

Minutes of CIYMS Tennis AGM



25th November 2019

Attending

Attendance Record attached.

Apologies

Apologies received from John Caithness, Lyndsey Caithness, Lynn McDowell, Donna McDowell, Alan Campbell, Jennifer Campbell, Fran Dowler, Emma Megaw, Penny Thornberry, Kathleen Diamond, Anna Kilpatrick, Ali McFadden, Gary Dunne, Sumeet Kapur, Neil Stewart, David Taggart

Greg Robinson welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting high attendance.

Approval of AGM Minutes 2018

The minutes of the previous AGM were approved with the following comments:

1. Jim Lonsdale was elected onto the Committee, proposed by Paddy Brockerton.
2. Some discussions were held regarding members being selected for teams without having paid their annual subscriptions. Jim Lonsdale confirmed it is Tennis Ireland policy that no one may play for a tennis team who does not have their subs paid.

Proposed Andrew Rodgers, Seconded Mark McCrory

Greg Robinson thanked Peter Farrell for his Minutes.

Approval of Accounts, Year Ending April 2019

Geoff Jordan presented the accounts and took questions.

1. Auditors have been changed following resolution at AGM 2018. The new auditors are William Wilson Chartered Accountants. They provide a lower cost solution.

YE 30/09/2019 accounts.

2. The Tennis Club accounts for the year ended 30th September 2019 had been circulated in advance of the meeting. G Jordan said that the Tennis Club had generated a surplus of £5,500 for the year and total funds carried forward amounted to £13,130. He said that these funds carried forward would be needed to meet our Dome and Ulster Tennis levy and Outreach obligations between now and the start of the new season in April 2020. He explained the main elements within the Income and Expenditure sections of the accounts.

He said that managing cashflow over the last couple of years had been challenging due to the need to replace the Dome as a result of storm damage in 2017. He thanked Pamela Parkins for her efforts in managing the club finances in difficult circumstances. He noted the efforts of other club members in raising additional funds through sponsorship (A Rodgers), sales of club kit (C Megaw), tuck shop volunteers as well as those who ran quizzes, and the BeginHer programme (J Mounsey). He said that their efforts had helped to keep the Tennis Club in funds over a difficult period. He stated that going forward cashflow management would still be difficult as the Tennis levy and Ulster Tennis levy amount of £18K paid over to the Tennis Section by the Society was not in itself sufficient to meet our main annual running costs of currently £23K (Dome costs - £11K, Dome & Courts Loan repayments to CIYMS of £7K and Ulster Tennis Branch levy of £5K). He said that this was frustrating given the fact that overall subscriptions raised from Tennis members and paid directly to CIYMS was over £70K. The new Dome levy which had been implemented in April 2019 to meet the additional cost of using third-party labour to put up and take down the Dome had raised circa £5K and this was being earmarked by the Society to fund long term court and Dome replacement.

Greg Robinson advised that not all Tennis finances are visible on the accounts. Coaching Account (money earned from coaching activities) has a current balance of £12k, of which £5k was the carried over balance at April 2019 and £7k earned since. There are options for this money, including moving to Tennis Account, or move to a 'sinking fund' for courts and dome replacement.

Greg Robinson felt that Tennis does not need a large surplus and this had been agreed at Committee. The financial position of the section is good, and kudos to all volunteers that help keep costs down.

Questions

1. Mandy McCrory: who pays Rocklyn. G Jordan confirmed that the Society office pays Rocklyn directly, but the Tennis Club then recompenses the Society.
2. Barry Kirkwood: Is Rocklyn the only company who can erect/dismantle dome, are we getting best value for money? G Jordan: £14k is high in 2019 as it includes £5k in 1-off exceptional costs. G Robinson: there is no one else, however R Barnes, P Frew and G Robinson fought costs.
3. Grahame Capper: What is the purpose of the Dome Levy, why isn't it shown in accounts? Should there not be a full report on total subscriptions raised from Tennis members and from Coaching and how the funds are used. G Robinson: is the Dome levy is to be used in the erection and dismantling of dome. G Mounsey asked whether going forward a note should be added to Tennis accounts that other money was available.
4. Mark McCrory: could tennis have a number of accounts (#1, #2, etc) to show the various balances, albeit that the monies would be dedicated for a certain use. G Jordan commented that there is no written agreement that cash from coaching will be paid to tennis. H Frew felt that it was never in doubt that the money from coaching would be used for tennis. D Corry commented that although it would be ideal to see the balances in the tennis section accounts, experience has demonstrated that it is illusory as it is all Society money, to use as they wish [referring to cost of court replacement].

