neil Grantham, is seeking re-election for a further term and this change is necessary to formalise his re-election in the absence of any other candidate. This change allows the same flexibility in future, but control remains with the members present and voting at the relevant meeting.*

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Neil Grantham

Club chairman's report

Thankyous

- ▶ Members - Club Officers/Committee members - Volunteers
- ▶ There is a group of people who actually live at this club, or if not at the club at the end of a telephone or a Zoom meeting!
- ▶ Many hours are spent planning, implementing and doing the jobs which need doing to keep this place the great club it is. I would like us to thank them all for their continued hard work during the last year.
- ▶ As well as the team doing the financial management and reporting, there is Sheila running the bar and staff, Steve and Julia and many others
- ▶ We have also been joined by some members who are specialists in their fields helping us with the Padel application, the energy strategy, Health & Safety and compliance and other new ad hoc initiatives - thankyou to all those people for their time and expertise.

Successes for our officers

▶ **Simon Reynolds**

- ▶ Simon has been rewarded by the Bucks LTA for his fantastic dedication to tennis and to the local area. As well as our club where he is omnipresent and always there to help as well as join it with every tennis event and occasion and play for the teams – he is also working with the Bucks LTA to support tennis in this area.
- ▶ Thankyou Simon and well done for your very well deserved award.

▶ **Suzanne Lund**

- ▶ Suzanne has worked tirelessly to turn around the ladies squash here at 1879
- ▶ She was awarded the Volunteer of the Year awarded by the SRA for everything she has done for squash in Bucks and at this club

Club chairman's report

Special Thankyous

▶ **Kate Weber**

- ▶ Kate has been a stalwart at the club for many years
- ▶ She has helped most of us at some stage to do something
- ▶ I remember when I joined that she made food for the teams and the bar for social events and people loved her food. Her husband Walt was the groundsman, valiantly trying to make our grass courts flat and hard! He also ran the bar for a few years
- ▶ Personally when I was asked to be Men's captain I didn't have time to organise and do the administration but Kate volunteered to be my partner and help with that. For a number of years she was the main reason why the mens' teams were working and doing well.
- ▶ She even once played as a man (well as a team member in a men's match) when we were one short!!
- ▶ For many years she was a mainstay on the Tournament committee, always at the tournaments and the finals, making it happen! She has decided to have a well deserved break
- ▶ Kate can now enjoy her tennis without the many calls on her time to be there to help at anything and everything

▶ Thankyou Kate

▶ **Gemma Cholerton**

- ▶ Gemma has spent many many hours developing our club website and working with Gary on both IT and marketing to ensure that the club communications are high quality and prompt
- ▶ This is no mean task and we thank her for this fantastic job
- ▶ Gemma is leaving the club and so has handed the job over to the next person to take the baton – we have yet to appoint someone

Club Grounds and Courts

COURTS

- ▶ Two new courts (5& 6).
- ▶ A fantastic addition to the club – which seems to be loved by many
- ▶ They are a showcase to the club standing right outside the clubhouse and being the first thing seen by visitors and members alike.

GROUNDS

- ▶ Julia Bullmore has continued to work hard with Steve Ramsden to keep the grounds looking fantastic. She is the master or mistress of getting groups of volunteers together and has also had a few very successful clearing days.
 - ▶ We continue to develop the area. The water has now returned which makes a huge difference to the view and atmosphere.
 - ▶ Thankyou again Julia for your continued hard work
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- ▶ **Car Parking- we plan to mark out the car park to ensure more efficient use of space**
 - ▶ **Canopies – we need to find a more permanent solution to cover the patio area. The temporary canopies which we bought are now past their best and we may relocate one or both if they can be repaired but are looking at new alternative covers**
 - ▶ **Seating- We will be investing in a few more benches for people to sit out and watch tennis, picnic, enjoy the river/plants**
 - ▶ **Our Land Across the River – we plan to access the other side this year and will talk to members about what they may like to see across the river – i.e. uses for the land.**
 - ▶ **Culvert work outside club entrance – vast improvement to access**

