

Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting
Held on Thursday 28th March 2014 at 7.00 pm at Upleadon Village Hall

Present:	Graham Baum Roger Bennett John Giles Garry O'Keeffe	Kathy O'Keeffe Ann Russell Guy Savage Phill Primett
In attendance:	The Baker Family The Beagle Family Louise Bennett Jacqui Cooper Alison and Kathryn Curtis-Cody The Dawe Family Sue Giles	Dawn Manning Rob Manning Robin Notley Nigel Russell Ted and Ann Shaw Mark and Jane Spilsbury

1. John welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Graham Baum who had said this was the first AGM he had missed in over 40 years as a committee member.
2. **Minutes of the 2013 AGM**
The minutes of the last AGM had been posted on the website. Mike proposed they be accepted as a true record of the meeting and this was seconded by Ted.
3. **Matters Arising**
There were no matters arising.

4. **Captain's Report**

A team - Roger read out the report from Captain John Rowe who said that the A team had finished third in Division One. The team had a good year, winning 20 rubbers and losing 20. The two teams above the A team were East Glos B who regularly yo-yoed between the Premiership and Division One and Oxstalls who won the Division easily. John reported that all the other teams had seemed stronger than usual with all the matches being very competitive. The A team used eight players throughout the course of the season and go into 2014 with optimism.

B team - Roger read out the report from Captain David Peachey who said the B team finished the season in fourth place with four wins, four draws and four losses. He said that although it had seemed like a season with little drama, after eight matches the team were in last position and without a win. David had done his Alex Ferguson impression and thrown a hair dryer at one or two of the team members and they had won their last four matches. Throughout the season the B team used eight players and with a squad of young players the B team aimed to stay in Division Two which David felt should be achievable if they started playing tennis straight away this season!

C team - Captain Roger Bennett said the C team was in its second season after winning Division Six last year. The team won their first five matches to lead the Division and then managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory, eventually finishing third and just missing out on promotion.

The C team used a squad of twelve players which included five juniors who will hopefully play again this season in the team's quest for Division Four.

D Team - Captain Mike Manning said that after many seasons of being the Division Six whipping boys, it was his great pleasure to announce that the D team had had a very successful season. Following on from only their second ever victory in 2012, the team secured an outstandingly stunning four wins, five draws and three defeats. This even included two victories on the trot which had felt like they'd won the European Cup! Mike had hit on a winning blend of youth and experience, Nigel providing the experience and obviously Mike the youth! He thanked everyone who had played, especially the three juniors James Beagles, Henry O'Niell and Dan Dawe who all really showed the rest of the team how to play. Mike said Dan was still the only player he knew who could play well, whilst watching the game on the next court at the same time. He said the team had missed third place in the table by just one point and he looked forward to the 2014 season with a degree of optimism.

Ladies Team - Roger read out the report from Captain Jo Clarke who said that sometimes women could reverse between two parked cars and sometimes they just couldn't and that was how the tennis season had been for the ladies. However, she said they must have parked the car more often than not as they just about stayed in the same Division. The team had missed its Queen Player as Caroline Bennett had started at Derby University studying Occupational Therapy - a study which helped the oldies continue to play tennis! Occasionally the team fell short of the usual members of Jo, Kathy, Ann Russell, Liz Tillott and Libby Bolton and had to call on Janet Epps who Jo didn't think would mind her saying "was a game old bird with a wicked slice"! Jo said the ladies had showed grit and determination despite their general decrepitude but best of all they usually had a thoroughly good laugh and she thanked all the ladies who had played in the last season.

Winter League - Captain Jo Clarke had gone on to say that the team had chosen to play their home matches at Oxstalls as the surface at Newent was no longer up to match standard. Everyone's form had improved throughout the season and Matt Baum, Duncan Hannaford, Phil Primett, Kathy, Liz Tillott and Roger had fought some great battles - sometimes victorious, sometimes leaving the team a bit bruised but they had managed to stay in the same league. Jo thanked everyone who had played and said it took a lot of effort to go out into the dark and cold to play tennis for three hours or more, especially as most of the venues were miles away. She hoped the team would have just as good a season next year but with less of the wet stuff!

Coaching sessions - Roger said that Friday night coaching for school children had been extremely well attended as had the three junior coaching sessions held on a Saturday morning for mini reds up to teenagers. On Sunday mornings the new beginner and returners group was thriving and the intermediate group continued to be well supported.

