

## **Rowntree Park Tennis Club AGM**

### **Wednesday 28 February 2018**

1. **Apologies for absence** - Bob Scrase, Karen Jarvis, Russ Warin, Pete Jones, Julia Weston, Steve Walker, Zoe Walker, Pete Burgess, Angela Smith, Paul Adams, Martin Pinfold, Sandra Robinson, Keith & Heather Clarke, Andy Crockett, Ian McCauley, John Neary, Ed Martin
2. **Members attending** –Pete Richardson, Kevin & Ronnie Davison, Paul Browning, Breeda Gallagher, Cath Pease, James Chantry, Sandra Pauw.
3. **Minutes of AGM** - 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2017
4. **Matters Arising** – None
5. **Chairman’s report** - Including court improvements and progress on the clubhouse project.

**Courts** - It is intended that we will provide all the courts with new nets during this season. In addition net anchors are to be added to the courts. This will allow us to replace the mobile weights and so make it easier to set up the courts for matches. This will happen at the same time as the court cleaning which is booked in for the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in March, weather permitting. It is expected that the full refurbishment of the courts will commence in 2020.

We are also looking at ways to reduce the amount of tree debris on the courts. City of York Council has been asked to inspect the overhanging trees and we are also considering attaching netting to the existing outside fencing to reduce wind-blown debris. Thanks to Pete and John Neary for their efforts to keep the courts clear.

**Club house Project** – To progress this with the council we have, with the York Canoe Club set up “The Rowntree Park Sports Association”. This organisation will then be responsible for the running of the Tennis Pavilion for the use by the 2 clubs. With this association in place the Council will give us a 25 year lease on the building and courts which will allow us to apply for grants and if necessary loans from the LTA (who are being very supportive of this project). The Canoe Club are also checking to see if there are any grants they may be able to access. It is hoped there will also be Section 106 funds from the Council.

In order to progress this we are now at a stage where we will require a survey and detailed plans will be drawn up before final costings can be determined. We are hoping that the plans for the Pavilion will be agreed by the Council at a meeting at the end of April.

If anyone requires more detailed information Peter Richardson will be happy to discuss it. The next meeting with the council is on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

## **Rowntree Park Tennis Club AGM**

### **Wednesday 28 February 2018**

#### **6. Treasurers Report**

Please see attached accounts

I am continuing to report separately on the club's account, which represent day to day activity within the club, and also on the Court Sinking fund that is being used for ongoing court maintenance and to establish a fund to pay for future major court works (resurface, etc.). The club's finances remain healthy. This year the club account shows a loss of £343, primarily as a result of a couple of extraordinary items of expenditure. Income was up due to an increase in subscriptions. Other than the extraordinary items, expenditure was maintained at a level similar to the income and so the accounts remain in broad balance. The main income for the club is our member's subscriptions. Membership levels in 2017 were very similar to the previous year (111 c.f. 113 in 2016); however income from subscriptions increased slightly over 2016.

As far as the court sinking fund is concerned, income from public bookings was up, as was the contribution from member's fees. The nett income to the fund was, for the first time, at a level recommended to support long term court refurbishment plans.

Many thanks, to Ed Martin who has checked and audited the accounts for 2017.

With the club finances in good health and with no anticipated changes in the main club expenses (Court rental and ball costs) I propose that membership fees should be maintained at the rates for last year.

Similarly, match fees should remain unchanged.

With the increase in the public booking charge we anticipate that this income will cover the new charge for the on-line booking system and any additional court repairs that may be required. This should enable the fund to continue to increase at the desired rate. Damage to the perimeter fencing caused by a fallen branch will be repaired when the courts are cleaned next month with the council having agreed to meet this cost. New centre tapes for the match courts will be purchased and centre hooks inserted into the courts so that the net weights will no longer be required.

On the horizon is the possibility that control of the Tennis Pavilion will pass from the Council to the Rowntree Park Sports Association controlled by ourselves and the York Canoe club. This Association will require some funds from the associated clubs to pay for the running of the building (utility bills, cleaning, etc.). At present we do not know what this will involve. It is possible that this will be covered by a corresponding decrease in the court rental fees we currently pay to the Council.

