

Rowntree Park Tennis Club AGM

Wednesday 27 February 2019

1. **Apologies for absence** - Russ Warin, Julia Weston, Martin Pinfold, Sandra Robinson, Keith & Heather Clarke, Hannah Nash, Zara Frizell, Richard Gray, Paul Needley, Breeda Gallagher, Phil Sturgess.
2. **Members attending** – Pete Richardson, Kevin & Ronnie Davison, Paul Browning, John Neary, Paul Adams, Cath Pease, James Chantry, Sandra Pauw, Louise Newson.
3. **Minutes of AGM** - 28th February 2018. Agreed by meeting.
4. **Matters Arising** – None
5. **Chairman's report**

The club and tennis in general in Rowntree Park continue to grow in line with our aims of providing improved conditions for both members and public play. Since our club took over the running of all the 6 courts in Rowntree Park in 2015, we have seen some significant changes. The initial refurbishment of the courts has been followed by annual cleaning and maintenance, together with periodic cleaning to remove debris building up on the court surfaces resulting in much improved playing conditions. Over this period club membership has increased from 40 to 150 and public bookings for ah hoc play has increased to about 1000 hours per year.

In respect of the Club, we have seen the introduction of the Club's tennis ladders, a much-improved WEB site and an expansion of coaching in the Park with Rob Hodge running an LTA sponsored scheme, Tennis For Kids. Thanks to Paul Browning for his efforts in all these areas. These improvements have resulted in increased membership and court usage so that now the Club's finances are in a much-improved position. The sinking fund, which will be used to finance both court replacement in the future and further improvements to the tennis facilities, continues to improve at a healthy rate. Thanks to Kevin Davison and others for their efforts in this respect.

So much for the improvements, so where do we go from here? Over the last few years we have been in discussions with City of York Council (CYC) to have access to the tennis pavilion in Rowntree Park and to have full facility control of the tennis courts. However, we continue to have problems with CYC over the provision of a lease on the courts. With the club having secured funding for the project (subject to a long-term lease), the council Executive committee failed to authorise the project last year and have now decided to integrate this with several other similar projects being considered within York parks. Our expectations are that this will further delay the project. We see the Pavilion scheme as an important part of our Club's development as it would provide a focus for both members and coaches using Rowntree Park. For this reason, we continue to press CYC for a lease which would allow us to move forward with the scheme.

One of the most important cornerstones of a successful and inclusive tennis club is the establishment of a coaching programme. In the coming year we are hoping to introduce new

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coaching opportunities into Rowntree Park. Until now the TennisForAll scheme has provided coaching in Rowntree Park, but we are now investigating introducing additional coaching which is geared towards members. These plans are in their early stages as we look to find a suitable coach. We hope to be able to provide further details later.

In conclusion, we are continuing to improve all aspects of tennis within Rowntree Park. We hope that you will continue to make use of these facilities and enjoy your tennis in the coming year.

6. Treasurers Report

Last season we continued the progress that we have been planning for over the last few years. From a financial point of view, we aim to maintain a balance within the club's operational accounts whilst improving the balance in the court sinking fund in line with LTA recommended levels. Last year both these targets were achieved.

The club's accounts show details of the income and expenditure of the club from and on behalf of members. The main income source is from membership fees and team match fees. Membership numbers increased again last year with a consequential increase in income. The increase in members was primarily due to a targeted mailing by Paul Browning to public users of the courts with the option of joining rather than having to pay and play. By offering introductory rates many people took up this offer. This year we will be hoping that these people join as full members.

We are continuing to spend money on the club. In 2017 we replaced 3 nets and last year we got new nets for the remaining courts. In addition, new net tapes were purchased so that the new net fixing plates could be used. This removes the need to carry the heavy weights for matches.

The main expenses for the club continue to be court rental to City of York Council, club and match balls and affiliation fees (local league and the LTA). Use of the club mixed singles ladder has continued to increase and so last year we purchased a license to upgrade the ladder software.

The main cost showing on the accounts is related to our need to build up a sinking fund for future resurfacing and development of the courts. This cost has been based on a proportion of the membership fees and so the increase over last year reflects the additional membership numbers.

As in previous years the sinking fund's income comes from all income received from public bookings, coaching income and a proportion of membership fees. Last year all these increased. The public bookings are heavily dependent on the weather. The poor start to the season was balanced by the exceptional weather during the summer with the early shortfall more than offset during the hot summer. Coaching income was improved by a series of LTA sponsored Tennis for Kids events run by Rob Hodge. These also contributed to several additional members as some of the participants subsequently joined the club. The sinking fund, as a result of these increased revenues, has continued to increase in line with our future requirements.

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2019 Fees

The membership fees have remained unchanged for the last 3 years. I am therefore suggesting a small increase fees this year to balance the continuing increase in our costs for the court rental and club balls. I am proposing to increase these by £5 per member. The new proposed fees would be:

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| Full member | £75 | |
| Couple membership | £130 | |
| Family | £150 | |
| Parent | £105 | |
| Junior/Student | £35 | |
| Social | £40 | |
| Visitor fee | £3 | unchanged |
| Match Fees | £2 | unchanged |
| Public court fee | £7.50 per hour | |

The meeting agreed to accept this proposal for the coming season which starts 1st April 2019.

