

**Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting
Held on Friday 26th April at 7.00 pm at Upleadon Village Hall**



Present:	Roger Bennett Jo Clarke Mike Manning Robin Notley	Kathy O’Keeffe Phill Primett Guy Savage Nigel Warren
In attendance:	Graham Baum Jayne Darrah Karen and Peter Hibberd	Garry O’Keeffe Sam Payne

1. Welcome and Apologies

Mike welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Tiffany Watkins, David and Yvette Holborow, Ted Shaw, Liz Tillott, Sally Loynes, The Beagles Family, the Baker Family and Caroline Notley.

2. Minutes of the 2018 AGM

The minutes of the last AGM had been posted on the website and were accepted.

3. Matters Arising - There were no matters arising.

4. Captain’s Reports

Ladies A Team

Tiffany Watkins reported via email that the team had consisted of Jo Clarke, Caroline Bennett, Liz Tillott, Tiffany and Emma Rowe and this was a very tough division to play in as every team was extremely strong. Whilst they achieved 21 points, this unfortunately was only enough to finish in 6th place and they were therefore relegated to Division 2. However, in previous years this number of points would have been sufficient to finish comfortably mid table. Having said that they had some very enjoyable and competitive matches that really tested their ability.

They also struggled with player availability on a weekly basis meaning that they rarely managed to field consistent pairs, however on a positive note this made it really easy for team selection as the four players who were available were automatically selected!

The team has unfortunately lost Emma Rowe for the forthcoming season due to relocation, however they gained a new player, Sam, who is a very welcome addition to the team. Let’s hope we have a fantastic 2019 season and plenty of sunshine!

Ladies B Team

Kathy said what a season the B team had playing in Division 4, playing twelve matches, drawing one and winning the rest! She thanked Sally and Jayne who defeated all their opponents with a confidence and flair that saw them drop only one set all season.

For the B team there was a choice of Veronica with her never say die determination to win; Laurel who played like a regular team player; Ems who came back into the squad after having been trampled by a horse; Anna who came back in fine form later on having put her GCSEs first; Janet who played for us twice at short notice; and a special mention to Libby who joined us very briefly before taking a fall in the first set, breaking her foot and ankle in three places and spending the rest of the season with a boot on.

We topped the league from very early on and stayed in first place throughout the season, 11 points clear of our nearest rivals Charlton Kings.

Following promotion to Division 3 we've already started the season well with a 3-1 win at Beckford and a 4-0 win over Cheltenham College and are snapping at the heels of the A team in Division 2.

E Team

Mike said 2018 was a real tough season for the E team. They lost three players from the previous year and then another retired from league tennis after a few games. Mike used ten different players and because of this there were no settled pairings. The first seven games were five losses and two draws leaving the team rock bottom. Then wonder of wonders, game eight saw a 3-1 win against Beckford. Unfortunately, they couldn't keep this up and the last two games were both lost 4-0. They finished in bottom position just one point behind Gotherington. In a classic case of 'if only', if Luke and Mike hadn't lost two three set games against Gotherington earlier in the year they would have finished one point above them. However, the good news was that they couldn't be demoted! Mike thanked Guy who played nine of the ten games, the most for one player and also took charge for the games Mike couldn't make.

D Team

Roger reported that in Division 5A they very quickly realised Twyning were fielding two ex premiership players and had first place in the bag, so the rest of us were competing for 2nd place. He was pleased to say that apart from Twyning, nobody else beat them and they gained promotion by coming second. Their record was eight wins, two draws and two losses. They used ten different players over the course of the season and look forward to Division 4 this year.

C Team

Dave Peachey reported that whilst 2017 was the year of the great escape, 2018 marked the C team's annus horribilis as the fat lady finally cleared her throat and thus the inevitable relegation was confirmed. It was a difficult season as they struggled for players and were slightly out of depth in Division 2 but everyone gave it their best and Dave thanked everyone for playing.

