

## **Minutes of Laurieston Tennis Club AGM on Tuesday 10 May 2022, held at Laurieston Bowling Club**

**Present** – President Eleanor McGlashan, Secretary Alan Oliver, Treasurer Claire MacLeod, Jane Aiton, Elizabeth Donald (Minutes), Angela Duggie, Josh Heggie, Sheila Johnston, George Mann, Hugh McGlashan, Edna Oliver, Craig Reid, Alan Ritchie, Grace Robertson.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Alistair Bryden and Diana Davidson.

### **2. President's Report**

Eleanor McGlashan presented her report to the meeting – please see separate document 'President\_Report AGM 10 May 22.pdf'.

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

Claire MacLeod reported that £2,000 has recently been transferred to the club's sinking fund. Alan Oliver explained that the LTA recommend that all tennis clubs have a sinking fund, not only because having one is a good thing in general but also because it helps when it comes to applying for grants, as it demonstrates a club's sense of responsibility and thinking of the future.

The club's annual Income and Expenditure report for the 12 months to 31/12/2021 has been sent to all members of the club.

Currently, £8,000 is in the main account and £6,000 is in the sinking fund account.

Alan Ritchie asked if the sinking fund was mentioned in the annual report by name. It is not but it will be added in future.

### **4. Secretary's Report**

Alan Oliver presented his report to the meeting – please see separate document 'Secretary\_Report AGM 10 May 22.docx'.

### **5. Membership Report**

Membership Secretary Edna Oliver presented her report to the meeting. Please see separate document 'Membership Report AGM 10 May 22.docx'.

Grace Robertson thanked the Committee for the honorary membership she has been given this year.

### **6. Report on Men's Central League Team**

Craig Reid reported that there was one men's team last year and there are two this year. Last year we won three out of eight games and finished fourth out of five.

We have won two out of three games so far this year. We are struggling with numbers to make up the teams but this problem should improve once exams are over.

## **7. Report on Junior Club Activity and Central League team**

Eleanor reported on the juniors. Please see separate document 'Juniors\_Report AGM 10 May 22.pdf'.

### **Under 16s**

Josh Heggie reported that the Under 16s came third in the league last year, just a single point off second.

Four members of last year's team are now too old to take part in the Under 16s and they now play in the men's league.

Last year, the Under 16s were in the B Division and are now playing in the A Division. We lost 0-6 to Dollar but won against Inchyra. Josh sees this year as an opportunity for development and increasing tactical knowledge. Overall, Josh is happy with the development of the team, saying that signs look healthy for the future.

Grace Robertson asked about the middle ground in men's tennis, and it was reported that it is in a good state, with a healthy number playing on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The 2021 club championships were discussed and Josh reported that last year we had online registration for the first time.

Josh reported on the number of participants in each championship last year:

Men's singles: 16

Ladies' singles: 6

Men's doubles: 20

Ladies' doubles: 7

Mixed doubles: 17 men and 8 women

Seniors' mixed doubles: 6 men and 6 women

The club championships need to be under way soon. Josh said he would organise this and it was noted that the club's junior championships will take place after the summer.

## **8. Discussion of proposals by club member Alan Ritchie**

Alan Ritchie's proposals were presented to the meeting:

*To attract new adult recruits, fees could be cut for 1 year by 50%. Family membership be discounted further which might encourage an age demograph of tennis players guaranteeing the tennis club's sustainability. I would like to see more flowers in pots making the place more attractive, amenable and homely.*

Claire reported that club fees have been static recently. This is the fourth year of no increase.

George Mann reported that he had no impression of a lack of affordability for members.

Angela Duggie suggested members could pay over 12 months rather than in one lump sum. The Committee will discuss Angela's proposal.

It was concluded that while there was nothing objectionable in principle about cutting membership fees to encourage recruitment of new members, the time was not ripe because membership is currently very healthy among both adults and juniors. In addition, the Club Constitution states we should have no more than 120 members.

The topic of attracting new younger adult members – the parents and older siblings of our junior members – was discussed. Quite a few juniors have parents who are not members. We talked about whether events such as the Sunday afternoon BBQs could be brought back as a way to encourage older siblings/parents to take up tennis and join the club so that we have more balance in ages of members.

Laurieston Primary uses the courts in the summer and we had two new members from there. Other primary schools cannot use the courts as they are too far away and there are transport issues.

Under 14s Family Tournament: we have the Under 14s Family Tournament in the summer, in which the children are encouraged to bring along older siblings or parents, who perhaps have not played tennis before. It was suggested that we have two family tournaments this year. The Committee will discuss this idea.

Open Days: Kelly Dickinson at the Bowling Club suggested for the first time to have a joint fundraising effort. She did a lot of work on raffles, a whole day of singers performing, lots of promotions with glossy flyers to locals and she had a substantial programme of events planned. We had also things going on here at the tennis club. All that was knocked on the head with lockdown. It was rescheduled but couldn't happen again so was ditched.

Our own previous open days were a bit of a fundraiser but were a lot of work and expense for little reward.

Alan Ritchie's proposal for flowers in pots was accepted by the Committee, and Eleanor asked for donations of troughs and plants and a volunteer to maintain them.

## **9. Other matters**

### Donations for Ukraine

Josh said that Tom Workman, the minister from his Bo'ness Church, and another member of the church, are setting off for Poland on 29th May, where they will be dropping off donations. They will then be travelling into Ukraine to collect refugees to bring back to the UK.

Josh asked members to check the list sent round by email for items that are needed and to drop them off at the clubhouse before the evening of 23rd May.

## Fundraising

Squares – members are encouraged to buy a square for the draw later in the year.

The raffle at the annual ceilidh is the main fundraising event for the club. This year's ceilidh is taking place on the 30th September 2022. We will be doing our own catering this year.

## Safeguarding audit

Sheila Johnston thanked Josh, Alan and Eleanor for their help with the recent safeguarding audit. This discussion led Alan Oliver to remark that the administrative burden the LTA imposes does not encourage people to get involved with their club, and that the LTA does not account well for small clubs such as our own.

## Vote for Committee Members

Members present voted in the following officebearers:

For the post of President, Grace proposed Eleanor McGlashan as President and Angela Duggie seconded the motion.

For Secretary, Jane Aiton proposed Elizabeth Donald as Secretary and Josh Heggie seconded the motion.

For Treasurer, Edna Oliver proposed Claire MacLeod as Treasurer and Craig Reid seconded the motion.

The other members of the Committee, Jane Aiton, Josh Heggie, George Mann, Edna Oliver and Craig Reid, do not need to be voted in.