

**Swindon Tennis Club (STC) Annual General Meeting**  
**Venue: STC clubhouse @ St. Mark's**  
**Date / time: 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018 @ 19:30**

Attendees: Alicia Hazzard, Ana Morar, Andrew Curran, Becki Poole, Beryl Watts (Secretary / Match Secretary), Bobby Sanghara, Chris Laker, Craig Loxton, Joe Murphy, Julie Kirk, Karl Sloman, Kim Hazzard, Neil Allen (Chair), Peter Martin, Richard Hughes, Rogerio Machado, Ryan Birnie, Sarah Boyce, Steve Prior, Tony Short

Apologies Received: Amanda Jones, Darryl Bailey, Hannah Kerry, Jessica and Joy Doerr, Jo Williams, Katie Penny, Linda Dudley, Matt Penny, Matthew Kerry, Paul Casey, Suzanne Bullimore

**1. Minutes of the 2017 AGM:** Attendees reviewed the minutes. No matters arose, and members accepted the minutes as a true account. (Proposed By: Richard Hughes, Seconded By: Julie Kirk).

**2. Chairman's Report. (Neil Allen):** Neil reflected on key club highlights and developments throughout his final year as club chairman:

Membership	Level has dropped a bit recently, due to some members leaving Swindon. Currently we have 47 members (22 Adult Seniors, 6 Couples, 5 Juniors, 4 Seniors and 4 Honorary)
More league success	Neil is happy that during his final year as Chair, STC has had continuing league success, building on past achievements. He especially thanked team captains for doing a "great job" organising their teams, communicating well with their players and even managing to post their results online and on time!
Thanks	Neil gave special thanks to ("our rock") Beryl for all that she does for the Club and to our Club Treasurer Paul Casey (also retiring today) for the many years of solid support he has given to both the Club, and to Neil.
Management Committee	Neil also registered his thanks to the Club's management committee who have been very proactive, helpful and supportive to him over the past year.
Reflections on 9 years as STC Chairman	Neil simply described his last 9 years at the Club as "a pleasure". He reflected that as a club we've been on quite a journey since he started as club chairman in 2009. From our time playing at Delta, when we didn't have our own base, moving on to the less than ideal Portakabin days here at St. Mark's, to finally arriving at our current position at the updated facility. Although it would be great to own our own premises, our situation now at St. Mark's is as close to the ideal solution as it was possible to achieve. Whilst there will still be the odd teething problem to sort out here and there, Neil is very happy with where the Club is now and hopes that the members are too.

**Acceptance of Chairman's Report:** Proposed by: Steve Prior, Seconded by: Andy Curran (Unanimous)

**3. Treasurer's Report. (Neil Allen):**

Neil presented this report as Paul Casey was unable to attend tonight. STC's current balance stands at **£8598.11**. Neil provided members with the end of year balance sheet prepared by Paul, showing Receipts and Payments, and he walked through items of note. This prompted the following comments and queries:

**Receipts:**

Match Fees      Chris Laker asked why 2017 Match Fees were more than double for 2016: *This is due to a backlog of uncollected fees in 2016. The 2017 figure includes retrospective fees doggedly collected by Matt Penny.*

**Payments**

Swindon Community Trust      *The extra £330 compared to 2016 was a one-off agreed contribution towards floodlight maintenance.*

**Acceptance of balance sheet:** Proposed by Joe Murphy, seconded by Ryan Birnie. (Unanimous)

### 5. Secretary / Match Secretary (Beryl Watts):

**Secretary's report:** As club secretary, Beryl continues to receive lots of enquiries regarding amenities etc. at the club. Currently there are around 6 people interested in joining (all men). She also receives many enquiries from parents regarding the coaching of juniors, which she passes on to CTA for the attention of Craig Loxton (Head Coach).

Beryl also thanked Joe Murphy for his work taking the minutes at committee and AGM meetings.

**Match secretary's report - Swindon & District League:** Thus far, the winter season has seen the Club continue to post impressive results.

- **The A team** tops div 1 with 5 games remaining, and **the B team** is placed 4<sup>th</sup> with 3 to play.
- **The C team** tops div 4 with 1 game to play
- **The D team** is currently 5<sup>th</sup> in div 5 with 2 to play.

Beryl thanks all team captains for organising and selecting their teams and she also thanks all of the league players for their contribution to yet another successful season.