Health and wellbeing at the club

Health/safety

- ▶ The Committee are looking for a Health and Safety officer to oversee the policies and procedures and necessary training for officials/members
- ▶ The Defib and First Aid training is a priority for early 2023. An individual has agreed to provide some group sessions and notices will soon be sent out to members- please put your name down and attend if you feel that it would be useful to you

Bar

- ▶ The bar has continued to be run very ably by Sheila and her team of volunteers. The bar has been a great facility for the club during the normal week/weekend and also at the private parties and club functions
- ▶ It has been in good profit for the last few years which is adding more financial resources to the club for future projects and also potentially upgrading the bar offer in the future.

Social Committee and Programme

- ▶ The relatively new **social committee** held some very good – enjoyable and successful events in 2022.
- ▶ This was their first year and the events were all well run and well decorated!! The atmosphere is always bright, lively and fun. As we were coming out of COVID and people were not used to going out some events were quite difficult to populate with the final event of the year – the planned Christmas party unfortunately having to be cancelled.
- ▶ Year two will expand on the success of last year and the plan is still to run **4-5 main events** across the year and to create and facilitate **more informal and low key events**.
- ▶ There is a new head of the Social Committee – Harriet Ellis. **She is looking for some more creative, willing and social members to help to create and organise the timetable for the year. Please speak to Harriet if you have available time and motivation**
- ▶ The aim is still to have events which cater for **different groups of people** so that there is always something that some people may want to join in at the club with if they want to and have time.
- ▶ These will include **sports events** (playing and watching), **educational** (possibly talks and classes/teaching), **entertainment** (live music, comedy/performance etc), **celebratory** (food and drink) and other
- ▶ The **club social calendar** will be shown on the **website** and will also be **displayed within the club**.

Padel update

- ▶ EGM approved a proposal in 2021 to give Game4Padel a contract to install 2 Padel courts at the club.
- ▶ The committee signed a contract between the club and Game4Padel and have been working with them in the background during the last 12 months.
- ▶ Following the rejection of the covered court application last year a second application was created and put in by Game4Padel at the end of August 2022
- ▶ The Planning Officer said that she would provide a decision for the application by 30th October latest however this deadline was missed. The Committee and Game4Padel were then told that there would be an answer by end of the year. This deadline was missed. A final deadline of 20th of January was offered as the planning officer had changed due to the workload of the first officer
- ▶ In the background we have been talking to all local councillors and ward councillors to find out why there was a delay.
- ▶ We finally obtained planning permission early February and we are all systems go
- ▶ The plan is to instal the courts as soon as possible and to start using them from May or June depending on the schedule produced

Increasing Costs AND Energy ongoing

We are fortunate that the club is in a healthy cash position at the moment due to the grants which were awarded however, we need to look past that now that these have ceased.

INCREASING OVERHEADS

- ▶ The economy continues to be tough and slightly unpredictable – new govt ministers every week, continued war in Ukraine, World turmoil, unknown effect of Brexit hitting.
- ▶ Inflation is gradually increasing and we are seeing many daily costs increasing particularly energy, raw materials and fuel. We therefore as a club are considering all of this in our future planning.

CHESHAM 1879 FUTURE ENERGY STRATEGY

- ▶ New sub committee formed end of 2022 looking at energy strategy ongoing
- ▶ We have briefed 4 companies to recommend and cost a way forward for the club – both short and long term to make our energy choice futureproof

Finance Report

Claire Moore

Finance

- Financial statements covering the period April 2021 to March 2022 reflect a more normal state of affairs, comparable to 2020
- Generated an excess of £32k, £28k higher than 2020, comprising increases of £9k tennis income, (additional 100 members); bar £4k and release of all Covid Grants of £15k.
- Overall squash income was very similar to 2020, but section back up and running after such a devastating previous year. (Bar figures improved along with this!)
- Total expenditure is reasonably comparable to 2020:
 - additional, new expense of £5k associated with Padel initiative
 - administrative assistant (Amelia Holder)
 - new Xero cloud based accounting package
- First hints of increased energy costs are evident
- Energy and inflationary increases, less Covid grants, leading to increased subscriptions
- Balance sheet shows increase in cash balances of £35K, mainly being excess income but also cash only movements in fixed assets.
- In summary, the club finished the 2021/22 year in a financially stable position. Current figures suggest that the 2022/23 will also show an excess, albeit much smaller. Hopefully provides us with a solid base, to protect against future uncertainties.
- My thanks as ever go to the committee and others, who find more time than you can imagine to prop, push and pull this club in directions I didn't think possible.

