

Dunstable Tennis Club

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Friday 4th March 2011

Chairman's Welcome: Alan Gore welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Junior Awards: Phil Moss presented the Norman Trophy for the best all rounder junior boy to John Hawkins, and the Michael Shanley Trophy for the most improved girl to Alison Lowe.

Attendance: All those present signed attendance sheet

Apologies for Absence: Apologies for absence were received from: Jacqui Crossley, Jenny Mullany, Nick Boys, Andy Riley, Nigel Magee, Steve Holt.

Minutes of last meeting: Minutes of the last meeting were approved. Proposed Stewart Meagher, Seconded Kieran McMahon.

Chairman's Report: **Chairman's report 2011**
Alan Gore

Firstly, I would like to thank both personally, and on your behalf, all of the committee members for their hard work throughout the year.

I would also like to thank one particular individual for his contribution to the life of the club, Mick Smitham. I'm sure you are all aware of the work Mick carries out year after year in and around the clubhouse including the veranda, tree cutting,/pruning, etc. Thanks Mick.

I would like to take this opportunity to dispel the myth or rumour circulating here and in the press that John Taylor is not willing to cut the grass any more. John has assured me that he never made that statement and is considering libel action. Thanks John.

On the nominations sheet which you all should have had is an indication of the committee members who are not seeking to stand again. Those standing down being myself as chairman, Tony as bar manager - although I'm sure we can convince him to do another year, Phil Moss as membership Secretary - but he will still be involved with the junior committee, Stewart Meagher as house manager and Graham Morgan as Contact Editor - Graham's wit will surely be sadly missed every month. I would like to thank those committee members for carrying out their duties so well over the past however many years.

In addition to them, Udev Makwana has decided to stand down as club captain although he also will still be involved with the junior committee. Thanks to Udev for his contribution over the last few years.

This year has been a year of consolidation without the need for any substantial expenditure as you will see from the accounts, Mike will go into further detail in his report.

Secretary's Report: **Secretary's Report 2011**
AJ Webley/Frances McMahon

Between myself and Frances we have attended all 6 DTC meetings held through the year where the committee discussed matters such as:

Clubmark Annual Review

Installing WiFi

Updating the Diary and Calendar of Events

Course, Qualifications CRB checks as required by Clubmark

Maintenance, refurbishment, equipment needed

Veranda project

Finances and new payment methods as cheques will be phased out

Bar figures and changing to bottled lager

New Padlocks

Social events

League Teams, Dates/Fixtures, Captains and collecting/outstanding match fees

Porz exchange

Club Tournament draw and nominal charge for inclusion and clarification of trophy requirements.

Wimbledon ticket allocation greater than usual - 23 pairs

Club Tournament from the draw through to Finals day and all arrangements

Tennis Planet

Coaching opportunities and court use

Places to Play

BT membership and its rewards

Annual subscription fees

Juniors teams, tournaments and coaching, xmas bowling party and presentations

Spring Clean
Honours Board
AGM

I have enjoyed my first year as secretary, but would like to give thanks to Frances as I couldn't have done it without her.

**Treasure's Report:
Mike Bartlett**

Treasurer's Report 2011

Firstly, thank you to Tony McMenamin for handling and banking the bar accounts, Phil Moss for processing all the membership payments, and to Nigel Magee for auditing and finalising the accounts.

Considering we had a £3k grant from the LTA last year, we have done well to maintain income at the same level as last year. Overall, technically it's a loss of £1.1k, but less than in 2009, after allowing for sinking fund provision. We should have £52k in the funds but that is at the pessimistic end of the court renewal phase, and the fund is adequate.

Income: Overall, income is much the same as in 2009 but no LTA Grant this year. Subs are down on last year by about £500. Bar profits are considerably higher - up £2400 (compensating for the loss of the LTA Grant), Match fees and floodlight fees higher. Benefit from being a CASC registered club through gift aid, Tournament income slashed by cost of referee.

