

AGM Minutes 31st March 2011

Held at The Conservatory, Papworth at 7.30pm

Present :

John Peal (Chairman), Debra Barker (Secretary), Carol Hooper (Treasurer), Rick Stokes, Caroline Douglas, Terry Stenchen, Mike Biss, Katie Biss, Sally Barnes, Andy Douglas, Chris Stenchen, Adrian Parfitt, Richard Clark, Fiona Cummings, Chris Cummings, Caroline Cree, Richard Cree, Steve Welburn, Jenny Burgess, Doreen Prescott, Ken Woodham, Diane Woodham, Heather Woods, Zoe Douglas, Sam Douglas, Tim Hooper, Will Hooper, Jon Davis, Esme Seeley, James Hooper, Paul Thomas, Moira Bond, Fiona Hughes, Laura Porter, Alex Porter, Karan Hotchkin, Terry Voice, Harry Webster, John Booker

1. Apologies for absence

Jo Wheeler, Richard and Joanne Brewster

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last AGM held on 23rd March 2010 were approved unanimously.

Proposed : Mike Biss, Seconded : Doreen Prescott

3. Matter Arising

None

4. Treasurer's report (Carol Hooper)

A detailed income and expenditure had been provided. Carol highlighted some key information as follows:-

- Coaching income looks on a par with last year but this is a false picture. In 2009-10 the club was using up a large Awards for All Grant (£6,250), allowing members to benefit with BOGOF offers. This reduced the actual coaching income (which would have been much higher) as it was covered by the grant.
- This year we have been without a regular coach for some time – reducing possible income.
- This year a grant of £2,885 from Young Lives has been used to fund our schools programme enabling local primary and secondary schools to benefit from free coaching during school hours.
- In summary there has been a 16% rise in income compared to last year which added to the brought forward balance gives a small overall rise in income of 3%.
- Coaching expenditure has seen a drop by 31% over the year
- A large expenditure this year was on maintenance, specifically pruning the trees surrounding the courts and this has improved the playability of the courts.
- In summary expenditure has reduced by 22% over the year.

- Despite a lack of a coach the club is in a very strong financial position going into the new year.
- We have increased our sinking fund in accordance with the Committee's recommendation by £4,600 per year and it now stands at £24,200. This is a fund set aside for the re-surfacing of the courts and renewal of lighting and it will be increased by the same amount this year.
- We now have 9% more in our available funds than last year, which in a tough economic climate is very positive.

Membership Income £7,697.40	Coaching & LTA Subs £7,755.00	Balance B/F £39,004.55
Coaching Income £7,868.69	Court Maintenance/Lighting £3,137.66	+ Income for Year £23,781.37
Grants £2,885.00	Equipment £34.55	Less Expenditure £17,523.04
Misc.Sales £5,330.28	Administration £2,824.06	Balance at Year End £45,262.88
Total Income £23,781.37	Miscellaneous £3,771.77	Sinking Fund £24,200.00
Balance B/F £39,004.55	Total Expenditure £17,523.04	Available Funds £21,062.88
Total Income £62,785.92		

5. Coaching report (Covered under Chairman's Report)

6. Chairman's Report (John Peal)

John thanked all for coming to the AGM and wished them good luck in the raffle and the Wimbledon Draw.

Last year was a good year in the circumstances – with recruitment of a Head Coach a continuing challenge all year, membership has shown only a small drop year on year despite an increase in subs, no coach for most of the year and pressure on everyone's disposable income. The club's teams have been active throughout the year – six in all.

Membership has declined marginally and stands at 169. Papworth remains very good value within the area and for the facilities available. Many other local clubs have far fewer members than Papworth, but with the 4 courts and the floodlights, the club has capacity for over 200, and it's the committee's hope to show some growth in 2011-12.

Membership is advertised through a number of channels – mainly via the website, people passing and seeing the courts and making an enquiry. PTC also advertises in the 6 Villages newsletter, on notice boards in local villages and via the occasional press release to local papers. Many coaching courses are open to non-members for a small surcharge as a way of them sampling what the club has to offer. An email database of lapsed members and past enquiries is maintained to encourage rejoining. Once a year, the Play Tennis Day, which is open to all, attracts a great cross section of ages and abilities and does lead to new subscriptions.

As far as juniors are concerned the outreach work that Diane Cobb does with 5 or 6 local primary schools and Swavesey Village College is vital in promoting the club to local school kids and their parents.

