



Minutes of AGM – 21st March 2024
Held at Shiplake Bowling Club

Present:

Committee:

Marcus Binning (MB) – Chair, Jane Sharples (JS) – Treasurer, Jenny Berger (JB) – Secretary, Karen Peters (KP) - Membership Secretary, Rachel Richardson (RR) - Committee Member, Chris Ovenden – Head Coach (HC),

Members:

Len Mitten, Dave Vaughan (Coach), Kevin James, Steve Berger, Graham Cooper, Georgie O'Brien, Linda Malden, Fiona Jennings, Q. Jones, Diana Jones, Katie Binning, Sandra Greenslade, Peter Robertson. Janette Verrall, Amanda Andrews, Nikki Botterill, Brenda Nearchou, Caroline Edwards, Richard Ormerod, Andy Stalwood, Gary B , Jim Weatherston, Charlie Ferber, Lisse-Lotte Stewart, Sarah Penny

Apologies:

John Church, Sally and Keith Greenfield,

1. Introduction and matters arising from previous meeting

MB welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Minutes from the AGM held on 29th March 2024 were approved by the meeting with no matters arising.

2. Chairperson's Summary of the year (MB)

MB reported this had been a great year for Shiplake Tennis Club. The playing programme had been very active - the junior programme was once again thriving due in part to the popular coaching from Chris and Dave, and the adult teams had been very successful in the winter leagues. The Championship and finals day had been well attended and the mini league format was being swapped this year for a straight knockout competition.

The governance of the Club was now in a good place and the finances although still challenging, were in a much better position than previous years and the income/outgoings were more clearly understood thanks to a huge effort by Jane Sharples – the Treasurer.

Plans for the next year were to continue to control the finances – in particular allocating funds to repaint the courts. MB welcomed the offer from two members to join the Committee as social secretaries and looked forward to building the social side of the tennis club. Dates were already in the diary for a Club session 28th April and a friendly doubles tournament on 19th May (being organised by Amanda Jennings and Cosima Wagner-Piggott).

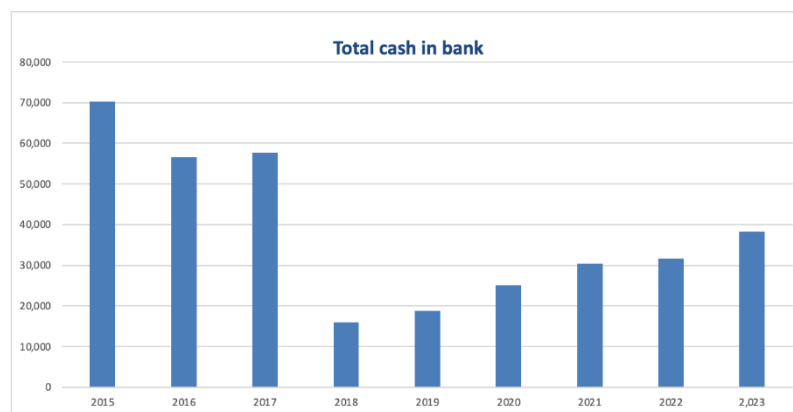
3. Treasurer's Report year (JS)

3a. Current financial status

The audited accounts have been produced for a 12 month period from 01.01.23 – 31.12.23

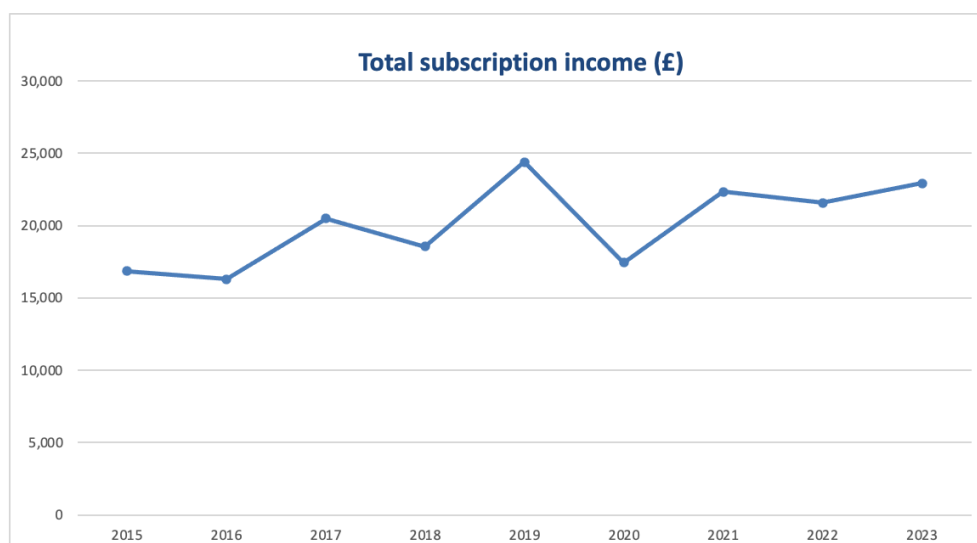
Cash balance

- The club's cash balance as at 31.12.23 was £38,287 vs an opening cash balance on 01.01.23 of £31,674. There was an overall cash gain of £6,614 for the period