Expenditure: Large increase in energy cost, Less clubhouse expenditure (veranda costs in 2009), Maintenance of courts 1-3 and minis add £4k

Accounts distributed. Accounts approved - **Proposed** John Taylor, **Seconded** Kieran McMahon

**Match Secretary's
Report: Anne Bartlett**

Match Secretary's Report 2011

Last year seems to have run fairly smoothly, I certainly benefited from having the team captain's named before the fixtures meetings so contact details could be shared with other clubs, cutting out the middle man so to speak. Also listing team members prior to entering teams has cut out some of the guess work.

The snow came just at the right time with relatively very few matches scheduled during the time the courts were not playable. You may remember last year we had a show of hands to gauge opinion about a different way of playing the mixed in the South Beds league, i.e. one rubber mixed and one rubber not. The majority of you wanted to stay mixed but unfortunately this was not the view at the AGM, so it has changed.

Once again the AEGON League that we are entered into has thrown a spanner in the works necessitating match rearrangements before I have even got them out. I hope we can put pressure on them to improve communication for the future. Every year my job as fixtures secretary gets a little easier, there seems to be fewer and fewer teams entered by all clubs, so less to arrange and more court space to work with. This year, unfortunately Luton Co-op has pulled out of the South Beds League and it appears that their courts will go within the next year.

The problem seems to start with the ladies teams, but Dunstable is still entering 2 ladies teams this season despite the fact that we seem unable to field a full A team for one reason or another.

We are entering one less men's team for the summer, but will continue with 3 mixed.

Fewer matches means there is no occasion where we have 2 home matches played in one evening which should please those of you who like to book social games on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

This year's knockout competition has only been entered by 6 clubs. Our first game is away to Leighton Buzzard (who beat us last year) on 5th June. If we do beat them the semi will be at home against Flitwick and Ampthill on 10th July and the final scheduled for 18th September.

Teas for summer matches seem to have gone back to normal as Luton Vauxhall have negotiated with their social club to let them take in some snacks.

One plea on behalf of whoever collects the match fees of tournament entry fees.....you know they are due, just hand them over, you don't have to wait to be asked.

Finally, thank you for all of you that play and volunteer to be captains.

**Junior Committee
Report and Coaching
report: Phil Moss &
Nick Boys**

Junior Committee and Coaching Report 2011

Thanks:

Thank you to the Coaching team for all their hard work over the year

To the club for allowing us to develop the program further

To all the parents who bring their children to lessons and help at club

The children who work so hard in their lessons and keep us in jobs

To those parents and supporters who give up their time to help out on Saturdays and Mondays, particular thanks to Anthony, Mick, Liz and Steve)

Over the past year there have been many events to report.

The traditional Easter and Summer camps were very poorly attended despite being very reasonably priced and this meant we did not get our usual intake of players. This was a sure sign that the recession was biting.

In September we said good-bye to Shelley from the coaching team, she is now forwarding the cause of the LTA at Tennis East. We also said a new hello to Jonathan Gosbell, who of course we know from his long association with DTC. He has taken over Shelley's coaching duties and is developing a wider client base and has fitted in very well with the team.

As well as Jonathan we also have Katie Stapleton now running our strength and conditioning sessions for our better players in squads. This is the ideal time to get that fitness back before the season starts and we will be offering block of sessions in the near future for our adult members.

Also we have welcomed Mark Williams who has joined the coaching team and will be developing even stronger school links around the whole Dunstable and Houghton Regis area and will be strengthening the under 10 program at the club.

Now with the economy struggling this will be a tough time to continue to develop the program and also find new players and attract them to what is considered an expensive sport. We will need everyone's help to do this

The junior program has managed to stay on a consistent level in terms of number of players and we have a good group of players coming through in the 13-17yr old age group. You may have seen some them playing matches or winter league, Dunstable has always punched above it weight in this respect.

We have developed fewer players below this age group but those that are there are very competitive, County champions, South beds champions and league titles bear this out, however we need more players in the 6-7yr old age group to build up a base of players.