Tennis Chairman's report

Alastair Ferguson

Overview

- ▶ The Club returned to normality in 2022 albeit against the backdrop of rising energy costs and subsequent cost of living crisis.
- ▶ Thanks go to the dedicated group of volunteers who run the Club:
 - All the committee members and team captains
 - Sheila Jalland and her many helpers behind the bar,
 - John May, Julia Bullmore and her green-fingered gang in maintaining the grounds
 - Gary Martin and the marketing team
 - Social tennis organisers – Monday morning (Sheila Jalland), Monday floodlit league (Phil Ogley), Tuesday evening (Chris and Elaine Slater) and Friday evening (Niti Marsh)
- ▶ The exceptional volunteering contribution of Simon Reynolds has been recognised by the LTA. He was selected by the Buckinghamshire County LTA for the Lifetime Achievement Award 2023. Simon has been a member of the Club for 50 years and been an active committee member and team player for many of those 50 years.

Tennis at the club

Matches and Competitions

- ▶ The highlights of the A&D Winter 2021/22 season were that:
 - ▶ the Men 1 won A&D Division 1 (a notable achievement)
 - ▶ and the Mens 2 and Mixed 2 teams were promoted to Div 3.
 - ▶ The Ladies 3 pair team won Div 2 of the Hatch End Charity League in the spring of 2022.
- ▶ In the summer
 - ▶ Bucks Shield, Men 1 continued their climb up the divisions by winning Div 4.
 - ▶ In the A&D summer leagues, Women 1 won Div 3 and Mixed 2 were promoted to Div 2.
 - ▶ In addition, we entered a team in the A&D Intermediate Knock Out Cup which performed well and lost a close final.
- ▶ The Open and Intermediate Cup Finals were hosted at 1879 as was the Bucks Closed U10 competition at the August.
- ▶ Throughout the summer many members competed in the various Club competitions which culminated in the Finals Day in September.
 - ▶ Congratulations to all the winners and finalists and in particular Nicola Elsdon who won the reinstated Ladies Singles competition.

Membership & Subscriptions

- ▶ As mentioned last year, the Club attracted 100 new members (42 adults and 58 juniors) in 2021 as people got back into playing following the pandemic. 2022 membership roll has stayed at that higher level.

	Jan-21	Jan-22	Jan-23
Adults	141	183	178
Juniors	70	128	126
TOTAL	211	311	304

- ▶ With overall inflation running at 10%, the Club is facing a general increase in costs (particularly energy costs), and subscriptions are being increased as a result.
- ▶ The full adult renewal subscription is being increased by 7.7% to £323. Some of the adult categories have increased by a little more than 7.7% whilst we have tried to minimise the increase for the O18-U35 and junior categories.

Twinning trip to Houilles, Paris

- ▶ We have been invited by the Tennis Club in Houilles (Chesham's twin town in Paris) to send a small number of players on 24-25 June (14 adults and 10 juniors 11-16 years) to join in their celebration of the National Olympic Day.
- ▶ We are looking forward to the trip and hope that they may be more opportunities for exchange visits in the coming years.

Facilities

- ▶ Courts 1,2 & 3 were washed and re-painted at the beginning of the summer which has improved their grip in wet conditions. A new batch of clay was laid on courts 7,8 & 9 at the beginning of September and during the drier winter months, the American clay courts have been playing well.
- ▶ Also in September courts 5&6 with Lano Grand Clay. The courts were very slow initially and it has taken some time for the artificial clay to bed down. The courts are now playing well and would seem to be most members surface of choice.
- ▶ In December the floodlights on courts 5&6 were converted to LED
- ▶ Looking forward, we need to get through the construction phase of the padel courts, ringfence court 7, assess the success of any energy saving measures such as solar panels and agree on the next steps for development (Court 4, court 7, LED lights).
- ▶ The membership will be updated on the plans as they get finalised and any material changes to the playing infrastructure will be put to members for approval at an EGM.