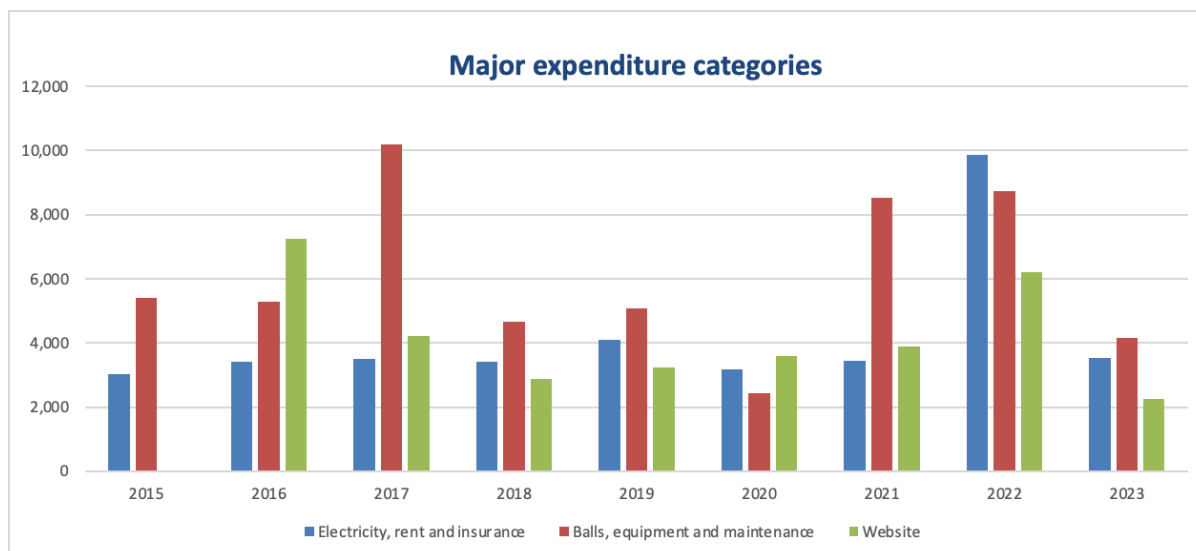
Income

- Subscription income for the period was £22,914. This is a slight increase over 2022 but total subs have been essentially unchanged for the last 3 years
- Net coaching income remained negative due to carry over severance costs from 2022. For 2024 and beyond we forecast a positive net income of c. £2,000 p.a.
- Renting courts to Shiplake College contributed a further £1,020 in revenue
- Interest income has increased to £636 as a result of restructuring the banking



Expenditure

Major expenditure items from 2015 to date are charted below



- Expenditure in all major 'buckets' was down versus 2022
- Website costs were reduced vs 2022 and are stable after the successful rebuild
- Electricity costs for 2023 benefited significantly from a write off of historical charges by SSE
- Balls, equipment and maintenance costs were down versus 2022, helped by economies in online purchases of balls, some residual stock from 2022, dispensing with the gardener.....and the fact that we didn't spend anything on the courts.

Outlook for 2024

The Committee has budgeted for a clean and repaint of the courts as soon as possible in 2024. Cost estimate c. £5k.

Subscription income for 2024 YTD is running at very similar levels to the 2023 equivalent. We anticipate some additional new members throughout the year attracted by the coaching programme. For the first time, coaching will make a net contribution to cash of c. £2,200 in 2024.

It is important that the club continues to add to its cash reserves year on year to allow for court resurfacing and other capital expenditure when this is required. To this end, it is essential that total subscription revenue remains at or above current levels.

Questions on the Treasurers Report:

Court replacement: Q asked if the cash for the court replacement was ring-fenced.

JS said not specifically, it was being held in a higher interest account to ensure it was gaining the best return possible until it was needed.

Coaching income: Q asked if the Club had received any coaching income for the first 6 months and what was the expected income in the future.