It was resolved that the CIYMS Tennis Club accounts for the year ended 30th September 2019 as presented be received, approved and adopted.

Greg Robinson expressed his thanks to Geoff Jordan and Pamela Parkins.

Captains' Report

Moyra Richardson presented her report:

Lady Captain's report 2018-2019

My term as Lady Captain has been full and mostly fun.

The club tournaments have been extremely well supported and of a generally high standard, despite the hiccup of nearly 30 entrants on a wet winter afternoon resulting in a tournament consisting of 10 point tie breaks. But CIYMS members, as expected, dug in and looked on the bright side of life.

The Ballycastle tournament was a particular highlight of the year with Lisa McGaughan's generous gin bar and a large number of members staying overnight to extend the night's craic. Even the unexpected grass court maintenance that forced us onto the grass-less playing surface didn't damage our go-getting, devil-May-care CIYMS spirit.

Whilst the organisation of Captain's Night and the Awards Dinner have been demanding in the midst of busy life, I cannot say thank you enough to our amazing Gentleman Captain, Michael McClurg who has picked up the organisational slack on many occasions whilst I've been mucking around with disco balls and karaoke machines... thank you Michael, you really are one in a million! The pay off of the role of Captain has been great. As a new-ish member to the club, it has allowed me to meet a large number of members and to exhibit my humming and quiz master skills to a large captive audience. So I thank you for your support, and forbearance over the year, and I wish the very best to our excellent lady captains elect.

Michael McClurg presented his report:

Mens' Captain's Report

It has been a very active and enjoyable year as Mens Captain.

We kicked off the year with a pre Christmas tournament followed by a Charity tournament at the start of 2019. Our schedule of events have always been well supported by our club members and I would like to thank you for this support as it was much appreciated.

It was a challenge at times to arrange 24 players over 3 indoor courts in the dome with the rain bashing down on the bubble, but we have been very fortunate in getting the invaluable experience from Jim Lonsdale and so I want to say a special thankyou to him for the smooth running of all the events this year.

I would also want to thank all our sponsors for their generosity and support of our club events.

A new item we introduced was karaoke after prize givings. It was an incredible success. If anyone was brave enough to drag the microphone off Andy Rodgers then they deserve my respect.

Captain's Day in June which consisted of an afternoon tournament followed by an evening dinner and entertainment was very well attended and again I'm very grateful to all our members who showed support to both Moyra and myself in attending this event which was a great success.

Finally our last tournament of the year was our annual prize giving at Halloween. A great night was had by all despite Anna Kilpatrick and Noel Connolly taking home most of the silverware.

It has been a pleasure to share my captaincy this year with Moyra Richardson, who always has a smile on her face, bucket loads of enthusiasm, the queen of Karaoke with an abundance of energy even though she doesn't appreciate my humming. So thank you for your support and making my year a lot of fun.

I want to conclude with a personal message to thank all those members who supported us by taking part in the tournaments, helped with the dinners and gave advice and support when needed. CI has always been a very welcoming club and I am proud to have been your Mens Captain this year and wish the incoming Captain all the best for next year.

Honorary Secretary's Report

As the individual Committee Members presented full reports, Denis Corry didn't provide a report, but introduced the Committee of 2019 and thanked all those who had volunteered either as a Committee member or in any of the support roles, including selection subcommittee, fund-raising, or Outreach. He also thanked the sponsors of the courts and competitions.

Membership Secretary's Report

Mandy McCrory presented her report:

CIYMS has had another great year for members under the stewardship of Moyra and Michael and I'm really looking forward to helping out the new captains this year, Christine, Heather and Big E.

The tennis club now has 352 playing members - 243 adults and 79 juniors. This is an increase of 8 members on last year which is encouraging as neighbouring clubs are struggling to retain members. New members come from various sources- Open Days, word of mouth and a council assisted scheme called Beginner. Jane will cover more in her report about the outreach schemes but I have to mention that we have 13 new Visually Impaired members which is great.

Sometimes we are a victim of our own success as we don't have enough courts in the dome at peak times.

Club play is still very popular and is one of our strengths as we are perceived as a very sociable club. Another adult club play session is in the pipeline and this will help even more members enjoy fun tennis.

