

EWLTC Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes
Friday 3 March 7:30 pm
129a Dunbabin Road, Liverpool, L16 7QQ

In attendance:

Cath O'Rourke, Phil Duke, Ted Hulme Jr., Marion McKee, Tony McKee, Tracy Smith, Jamie Semple, Suzie McIntosh, Steve Walsh, Debbie Duke, Michael Waller, Steve Tuthill, Michael Gilbertson, Keely O'Keeffe, Tia Morris, Geoff Ewan, Chris Semple, Rob Fitzgerald, Alice Grundy, Lionel Cope, Nicky Taylor, Patricia McCormack, Aleksandra Rozek, Kevin Range, Terry Fillingham, Terri Webster, Jimmy Butterworth, Brian Loughrey, Phil Rigby, Mike Darling, Paul Greenwood, John Thomson, Michael Mangan, Eddie Bannon, Brian Forshaw, Mushtaq Saleri, Fiona Timmins, Scott Forshaw, Ben Walton, Montserrat Fuentes Romero, Adam Walsh, Diane York, Bob York, Akiko Lea & Graham Lea.

1. Welcome

Tony McKee (TMcK - Chair) thanked those for coming on a night in which AGMs are not usually held.

2. Apologies for absence

Liam O'Rourke, Lisa Handley, Paul & Rosemary Jenkinson, Julie Ryan, Fiona Carley, Kevin Murtagh, Dave Shiffman, Val & Wally Freeman, Colette MacFarlane, Catriona Mayland, Tom & Ann Keenan, Lianne French, Nicky Walsh, Kate Lloyd, Leanne Nugent, Samira Butt, Nick & Sue Chadwick, Adrian Thompson, Chris Chan, John Curphey & Ann Walton.

3. Minutes of Previous AGM

These were approved by Alice Grundy & Brian Forshaw.

4. Chair's report

Tony McKee began by paying tribute to two members who passed away during the last year. Ted Hulme Sr worked towards improving the facilities at EWLTC, whilst Keith Barnes' contribution towards the club's social activity was exceptional. Both will be missed.

Tony highlighted EWLTC winning the Tennis Lancashire Club of the Year, extending his thanks to Alison Butt for her nomination (and Tia Morris for her support in this nomination). Tony celebrated EWLTC's most successful League season ever, thanks wholly to the achievement of the Ladies teams, with the A and C winning their respective divisions. The Men's teams had a difficult season, and Tony thanked Chris Semple for his commitment in challenging circumstances.

Tony offered his congratulations to Tia Morris (Coach of the Year) and Samira Butt (Junior Player of the Year) for their success in the Tennis Liverpool awards. In addition, Tony highlighted Tia and Samira's successful pairing in the Liverpool Parks Tournament, along with Andrew and Iain Thompson. Tia and Keely O'Keeffe also represented the GB team that finished as runners up in the World Touch Tennis championship. Tony offered his congratulations to each winner and finalist from the club tournament, and his thanks to Chris for organising.

Tony commended the development of EWLTC's juniors, with all age groups represented in Tennis Lancashire competitions. A growing number of juniors have also started training with the Tennis Lancashire County squad. The coaching and kids' camps have become the envy of the region. In addition, the behaviour of the juniors representing EWLTC has been exemplary. For this, Tony extended his appreciation to Keely (as Head Coach) for her part in this success.

Going forward, it's important to support EWLTC's league play, and maintain the four Ladies' and Six Men's teams from last season. It's also important to support the club's social tennis, and Tony offered his thanks to Brian Loughrey and Michael Gilbertson in their promoting this over the last year. Tony also thanked Adam Walsh for maintaining the court booking calendar to allow members to play arranged sets.

Tony also commended the club's coaching programme, which has seen some players take up coaching. Tony thanked Keely for her part in this and believes that she is the best coach he's ever had. Tony also thanked Alice Grundy for her support as Association Chair over the past year. Tony thanked Phil Duke, the Social Club Committee and the volunteer bar staff, all of whom have played their part in a successful year for the Social Club. Tony appealed to members to use the excellent facilities that the club has to offer.