Lastly, old-fashioned word-of-mouth is very effective and John urged all present to take every opportunity to mention what a good club PTC is in so many ways to friends, neighbours and workmates. John thanked Rick Stokes for managing memberships so well each year.

This time last year, we had been advertising for a Head Coach for 6 months. Adverts were placed on the LTA website as far as Herts and Northants but it was evident that the hours we offered and the lack of covered courts for coaching in winter was inhibiting interest. In September we appointed James Ford, but unfortunately it did not work out. A couple of commercial options were explored – effectively Rent-a Coach, but the committee felt that this was not right for PTC and it would be an expensive way to deliver coaching at the club.

Early in the New Year, a Huntingdon-based coach came highly regarded by Clare Bragg. Toby Zimmerman began in Feb and immediately made good impressions all round. However as mentioned in the last Newsletter, Toby has been offered work in the South of France and will be leaving us shortly.

Throughout the year, both Diane Cobb and Sam Douglas have been invaluable in their coaching. Diane has delivered our schools work as this fits with the hours she is available. Sam, who plans to take his Level 2 later this year soon, has been assisting with mini-Tennis on Saturdays. John thanked them both for their support over the past 12 months.

As regards the future, the committee will review the best route forward but it may well be that we accept that we can't provide enough coaching hours to expect to attract and retain a Head Coach, although this would be a shame for the ongoing development of the club.

The clubhouse project is gaining momentum and will be a key project in the coming year and a vital step in the club's continuing development.

Tree-trimming on the South and West boundaries earlier in the year paid huge dividends – the courts suffered from no algal build-up and there were far fewer leaves to contend with on the courts. A local landscape gardener was employed to do 3 leaf sweeps in the autumn. The net effect was far better providing safer playing conditions in the winter season. The committee monitors the court condition on an ongoing basis and will organise further maintenance of the courts when deemed necessary.

It is hoped to introduce some new items in 2011 such as an event for over 50's, format to be determined, to encourage more of our members to enter tournaments. Diane will be running a social session for Mums after Easter, this was tried from Feb half-term but conceded it was too early. A Sunday morning club session will be re-tried to accompany the regular Wednesday evening sessions and this will be promoted via the club email system. All were encouraged to support this.

The Alicante Cup, a mixed ability event, will be held this year on Sunday May 8th. John urged as many members as possible to join in as it's more fun with new players.

John paid tribute to the committee without whom very little would get done! Having stood on the committee for 9 years, for 7 of them as Treasurer, Sally Barnes is stepping down. John thanked Sally, for all your efforts over the years and her assistance in handing over the club's finances to Carol.

Finally, John dealt with the re-appointment of officers which is a procedural requirement. There had been two resignations over the past year – Andy Douglas and Mike Biss. All the remaining members of the 20010/11 committee had agreed to stand again and John asked the meeting to approve their re-appointment en mass. The motion was Proposed by Andy Douglas and Seconded by Harry Webster. All present were in favour. No new appointments were made.

7. New Club Hut Project

Debra presented an update as follows:-

- Plans now approved by South Cambs DC
- Quotes from 2 companies, project likely to cost in the region of £20,000.
- Parish Council willing to consider a contribution to the funding of the project. Decision hopefully to be made at meeting on 13th April
- Once Parish Council decision made, club to look at how to fund the project.
- Building Control Application can now be sent.
- Members support will be required to raise funds and possibly help with internal decorations
- Project still on track to be completed before end of the summer and every effort will be made to avoid disruption to court use.
- Project will take approx 6 weeks to complete.

8. Wimbledon Draw

Debra presented the eligibility criteria for the ballot and a summary of the LTA rules. The draw was completed and tickets allocated as follows:

Monday 20 th June Centre Court £86	Caroline Cree
Monday 27 th June Centre Court £156	Debra Barker
Saturday 2 nd July Centre Court £200	James Hooper
Monday 20 th June No 1 Court £76	Heather Woods
Tuesday 21 st June No 1 Court £76	Fiona Hughes
Thursday 23 rd June No 1 Court £96	Chris Stenchen
Wednesday 29 th June No1 Court £148	Chris Cummings
Thursday 23 rd June No 2 Court £84	Andy Douglas
Tuesday 28 th June No 2 Court £72	Terry Voice (Moira Bond)

Two reserves were also drawn. Moira Bond (1st) and Doreen Prescott (2nd).

After the meeting Terry Voice gave up his tickets and these were offered to Moira Bond

9. AOB

None

The raffle was drawn and the meeting closed at 8.40pm