Once the building is leased to the sports Association we would be looking to apply for grants to cover the costs of upgrading the Ranger's Hut to provide a new and improved facility for the club. The costs of any works we hope would be covered by grants from the LTA and Council with some contributions from the Club's court sinking fund if necessary. Depending on the availability and size of grants it is possible that a loan may be required from the LTA. It is understood that the loan would be secured against the lease on the building and would not be the direct

## **Rowntree Park Tennis Club AGM**

### **Wednesday 28 February 2018**

responsibility of the club or its officials and members. Further details will follow as this project progresses during the season.

#### **7. Teams for 2018 Season**

**York & District leagues** - 2 Mixed, 2 Men, and 1 Ladies.

**Barkston Ash League** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Men's

We have no formal junior team, though it was agreed that courts would be given for any friendly matches that could be arranged with other clubs. A Junior tournament was raised as a suggestion to explore with Andy Crockett ( as our coach and safe guarding officer).Cath Pease agreed to come onto the committee and explore what can be done.

#### **8. Club Website and Tennis Ladder – Paul Browning**

- Club website - Jimdo
- Tennis Ladder – Tennis Rungs ( costing \$15 per month)
- Booking System – Clubspark (2.8% + 25p per booking)

Our IT has evolved over the years and having reviewed what and how we are using it Paul has proposed we align our systems. We will also start to use a club domain name for email. This would allow us to use club title email addresses e.g. Chairperson@/ Treasurer@.

We are striving to ensure members have daily up to date information on what is happening on all courts. This would help members when they are planning ladder or social games.

Tennis Rungs allows us to run 5 Ladders giving us the potential to run doubles ladders. A long discussion took place on member court access, particularly those going to play ladder matches and whether members could book a club allocated court either free or for a reduced fee. James Chantry voiced his concern that ladder matches organised in club sessions would detract from the future success of club sessions which should be sacrosanct.

The court booking system is currently used solely for the public bookings on courts 1 to 3. It was agreed that we would show the court usage of all 6 courts. As the booking sheet is available via the WEB site this would allow members to see if any matches or other club events were scheduled and when.

A discussion then occurred as to whether we should allow members to book courts via the ClubSpark booking system and whether a booking fee would be charged.

## **Rowntree Park Tennis Club AGM**

### **Wednesday 28 February 2018**

Following a vote it was decided that at this stage we would not allow members to book courts at preferential rates; though members can still book courts as members of the public.

#### **9. Start of the Season – Match Days, Club Sessions and coaching**

First club night: Thursday April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Club Sessions – Thursday's 6:30                      Saturdays 14:00

Coaching - Pete Richardson will investigate club coach options and email details to club members in due course.

#### **10 Election of Club Officers**

Chairman            Peter Richardson

Secretary           Peter Richardson / Kevin Davison

Treasurer -        Kevin Davison

##### **Committee members**

Paul Browning

John Neary

Kath Pease

Veronica Davison

##### **Team Captains**

###### **Mixed1**

Ronnie Davison/Ed Martin

###### **Mixed2**

Martin Pinfold

###### **Ladies**

Hannah Nash/Emily Nelson

###### **Men's1**

James Denmark

###### **Men's2**

Ed Martin

###### **Men's3**

James Chantry

**Club Coach – Andy Crockett**

#### **11. Match Fees and subscriptions**

Members agreed with the Treasurer's proposal to leave fee unchanged for 2018.

**Rowntree Park Tennis Club AGM**  
**Wednesday 28 February 2018**

**12. Social Events**

**Start of Season** – First Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup> 14:00 at courts information to follow.

**Club BBQ** – To be confirmed when fixture list completed

**13. Any Other Business**

- The question was asked regarding the cost for a visitor playing with a member. A £2 visitor fee is in place at present. It is the responsibility of the member to collect and pass to the Treasurer. Members should have priority over visitors on the use of court.
  
- The meeting was told of an incident where older junior members were told in a very unfriendly manner to leave the courts by club members at the beginning of a club session. The meeting decided a message should go out to members to remind them to be inclusive.

The meeting closed at 20:50