Myself, Rob and Stephen have been in discussion regarding an Adult Performance session which is offered to "A team" players and others selected by the coaching squad. This could prove invaluable to such players and may even attract elite players from other clubs.

The past year has offered something for everyone and the club has been successful yet again in the leagues.- this is covered in Cynthia's report. Here is a reminder of the various activities the members enjoyed this year- Christmas wreath making day

Mary Peters Charity Fund Raiser

2 Internal leagues

American style tournaments

Afternoon tea fund raiser for 3 VI players selected to represent Ireland Wimbledon fun draw
Junior hardcourt tournament Captains Day and Night Ballycastle Away Day
Improve your Tennis in a week All the various coaching classes Prize night
Quiz nights
Singles ladder
Have I missed anything !

This club is run by members for members and I would like to thank everyone who give up their time to play on teams, attend committee meetings, volunteer with outreach also sponsors and all those who offer positive suggestions .

I'm always open to suggestions!

Greg Robinson expressed his thanks Mandy's enthusiasm.

Coaching Report

Hugo Frew presented his report as chair of Coaching Subcommittee

Hello everyone. Thank you for taking the time out to attend tonight. I would like to say a few words as chair of the coaching committee.

We are now in the second full year of stephen as head coach. I though it would be useful to review how his period in charge has gone. I do not think it is easy for any coach to move to a new club and build up a coaching programe and team, particularly when the previous coach only moved down the road and took the previous coaching team and some students with them. In the circumstance i think stephen has done a remarkable job.

In may 2018 there was a total of 22 hrs coaching. There are now

Stephen will review the current programme with you, but it is clear that it has vastly improved both in terms of quality and quantity. To have good coaching you need good coaches, and we now have a team of coaches that can compare favourably with any tennis club in the county, stephen, david, neil, garry, sumeet are all quality coaches who are excellent players in their own right. Unfortunately we will not be seeing as much of neil as he takes a step back to focus on his studies and his new family member. The noticable thing to me is the amount of energy they all bring to both adult and junior classes.

Outreach activity, led ethusiastically by jane, has become a very important part of ciyms tennis club. The new coaching team have embraced this activity with a passion, supporting it as required, and undertaking appropriate training to ensure they deliver a great service on the court.

Coaching model

It was a big decision by the club and society to change the coaching model at the club, and we have to ask the question "has it worked".

On one side, it has increased the workload of richard who has a number of employees to deal with, and the coaching committee who have a responsibility on behalf of the tc to manage the model.

On the other side we now have a partnership between the coaching team and the club which is at a different level to the previous arrangements. Everyone is pulling more or less in the same direction with no conflict of interest. That has made a big difference. I think this is refected in the general atmosphere around the club.

Financially coaching is making a significant contribution to the club finances. Surpluses from the coaching account will be used to develop tennnis at the club, and to boost the sinking fund for replacement courts and dome. The surplused generated are currently in line with the previous arrangements.

There is a major difference in the quality of the coaching. In tennis coaching the most profitable category is red ball. You get more students per court, and you do not need well qualified coaches to take them. £10ph instead of £15-20 ph. We have a lot fewer red ball students, but many more yellow, green and orange ball. These tend to be the children who have decided on tennis as a sport, and you hope will be members for many years.

Stephens current contract is for 20hrs pw, with ot paid at the normal rate. Stephen is a bit of a workaholic, who does not like to take holidays. He personally runs a number of the junior teams because of his enthusiasm for competitive tennis. He does not get paid for this. He puts in a lot of hours. He has done a great job strengthening links with Strathern (16) and Penryn ("21) where the numbers coming over for afternoon coaching have increased significantly, and forging new links with Campbell College with 12 boys attending for after school coaching. I would like to thank Stephen for his efforts since joining us, he is a pleasure to work with someone whose enthusiasm rubs off on those around him.

So in answer to my own question "has it worked" in my opinion is an emphatic yes. And I am confident we have the correct structure for the club to continue to develop in the right way. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the members of the coaching committee for their support and advice over the last year, and Richard in the office for his support and assistance.

Peter Hutchinson commented that the classes are excellent and encouraged everyone to go. He also welcomed the improved atmosphere at the Club over recent years.