JS replied, that the Club had offered Chris 6 months rent free court usage to get him to join the Club whilst he established the coaching programme. JS said there was a net positive effect from the coaching both in financial terms and in benefits to members. The actual contribution was still being worked out as the model which had been set up was quite complicated and an administrative burden and there were costs on the old TR contract which had gone into this years accounts. CO provides detailed breakdown of who has been coached each quarter. JS is working with him to try and simplify the charging model and the reporting system. By next year the income will be much clearer.

Electricity costs: Q congratulated JS on obtaining a refund of ~£5000 from SSE. It was noted that the increased membership fees had covered the higher electricity costs and now the Club has a smart meter fitted it will be easier to monitor electricity usage and alternative suppliers are being investigated.

3b. Appointment of the Auditor

- Peter Greenslade was proposed and approved by all present as the Auditor (Proposer J. Verrall, Seconded K.Peters)

3c. Membership subscriptions for 2025

- Membership fees of £155 for a single adult and £55 for a junior were proposed for the year 2025. The meeting voted and the fees were approved unanimously.

3d. Proposed new membership category – “Parent member”

CO reported that a few adults of young juniors had enquired if they could have a limited form of membership where they could only play with their young child to help them develop their tennis skills, but they did not want to join or play as a full adult member. This would encourage the junior development and bring in some income from parents who currently wouldn't consider joining and maybe come only as a visitor.

A long discussion was held including – how would this be policed, what would be the impact on court usage and how would it affect existing members.

The meeting voted and approved the category at £50 per adult Parent Member for a trial period of one year. It would be monitored over this year and reviewed at next year's AGM.

4. Membership Secretary's Report (KP)

KP provided the following data on membership upto 20th March 2023:

We currently have 181 members – 125 Adults, 9 Students, 40 Juniors and 7 complimentary. This compares with 217 in March 2023. Hoping to attract some more new members once the weather improves!

The membership numbers will be monitored by the Committee over the next few months.

The new website is working well for both renewals and new members.

Questions on the membership report:

JV/SG raised the point that many local people were not aware the restrictions on Club membership, whereby membership was limited to people living in Shiplake or Binfield Heath, had been removed. They knew of Conversations now accepted applications for

5. Club Teams' Report

We currently have 5 ladies winter teams (Ladies A, B and C in the Oxfordshire winter league and Ladies 1 and 2 in the Berkshire Winter league. In the summer we have four Ladies summer teams (Oxfordshire A and B and Berkshire ladies 1 and 2.)

Men's Teams we have: Berks men's Seniors (over 55), Summer (Division 5A) and Oxfordshire Men's A Winter Team (Division 4)

Overall its been a great year for the STC teams - Congratulations to everyone in the Club who has played in them – five of the winter Teams have achieved promotion: Oxfordshire Ladies B and C Teams promoted to division 3, Berkshire Ladies 1st team move up into division 7, Ladies 2nd team to division 9 and Men's winter league Team promoted to division 4. The Ladies OLTA A team will hopefully remain in the Premier league. The teams' successes will be featured in the Henley Standard this week.

Amanda Andrews read out a summary of all the reports provided by the Team Captains – full report available in the Appendix.

6. Head Coach's report (CO)

- Thank you for such a warm welcome over the last year from all the members and of course the committee for their continued support. I feel we've helped collectively grow the club over the last year and we are all really enjoying coaching here.
- **Junior coaching programme**, having restructured the coaching programme with sessions available for all ages and abilities with options both after school and Saturday mornings there are plenty of times to play.
- We've got a consistent programme set up now, from mini tennis Red (4/5 year olds) up to our Advanced Academy including players getting involved in club nights with the adults.
- Saturday morning for anyone who has come down, we have a thriving programme with adults and juniors spread out across the courts. Two busy adult groups and a morning of junior coaching.
- Between us we have private coaching taking place throughout the week, including some ladies teams having coaching in the week within the teams which has been enjoyable and good to see a couple promotions for the teams take place too!

Tennis Camps

- We were able to run a tennis camp in every school holiday last year giving children the opportunity to do tennis over an extended time in the school holidays. Every Friday we have an advanced junior camp aimed at all our stronger older players which has proven popular.

- Running alongside the tennis camp we also are running a Young Tennis Leaders course, this is aimed at teenagers who would like to take their first step into tennis coaching with us. It is a great opportunity for the players to step on the other side of the net and build some key personal skills, also looks great for there CV or personal statement,

School Links

- We have continued our strong link with Shiplake primary with close to 20 children playing with us in the after school club on a Friday! We start from Reception class which having the children at that age involved with us in tennis hopefully will set them up within the club for the rest of their school years.