7. Secretary's report

The WEB site has continued to develop. We have aimed to provide members with as much help as we can on the WEB site. The site now provides a range of policy details, contact details for club officials, etc. In addition, links are included for Memberships, court usage and the various ladders that have been active during the summer and more recently indoors in the University 'bubble'.

The Mixed (includes men and ladies) Singles Ladder continues to attract many members and a new indoor Winter competition has proved a great success. The ladders provide a great opportunity to play competitive tennis and meet other like-minded members. New players are welcome and can join the ladders via the WEB site.

Over the last couple of years, the club has moved much of the administration onto the LTA supported WEB application, ClubSpark. Initially ClubSpark was used to control public bookings and access to the courts. Our dependency on this application to manage court bookings continues. However, over the last year or so we have increased our usage of ClubSpark so that now it supports other activities, including memberships, member court bookings and coaching.

Last year we provided a venue for the LTA sponsored Tennis For Kids scheme and ran 8, 6 week courses with Rob Hodge providing the coaching and being administered using the coaching module in ClubSpark. The courses were aimed at under 11 aged children and proved a huge success with each course full. These courses are to be continued this year with the aim to provide more courses. In addition, we are hoping to provide courses for older children. The courses provide the club with greater visibility and encouraged new members from the families involved.

In order to help members plan their tennis we have also improved the booking information available to members through ClubSpark. All court usage can now be seen on the ClubSpark booking sheets. This includes all details for court bookings, coaching, club sessions and

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matches. We have also enabled a system whereby members can book courts so that they can be ensured of a game when they turn up of the courts. Several schemes were tried based on different criteria. A recent opinion poll concerning these trials was carried out and the results presented to the meeting. Many thanks to those members who responded. It was clear that most members supported the idea of member court booking and that the most support was for the current booking scheme. This scheme was supported by the meeting:

- Club court usage for matches, coaching, club sessions will be booked in advance and will have priority
- Members can book courts 4 and 6 free of charge
- Courts 1, 2 and 3 can be booked at the rate of £2 per hour. These courts are generally for public booking and so members are expected to use the courts 4-6 if available.
- Court 5 cannot be booked and so members will be able to use this court on an ad hoc basis but with no guarantee that it will be free for play.

Several other booking schemes were discussed, including differential rates for public bookings based on different times of the day. This was suggested as a way of maximising court usage by encouraging public use at non-peak times.

We will continue to monitor members' bookings so that we can maximise availability.

8. Welfare officer report

As part of our LTA registration requirements and as a duty of care to members and visitors to the court we have created the position of Welfare officer. Alastair Geddes has recently agreed to stand in this role.

Alastair now becomes our first point of contact for any safeguarding or diversity and inclusion issues that arise. Further details about this role and our responsibilities can be found on the [Club Web site](#) including contact details of other organisations that may be involved

9. Teams for 2018 Season

York & District leagues - 2 Mixed, 2 Men, and 1 ladies' team.

Barkston Ash League - 3rd Men's

As a result of our Men's team being relegated last year a number of those team players have resigned from our club. This has put additional pressure on team selection for all the Men's teams and a few members expressed the opinion that we may not now be able to support 3 teams. It was however, agreed that we should continue with 3 teams at present but to canvas members to gauge feeling from those who have supported the 3rd team in the past. If we are unable to get a volunteer to run the team then the committee will make a decision as the season starts.

10 Election of Club Officers

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| Chairman | Peter Richardson |
| Secretary | No volunteers. Kevin Davison and Pete Richardson will temporarily pick up responsibilities |
| Treasurer | Kevin Davison |
| Welfare Off. | Alastair Geddes |

The position of secretary remains unfilled. If any would agree to help in this role, please contact the committee.

Committee members

John Neary
Cath Pease
James Chantry

Paul Browning has agreed to continue his work with the ClubSpark application and promoting singles tennis. In addition, he will continue to be involved in coordinating the Tennis for Kids coaching scheme with the coach, Rob Hodge.

Team Captains

Mixed1

Ed Martin

Mixed2

Martin Pinfold

Ladies

Hannah Nash

Men's1

Paul Adams

Men's2

TBC

Men's3

TBC

If anyone feels that they would like to help the club by offering stand for either of these outstanding team captain's positions, then please let the committee know.

11. Match Fees and subscriptions

As noted above it was agreed that Subscriptions would increase by £5 per member for the current year. Match and visitor fees remain unchanged.

12. Social Events

The club will continue to hold a small number of social events during the season. The **first club session** is planned for Saturday 30th March 2:00pm.

As usual we will endeavour to have a **Club BBQ** mid-season. A date will be confirmed when details of matches are confirmed later.

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13. Any Other Business

It was agreed that shoe tags would be issued to members as confirmation that they were entitled to be using the Club's facilities.

Club sessions, where members are encouraged to just turn up and join in with other players on Thursday evening and Saturday afternoon, have had disappointing attendance. In an attempt to improve attendance at these sessions, it was decided that we will set up a WhatsApp group. The group would be used to let members know that they were going/wanting play in a session. It is hoped that this will encourage other to come and join in. Club sessions are a great way to meet other members in the club and we consider that they are an important part of being a 'member'. We hope that many of you will join the group and use these club sessions to meet up and enjoy some social tennis.

A member asked for clarification on the rules concerning players appearing in club matches. It was made clear that only members are entitled to play in any of the local leagues.

The meeting closed at 22:10