Stephen Watters read out his report:

It has been a very busy and very successful year. This time last year we struggled to field 4 junior teams. U14 boys and girls and u18 boys and girls. This was a great way to benchmark not only the standard of junior tennis at the club, but also to see and address areas on which we could improve. This season we had no problem fielding 6 junior teams. The team to watch is the u14 boys division 1 team. I have high hopes for these lads in the summer league!

U14 boys div 1 and div 2

U14 girls div 1 and div 2

U18 boys div 1

U18 girls div 1

This is testament to the quality of the coaching team and the efforts and commitments of the juniors and their parents. Everyone should be very proud.

We also have a division 1 senior mixed league team as we won division 2 last season and got a promoted.

Aaron McDowell deserves a special mention. I've been working with Aaron from he was 5 and he has followed me to CIYMS. He has played on all of the CI junior teams, both u14 and u18 and has also played on some of the senior teams. He is currently ranked 9 in the Ulster rankings and is hopeful to qualify for the Ulster masters event if he has a successful tournament at the Irish nationals over Christmas. It is well worth noting that he made the quarter finals of the Irish Open this summer at Fitzwilliam Tennis Club! Lucy Sloan also deserves a mention. She, like Aaron, has played on all junior teams and has made promising appearances on the senior league teams. She also won the internal ladies' singles handicap event this year.

Our links with the local schools is continuing to develop. We have Campbell, Stathearn and Penryn on our doorstep and we have good numbers participating in the afterschool programs. Also, at the end of June we did a 'crazy tennis week', where we had over 500 school children come to the club, experience the atmosphere and learn to play tennis.

The current coaching situation here at CI is very positive. My team and I are all happy and working hard. I'm always looking to strengthen the team and add additional value, depth and expertise.

Moving forward I'm keen for the programme to continue to grow. A main focus from January is to boost the number of red ball (4-7 year olds) players and classes. We currently have a very active junior membership so to maximise income, court and coach availability, it is important to develop this area.

I'm also keen to continue the morning tennis sessions. We currently run classes on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday mornings. These classes are open to men and women and are increasingly popular. The objective is to make the club a social hub for tennis players and to have adult classes every morning.

Paddy Brockerton declared that after four years of asking, he was delighted to see that the junior teams were growing in strength.

Greg Robinson thanked Hugo for his report and commented that the Coaching Subcommittee meetings were well attended, and Stephen Watters should know that he is well-supported.

Match Secretary's Report

Cynthia Megaw presented her report:

It has been another busy and competitive year for CIYMS Tennis Club with a total of 18 teams taking part in the various Belfast & District Lawn Tennis Leagues. We had 3 winning teams and 4 teams that came a very close second. This bodes well for the development of the club as we prepare for the 2020 season.

Big congratulations to our 3 trophy winning teams.

Mixed League Division 2

Men's Intermediate Knockout Cup

Men's Autumn League Division 1

Winning Division 2 Mixed League means we now once again have a team back in Division 1 and this is largely thanks to the strong input from our playing coaches. The Men's Intermediate Knockout Cup team are to be hugely congratulated on winning as this is the second time in the past 3 years. No pressure for next year then! Last but by no means least was the most exciting and surprising success of the Men's Autumn League Division 1 Team. CI hasn't had a team in this division for many years. After a rather rocky start getting team players and a captain on board they managed to sail through their matches with ease. Well done guys.

At this point I would like to thank all the team captains who volunteered to take on this organisational role. I really appreciated the time and commitment they put in and very much hope that their team players acknowledged this as well. The team practice sessions prior to the beginning of most of the leagues had various positive effects including team bonding, camaraderie and as mentioned encouraging results. A big thank you to our CI coaches who used their experience and skill to deliver a series of tactics classes. I am sure I speak for all the teams when I say that this practice has led to developing members' skills and improved positions on the results table.

This year the B&D introduced compulsory grading of all players including reserves in an effort to try and stop certain clubs using players of a higher standard to help with their lower teams. Once a player was graded at the beginning of the year the grading could not be changed and when registering new reserves, they too had to be graded. Unfortunately, this meant that our lower teams that played in Mixed League division 5 and 8 had a much smaller pool of reserves to draw from. The Selection Committee will be reviewing the grading of players in the coming season and hopefully can address any problems that have arisen.

Finally, on this note I want to thank the Selection Committee consisting of Rob Gilmour, Dot Hawthorne, Jim Lonsdale, Alan Magowan and recently joined member Head coach Stephen Watters for assisting me as Match Secretary. They are a very experienced group who represent and vouch for all ability levels in the club.

