

## Brondesbury Sports Club

---

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 6pm by Zoom video conferencing call

## Minutes

### 1. Minutes

The Minutes of the AGM held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were reviewed. There were no additional comments, and the minutes of the meeting were approved.

### 2. President's Report – Richard Abramson

Given that the club has operated for a large part of the year within Covid restrictions it has been a successful year with team successes across the sports sections and a healthy financial situation.

The key points of note:

Change of Grounds person - Peter Chappell has retired after 40 years of service at the club and I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank him for his contribution to the club success over the years. Tony Reely has recently joined the club as Grounds person. He has made a great start and we look forward to his contribution in the upcoming cricket season.

Richard also acknowledged Svetlana Zinina's work and contribution and our gratefulness to her for continually managing numerous and varied tasks so effectively.

#### Board Changes:

- Adrian Fletcher, Squash Representative has stepped down. We thank him for his years of contribution not only representing the squash section but also his technical support on Wi-Fi, security, lighting and website. A replacement squash representative is to be confirmed.
- Bob Baxter remains the Cricket Representative, James Overy who was co-opted onto the Board last year as an additional Cricket representative will be stepping down and replaced by Jamie McCombe. Richard thanked James for his work on supporting the Cricket section, especially leading the search for a new Ground person.

Car Park – work on the car park starts on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021. The car park works were part of the planning permission gained to add a new court on the bowling green. We have broken ground on the bowling green enabling us to consider adding an additional court in due course if required. Thank you to Martin Rizk for leading this initiative.

Club House – a feasibility study will be undertaken to determine options and costs to rejuvenate the Club House

### **3. Treasurer's Report – Marina Heritier**

The accounts were proposed by Brain Schottlander, seconded by Edward Ben-Nathan, and approved by the meeting.

Accounts are available on the club's website.

Overall, the Club Finances are healthy given a difficult year due to Covid 19 and the subsequent lockdowns.

Club profits have increased by 2% mainly due to the contribution of Government grants and a Cricket legacy donation supported by a decrease in expenses by 25%.

### **4. Sections Reports**

- **Cricket – Bob Baxter**

The Cricket season was the busiest for many years with 6 adult teams in play. All teams did well and the hope for the next season is that the first team will move back to the Premier Division.

A point of note is that around 20 Colts played in the senior team providing a healthy succession plan. The Cricket section has a few female Colts and we would like to encourage more girls/women to the Club, although Finchley Cricket Club at this time has the near monopoly on Women's cricket in the area.

- **Tennis – Edward Ben-Nathan**

Overall, the section is in great shape.

Membership has increased substantially this year from 520 to 580, with the usual substantial turnover – 89 members left the club.

Revenues from subscriptions are currently just under £98k, a record, and over £100k if you include the lockdown credits that have been applied.

The club tournament was held this year (but not in 2020) with a fabulous finals day attended by many members enjoying the weather and the BBQ. The Whitefields (Jane and Finlay) were the victors in every final, except the ladies singles, won by Karen Appleson. Our junior finalists put on a fantastic display with kids participating from 8&U to 18&U.

The match season produced a mixed bag of results. The Men's first team just missed promotion to the Intermediate division and the Ladies 1st team came second in the Premier division. The men's 2nd team will be demoted. The men's 4th team came second from bottom and might be demoted into the 7th division. If so, they will join the men's 5th team who won Division 8. Congratulations to Fabrizio. All other teams stayed.

Tennis coaching continues to be busy and a success. The coaching team remains the same with Marina as Head Coach, Angus, Eliot & Joe full time, and Alex, Finlay and Tzarina part time. They are supported by many assistant coaches and tennis leaders each week, who have progressed through the ranks of the Junior Programme.

Our Junior Programme has almost 400 children attending per week, which is at full capacity. We had a highly successful summer with 6 sold out weeks of tennis camp. Camps continue to provide many of the local community the opportunity to develop their tennis skills, but also be active and outside in a social environment. Over the summer season we had 7 junior teams competing in the Middlesex National League, with two age groups winning their divisions. 5 of these age groups will continue to compete

during the winter period. Lastly, it is with great pride that we have 5 juniors in Middlesex County squads, with 2 more awaiting results of a trial. This is a great achievement and a special mention to Juliette Harris who formed part of the Middlesex 9&U County Cup team who finished 2nd nationally.

We continue to run our Tennis leaders programme which allows our teenager members the opportunity to 'work' at the club and keep them involved in the sport for longer.

Over the past year the biggest growth has been seen in the Adult Coaching Programme. Our beginners class is now at capacity and Improver classes are nearing their's. We are delighted to see so many people picking up a racket for the first time, and many coming back to it after a prolonged break.

In 2019 we built the toilet block and in 2020 we completely renewed the block of three courts. In Jan this year, we submitted our application for planning permission for floodlights on the block of 3. Eventually, the council planning meeting scheduled the application for decision a week or so ago but pulled it the day before because of a technical issue. It's likely there will be further delay involving local consultation regarding the height of the new fencing.

The odd member has raised the question of courts allocation, suggesting that insufficient courts are available for general play because of the courts allocated to coaching. The coaching team normally has access to 3 courts, apart from Thursday morning and Saturday/ Sunday pm, and post 6.30pm where they have 2 courts. This extends to all of the block of four courts for kids camps in school holidays between the hours of 9AM-3PM. It is rare that members have to wait to gain access to a court and on the occasion that this occurs, the waiting time is minimal. Most of the time there is at least one free court available.

The club is committed to this policy. Midweek daytime members are just one constituency out of several. Members (both adult and junior) need access to coaching and most coaching sessions are over-booked and wait lists exist. It is also an expectation of the LTA that as an LTA registered venue we have a junior and adult programme. The agreement we have with our Head Coach means the club receives substantial revenues annually, which enable us to maintain and improve our facilities, as we have indeed done in recent years.

Court booking is not an answer to this either. All it does is prioritise some groups over others, while introducing significant costs and inefficiencies. The system we have now is a great characteristic of the club and will not be abandoned.

In further discussion, it was agreed that the rules regarding the usage of courts during busy periods would be reinforced by sending out a newsletter and placing posters on courts. The newsletter/posters would also include a reminder of various different groups' playing time i.e. social, junior and adult groups etc..

The Tennis Committee was asked to consider the feedback given at the meeting and confirm any actions to mitigate waiting times for courts, e.g. a court booking system during busy times

Edward thanked the committee (Matt, Bev, Heather, Martin, Nicola, and Marina).

- Squash – Adrian Fletcher

No update provided.

- Bar – Bob Baxter

The bar was opened during the Summer to support the Cricket section and made a £3000 profit. The bar is currently open on Friday evenings.

#### **5. Neighbour Liaison's Report - Madeleine Abramson**

Confirmation was given at the meeting that Madeleine Abramson was not a Director of the Club. However she felt able to report on the position with our neighbours.

The neighbours have been advised of the car park work and that there will be more cars parked on Harman Drive during this period.

Discussion is in place with residents of Galsworthy Road regarding the tree roots that are causing parts of the Club House to move.

As expected, due to Covid 19 school use of the grounds is down on last year due to the schools being able to use the Grounds during the Winter period some of this loss will be covered.

#### **6. Club Officers**

The existing club officers (President, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer) had agreed to continue in those roles, and no other candidates had been proposed. The cricket and tennis representatives are decided by the relevant section committees and are unchanged.

#### **7. AOB**

Madeleine Abramson thanked the President, Board and Coaches for their work during the year.