With this in mind Nick and Mark have put together a 3-year proposal aiming to recruit 50 new players in the club playing under 8 tennis.

Over the Next 12 Months:

The next 12 months will involve curriculum time tennis in 12 local lower schools in Dunstable and Houghton Regis. This will be a 12month-rolling plan and will require the financial support of Sport England, DTC and the Beds LTA. A bid for £5500 to Sport England has been put together backed by our local MP. We would like to request £600 from the club to support this bid and Beds LTA have agreed to match that figure. This figure may seem a lot but 12 schools over 36 weeks for an hour every week soon adds up. At a recent Beds LTA meeting it was suggested that the money that clubs were saving due to the new club levy be diverted towards schemes such as this.

In order to further resource such efforts we would need to provide a second kit bag and we would suggest this be discussed at the next committee meeting.

From these school sessions we will look to progress the children into various groups at the club and develop a strong internal and external league competition. We will also utilise some of the funding for 3, 6 and 12 month scholarships for the most deserving and focused.

We need to keep working with the current crop of players also and we will be developing the program to keep them motivated and competitive with internal and external competitions.

We are very lucky here at DTC as we seem to be able to keep our girl players on court and we have a batch of 10 players from 11 to 15 who are really starting to come on. The difficulty is finding matches and tournaments for them to play sometimes, as other clubs seem to struggle with this.

The boys are a very competitive bunch already internally and we need to focus them on playing a little more externally to widen their horizons. This also helps them understand where they need to strengthen their own game.

We must congratulate Jacob Turley who recently played in Norwich in the Easton Player plus tournament. This is a tournament where the coach of the player can sit on court and talk to him during the change of ends. After winning his first 3 matches Jacob made the final, and due to being on court for nearly 3 hours before the final and being knackered did he lose 63 64. He now knows he needs to be fitter!! Not bad for a 12 year old and current Bedfordshire champion.

We would also like to hold an Open day one Saturday afternoon in late March or April for all children under 12 in the area to come and try out tennis and see if they have the Nadal, Federer or Murray Factor.

Easter camps and Summer camps will be running again, hopefully with more support. The details for the Easter camps will be out to all the local schools next week. They will be aggressively priced to get people in and we are getting our leaflets out very early this time.

Adults/Intermediates:

Over the summer period May-July we have already had confirmation of our 3rd year Get Back Into tennis coaching on Saturday afternoon and no doubt you will have seen new faces appearing at social and winter league. Thanks to Udev for developing these groups and maintaining their enthusiasm over the years.

Lots of One-One coaching goes on during the week and the men's 'D' team regularly have training sessions with I trust have helped them in their quest for glory. They certainly are very competitive with each other!

We have currently 3 players which we have proposed for Intermediate status, Harry Adams- Rimmer, Anand Nair and Imogen Snee. There are a number of other younger players who may be reaching that stage and we may need to be more creative in introducing them into adult play otherwise there could be a danger of too many at once. With that in mind we have been discussing potentially mixing match practice sessions with the adults and the strongest juniors. This may be a way of integrating the youngsters into the teams in a low-key way.

This Match Practise could possibly happen on a Monday evening and this may help to revitalise this session which continues to be stop go with periods that work well such as the Winter League run by Liz (thanks for that and the donation) and then a vacuum.

Saturday morning seems to be running OK with the numbers increasing in the early session but falling off a little in the later one currently

Coach Development:

We will be looking for all our coaches over the next 12-18 months to become licensed

Nick Boys will be tutoring coaches all over the UK for the PTR

We will be holding 6 internal coach improvement sessions to improve our skills on court for you.

Helpers:

As ever we would like to encourage some more people to give up a little time to help on the Saturday and Monday. This is not as onerous as it used to be and also if we have a number of people then the time required is much less

**Club Captain's
Report: Udev
Makwana**

Club Captain's Report 2011

I would like to start off by saying that I am going to stand down as Club Captain this year. Initially, I was going to stand again but have since changed my mind and the report will reflect that.

