



## Milford Tennis and Squash Club

Minutes of the 88<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting: May 6<sup>th</sup> 2017

Foster Taylor Room: 5p.m.

At the start of the meeting, the Chairman welcomed everyone to the 88<sup>th</sup> MTSC (hereafter referred to as "the Club") AGM and read the fire emergency procedures to the members present, as required by the Club's fire prevention policy

### 1. Apologies for Absence:-

Ray and Doreen Pettingell, Ian Chislett Bruce, Mary Hill, Jo White, Sue and Malcolm Mecklenburgh, Jenny and Mick Garfath, Suzie and Paul Watson, Peter Makin, William Bennett, Anne Heathorn, Keith Metcalf, Deborah King, Wendy and Michael Rouse, Joan Green, Leigh Jerwood, Sue Keywood, Marcia Horne, Pippa Thomas, Frances Quinn, Paul Wilson, Anne Mahoney, Zilla Hay

### 2. Approval of Minutes of 2016 AGM

The minutes have been on display all year on the Committee Notice Board in the foyer and also on the web site.

As no queries have been received, the Chairman requested a proposer and seconder

**Proposed:** Jim Bays

**Seconded:** Neil Flanagan

### 3. Receive Annual Reports

The Chairman gave a summary of the Reports which had been issued with renewal papers commenting on any points that had arisen since the reports were written.

- **Introduction**

The Chairman stated that at the end of his 5<sup>th</sup> year in office he was delighted to report that it has been another very successful year for the Club

At the last AGM, it was noted that if the membership levels were maintained, the Club would have around £12,000 available to spend on new projects and listed those being considered by the Committee. In the event, subscription income reached £72,760 and with lower than anticipated spending in a number of areas including squash maintenance, power and cleaning, the Club ended up spending over £16,000 on these projects and still had funds in line with budget at the year end. The most expensive item was the REBO tennis practice wall resulting from the petition presented at the last AGM. After much research the REBO wall was selected and installed on Court 6 in November at a cost of £8,950. The chairman hoped it has, and will continue to, prove popular with members. After much pressure, the suppliers agreed to provide a solution to the initial problem of balls falling behind the wall and this was done in January. The other larger items were protectors round the floodlighting posts, aimed at preventing possible injury, new carpets for the squash corridor and gallery and fitted coir mat at the squash court entrance, and additional slabs up to the new shed which tidied up the whole area to the back of the Clubhouse. A good hand drier was also installed in the ladies shower room at the request of members. At the last AGM the table tennis section requested some sort of barrier forming a corridor between the kitchen and the door to the shower rooms. After looking at all alternative solutions, the section have decided to use signs requesting members to use alternative routes to the shower rooms to avoid interrupting play. It is hoped that members will respect this request.

For 2017/18 and for the second year running, subscriptions have not been increased and provided membership levels are maintained, it is expected to have in the region of £15,000 available for new projects. One project being considered is to build curved stone walls either side of the entrance. Our President, Ken Burbidge, has kindly said that he would like to contribute £1,000 for a slate plaque bearing the Club name which would be inserted into the southern wall. All the tennis court floodlight bulbs will be replaced in September and the squash court 2 lights improved. The Management committee is also investigating a power brusher which would remove the moss and debris which collects around the edges of the tennis courts. This would cost in the region of £3,600. One such power brusher is used by a tennis club in Billericay and the Chairman suggested the club be contacted to check on its efficacy before purchase (Grounds)

The new squash court heaters have proved very successful with reduced gas costs whilst keeping the courts above 9C at all times and at 16C during peak times and

when required outside these times. The introduction of Melanie Hagenau as Squash and Racketball coach in May has resulted in the involvement of juniors and ladies in squash. Melanie has also now organised 2 Club tournaments covering both squash and racketball which were thoroughly enjoyed by those taking part.

The walls of both squash courts are in need of refurbishment and the Committee has agreed that rather than re-paint the walls, which would last a very short time, they should be re-plastered with modern custom plaster which will last many years. This work will be done in May 2017, the funds coming from the sinking fund

Courts 5 and 6 were re-carpeted in September as planned. Because of the previous flooding on these courts, great care was taken to ensure that the courts would drain quickly when the new carpets were laid. The opportunity was also taken to replace the loose slabs on the far side of Court 5. This resulted in the work taking rather longer than planned. The Chairman thanked all tennis members for their patience during this period and also gave particular thanks to Peter Blass for all the time he spent with the contractors ensuring that all the work was done properly. He also thanked the Hampshire Playing Fields Association for a grant of £1500 towards refurbishment of the courts.

During the last few months a lot of time was spent by Alan Kirk and Russell to revamp the web site, particularly making it more user friendly for mobile devices. £1,200 was accrued in the accounts for this work and it is hoped to switch to the new web site very shortly.