Tony highlighted the club's arrangement with Merseyside Veterans (The Vets) as an illustration that Tennis is a game for life. The age range of our membership (from 3 to 83) reflects this. Tony also acknowledged the welcome funds from the Vets using the club. The club has also raised funds for Mind (as the club's chosen charity for the year) and Macmillan through their coffee mornings.

However, Tony stated that all was not well. As Chair he had hoped to bring stability to the EWLTC committee. Instead, he oversaw a committee compromised by disagreement, resignation, complaints, unpleasantness and ongoing tension. Tony contemplated whether the current committee structure was fit for purpose, or whether an alternative model would help bring a sense of perspective. The recent introduction of a code of conduct may prove helpful.

Tony stated that he looked to bring leadership and integrity in his second period as Chair. However, he wondered whether his approach was old fashioned, despite being approachable to members. That said, Tony could look back with some satisfaction at the quality of the courts and clubhouse, plus the unprecedented success achieved by the club during his time in charge. Tony signed off by wishing the new committee well.

There were no questions from members, though Alice offered her thanks to Tony for his service as Chair. Tony offered his thanks to Nicky Taylor (Welfare Officer), Steve Walsh (Complaints Officer), and to outgoing committee members Rob Fitzgerald (Secretary), Chris Semple (Men's Captain), Steve Tuthill and Dave Shiffman.

5. Treasurer's report

a. Tennis Accounts Summary

Memberships

We currently have 293 members, down from 317 the previous year. Adult numbers are down by 19 to 151. The other categories are relatively similar. The positive this year is the number of junior members which has risen from 112 to 121.

We have, as a committee, decided to keep the membership prices at the current level. We are very conscious as a group of the cost of living crisis and current economic issues and didn't want to raise any prices at this time.

Tournaments

The club tournament was hugely popular, with the presentation evening at Marantos a huge success. The memorial trophy was also a positive event for 2022. The figures for these events are as follows:

Club Tournament			
<u>In</u>		<u>Out</u>	
Tournament	£1,580.00	Trophies	£338.67
Marantos	£420.00	Disco	£317.00
		Meal	£947.00
	<u>£2,000.00</u>		<u>£1,602.67</u>
	0		7
		PROFIT	£397.33
Memorial Trophy			
<u>In</u>		<u>Out</u>	
Tennis	£160.00	Food	£278.00
BBQ	<u>£318.00</u>		
	£478.00		<u>£278.00</u>
		PROFIT	£200.00

Sinking Funds

A transfer of £24,582 was made to the tennis club's 2nd sinking fund account with Hinckley & Rugby in October. Current amounts per sinking fund are visible on the End of Year Accounts page. We currently have £116,486.50 saved in those accounts (minus any interest payments which won't go out until May).

Other

Our kids' camps are always popular and act as an introduction to the club for a lot of our younger members. Our camps have generated £540 for the year leading up to February and look set to continue in popularity this year too. There was an issue with the submission of the gift aid for 2022 with HMRC and we have not yet received the rebate, so am unable to share any amounts of what will be attributed to the tennis club. The veterans have been a popular activity this year bringing in £1400 income for us – that looks set to continue into the coming year.

In response, Ted Hulme Jr. remarked on the lack of a year on year comparison in this summary. Tony (who delivered this summary on behalf of current Treasurer Leanne Nugent) noted this.

Tracy Smith accepted the accounts, with Ben Walton seconding.

b. Social Club Accounts Summary

Ted confirmed that the social club's takings totalled £28,600 during 2022. This almost beat the social club's best year in 2015. Ted highlighted the following factors in this figure:

- The feelgood factor from the success of the Ladies' league teams
- The increase in the hire of the venue from members, with 3 venue bookings already confirmed for 2023.
- The growth of the junior coaching events

However, Ted noted the downturn for League matches, where Match Teas are no longer mandatory. The club resolves to offer teas for more matches next season.

The social club made a total of £13,688 profit. However, Ted explained that it was difficult to make a direct comparison with the previous year due to Covid. Another factor in this profit figure was the Association no longer charging rent to the Social Club as the Association begins its restructure. The Social Club paid a total of £11,000 to the Association.

