

Rowntree Park Tennis Club AGM Minutes

Wednesday March 5th 2016

1. **Apologies** – Ronnie Davison, Tony Manea, Brenda Poller, Breeda Gallagher, Anthony Chester, Karen Jarvis, Pete Jones, James Denmark, John Neary, Ian Sadler, Rachel Howe, Rafael Solitario.
2. **Attending** - Sandra Pauw, Kate Dance, James Chantry, Paul Browning, Andrew Ward, Peter Richardson, Andy Crockett, Keith & Heather Clarke, Kevin Davison, Ian Macauley, Martin Pinfold, Sandra Robinson, Ed Martin, Angela Smith, Paul Adams.

3. Minutes of 2015 AGM

Last year's minutes were agreed.

4. Matters Arising – None

5. **Chair Report** – 2015 was a busy year for the club. Peter outlined the changes made in 2015 regarding management of courts, which was an overall success despite a few problems. The Court surface was made good & damage was prevented. We did not have much time to prepare in 2015 and relied on volunteers for pay & play system. For 2016 there will be an online booking system for guests which Andy & Kevin will administer. Courts 4/5/6 to be available for member use and will not be part of the public bookings. Public access to the courts will through the court entrance near the Rangers hut. The right hand gate entrance will be used for members (and Park Keeper) using an exclusive code number that will not to be given to non members. Members to have shoe tags, which must be worn.

Courts 1/2/3 available for public to book & pay online when not used for coaching or club events. Public access to the courts will be at the "Hut" end.

Ian questioned how online bookings will be validated but it was realised that much will be based on trust; but that some monitoring of the booking system may be required. Abuse of the member's code number was also discussed and it was essential that the member's code was not given to non-members. The Chair was expecting fees to remain the same as last year. Our fees are among the cheapest in York, as is the hourly rate. This is to encourage people to both play in Rowntree Park and to join the club wherever possible..

6. Treasurer Report

Membership has increased, up from 40 to over 100 helped by:

- Andy's coaching has encouraging new members
- Resurfacing of courts
- Cheap membership
- Increase in student and young people

This resulted in a big Increase in income £2,800 (2014) to £6,000 (2015)

Rowntree Park Tennis Club AGM Minutes

Wednesday March 5th 2016

Along with increase in income from members there was also an increase in costs:

- Court cleaning to be paid for, £1,500 for recent post flood clean up (this will show in 2016 accounts).
- A leaf blower bought for use throughout the year
- Banners bought to advertise club at the park

We achieved extra income but had more expenditure. £2500 of increased membership funds have been placed into a sinking fund to be used for court maintenance. Also added to this fund were any fees collected from public court booking and contributions from coaching. The fund current contains around £4000. It is estimated we will need £6,000 per annum to maintain & renew the courts. We are hoping that we can retain many of the new members and are looking to have 100 full members(at present around 1/3rd are Juniors/Students).

Match fees in 2015 were under collected with the mixed team's supper costs not being met. Pizzas were bought due to catering problems. A discussion took place regarding the way forward. We are asking a few other pubs if they can accommodate us at a reasonable cost. It is hoped that team members should provide food without the need for a subsidy.

7. Teams for 2016

- 3 Men's Teams (York & District 1st& 3rd Division, Barkston Ash)
- 2 Mixed Teams (York & District 2nd& 5th Division)
- 1 Ladies Team (Fulford ladies Invitation 3rd Division)

There were 2 withdrawals from Barkston Ash League (Men's 3rd) and only 5 teams in the league, it has been suggested they play each team twice (8 matches) or arrange friendlies. Keith asked if people wanted to play in teams and meeting discussed need to encourage prospective team players to attend club sessions.

8. Election of officers

- Chair – Peter Richardson
- Secretary – Peter Richardson
- Treasurer – Kevin Davison
- Team Captains
 - 1st Men's - James Denmark
 - 2nd Men's – Ed Martin
 - 3rd Men's – Andy Crockett
 - Mixed 1 – Ronnie Davison/Ed martin
 - Mixed 2 – Martin Pinfold
 - Ladies – Breeda Gallagher (with help)

Volunteer Panel – For members to come up with new ideas for the club i.e. sort out balls, give some structure to club sessions. James Chantry & Ian Macauley offered to volunteer in the role, Kevin mentioned a new lady member had expressed an interest on helping.