5. Secretary's Report

Kathy advised that seven meetings had been held during the last year. She said the social events had been well attended and this year's Annual Dinner had been a great success with fun for all in the Beetle Drive. She thanked Graham for organising it and said that the Golf Club had catered for the club very well.

She outlined forthcoming social events including a Barn Dance to be held on 10th May; the Great British Tennis Weekend Family Fun Day on Sunday 18th May; the tennis weekend at Croyde Bay on the last weekend in June; a Treasure Hunt and bring a plate supper on 19th July; the Halloween party on 25th October and a Shuffle Supper on 1st November.

She said Club Sundays would start on Easter Sunday but going forward they would be held on the last Sunday of the month unless otherwise notified. Club nights would start on Tuesday 1st April. All details will be available via the website.

6. Treasurer's Report

Roger reported that subscriptions were £2,901, down from £3,269 the previous year and although some of the older members had hung up their tennis shoes, new members had joined so it was hoped that membership would be maintained this year.

He said the Great British Tennis Weekend would showcase tennis at Redmarley with the aim of getting new members.

Social events last year had raised £1,297 up over £1k on last year and this had resulted in an increased operating surplus.

The accounts showed a surplus of £3,400, up on last year and £2,400 had been paid into the court sinking fund. A pavilion sinking fund had also been set up and £1k had been transferred to it. John thanked the Roger for his report and said the GBTW was part of a big push through the LTA and the club would make the most of the national and local advertising they had arranged.

7. Chairman's Report

John thanked everyone for their reports which showed how well the club was supported and how much went on every week of the year. Although a small club, much went on behind the scenes and there were many things which needed to be done to keep it running. He said people gave generously of their time to organise the routine tasks, the tennis and the social events and he thanked them on behalf of the club.

He continued that during the past year the courts had been well used with a wide range of play and they continued to be in a good state of repair. The internal club leagues had been very popular and at times if you popped up on the off chance of a game it may not have been possible to get a court.

On the social front the club held its first Summer Ball, a sell-out event which was much enjoyed with everyone dancing right up to the end. The bar sold out and had to be replenished from private stocks and the food was of the high standard we have grown used to and Ann Russell spoils us.

They say if at first you don't succeed try again. The Beetle Drive for our junior members was cancelled through a lack of support but as entertainment at the Annual Dinner it was a great success and the evening was another really good occasion.

On the development front, the big news was that planning permission had been received for the pavilion. Moving this project forward required effort on many fronts; all of which required people to give their time. Over the winter this had not been easily come by but the club now needed to get behind this project in order to:

- complete the detailed design and costings
- prepare the grant applications
- consider if an LTA loan should be taken
- agree an extended lease with the Parish Council.

John said that at first sight these appeared to be fairly straight forward tasks but the devil was in the detail so progress was slower than hoped for. This was not like a work project, the club had very limited resources to call upon and limited funds at its disposal.

A sub-committee of Pete, Roger, Guy, Mike and John had been formed but it was necessary to look for additional help. He asked if anyone had expertise that they would be prepared to offer, it would be very much appreciated. *After the meeting, Mark Spilsbury offered his support with the funding process and this was gratefully received.*

8. Subscriptions

The Treasurer proposed the subscriptions for 2014-15 be amended as follows:

- family and individual costs to remain the same
- student membership to be increased from £20 to £25
- junior membership to be increased from £16 to £20 with subsequent juniors at £10.
- It was also proposed that the coaching costs be increased from £2 to £3 per hour for members and from £4 to £5 per hour for non-members.

Guy proposed the fees and coaching costs be increased as outlined, this was seconded by Garry and it was carried unanimously.

9. Election of Officers and Committee

The existing committing members indicated they would be happy to continue. Louise proposed they be re-elected, Ted seconded this, all were in favour. John thanked everyone and confirmed the current committee members were John Giles, Roger Bennett, Kathy O'Keeffe, Graham Baum, Pete Gore, Ann Russell, Garry O'Keeffe, Mike Manning, Phill Primett, Guy Savage and Libby Bolton. James Beagles volunteered to join the committee and this was welcomed.

John welcomed assistance from anyone who may not wish to commit to being a committee member but who could offer assistance on project work.

10. 2014 Events Calendar

Kathy said the calendar will be circulated with the membership renewals and will be available on the website. A list of the dates of all home matches will be displayed at the court and on the website.

11. Any Other Business

Robin asked for more information on the pavilion and timescales. John outlined the plans, which are available to view on the Forest of Dean Planning website and said that funding had to be achieved before building could start.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 19.30 and was followed by a fish and chip supper and skittles.