As Club Captain I would like to thank all of the people that play and represent the club in matches and the captains of our teams for organising them and leading them. In particular I would like to thank Anne and Mike Bartlett and Phil Moss.

Our KO Cup campaign this year got off to a less than ideal start as the first match day managed to take up by surprise. None the less we made a respectable fight at Leighton Buzzard although ultimately were outplayed. I really would like to thank the players that day., some of whom would not have played in that kind of setting before. As a result I decided we should support the competition and choose not to withdraw from the plate event, and event which we then proceeded to win without playing a match! I'll come back to this later.

The main feature of the year is as always the Club Tournament. I'd like to say well done to all those who participated and made it what it was, as well as congratulations to all our winners. For me the one outstanding competitor was Jacqui Crossly who featured so heavily on finals day and enjoyed so much success that day that she deserves special recognition. Well done Jacqui! Finals day ran fairly smoothly and again thanks go to the many people that helped on the day.

The tournament wasn't all smooth and plain sailing however. There are 2 issues that came out of it that I've chosen to say something about.

- 1) There was an issue with people playing in the event who were not members by the time of the draw.
- 2) There were an unusually large amount of withdrawals and defaults in the tournament, such that it affected the men's singles event heavily, although it wasn't exclusive to this event.

I think that both of these issues can be addressed by stricter enforcement of entry rules and I am sure that my successor will do so. However, when dealing with the second of these points, yes sometimes some situations are unavoidable but I would like to urge all entrants to consider their entries more carefully and understand that they are all committed to the tournament through to completion.

I'd like to revisit a point I made about winning the KO plate without playing a single match. The KO plate is the best test of a clubs strength in depth and the fact that so many people found it difficult to field teams is highly revealing. This links in with the general playing of tennis at our club. Over the last 2 years with me as captain I've seen a decline in the number of players at the club. This isn't something unique to the club, many places are struggling and it's great that we've got so many new faces joining the club, but where it hurts us is at the top end of the club where we are depleted in both the men's and ladies sides. I'm not making judgements but am merely making an observation and highlighting it to raise awareness. Perhaps it will promote discussion and generate ideas.

I'd like to close by making an observation of the playing demographic here at the club. It would be fair to say that most of our adult playing population is in the over 40's bracket. I would like to pass on a suggestion I received about this very point in that our club tournament should reflect this and that we perhaps change the format so as to promote competition within this bracket.

Food for thought for the next club captain, committee and all of you.

**Bar Manager's
Report: Tony
McMenamin**

Generally, it has been a good year for the bar. I'll just give you some figures: Total Sales in 2010 - £17.5k, giving a profit of £7.5k @ 42%. Compared to 2009 - £4.5k @ 28%, 2008 - £5.5k @ 33%, and 2007 - £5k @ 28%.

In case you're not aware the profit target for the bar is 1/3, so if we purchase @ £1 then we sell @ £1.50 to give 33% profit. (There are factors like Sky, and gas so we need to sell at nearer 40% to achieve 33%.) So, our profit margin this year is a bit excessive which is mainly due to Fosters.

One or two people have raised concerns over the profit we make on Fosters, so I'll tell you about fosters: 18 months ago Fosters draught was costing us around £1.90 a pint, and we were selling at £2.40 (just over 20% profit), to achieve the required profit a price increase to £3 was needed.

We took the decision to change to cans where the profit margin was far greater at £1.50 per can - a bit easier on the Fosters drinkers. The standard price of a can is about 80p so we should sell at £1.20-£1.30. However, it was priced at £1.50 partly to compensate from previous years and partly to boost profits, (which it has done).

It also means that we can keep some other prices down and there wont be any price increases on alcohol in the near future. Before anyone states the obvious - we do regularly buy Fosters at about 60p a can, but these are offers - generally the best offers being found by Mick!

So if it is felt that the price is excessive then it can be reviewed but I'm not going to continually adjust depending on what we pay in any particular week.