- **MEMBERSHIP**

In February, it was reported with pleasure, that the number of members had reached 620 including 129 juniors, but of course the membership year end is end April and at that date membership had increased to 639, slightly below the 646 at end April last year, but still testament to a thriving and successful club.

- **TENNIS**

Neil Flanagan, our Tennis Chairman, noted that tennis membership has remained remarkably stable at around 450 players including well over 120 juniors.

When the report was written, the Club had run the 2 annual LTA tournaments in 2016. The 16th Vets tournament in April 2016 attracted 151 players and raised over £2,000 thanks to the organising Committee of Jo White, John Cliff, Frances Quinn and Alan Gordon. The 78th junior Tournament was also a success with some 72 entrants and raising £1,000 thanks to Geoff Burch, all the Junior Committee and the many other helpers. A big thank you to Martyn Osbourne, as the treasurer for both

tournaments and all the volunteers who helped to run these very successful events for our Club.

Since the report was written, Alan Gordon, Jo White and John Cliffe have run the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Vets Tournament. This was their second time running it and this time the weather was excellent, ensuring that all matches were played. It was enjoyed by all and it was especially good to see our Bev Cabot and Joan Green beat the No. 1 seeds to win the Ladies 70+.

The Club Championships came to a head on Finals Day in September with a very busy day of matches followed by a BBQ provided by Sands2 Caterers.

The Club ran 3 American Tournaments over the year including the Rosemerryn Bowl which was followed by a Christmas lunch with over 30 members and guests participating.

The Club continues to run 16 teams in the Hampshire and Dorset leagues with over 80 members taking part and consistently achieving over a 50% win ratio. A number of our players represent the Counties of Dorset and Hampshire.

The annual charity tournament organised by Mary Crane and Mary Hill raised £850 for the Stroke Association. A huge thanks to Di Clark for providing and producing the excellent food for the charity tournament

Since the tennis Report was written, our Assistant Coach, Charlie Prince has given notice and will leave the Club at the end of May to explore new tennis horizons in the USA. We are grateful to Charlie for all he has done for the Club and wish him well. The recruitment process is underway for a new Assistant Coach.

At the end of his first year as Tennis Chairman, Neil thanked his fellow tennis committee members for their support and guidance. He also thanked Russell and Charlie for their commitment to the Club and their enthusiasm to keep improving and developing the club's coaching services.

- **SQUASH**

John Satchwell has reported that racketball appears to be gathering pace, in terms of player numbers if not in terms of players' speed around the court. Squash participation, in comparison, has changed little over the year with loss and gain of members being rather balanced. Since writing his report, however, it was announced that the squash courts in New Milton were closing and MTSC hopes to gain over 10 and possibly more new members from this source. 4 have already joined.

Melanie, the new Coach, has introduced a number of regular sessions – Ladies Racketball Group Sessions, Squash Group Coaching, a racketball open session and Junior Squash Coaching. Since John wrote his report, Melanie ran a second Tournament towards the end of April which was very successful.

The regular, Monday evening "Club night" Squash Sessions (between 1800 and 2030) offer an opportunity for members of any standard to come along and play a few shots in a friendly environment, without the pressures of league or match play. All members are encouraged to come along to learn or pass on a few tips. We are also planning to run more squash and racketball events during the year. As anticipated last year, we have only been able to enter one squash team in the Dorset County Squash Leagues this year. The team is nevertheless competing well in its respective Division and with luck, and a following wind and minor improvements in performance may even achieve a promotion place. Good news on the racketball front is that we have entered a team in the Dorset County Racketball League for the first time this year, however the "less good" news is that the team is likely to be relegated at the end of the season. There is little doubt that both squads would benefit from an injection of new blood in terms of numbers and standard of players. Any members aspiring to play in either team should contact John Satchwell.

The squash court wall refurbishment work will be carried out during late May 2017 into early June. One court should remain useable at all times, but each court will be out of use for approximately 2 weeks. The floors will be re-sanded and new tins installed in conjunction with the above works.

John also noted that Squash England is trying to change the name of Racketball to Squash 57 (the ball is 57mm in diameter). It remains to be seen if they will be successful.

John thanked the squash members for supporting the Club and him during the last year and wished them a successful and injury free season.

The Chairman reminded everyone that tennis players can use the squash facility up to 5.15pm every day for only £50 per year. A great way to keep fit when it's too wet for tennis!

- **HOUSE**

Peter Blass and Mick Garfath have been heavily involved in the new projects and routine maintenance in the form of PAT testing of electrics, certification of the fire detection and security systems, checking the heating systems, etc. They also have to solve the many problems, breakdowns, etc. that occur on a regular basis.

Peter thanked members for helping to keep the facilities in good condition and for registering any problems in the maintenance book in the foyer so that they can be attended to before they get worse.