Tennis - Head Coach's report

Nick Brooks

Tennis coaching - Summary

- ▶ Thanks go to all my coaching team who ensure we can run a program covering as many areas as possible with Juniors and Adults through both group and individual coaching.
- ▶ Big take-up of Junior Night in the Summer period. Average numbers for the whole evening: 60 compared to winter where average numbers = 25/30
- ▶ Tennis 4 Teens group continues to grow and be popular.
- ▶ Entering U14/18 teams for LTA competitions.
- ▶ Good feedback from those groups/individuals who use the new surface.
- ▶ Thanks to squash who allowed use of the squash courts for tots tennis through the Winter months.
- ▶ We are looking at best ways to offer coaching within SEN schools and tennis for those with a disability.

ELECTION OF TENNIS COMMITTEE

All existing members are happy to stand again for the next 12 months

Tennis Committee

- ▶ Alastair Ferguson - Tennis Chairman
- ▶ Michael Dukes - Men's Captain
- ▶ Sally Halley - Ladies captain
- ▶ Dinah Martin - Mixed Captain
- ▶ Phil Ogley - Fixtures Secretary
- ▶ Nick Brooks - Head Coach
- ▶ Simon Reynolds - Committee member
- ▶ Hilary Evans - Committee member
- ▶ Tamara Ferguson - Committee member
- ▶ Dot Sieber - Committee member (New)
- ▶ India Tunstall - Committee member (New)

Squash Chairman's Report

Paul Belcher

How squash has progressed during 2022

- ▶ A successful season for the squash section with a full year of play and no interruptions for Covid and for the first time since 2019, the Club Championships were held. We've seen membership increase with many new players joining, some new to the game and some experienced, but perhaps most notable is the increase in the women's section, thanks to the efforts of Suzanne Lund supported by John Hatch. Significantly, Suzanne was voted England Squash Volunteer of the Year in 2022 for her work in supporting women's squash both at club and county level.
- ▶ Over the last year, we've seen an increase in the number of leagues operating each month for both the men's and women's groups and have a thriving junior section with new younger players being introduced to the game through our Squash Stars programme coordinated by Ana Sellors with support from John Hatch. Ana began helping with the coaching at the club at junior level last year and has had a big impact in getting this new initiative off the ground.
- ▶ The junior section now runs four separate sessions on both Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. These involve the Mini-Squash Stars group, beginners, intermediates and an advanced group. In total we currently have 28 juniors attending across the 4 sessions.
- ▶ The England Squash, Squash Stars initiative has so far involved two separate six week programmes, the first one which began in September last year with the second one beginning in February this year. On completion of the sessions, the children are encouraged to continue learning squash within the club's programme groups also held on Sunday mornings. We will continue to promote the junior programme with local primary schools as well as other groups such as local Brownies and Scouts to build our Junior section.

How squash has progressed during 2022

- ▶ The junior team (advanced group) have been deprived of match play experience as the Bucks Junior Leagues are not currently being held due to a change in format. However, the junior team have played a couple of closely contested friendly matches against both the 1879 ladies team and a men's select team. Further friendlies will be arranged against other local club's junior teams, with another match against an 1879 men's select team at the end of April.
- ▶ The Junior tournament was won by Jacob Gardner who beat his brother Ethan, 3-1 in the final. Callum Hughes has played for both the men's first and second teams this season and has also played in Division One in the club box leagues.
- ▶ A ladies tournament was co-ordinated by Suzanne this season and was the first held at the club for many years. There were a total of 20 entrants with a main draw and a plate competition won by Rachel Lund and Debby Calahane respectively.
- ▶ The main men's and vet's tournaments were combined and won by Gavin Lund in an excellent match with Neil Hollister with Mick Higgins beating Simon Edwards in the Plate tournament.
- ▶ For the first time in many years, we have run 2 men's teams in the county leagues, with our Men's 1 team in Division 2 this year and new team in Division 3
- ▶ With the season not far from completion, Men 1 in Division 2 are in a comfortable 3rd place and Men 2 in Division 3 have won a couple of matches but unfortunately, will finish at the bottom of the table.
- ▶ The regular players have been Simon DeConinck, Gavin Roger-Lund, Iain Digby, Matt Doody, Paul Griffiths, Neil Hollister, Sunit Patel, Alex MacIntyre, Kane Marshall, David Morgan and of late James Allchin and, home grown talent Callum Hughes, plus the odd guest appearance from Charlie Yerrell and Mike Thorpe.