Ted offered his thanks to Phil as Licensee, Michael Gilbertson for opening the bar on Friday evenings, and the bar staff. The weekly quizzes have also helped generate around £200 in takings each night.

The switch from Cash only to Card only has also been a success, though the £500 cost for operating the card payment facility is the only negative, and a minor one given the overall takings through the bar.

Going forward, the social club has set up a sub-committee in response to the sharp increase in fuel costs. Ted thanked Alice for her research and Phil for his review of the facilities to ensure that the club is equipped to deal with these rising costs.

Lionel Cope accepted the accounts, with Cath O'Rourke seconding.

c. Lottery Accounts Summary

Steve Tuthill confirmed the cost of entering the lottery at £5 per month, payable by standing order of cash. For each monthly draw, two thirds of the lottery receipts are paid as prizes, with the remaining third paid into the sinking fund.

The total number of members subscribed to the lottery is 93. Prizes total £100, £90, £50 & £20. Each winner is announced on WhatsApp, email and on the noticeboard. Last March, June, September and December there was a £100 bonus draw. There was also a loser's draw for £50.

Any member can join by contacting Tut. The maximum arrears allowed for lottery members are £15.

For 2022, the total income received from lottery members came to £5,355. With £3,568 paid out in prizes, less £15 arrears, the total profit comes to £1,772.

Tia accepted the accounts, with Tracy seconding. Brian Forshaw expressed his thanks to Tut for his contribution.

6. Election of the Committee for the 2023 tennis season

Current members (all unopposed):

Michael Gilbertson: Vice Chair
 Leanne Nugent: Treasurer
 Tia Morris: Ladies Captain
 Brian Loughrey: Club Captain
 Tracy Smith: Membership Secretary

(Since the initial AGM notice Steve Tuthill has decided to step down to allow other members their chance to join the committee but he will retain responsibility for the lottery)

New Nominations (all unopposed):

Role	Nomination	Proposer	Second
Chair	Jamie Semple	Suzie McIntosh	Shirley Cottenden
Secretary	Adam Walsh	Tia Morris	Montserrat Fuentes Romero
Committee Member	Geoff Ewan	Tracy Moorcroft	Scott Forshaw
Committee Member	Paul Greenwood	Alice Grundy	Brian Forshaw
Committee Member	Paul Jenkinson	Jamie Semple	Lionel Cope
Committee Member	Mushtaq Saleri	Alice Grundy	Suzie McIntosh

Intermediate/Junior Representative: Samira Butt

in line with section 4c of our current rules, her representation of our under 18 members is supported by Sean Harwood, Iain Thompson, Andrew Thompson and Joseph Walton.

Introductory speech:

Jamie offered his thanks to the outgoing committee, and welcome to the new committee. Jamie consider being Chair a great honour, having been a member for 50 years where he has helped the club. There is plenty of work ahead, especially with familiarising new members with their role. Jamie hopes that the committee will maintain what is the best club in the county.

Jamie put out an appeal for the unfilled role of Men's Captain, emphasising the difference that volunteers make to the club. Jamie offered his thanks to Terry Fillingham for his work maintaining the facilities at the club.

7. Any Other Business (AOB)

a. Proposal to remove the following from section 11 of the EWLTC Rules

The licensee of East Wavertree Social Club is automatically delegated the legal responsibilities of controlling the bar supplying intoxicating liquor and shall be co-opted onto The Committee. The Association is proposing to change the structure of the organisation in advance of the legal changes being made next year.

At the last Extraordinary General Meeting, members decided to change the status of the Association to an incorporated charity to take effect from 1 January 2024. As part of the reorganisation, the social club will become a trading subsidiary of the newly incorporated charity.

The vote to change the above was carried.

b. Lottery Draw

January: Aleksandra Rozek (£20), Alice Grundy (£60), Ann Walton (£93) and Mike Waller (£100 + £25 bonus)

February: Tracy Smith (£20), Ron Burgess (£59), Val Freeman (£90) and Eddie Bannon (£100 + £25 bonus)