Rowntree Park Tennis Club AGM Minutes

Wednesday March 5th 2016

Dave Rogers has offered to administer a singles “ladder” on the website. Any other volunteer ideas or helpers welcome.

9. Season start

- Club sessions April 1st Official season start
 - First Thursday 31/03/2016 – 6pm onwards
 - First Saturday 02/04/2016 – 2pm onwards
- Match days
 - Mixed Monday & Tuesday - 6:30pm
 - Men’s A and B Sunday Morning - 10:00am
 - Men’s C Sunday 2:00pm
 - Ladies Friday evening (6:30pm) or Sunday afternoon (2:00pm)
- Coaching sessions –
Andy will be running 2 “Dust off your racquet” sessions for members on Sunday March the 13th& 20th 13:00 for 2 hours £5 per session hope as many people as possible can make it.
All Andy’s sessions are on his website, he will be starting his regular coaching on April 2nd – Cardio 9:30 / Juniors (10-15) 10:30 to 11:30 Pm. Adult intermediate .
All information on his website www.tennisforallork.co.uk
- Competitions
It was agreed that Senior and Junior Tournaments would be good if volunteers come forward. Chairmen spoke of possibility of restarting York Municipal tournament and how important it is to have a Junior Tournament.

10. Club WEB site

The WEB site will be updated by Dave Rogers to reflect the new details for 2016. The site is meant to be a reference for new members. The membership rates will be updated on the site and a link will be provided to the non-members booking system and Andy Crockett’s coaching site.

11. Court booking system

In 2015 the City of York council passed the responsibility for managing the courts to our Club. This involved much of the court cleaning, but primarily a responsibility to organise public access to the courts. This proved to be very difficult last due to the short notice involved. As a result many fees were not collected.

This year we have set up an on-line booking system designed and run by LTA. This enables public booking of courts with the fees collected at the time of the booking using on-line payments. When courts are booked an access code will be emailed to the person that will

Rowntree Park Tennis Club AGM Minutes

Wednesday March 5th 2016

give access to the courts. This number will open the gate nearest the Ranger's hut. The booking system will cover courts 1-3. The remaining courts should be available for member's use with access using the member's access code.

This system should enable us to collect more court fees without the need to provide a presence at the Park.

12. Match and membership fees

The club fees had increased over the last couple of seasons so that we can raise funds to improve the club courts and facilities. With the large increase in new members the committee proposed that fees should remain unchanged so that new members were not discouraged from re-joining. This was recognised by the meeting however it was also recognised that the court sinking fund was not sufficient to cover prospective costs with respect to the courts.

Paul Adams suggested a higher fee for new members whilst maintaining fees for existing members. In discussions this could be achieved by introducing a membership fee. Following further debate it was felt that we could achieve an increase in membership fees for new members whilst give existing members the opportunity to pay the same as last year.

A proposal was therefore made for fees to increase by £10 (£5 for Social, Junior and Student rates) but that a discount of £10 (£5 for Social, junior and student rates) would be applied if paid by 1st May. This would be applied to all adult and family memberships.

It was agreed that a 50% reduction in memberships (informally applied last year) for new members joining from 1st September should continue.

These proposals were passed by the meeting.

13. Social events

John Neary agreed to carry on in his informal role as Social Secretary. Last year we only had the Bar-B-que, which was considered a success, with the normal end of season event having been failed to be organised. It is hoped that these events will be organised this year. It was also hoped that the Volunteer panel could be proactive in proposing further events.

14. Any other business

A proposal was considered that a junior club time could be organised. This was met with general agreement; however the meeting was unable to find a person to run the session. It was suggested that a time immediately before the Thursday club session (16:30 to 18:30) might be a possible period for a junior club. Sandra Pauw agreed to approach a parent with a view to being involved in organising the session. Helpers would probably be required. It is unclear whether we need to provide helpers with CRB checks.

Rowntree Park Tennis Club AGM Minutes

Wednesday March 5th 2016

Kate Jackson asked if the club had an official opening of the new courts last year. It was recognised that we did not do enough when the courts were painted to increase the profile of the club in the city. However, this year we will be officially taking over the courts from the City Council and that we should try to use this as an opportunity to involve the local press and get publicity for the club.

The meeting closed at 21:30.