Despite 2018 being a difficult year it did end on a positive note with the re-emergence of Paul Gilmartin after it was feared he might be dead. Having played the first couple of matches he mysteriously disappeared for the rest of the season behind a myriad of excuses, before triumphantly reappearing for the final match of the season - so he hoped the team sees more of him in 2019!

B team

Phill reported that the B team got off to a slow start by drawing the first five matches, then finished on a high by winning four of the last five. Overall they won four, drew six and lost two. The team used ten players throughout the season but managed to keep consistent pairings which benefited them. They finished in second place and gained promotion to Division 1 on the other side of the Division from the A team

A team

John Rowe had sent in his usual War and Peace version of the A Teams' exploits but Kathy gave the edited highlights! John said that at one point in the season the Redmarley A team had won only three games and he was actually worried they wouldn't get any points such was the standard of teams they were playing against. They did actually win 12 sets and nearly a third of the games played - so weren't completely trounced. All their points came as the result of championship tiebreaks. Sadly they lost six championship and three regular tiebreaks, which would have made the final table more respectable but in the end they were relegated.

Mixed Winter League - A Team

Captain John Rowe again reported via email that for the final winter league match of the season the team had needed 6 points to be guaranteed safety and they won the last match 12-4. The team therefore overtook both East Glos C and Beckford, to finish fourth out of the seven teams, and stayed in Division 2 for another year.

It was a strange division with all teams beating each other (which is why it ended up so close).

In total we had five men and six ladies playing on the team and everyone contributed important points - so it was great to have such a strong squad of players, (although losing Chris and Emma midway through the season does mean it will be tougher for the team next year). Young Bertie was denied shot of the season when Jo blocked his forehand drive with the back of her head.

Mixed Winter League - B Team

Kathy said it had been another good winter league, winning six matches and losing four left the team in third place for another year in Division 6 next winter. Kathy thanked Bertie, David, Guy; Jayne; Jo; Phill; Richard; Roger; Sally and Tiffany for playing, especially in the really cold matches, of which there seemed to be quite a few, particularly the one at Lydney where the kit froze on the side-lines as they played.

Herefordshire and Worcestershire Men's Doubles Winter League 2018-19 - Division 6 West

Nigel Warren reported that having achieved promotion last year (their first in the league) they expected to be stretched this season in Division 5 West. However, he was pleased to report that they topped the league and will be promoted again next season.

They won over 70% of sets, but the games tally was a much closer run thing, as they won just over 56%. This testified to some highly competitive and enjoyable matches, except one that was played in hurricane force winds! They look forward to some more challenging matches next season.

Nigel thanked Bertie; Phil; Richard Jenner; Roger and Dan Dawe and said anyone else interested in playing in the next winter season should contact him.

Club Competitions

Roger said the summer competitions would be drawn later that evening.

Mike thanked the captains for their reports.

5. Secretary's Report

Kathy said it had been another busy year with seven meetings which had all been well attended by the committee. She said a number of social events were planned and were very well attended.

- Mike's Valentine quiz back in February gave everyone a fun time without having to book an expensive meal or evening out for their loved ones and 84 people attended.
- There was a great weekend in Croyde in July, the weather was glorious and the sea so warm that even Garry had a swim! Unfortunately, they only have one tennis court now, which was a bit of a shock when we arrived. This year's weekend is from 17th to 19th May and we have fingers crossed the weather will be kind.
- The Family Fun Day planned for September had to be cancelled at short notice as the school decided to hold a similar event the day before!
- There was another of Mike's quizzes last November which was another great night with 75 attendees so thanks to Mike for all his hard work on these events.

The 2019 events will include Club Sundays starting on 5th May and the July event will be a Pimms and Strawberry tea. The club tournament finals day will be held on 15th September and we're hoping people will come along to watch a great day of tennis and to support the finalists. We're also hosting another quiz on 16th November. Details of all events are available on the website events page.

Mike thanked Kathy for all her work.