Thanks go to: Dave B for glass clearance, Mick S for helping keep us stocked with Fosters, all those who have kept the bar running when I wasn't around - especially those who continue to spend their hard earned cash here, and finally to those who remember to wash their glasses.

**Child Protection
Officer's Report: Jane
Sutton**

Child Protection Officer's Report 2011

I was only made aware of one minor problem during the year which was not in the end a child protection issue and was solved by a discussion between the various parties involved.

The new government has now changed who needs to be CRB checked and therefore I think as a club we only now need to make sure the coaches etc have up to date clearances or perhaps someone who volunteers on a regular basis, but this needs further discussion perhaps at junior committee etc.

The junior form has been re designed and now includes a space to include medical details etc.

**Social Secretary's
Report: Jenny
Morgan**

Social Secretary's report 2011

Well another busy year which seems to have flown by!

May: Greek Night

A warm but slightly breezy evening with the veranda transformed into a Greek Taverna. A spread of hummus, tzatsiki, pitta bread, Greek salads and souvalaki. Greek music playing in the background while adults tried to remember facts about Greek heroes, mythical creatures, gods and goddesses. Children (and those who haven't quite grown up yet) tried to master the art of plate spinning. Oh....and...SKINNY AND FATLEY! (Although Fatley is now not quite so fatley).

June brought the Football World Cup

Many supporters chose to watch the England games in the clubhouse and many burgers and sausages were consumed during half time raising funds for the club.

July saw the Annual Family Summer BBQ

This year the weather was much kinder to us and around 80 people were duly fed and entertained.

August brought us a visit by our friends from Porz

Once again, a miracle happened and this time our wonderful veranda became a pirate ship. Around 70 pirates of all shapes and sizes were entertained by Captain Jim, Seadog Al, and Cabin Boy Mike with the help of a few musical guests. After a pirate feast cooked by the three buccaneers the evening soon descended into mayhem with Cabin Boy Mike and Buccaneer Morgan having a sword fight and Auntie Pat walking the plank and wetting her knickers!

September was a quiet month with just the Club Finals

However, not wanting to miss an opportunity, the BBQ was lit once again and burgers were distributed. Oh and next year I will be doubling the prices as I was told I was cheap!

October saw a trip to Go Bowling

And none of us are getting any better, the trophy was awarded to Anne for consistently getting the lowest score.

November was the Annual Chairman's Supper

Once again, a formal affair with the club decorated in black and white. 33 guests sat down to a meal of Beef in Guinness with dumplings, spinach and feta pie, potatoes, vegetables and a selection of desserts. Our chairman Alan presented numerous trophies (mainly to Jacqui) and the only let down of the evening was a result of the 'nasty little bleeders' (to put it politely) who broke into some of our member's cars.

December/January merges

Unfortunately, due to the weather, the traditional Jim Ball's Christmas party was postponed till January, however, once again it was a great success thanks to the hard work of the band and in spite of us wannabe singers and musicians.

The New Year's party arranged by Alan and Stewart was attended by those who wished to see in 2011 at the club, was reported to be good fun with the usual consumption of snacks and copious alcohol! Sorry we missed it but we felt we needed a 'quiet night in'!

February was the turn of the Safari Supper

Another great evening of mystery, adventure, good fun and lots of alcohol.

So once again, another year has passed in the social life of Dunstable Tennis Club. I may have had the occasional strop, throw the odd tantrum and come close to being committed to the nearest mental institution by my long suffering husband who rolls his eyes when I start to explain my idea. I have enjoyed every minute, however none of it would be possible without the help and support of so many of you from those who lend a hand to those who attend the events. Special thanks must go to Graham, Jordan, Anne, Mike, Mick, Wendy and Jim Ball's and the Rackets.

There is one date for the diary: Big Ron's Quiz Night - Sat 19th March to start off the next year of social events.

**Membership
Secretary's Report:
Phil Moss**

Membership Secretary's Report 2011

This year, as ever, has passed very quickly and marks the end of 4 years in the role.

