

MINUTES FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BUSBRIDGE TENNIS ASSOCIATION HELD AT HOLLOWAY HILL SPORTS ASSOCIATION PAVILION ON TUESDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2010.

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from Roger Matthews, Tanya Heyworth and Paul Kozak. The meeting was attended by 32 members of BTA:

John Allen, Peter Boulter, Keith Briars, Ros Burgin, David Burndred, Hannah Davies, Phil Dowell, Richard Flavell, Suzanne Goodfellow, Peter Gordon, Chris Jagger, Maggie Jagger, Anna Jones, Mike Jones, Katherine Jonkergouw, Mark Jonkergouw, John Lapworth, Madeleine Lapworth, David Mace, Jill Mace, Craig McKenzie, Matt Meacham, Bob Moores, Frank Morris, Nick Munns, Paul Rennie, Andy Sacha, Pippa Sibley, Frances Treasure, Libby Treasure, friend of Treasures, David Woolford .

Chair's Report:

Chair Chris Jagger reported on the progress achieved by BTA over the previous 12 months stressing that BTA is now a recognisable name in the local area and has found its identity as, not just a tennis club, but a successful community based project, being nominated for – and winning – awards.

Planning permission has been granted for floodlights and a target date of March 2011 has been set for installation.

After several attempts BTA has been granted CASC (Community and Sports Club) status which gives it a substantial footing and credibility in the market place, as well as the opportunity to claim gift aid on all fundraising donations backdated to April 2010 (Chris asked all members who have made any donations since April to obtain a gift aid form from Treasurer Margaret Jagger).

Chris reported that the coaching has made great progress and that the first tournament had been a great success.

A review of the number of members (which was thought to be over 600) showed that, once the database had been updated, the more accurate figure is over 500.

He felt encouraged by the emergence of the team who introduced The Lob newsletter saying they have improved communication, revamped the website and brought energy and flair to the association.

A fundraising strategy is emerging with John Allen putting together a model, which has already been successful, and David Burndred creating a good application format to send to large charities.

Chris thanked Margaret and Barrie of the Holloway Hill Sports Association for keeping an eye

on the CCTV and for keeping the bar open for members. He also thanked Jill Mace for her ongoing support.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Margaret Jagger gave those present a copy of the financial statement for the year which, she said, was self-explanatory. The statement showed a current balance of £648.80. Margaret told the meeting that the club is just about holding its own from members' subscription fees. She reminded members to fill in a gift aid form if they have made any donations since April.

Coaches' Report:

BTA coach Suzanne Goodfellow reported that the ladies' coaching has been successful, as has the ladies' singles ladder with the doubles ladder only recently established. She has received a few enquiries regarding men's coaching and the men's ladder has been a success with Richard Flavell winning earlier in the year.

The children's coaching and summer camps have been very popular but there is a drop in numbers as the weather gets colder. There is an intention to introduce match play and competitions on Saturdays.

There has been a change in BTA coaches with Paul Kozak leaving to become head coach at Pit Farm and Antoni going to university. Nick and Seb Munns took on the coaching but Seb has also now returned to university and Suzanne will be looking for another coach for next season.

Suzanne thanked Chair Chris Jagger for all his support and the Lob team for raising the coaching profile and providing back-up.

Coach Nick Munns felt it was important for BTA to raise its profile further suggesting more signs at the courts, windbreakers, more funds directed at the facilities to raise awareness, a junior team taking part in local tournaments and wearing BTA T-shirts, and stronger links to local schools and the LTA (Lawn Tennis Association).

The Lob Team Report:

Katherine Jonkergouw explained that the Lob had begun as a result of comments from Ros Burgin at last year's AGM when, as a new member, she had found it difficult to obtain information about BTA and its activities. Katherine said the team had had a lot of fun producing the newsletters and revamping the website as well as organising the first BTA tournament. She thanked Jennie Routley, who had set up the website initially, for her technical help and support in bringing it up to date.

DISCUSSION POINTS:

Fees: Chair Chris Jagger introduced the subject of raising annual membership fees from £5 to £10 per individual and from £15 to £20 for a family.

There was a lively discussion with the following points raised:

Those in favour of raising fees emphasised the benefits of membership including club night, online booking, social events, a newsletter and men's and women's ladders among others. The general feeling was that the current fees of £5 per person and £15 per family were incredibly low and an increase would still provide excellent value for money. Comparisons were made with fees for other clubs with members quoting figures of £180-£220 per year.

Arguments against a rise included a reminder that the facilities are available free of charge anyway, BTA is a community association rather than a commercial club and must be inclusive for all, and a rise in fees may result in a fall in membership numbers which could have an adverse affect on applications for funding.

There was debate about whether the excess fees would be used towards floodlights or the general running costs. Chris Jagger stressed that BTA is just about covering costs with no emergency fund (for example to repair CCTV if necessary). Sue Goodfellow felt that without floodlights the children's coaching sessions would suffer and consequently membership could fall.

Overall the prevailing consensus was that BTA needs to increase its revenue and raising fees would still provide value for members.

A motion was proposed, seconded and passed to increase fees to £10 per adult and £25 per family with a concessionary rate for single parent families. It was agreed that both existing members and new members would begin paying the new rate from April 1st 2010 to avoid the timely and costly administration task currently undertaken by Margaret Jagger of checking individual members' renewal dates and sending out reminders.

LTA Affiliation:

Chair Chris Jagger and coach Sue Goodfellow outlined the benefits of LTA (Lawn Tennis Association) affiliation. Although there was negative feeling about this at last year's AGM, the terms and conditions have since changed and there is greater encouragement for parks and community schemes to join, thereby making it more attractive. There would be a £200 initial joining fee and subsequently it would cost £400/year. Benefits include opening up resources for funding, the chance to obtain Wimbledon tickets, being able to enter junior players into LTA tournaments, promotion of BTA on the LTA website, advice and support from LTA.

A cautionary note was raised about the possibility of adverse conditions and strings attached, such as the need to provide disability access, which should be considered.

Margaret Jagger reminded members that, with the association's current balance standing at £674 with the accountant's bill outstanding, there would be only just enough money to pay

the joining fee.

It was proposed that we should agree in principle to affiliate to the LTA, subject to a review of the terms and conditions, and a decision by the executive committee that those conditions create no reason why affiliation should not proceed. The motion was seconded and the vote carried.

Other business:

Chris Jagger reported that Waverley Borough Council is to meet the cost of replacing three of the four nets with BTA paying for the fourth.

It was suggested that, due to the popularity of club nights, it would be good to have a second club session during the peak season and, in addition, to organise a tournament for 12-16 year old BTA members encouraging them to invite non-members who may then wish to join

Coach Sue Goodfellow asked whether it was felt that those who receive coaching should be BTA members as currently that is not always the case. It was agreed that they should.

It was agreed that more promotion and marketing of BTA should be implemented with advertisements in local community publications and a general publicity drive.

Chair Chris Jagger thanked all those present for attending.