6. Junior Committee Report

Phill reported that the juniors had held a social in the summer but nothing in the winter. Anna, Lydia and Josh had stepped down from the committee and Laurel will stay on as hair at least until the end of the year. New members are sought so if anyone would like to join, they should let Roger or Phill now. Phill hoped the committee would hold another summer and winter social again this year.

7. Treasurer's Report

Roger circulated a copy of the latest accounts and reported that the main figure was the net income which was down from £5,100 to £3,600. Income was down by £750 mainly due to the social events - the barn dance only raised £88 compared with £654 the previous year. The coaching money was down £300 in the main due to the fact that Friday night and Sunday morning coaching stopped over the Winter. However, subscriptions rose once again by £144 to £4,605.

Expenditure increased by £800 after having some trees removed and the rest pruned back; £130 was spent on a safety and welfare course which has to be renewed every three years; the village hall rent increased by £100 and an extra £100 on tennis equipment.

Net income was allocated to the club house and court sinking funds by £2,100 and £1,500 respectively.

The pavilion income and expenditure account showed a net expenditure of £16,700, for building the pavilion this year and there was already £16,040 put by in last year's accounts.

The balance sheet showed total funds and how they were allocated. There is currently £10,000 in the court sinking fund and £1,387 in the pavilion fund plus a small working balance.

Robin proposed the accounts be adopted for 2018-19 this was seconded by Guy and everyone was in favour.

8. Chairman's Report

Mike said it had been another good year with a lot of social events, many more than other bigger clubs provided. Last year there was still talk of building a pavilion and here we are with it in place and he said for such a little club that was great. The sinking fund is very low now and it will take some work to get the pavilion finished.

He was delighted to report that having won the Gloucestershire Club of the Year award, the club went on to win the South and South West Regional Club of the year which will be presented at Queen's Club on 19th June. The Club now goes onto the National Finals which will be presented during Wimbledon Fortnight.

In closing Mike thanked Roger and Kathy for the considerable work they did for the club behind the scenes and Guy for all his hard work on the Pavilion.

A discussion was held around other social events which will include a tennisathon on 29th June, a half marathon and possibly an auction of promises.

9. Subscriptions

The subscriptions for the year commencing 1st May 2019 remain unchanged.

The Committee proposed an increase in subscriptions for the 2019-20 year as follows:

- Family (parents and children) £130.00 (£115.00 if paid before 31st May)
- Individual £80.00 (£70.00 if paid before 31st May)
- Student £30.00 (or £25 if paid before 31st May)
- Junior £25.00 (other juniors in the same family £15.00 each)

Robin proposed the new subscriptions be accepted, this was seconded by Nigel. All were in favour. Membership forms are available from the website.

10. Coaching

Sunday mornings have recommenced and Friday night after school coaching has also started but Roger said numbers were low and more advertising is needed. Saturday coaching is going reasonably well but could also benefit from advertising.

11. Election of Officers and Committee

Mike asked if anyone else was interested in joining. All other existing committee members had indicated they would be happy to continue. Mike thanked everyone and confirmed the current committee members were Roger Bennett, Kathy O'Keeffe, Jo Clarke, Mike Manning, Tiffany Watkins, Phill Primett, Guy Savage, Libby Bolton, James Beagles, Robin Notley and Nigel Warren. Mike said he was happy to stand for a further year as Chair but then he would stand down.

Mike proposed the committee be re-elected Guy seconded it and all were in favour.

12. Any Other Business

Alice Bowyer was voted the most improved junior of the year and the Junior of the Year Award went to Bertie Clarke. Unfortunately, neither was able to be present.

Mike said the committee had been approached by Redmarley Heritage Society about running a pop-up pub. They were quite keen to work with us and have identified people to serve on the evenings. It was thought it would be better on a winter night then it didn't clash with the cricket club's social evenings. However, the meeting had no appetite for it.

It was thought the AGM should be held a bit earlier in April next year to avoid clashing with the cricket and to offer skittles again to attract the families.

Robin said film evenings were quite a popular social event, Kathy to add to the next committee agenda.

There was no further business and Mike thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.10.