The Chairman added that it is a great credit to them that the Pavilion functions so smoothly.

- **GROUNDS**

Bob Hillyer and Chris Cabot normally carry out maintenance of the courts and grounds early on a Wednesday morning. This includes sweeping of the courts with the tractor, removing debris from the courts, arranging for hedge cutting, keeping the grounds neat and tidy, tidying the borders, putting plants in tubs and general maintenance.

New windbreak netting has been bought and fitted along the back of courts 1,2,3. The hedge boundary, belonging to the club, behind courts 1,2,3 was cut back by one of our neighbours. This resulted in an awkward sun reflection issue off the neighbour's conservatory roof and an additional windbreak netting has been fitted to combat this until the hedge regrows. Members were asked if the change to the netting has resulted in reduced glare. The response was a definite "no". The Chairman said that the Management Committee will now have to consider alternative solutions to the problem.

A number of tension wires in the court fences were broken, weakening the fences, and all were replaced in February.

A new waste bin was also installed by the Club entrance.

The Chairman added that it is thanks to them that the grounds and facilities look so good.

- **BRIDGE**

Yvonne Griffiths noted that the past twelve months have been very busy for the bridge section with duplicate on Tuesday afternoons averaging about seven tables. On Wednesday the numbers are still very low and we are checking whether members would be interested in playing duplicate or Chicago on that morning to increase attendance. Thursday afternoon, pair rubber bridge is played which is still doing well.

The Christmas party was attended by 52 persons and a good time was had by all. Clive Griffiths organised a Guess Who game before lunch with members bringing photos of when they were younger. A raffle was held, organised by Pam Alexander

and Joan Green and the proceeds £150 went to a local charity – Cancer and Leukaemia Group.

Yvonne thanked all the committee for their time and assistance throughout the year and particularly Choo for keeping the bridge section running whilst she was away.

Yvonne also thanked Peter Blass for attending to the blinds in the Foster Taylor room and all the other repair jobs he has been asked to do.

- **MAH JONG**

Sue Baptiste noted that the Mah-jong section had had another good year, meeting on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. It is a very friendly group, and all are welcome to try this fascinating and fun game. The fund raising event in June 2016 was very successful.

- **LUCERNE ARTS**

The Chairman commented with sadness, that John Butler died earlier this year and would be greatly missed by all. John had been running Lucerne Arts for 9 years. The Chairman hoped that the section would continue under new leadership.

- **TABLE TENNIS**

Keith Metcalf noted that Thursday evening sessions remained popular with about 15 regular players. Thursday evening sessions run from 7.15 pm to 9.00 pm throughout the year.

There are two tables that can be set up, though they usually manage with a single table and play a variety of highly competitive doubles games.

- **BAR REPORT**

Having been Bar Manager for a number of years, Gordon Parker has handed the reigns to Sue Bolding. Although bar sales were down this year due to fewer Wednesday Suppers and other social events, the bar still managed a profit of over £2,600. The Chairman thanked Gordon for all he has done as Bar Manager.

- **GENERAL**

On the social side, the Winter Warmers on the first Wednesday of each month continued to prove popular with Mick and Jenny Garfath running the bar. Until recently, Mike Halliwell provided the snacks, but this has now been taken over by Jenny. There were also a number of Wednesday Suppers during the Summer which were enjoyed by all, but there were fewer meals than in previous years. The Committee decided as an experiment to see if any members wanted to cook a Supper during the Winter. On May 10, the 3<sup>rd</sup> such Supper will be held. This, before the start of the summer supper season.

The Club has now been 4 years without a Social member and it is again hoped that a member will come forward to take over this position and organise such events as quiz nights, dances, etc.

Although this is the 88<sup>th</sup> AGM, the Club was founded in 1927, so this is our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. If anyone would like to arrange a function to celebrate this, please contact myself or Bev.

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked the small group of members who devote their time and talents for the benefit of the Club. These include the Management Committee, members of various sub-committees and to all he extended sincere thanks for all their hard work and dedication and congratulate them on all they have achieved. Any members who would like to get involved in the running of the Club will be warmly welcomed and should contact myself or Bev.