- Last year we ran a free tennis session at the school where every child had an opportunity to try tennis. We will be doing the same this year free of charge when the better weather arrives!

Tournament

- We will be running the junior club championships in the summer months with lots of age group categories running once again. This will be sent out over the Easter holidays, giving everyone the summer term and holidays to get matches complete.

- We will also be having some friendly junior matches with Wargrave to give the players more opportunity to play some competition.

- We are planning on running a Pickle ball session on the courts in the warmer weather to give people the opportunity to try it out.

Rackets and Re Stringing

- Some members may be aware offer a re-stringing service. General rule of thumb is how many times you play a week is how often you should change your strings as the tension can go in the racket. It is £30 which includes a free over grip.

- We can also get 30% off all Wilson rackets, clothing, shoes etc with code Ovenden-216 at checkout. If you are unsure on what racket to get, we have some to try or can also recommend.

Thanks again for all the support and let's hope for a successful rest of 2024

MB thanked the coaching team on behalf of the members- many members now organise small group coaching and several ladies had reported they felt their success in the teams was due in part to CO coaching.

7. Committee Roles – Farewells and election of 2023 Committee:

MB thanked all Committee members for their hard work, and a special thankyou and gift was provided to Karen Peters the Membership Secretary who has volunteered tirelessly on the Committee for over 20 years.

The following nominations for Committee roles were proposed and seconded. Each proposal was voted on and received a majority support. The role of H&S officer remains vacant.

Role	Name	Nominated by	Seconded
Chairperson	Marcus Binning	Jane Sharples	Karen Peters
Treasurer	Jane Sharples	Marcus Binning	John Church
Club Secretary	Jenny Berger	Sandra Greenslade	Amanda Jennings
Membership	Lise-Lotte Stewart	Karen Peters	Jenny Berger
Social Secretary	Caroline Wiseman Sarah Penny	Jenny Berger	Karen Peters
Health and Safety			
Member w/o portfolio	John Church	Rachel Richardson	Marcus Binning
Welfare and Policies Officer	Rachel Richardson	Steve Berger	Jane Sharples

8. A.O.B.

JV asked about court cleaning – MB advised this would be done with the court re-painting. Q Jones kindly offered to manage the quotes and process of getting the courts repainted.

APPENDIX - Team Reports

AGM Team Reports 2024

We currently have 5 ladies winter teams (Ladies A, B and C in the Oxfordshire winter league and Ladies 1 and 2 in the Berkshire Winter league. In the summer we have four Ladies summer teams (Oxfordshire A and B and Berkshire ladies 1 and 2.)

Mens Teams we have: Berks men's Seniors (over 55), Summer (Division 5A) and Oxfordshire Men's A Winter Team (Division 4)

Overall its been a great year for the STC teams - Congratulations to everyone in the Club who has played in the Teams this year – four of the winter Teams have achieved promotion: Oxfordshire Ladies B and C Teams promoted to division 3, Berkshire Ladies 1st team move up into division 7 and Mens winter league Team promoted to division 4. – Cheers to all on a very successful season.

Oxfordshire Winter Ladies A Team

The Ladies A team captained by Nikki Botterill, have enjoyed some fabulous tennis fighting hard for every set. But this season has been really challenging , the premier division is seriously tough and we have always been punching above our weight to be in it .

We have had many injuries in a small squad which could have meant relegation – however we are currently 9th (out of 12)in the league with one match to play , I think we have every chance of staying up , if not finishing 8th .

Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to help and played amazing tennis at sometimes late notice. But the commitment and support I have had from every player that has represented the A team has been exceptional this year. Thank you ladies!

We do deserve to be in the premiership !! our tennis will only get better and with the wealth of players training in the squad , our result's will show .

Oxfordshire Ladies B Team

Pleased to report that the OLTA Ladies B team, captained by Karen P, finished the winter 2024 season top of Division 4 with 66 points! We had a squad of 12 and played 11 matches, narrowly losing one, drawing two and winning the rest, three of them 8-0. Least favourite venue was Norham Gardens, which had NO TOILETS!! This was the match we lost... Promotion to Division 3 next winter! Everyone really enjoyed playing and we had a wonderful celebration of our success at Sandra's house.

We have all thoroughly enjoyed Chris O's coaching this year and I'm sure our victories are in no small part due to his excellent teaching. Thank you Chris!