The final placings for the previous winter and summer seasons are as shown below

League	Event	A Team	B Team	C Team	D Team	E Team
<b>Winter 2016/7</b>	Mixed	2 <sup>nd</sup> (Div 1)	1 <sup>st</sup> (Div 2)	1 <sup>st</sup> (Div 5)	1 <sup>st</sup> (Div 6)	4 <sup>th</sup> (Div 6)
<b>Summer 2017</b>	Ladies'	1 <sup>st</sup> (Div 1)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (Div 1)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (Div 4)		
	Men's	1 <sup>st</sup> (Div 2)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (Div 6)	5 <sup>th</sup> (Div 8)		
	Mixed	2 <sup>nd</sup> (Div 1)	4 <sup>th</sup> (Div 1)	1 <sup>st</sup> (Div 6)	4 <sup>th</sup> (Div 6)	

Neil echoed Beryl's sentiments, adding that thanks to the above results, STC's representatives had a great time at the Swindon & District Tennis League presentation night, picking up all those trophies!

**Acceptance of Secretary and Match Secretary's reports:** Proposed by Karl Sloman, seconded by Ryan Birnie. (Unanimous)

### 6. Election of Officers:

As announced at last year's AGM, today Neil and Paul step down from their respective roles as Chair and Treasurer. Stepping up and into their shoes are Richard and Steve. The new officer line-up is –

**Chairman: Richard Hughes** – Proposed by Kim Hazzard, seconded by Karl Sloman. (Unanimous)

**Treasurer: Steve Prior** – Proposed by Julie Kirk, seconded by Karl Sloman. (Unanimous)

**Secretary & Match Secretary: Beryl Watts** – Re-elected. (Approved by unanimous show of hands).

**Welfare Officer: Julie Kirk** – Julie has volunteered to perform this role for both Club and Trust and will soon be attending courses related to the role. This role is a requirement for LTA registration etc.

**7. Club Captains:** The Club's line-up of captains and vice-captains is as follows for 2018-19:

<b>Men</b>	Captain: Ryan Birnie	Vice-captain: Karl Sloman
<b>Ladies</b>	Captain: Becki Poole	Vice-captain: Alicia Hazzard

**Club Captains Line-Up:** (Approved by unanimous show of hands)

### 8. Publicity and Social Secretary

**Bobby Sanghara** is happy to reprise this role – Proposed by Julie Kirk, seconded by Ryan Birnie. (Unanimous)

### 9. Appointment of Management Committee:

Except for Neil and Paul, all currently serving committee members are to remain in place. Bobby Sanghara will also join the committee. So, the full list of STC committee members is as follows:

Ryan Birnie, Andy Curran, Alicia Hazzard, Kim Hazzard, Richard Hughes (Chair), Julie Kirk, Joe Murphy, Becki Poole, Steve Prior (Treasurer), Bobby Sanghara (Publicity and Social Secretary), Karl Sloman, Beryl Watts (Secretary & Match Secretary) - (Approved by unanimous show of hands)

**10. Club Sessions:** Steve Prior reported that Sunday session attendance is just about ticking over at the moment, thanks to a few regulars like himself, Tony Short and Darryl Bailey. During Wednesday sessions some members attend coaching. Turn-outs for both generally depend on the weather and have been quite low recently. Also, a few Wednesday stalwarts have recently left the Club. Members generally acknowledged that there are peaks and troughs in attendance, with Karl noting that April, August and September are usually high points.

Considerable discussion ensued. It was clear to note that the majority would like to see an improvement in club session arrangements and participation levels. Many interesting comments and suggestions were made. These included:

An important entry point for new members. (KH)	Try different night for Winter sessions? (SB)	TeamStuff reminders are helpful. (NA)	Hold every other week? (BS)
Need members to get in the habit. (KH)	2 sessions per week - too ambitious? (BP)	Weds coaching clashes with social tennis (RM)	TeamStuff good for checking attendance (KH)
Perhaps stage a more social occasion each month e.g. with refreshments? (CL)	2 sessions are good - some can't make Sunday, others can't do Weds. (PM)	Maybe switch Weds coaching to 7pm? (KS)	Yes – but more people need to flag that they'll be there on TS. (KS)

Whilst this topic is a perennial issue, it impacts on other areas that the Club is keen to improve on, such as new member induction and the Club's presence and visibility at St. Mark's. Therefore, the management committee shall explore different options in forthcoming meetings.

**11. Tennis Balls:** Last year Karl sourced Babolat Gold at a great price, and current stocks will see us through the winter season and a couple of months of summer season. It was noted that CTA's Ed Nieburg has confirmed that he is happy to supply the Club any make of ball at trade price via CTA's shop 'The Racket Factory'.

Karl asked what members thought about the Babolat Gold club ball. The only negative feedback was that they don't last too long. However, it was noted that after matches, balls have often been mixed in a bucket, with no way to tell the old from the newly used. A better system to manage ex-match balls was called for. **Steve Prior** suggested that a 'repressuriser' could be used to refresh the bounce in old balls, as he uses one for his! He was then subjected to a bit of group pressure to take on the role of '**used match ball monitor**', which he graciously accepted.