As no questions were asked on the content of the report, a proposer and seconder were requested:-

**Proposer:** Allan Marles      **Secorder:** Pauline Richards

#### 4. **RECEIVE AND ADOPT ACCOUNTS**

Bryan Marsden drew members' attention to the following:-

- Bryan talked about the consistency of income, stating that the retention of members is key to the continuing financial health of the club.
- Sue Bolding, in her capacity as Bar Manager is now able to sign cheques.
- As the Foster Taylor Room is not hired out so often for member functions, income is accordingly down. Bryan also stressed that there is careful vetting for those who do wish to hire out the room given problems in the recent past.
- He drew attention to the high cost of PRS (£639) – the cost of having a television in a public space.
- Linda Havers asked if the match fees were accounted for. Assurances were given that they were netted off and that tight control is kept of receipt of seasonal match fees from the team captains.
- In response to a query from Roger Cook re accrual of website costs – BM and JR assured him that the figure of £1200 had been accrued for these accounts in the overall website costs and also accounted for in Sundry Creditors
- There being no further queries the accounts were adopted



**Proposed:** Jim Bays

**Seconded:** Neil Flanagan

**4. APPOINT INDEPENDENT EXAMINER FOR CURRENT YEAR**

Malcolm Mecklenburgh has kindly agreed to continue in this role for the current year. John Richards thanked Malcolm for his dedication and hard work in examining the accounts.

**Proposed:** Phyllis Blass

**Seconded:** Linda Havers

**5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Forms were circulated with membership renewal packages, giving details of the current officers and section representatives, together with a form to complete for proposal of an alternative or, in the case of the vacant social member position, someone to fill the position. The only nomination received was for Sue Bolding as Bar Manager.

**The current officers are:**

President	Ken Burbidge	Elected for 3 years to May 2019
Chairman	John Richards	
Secretary	Beverley Cabot	
Treasurer	Bryan Marsden	
Membership	John Richards	
House	Peter Blass	
Grounds	Bob Hillyer	
Social	Vacant – Nominations required	
Bar	Gordon Parker Resigned. Sue Bolding proposed	
Communications	Jan Caldwell	

**Representatives from the sections:**

Tennis	Neil Flanagan
Squash and Racket Ball	John Satchwell
Bridge and other Sections	Yvonne Griffiths

As no alternatives had been put forward, the Chairman proposed that a block vote be carried out covering all positions. The committee was duly elected en bloc.

**Proposed:** Clive Griffiths

**Seconded:** Allan Marles

## **7. RATIFICATION OF THE RATES FOR ENTRANCE FEES AND ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2018.**

The subscriptions of all sections have again been held unchanged for the second year running. Entrance fees have also been kept unchanged with no entrance fees for the first 20 squash and bridge / social members.

The renewal forms with the unchanged rates were sent out with the AGM papers and a large number have already paid. So far £36,000 has been received in membership fees. The Chairman also said that in comparison with other local tennis clubs, Hale Gardens 'rates were marginally higher than MTSC.

The rates remain as:-

Single Tennis	£190
Family Tennis	£350
Single Squash/RB	£180
Family Squash/RB	£322
Single Tennis & Squash	£275
Family Tennis & Squash	£475
Bridge/MJ/Social	£40
Squash/RB for tennis members to 5.15pm	£50

The Chairman asked for ratification of these rates.

**Proposed:** Jim Bays

**Seconded:** Peter Blass

## **8. Proposal to Amend Club Rule 4.3.2**

Students over 18 going on to further education usually go to university in other areas and if not part of a Family Membership therefore qualify for Country membership. It was felt by the Committee that this was unfair to students going to a local university who would have to pay the full fee. It was therefore decided to extend Country Membership to include all adults over 18 in full time education.

The Chairman asked for approval to amend Rule 4.3.2 on this basis

**Proposed:** David Hart

**Seconded:** Elizabeth Cook

Jo White has recently raised the suggestion that it may encourage younger members to join or continue membership if a separate category for all adults aged 18 to 25 was formed with subs at 50% of normal levels. This will be considered by the Tennis and Main Committees.

## **9. AOB**

No items have been raised this year.

Of the items raised at the last AGM:-

- Quality of balls used in Club sessions: A ball dryer has been purchased by Tennis Chairman, Neil Flanagan and installed in the foyer. This appears to be working well.
- Tennis Practice Wall: Purchased
- Partition between kitchen and showers: alternative solution agreed with table tennis section
- Improved Hand Drier for Ladies Shower room – installed.

## **10. PETER COWLES CUP**

President Ken Burbidge gave a brief background to the Cup which was given to Peter Cowles on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday who then decided that it should be presented to members who have made a big difference to the Club in some way. Peter also declared that in his absence, the decision would be made by the Chairman.

In his brief address, the Chairman said that there were a number of members who have done a huge amount for the Club. However, for this year, he had decided to award the Cup to the Grounds Team of Bob Hillyer and Chris Cabot.

Bob and Chris are the 'unsung heros' of the Club, beavering away in all weathers to keep the tennis courts and grounds in the excellent condition we have come to expect and which it is so easy to take for granted.

The Chairman presented the Cup to Bob Hillyer and Chris Cabot, congratulating and thanking them both.

The Chairman thanked all those who had attended the AGM and closed the meeting at 5.50p.m, reminding those present that Bev had arranged for cheese and biscuits to be available after the meeting and Sue Bolding would be running the bar.