Oxfordshire Ladies C Team

The Ladies C Team captained by Amanda Andrews finished 2nd in Division 4 with 55 points, closely followed by Blewbury and Norham Gardens on 54 points. A great season which will lead to promotion to division 3 next year.

Ladies Berkshire 1st team's winter season

Captained by Sharon Hearn who reported - We had a great winter season this year and played some great teams : winning five matches and losing only one.
We had lots of lovely new ladies joining our squad and had their first game with us : Sarah Penny, Emmy Paice, Miriam Stroud and Jenny Anderson. They all played really well and I'm looking forward to them playing again in the summer league.

A big thank you must go out to all the players in the squad this year and managing to get us a Promotion , very well done ladies , we had lots of enjoyable, competitive tennis, here's to the next season.

End of season drinks will be on the cards to celebrate.

Ladies Berkshire 2nd team winter season

The team finished 3rd out of 6 teams in division 10, and with three teams being promoted this secures them a place in division 9 next year.

Shiplake Mens team report Summer 2023 – Richard O

Strong standing in the summer league from the mens team – with 9 players turning out for the team

The team were unbeaten in the league.

We basked in glory at Wargrave where we beat the Wargrave Men's C team 8-0 and with the Chairman of Wargrave declaring 'not only you come over here and beat us - you also steal our head coach!'

Determination matched with experience led to a good mid table placing.

At least 2 of the squad avoided hitting a backhand during all matches.

Men's A Winter 23/24 – Matt Thomas and Jim Whetherston

With 1 match to play Shiplake were top of division 5 - but were just pipped at the post by David Lloyd and ended up finishing 2nd – securing promotion to division 4 next winter.

The Dunlop Men's division 5 has been a busy winter season with 11 players throughout the season – some great partnerships were struck up and a great willingness to travel to away games – mainly to any club which had 'Oxford' in the title...

We were looking for a strong result from the last game of the season against the bottom of the league, Benson C – which we got in an 8-0 victory which gave us the boost we needed to get into the contention to be in the top 3. The Benson team were gracious in defeat and we had the best tea of the season – with George Brind stooping to an all time low of buying a value cake from the Co-op with 50% off due to nearing its sell-by-date

Notable appearances have been from:

Charlie Ferber – new to Shiplake Tennis club this year – 2 gutsy performances – and a game saving effort with a partnership with Jim Wetherston gave us a draw at home in a critical match – and in some of the worst windy conditions I have seen.

Oli Anderson – with a shout of ‘I’ve got it’ and then ‘oh, no, I haven’t’ and then telling himself ‘you know you are not Roger Federer’ as the ball hits the net or flies out of the court. Oli is currently on a 6 month tennis coaching holiday anywhere warm.

Jon Harris – who introduced us to Guinness Zero on the way back from Oxford Sports

Marcus Binning: The Chairman saying before a match ‘Do you want a banana? I have a banana with your name written on it’ and producing a banana with my name on it....

Andy Stallwood’s ham sandwiches (now for the RIGHT reasons having redeemed his sandwich making skills after a very poor start)

Memorable moments:

The 4 pairs who played the Wantage-Shiplake game had a left and a right hander – never seen before and unlikely to see it again.

Richard O and Marcus battling for a nerve wracking, nail biting tie-break to give us a much needed draw at Oxford City

Matt getting berated by the opposition for saying we would take the point as a wayward serve hit the opposition without bouncing (we played a let and won the point..and went on to win the set for a draw)

Blinded at Wantage on newly re-furbished courts - why on earth did they not take the opportunity to turn them round 90 degrees so that when there is sun, they can be played on in the winter

Summary:

Unbeaten in the league - a great season for the men’s team –

Our teas have got better throughout the season in the hope that other teams would buck up their offerings - which varied from unbaked bread in a packet (you know – the loaves you have to stick in the oven before you serve them otherwise they are basically dough...?) to a packet of Cheesy Wotsits. One of our team even thought about baking a cake.

The games were played in a great spirit with hardly any crosswords...Clue: 4 letters beginning with F something something K if your name is Nigel or Mark

We could not do half of what we do without the help and support from Richard Ormrod – helping us navigate the LTA website, organising the Men’s night, encouraging the young guns to turn out on a Thursday – we appreciate the support from all the people involved in organising the matches too – I did not know what went on behind the scenes until I had to rearrange a match – **Thank you.**

Also – a thought to Richard Mannix who we hope to see soon – and then to see him back on court and typically running around his backhand.

Those players with injuries – we hope you get back match fit soon and looking forward to the summer league and see you on court soon.