**12. Summer League Teams 2017:** *Submission deadline - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.*

Based on current member feedback STC will field **3 Men's, 3 Ladies'** and **3 Mixed** teams.

**Final Call:** Ryan and Becki will arrange for a 'final call' email to be sent to members asking them to state their level of interest in playing this year. **If responses are positive it may be possible to field 4 mixed teams** (as in 2017). If not, the Club will present a case to the District League for the Mixed B team to be dropped, so our 3 mixed teams can play in divisions appropriate for their level of tennis.

**13. Membership and Match Fees:** In order to generate an annual income to match the Club's regular annual outgoings (~ £4,000) the management committee have proposed a **new membership fee structure** which charges the same rate for renewals and new sign-ups. Prices are as follows:

Adult Snrs: £100 – Married or Cohabiting Couple: £150 – OAP (65+): £75 – Students (full time): £55 – Juniors up to 16: £35

**Match fees** are to remain the same as last year: £1 per home or away match (£0.50 juniors/full-time education)

**Proposed Membership and Match Fees:** (Approved by unanimous show of hands)

**14. Wimbledon Ballot:** This year 55 members have opted-in. Members are encouraged to check that their LTA website profile links them to both the Club and Trust's venues. Once this is done, whenever they opt-in for Wimbledon tickets, they are automatically opted-in to both ballots.

*[Venue names on the LTA's website are "Swindon Community Tennis Club" – for STC members only & "Swindon Community Tennis" for Trust members (i.e. Fob holders, including STC members).]*

**15. AOB:**

- **TeamStuff?** – Karl asked if members want to continue using TeamStuff. There was general approval. He believes the TeamStuff website offers a better user experience than the app.
- **Service Level Agreement (SLA)** – Copies of the SLA document were distributed at the meeting. This defines the services Swindon Tennis Club can expect from Swindon Community Tennis Trust in return for its annual rental payment. Although still a draft document, agreement on pending items 4c and 5 (relating to Pavilion access and catering for home matches) is expected very soon.
- **Court Maintenance** – Chris Laker asked about court maintenance plans. Neil confirmed that the Trust is following a maintenance plan. Contractors have been on-site but have hit an issue with surface paint coming off whilst treating mossy areas. The Council are currently pursuing this matter with the contractors who installed the courts.
- **Fob Renewal** – all member fobs will expire on 31<sup>st</sup> March (the end of the membership year). To reactivate them, members will need to pay for their renewal membership and visit the Pavilion.
- **Swindon & District Tennis League EGM (28<sup>th</sup> Feb @ Red House Club, Purton)** – Neil read out motions for this Extraordinary General Meeting, which relate to team selection and eligibility –
  1. **Re. Players 'playing down'** → "A player may play for no more than 2 of a club's adjacent teams in each league" – e.g. A&B or C&D, but not A&C teams
  2. **Re. Eligibility** → If there's a membership eligibility dispute for a player, their club chairman or membership secretary must provide a letter to the League to confirm their eligibility status.
  3. **Re. New players (i.e. 'ringers') being introduced to a team late in the season** → "No 'new' player may play after week 11 of the season (including re-arranged matches which fall after week 11)" - A 'new player' being one who hasn't played during weeks 1 to 11. The penalty for a team playing a 'new player' will be 4 points with their opponents receiving a walkover.

Up to 2 representatives from each club may vote. Richard Hughes, Ryan Birnie & Andy Curran will represent STC. Two majority votes taken at tonight's AGM mandate STC's representatives to **vote AGAINST MOTION 1 and FOR MOTION 3.** (Motion 2 being regarded as non-contentious)

- **Lastly, and very importantly:** Beryl presented Neil two tokens of our appreciation "with love from me and from all the members of the Club". Beryl thanked both Neil and Paul for their "many years giving their precious time to the Club, and I think everyone can see what their efforts have produced!". She presented Neil with an attractive engraved glass trophy commemorating his years of service as Chair, plus a very smart England cricket jacket. A rather surprised Neil thanked all the loyal members who've supported him over the years and repeated that it's been a pleasure for him to serve the Club. He also noted that he's not going to be far away (in the same building even!) and he will follow the Club's progress keenly over the coming years.

*Addendum: On Sun 25<sup>th</sup> Feb. @ the Pavilion, Richard Hughes & Beryl Watts also presented Paul Casey with a commemorative trophy & a Wales Rugby Union jacket, in thanks for his many years of service as Club Treasurer.*

**17. Close of Meeting:**

In his final act as STC Chairman, Neil closed the meeting at 9:30 p.m.