Facts and Figures:

Membership comparison					
Category	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Life	3	3	3	2	2
Senior	106	118	113	108*	97
Country	1	1	3	3	1
Off Peak	0	1	1	1	1
Intermediate	27	26	21	20	16
Junior Associate	0	3	1	2	6
Junior	56	43	48	54	47
Mini Tennis	28	64	64	46	39
Social	16	10	10	10	8

Major Points:

There is a general downward trend.

Intermediates - big influx of 1991/2 players.

Aging player population.

More adults playing during the day - social play effect.

Now a lot of 1996/7 junior players.

Junior attendance time much more varied.

Moving Forward:

Need to introduce other methods of paying.

Better access to forms and lists.
Automation of British Tennis lists
Consistency on applying rules particularly with tournaments.
Single payments for coaching including membership?

Last 5 years achievements:

Records computerised more.
All information in Excel - much more accessible.
Better tie up with juniors and parents.
More flexibility in payments.

What will I not miss?

Post dated cheques.
Money around house.
Chasing those who don't pay.
People who take this p***!!

I wish my successor good luck!!

House Manager's Report 2011

**House Manger:
Stewart Meagher**

Stewart's motto as always, 'If its broke - fix it!!'

Contact Editor's report 2011

**Contact Editor and
Website Manager's
Report: Graham
Morgan**

Contact:

This month's issue, March 2011, will be the tenth for the year having produced Jul/Aug and Jan/Feb double issues. This makes a total of 77 editions in the 7 years I have been contact editor. My thanks again, as I do every year, to Mr. Bradshaw who provides many articles and statistics. And of course to everyone else who provides the information that goes into making

Website:

The website is now well established and provides a useful source of information for all members and still receives enquiries from people wanting more information. All of the important forms, regulations, news, fixtures, tables and dates for your diary can be found there.

Email:

Email is very important to the club and is a very good way of getting information to members. However, there needs to be a balance so that people don't start ignoring emails from the club if there are too many. Email even forms part of the website through the contact us page and there have been many enquiries dealt with throughout the year, from general questions to requests for membership and coaching information. Please make sure the club is informed if you change your email address.

Facebook:

For all you facebookers there is now a Group for DTC. Members of the group can post blogs upload pictures and advertise events.

Tesco Vouchers:

Tesco for Schools & Clubs is back again this week with vouchers available from last Monday until the beginning of May. Please save your vouchers for the club.

Amendment to Rules: Fit and Proper persons declaration. Carried - Unanimous vote.

Membership forms to be updated and be made available on website.

All current officers of the committee who were willing to serve for another year were proposed by:

Election of Officers: Club Secretary = AJ Webley/ Frances McMahan
Treasurer = Mike Bartlett
Junior Committee - Udev Makwana, Phil Moss.
Child Protection Officer - Jane Sutton.
Match/fixtures Secretary - Anne Bartlett.
Social Secretary - Jenny Morgan.
Head Coach - Nick Boys

Chairman = G. Morgan (**Proposed** - A. Gore, **Seconded** - M. Bartlett)
Membership Secretary = J. Wigley (**Proposed** - J. Morgan, **Seconded** - Anne Bartlett)
House Manager = M. Smitham (**Proposed** - V. Fields, **Seconded** - S. Ward)
Club Captain = M. Peck (**Proposed** - S. Meagher, **Seconded** - J. Sutton)
Media Editor = S. Meagher (**Proposed** - M. Smitham, **Seconded** - J.Chandler)
Bar Manager = T. Mac (**Proposed** - A. Gore, **Seconded** - J. Gosbell)

Porz Visit:

Porz 2011

Proposed Dates for Porz 2011 are: 4th - 7th August 2011

A.O.B:

The club will ask for email addresses from all members as this is the most effective way to communicate.

Membership: Proposal to increase membership in all categories by £10. Carried - Unanimous vote.

EGM to be held before October 2011.

New rule of disciplinary procedures.

Application form needs changing.

Constitution needs amending.

End of Meeting:

Meeting closed at 10.10pm

Next Committee Meeting:

21st March 2011