

SUTTON MONTIS TENNIS CLUB

Minutes of the AGM held on Monday 8th April 2024 in Sutton Montis Village Hall at 7.30pm.

1. Welcome and Introduction – Chairman

Mark welcomed those members present and thanked them for coming. He commented on how privileged we are to have such a splendid court in an idyllic location but at present is underused which is a shame.

By law the club has to have a functioning committee, so ideally the club needs members to volunteer to help run the club in order to keep it going and move it forward if necessary.

Before the meeting Mark had set up a Zoom meeting for those members unable to be there in person. Unfortunately, not a single member joined on Zoom which was a great disappointment to the committee and especially to Mark who had put in a great deal of time and effort to ensure all members had access to the AGM.

2. Members Present – Mark Harding-Rolls, Pauline Farror, Barry & Meg Blight, Louise Cort, Rhoda Tyley, Jane Stebbings, Hubert Zajackowski,, Anne Ing, Fiona Morgan, Lindsey Maguire, Trina Cole.

3. Apologies – Fraser Newton, Anne Pitt, Jacky King, Rebecca Drury, Alan & Caroline Gillespie, Marie Jackson, Sarah Williams, Lizzie Snell, Jacqui & David Taylor, Jane Salter, Sylvia Beaton, Jill Mactier, Richard & Carol Pearson, Jackie May, Jenny Fitzgerald.

4. Minutes and Matters Arising from the last AGM – Mark went through the minutes of the AGM and there were no matters arising. There was a unanimous agreement of the minutes and Meg proposed and Pauline seconded the minutes as being a true reflection.

5. Treasurer's Report – Barry produced the accounts and reported there is a healthy balance of £8,401.00 in the bank with £5,000.00 being in a Savings Account. Lindsey had offered to put labels on the brown envelopes (which can be found in the clubhouse) to differentiate between members playing with guests and those using the flood lights. At present Barry has no idea how often the lights are used or how many guests are playing on the court. Rhoda proposed and Fiona seconded the accounts.

Mark thanked Barry for all his hard work with the accounts.

6. Election of Officers – Mark pointed out that there is a large number of members who have not been on the committee and would like to encourage these members to join in club events and to keep the club viable for the future. One of the benefits of joining in is to meet fellow club members and realise that it is a club for all levels of play and the emphasis is of having fun rather than taking anything too seriously. Mark would like to have an environment where people want to come along and play and enjoy the company of the club but is well aware that everyone leads busy lives so this is not always possible. That being said, it cannot be left to the same few to do

all the 'behind the scenes' jobs and most of the committee will be retiring at the end of the year. There was a great deal of discussion about how to encourage members to join in and Meg pointed out that if there was not enough interest and members do not come forward to help run all aspects of the club, then it will fold and the court and land will revert back from whence it came – to the Tabors who own the land.

It was unanimously agreed that on the next renewal membership form there will be a clause that all members will be expected to be on the committee at some time, for a minimum of two years. It is also understood that this does not include those long-standing members who have already done a great deal to keep to club in the healthy state it is now in.

- 7. Social Media – Website** – Lindsey talked about FaceBook and the Website. Please see below his ideas and the time he has already put in to make this happen. Lindsey was thanked for all his effort in this matter.

Good evening,

I am relatively new to the committee and my quest is to advertise for new members to the club by various means, including articles in parish magazines covering many villages surrounding Sutton Montis, which has so far proved quite effective with potential new members. I have also started to post on local Facebook groups to raise awareness of our club, in tandem with our own new Facebook group, which is now up and running. It can be assured that anything posted on it is not available to anyone other than club members and potential members, invited by the committee.

I am sure that we all know that social media is a two-edged sword, but used correctly can be an effective way of communicating. You should already have received an email from the club inviting you to join the group, so if you are a user of Facebook, please search for Sutton Montis Tennis Club and click on the 'join' button.

Apart from attracting new members, we hope that by engaging better with existing members more will be inclined to attend club events and offer suggestions on what they would like to see at the club. We look forward to hearing from you.

Barry and I also hope to modernise the club website in the not too distant future. We are currently on a learning curve in an area in which neither of us have much expertise, so please be patient with us! That will have a link to the Facebook group where club events shown on the website will also be advertised.

Finally, in order to attract new members and to help them find where the club is, we are currently engaged in a tedious process with Google, trying to verify with them that we are who we say we are.

- 8. Grass Cutting** – Mark reminded members that during Covid a gardener had been found who cut the grass. This was costing the club quite a lot of money so it was decided that club members would volunteer to cut the grass during the summer months. A rota will be on the notice board for members to add their name and cut the grass for that week. If ALL members helped, then this would not become an

irksome job for the few. He did stipulate that he did not expect the older members to do this (75+).

- 9. Club Responsibilities** – A list of Responsibilities for the maintenance of the clubhouse and surroundings will be on the notice board in the club house. If you would like to help, then please add your name.

There will also be a list in the club house for maintenance jobs to help keep the club looking its best. Maintenance Day is on Saturday 20th April. Please come along with gardening tools to help keep the surrounding area tidy. Bring lunch and possibly play in the afternoon.

- 10. Shlott** – Having set this online booking form, it has been requested that members will use it regularly especially for the club session on a Saturday afternoon. As several members cannot play during the week, it has been emphasised that members wishing to play on a Saturday use Shlott to show other members there will be others on court. Booking can be done a month ahead.

- 11. Event Dates 2024** – Fiona has agreed to run the knockout tournament again this year. More details will be sent in the near future.

Also attached are the dates of club events for the year. There will also be a list on the notice board.

- 12. AOB** – Mark mentioned the bungies to tie the net up had been replaced last year but are not longer being used – they are not usable and probably need replacing again. The hook to keep the net secure during play has also come adrift due to the thread bar having been broken. The may need to be replaced also.

There has been no water at the club for several weeks and Mark has asked that if anything like that happens again please inform him so it can be fixed. Many apologies were forthcoming and it was decided to be a case of everyone assuming the message had been relayed.

Barry would like to introduce Pickle Ball sessions to club members. He will sort some dates and these will be open to club members. Details will be forthcoming in the future.

It was decided that several relevant members may need contact details so the Membership Form will be changed to incorporate this. Please fill in and return this form as it is a stipulation of the GDPR.

Mark closed the meeting by saying he would like all members, no matter the standard, to embrace and enjoy the club which offers a great facility at a very reasonable membership fee.

The meeting closed at 9pm

Trina
Secretary