Developments in the squash section

- ▶ It's been fun most of the time, a few injuries have hampered selection and great to see newer members playing for the club.
- ▶ Special thanks to Iain Digby for running Men 1 and to Steve Ramsden for managing the post-match food arrangements for both teams
- ▶ It has been a great year for the women at the club. Following the England Squash 'Girls Can' initiative we've had approximately 35 ladies attend squash sessions since the programme began, 27 of whom have become members.
- ▶ The progression pathway means that we currently have three ladies leagues involving 15 players and also have two ladies teams in the Bucks leagues. The club ladies beginners/taster sessions still continue every Friday evening (6.20pm-7pm).
- ▶ On Bucks team squash, the club has entered 2 teams in the second division. There are now 5 players per team. Having lost 2 of our strongest players to Spain and injury, the teams have struggled somewhat with all women playing a place higher in the team than they would have otherwise, but still enjoying the experience.
- ▶ Once again, the club group known as CHIST, Chesham International Squash Team (or more accurately 'Old Boys on Tour'), travelled abroad, and this year was the 16th time it has challenged players from another country in the last 17 years, with only one year missed during Covid. Last November, the group of a dozen players, traditionally drawn from the Saturday morning squad, challenged the Polisquash Club in Milan. Over the years, victory has often eluded our team, and this year was no exception, despite some creative and entertaining play. However, at least the Italians fielded no genuine international players.
- ▶ A special mention here must go to David Ouvry who has organised these tours over the 17 years they've been running and without his enthusiasm they wouldn't have continued for so long. As a mark of thanks, a presentation was made to David by the group at a lunch earlier this year.
- ▶ Finally, clubs like ours run because of the time that people give selflessly and specifically relating to the squash section, in addition to those people already mentioned, I'd like to give my thanks to Matt Doody, Paul Griffiths, Roger Hill and particularly David Griffiths for their time, effort and support for squash at 1879.

ELECTION OF SQUASH COMMITTEE

Existing members* happy to stand again for the next 12 months

Squash Committee

- ▶ Paul Griffiths* - Joint Chairman
- ▶ Paul Belcher - Joint Chairman
- ▶ Neil Hollister* - Committee member
- ▶ Steve Ramsden* - Committee member
- ▶ Matt Doody* - Committee member
- ▶ Suzanne Lund* - Committee member

ELECTION OF CLUB OFFICERS/ COMMITTEE

David Griffiths

EXISTING CLUB OFFICERS/COMMITTEE

Existing members* happy to stand again for the next 12 months

Main Committee

- ▶ Neil Grantham* - Club Chairman
- ▶ David Griffiths* - Club President
- ▶ Alastair Ferguson* - Tennis Chairman
- ▶ Paul Griffiths*/Paul Belcher - Shared Squash Chairman
- ▶ Jayne McCarthy* - Club Secretary
- ▶ Simon Reynolds* - Facilities Manager
- ▶ Claire Moore* - Finance
- ▶ Gary Martin* - Marketing Officer
- ▶ Sheila Jalland* - Bar Manager
- ▶ Amelia Holder* - Membership Secretary and Club Administrator (Co-opted)
- ▶ Dinah Martin* - Hon Treasurer/ special projects
- ▶ Harriet Ellis* - Club Social Secretary
- ▶ Michael Brook* - Hon. Auditor (to be reappointed)