Greg Robinson thanked Cynthia.

Outreach Report

Jane Mounsey presented her report

Our Outreach tennis provides weekly:

- *Blind Tennis every Monday for blind and visually impaired adults*
- *Dementia Friendly tennis every Wednesday for those living with dementia and their family members if they wish*
- *A performance session in Blind tennis for selected adults competing in competition. These players are currently competing in Dublin, Belfast, Galway and GB*
- *Blind Tennis every Saturday for blind and visually impaired (VI) children and their siblings if they wish. Some of these children have complex needs. Their mothers are currently taking tennis lessons from scratch alongside them.*

Comments from feedback -

- *“Has brought a mental boost as well as becoming physically active”*
- *“Has gained a lot of confidence, tennis has benefited her in every way both physically and mentally”*
- *“Very passionate & has found it a real support as she is not academic and struggles with dyslexia”*
- *“The coaching is first class are very patient and willing to take time with learning”*
- *“The overall programme is excellent “*
- *“Believe me when I say you change lives”*

Offsite

- *Outreach delivered tennis in schools in conjunction with Ulster Tennis. This year these grant funded sessions have seen our coaches deliver tennis to 192 children in Strathearn, Ashfield, Bloomfield, St Patricks Knock, and Knocknagoney PS, including 2 VI teenagers in school PE time.*
- *In June we opened our courts to all the local schools, offering 500 pupils the opportunity to have a go at tennis at the end of their exams. Initiatives like this establish and maintain links with schools.*
- *Two Outreach grants from UT enabled us to provide tennis from scratch to 46 women and girls, paying all coaching costs (£840) and balls (£160) and generating income to the main club account of £1400*
- *Our coaches delivered 3 Blind/VI Tennis tasters offsite on behalf of Guide Dogs NI and British Blind Sports*
- *We provided a Blind Tennis training day at CI on behalf of UT, providing training for coaches and teachers from across NI.*
- *We are registered for the Millennium Volunteers Scheme where young volunteers can register and collect certificates for their hours. We also facilitate young volunteers in obtaining their DOE awards, both by volunteering but also in the case of our VI teenagers that they can complete the sport section of the award.*
- *Provided a cross community Halloween camp for teenagers funded by BCC in full.*

Other achievements this year

- *We won the DSNI Inclusive Club of the Year Award*
- *Volunteer Margaret Thompson was nominated for and picked up 2 awards from BCC*
- *We trained 3 VI players to National Champions in Dublin in February and our players made up 1/3 of the Irish Team. Coach Neil Stewart travelled with the players to Spain*
- *Brian Lenehan has taken the GB nationals for 2 years in a row*
- *Neil Stewart, Brian Lenehan and Jane Mounsey were shortlisted for BCC Sports Awards*
- *Silver Clubmark – We gained in February; this award recognises clubs who can show excellence in coaching, safeguarding and integration of players with a disability. It came with £750 to be spent on training for coaches and volunteers.*
- *We shared our Dementia Friendly template with 3 other clubs in Dublin and England, enabling them to set up their own groups.*
- *We had a VI section in our Children’s Open this summer, and recognising this integration, we were given a grant from BCC which paid for marketing, trophies and coaching costs. We also integrated our VI members into our own internal tournament. In September.*
- *We had 3 crews from Sport NI BCC and DSNI come out and make short films*
- *I was approached and agreed to sit on the Enjoy Tennis TI committee*

Finance and partners

We work closely with BCC, UBTI and DSNI. We are currently delivering VI tennis on behalf of DSNI from a grant awarded to them of £2.5k, all of which will be spent on coaching at CI

Development Training

Our coaches and volunteers have taken courses in Disability in Sport and Mental Health Training, funded by grants.

Thank you.

Thank you to all the club members who show support for our outreach department, in particular the support for our many fundraising activities earlier this year.

Thank you to our coaching team who have all embraced the outreach projects and deliver time and time again on court, engaging new players and improving the play of our existing groups.

As always, the biggest thank you goes to our dedicated team of volunteers who aged just 8 through to 70+ keep the show on the road.

Greg Robinson thanked Jane and commented that Outreach has raised CI's profile beyond measure. There was a standing ovation.

Election of Officers for 2020

Position	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Chair	Lisa McClurg	Greg Robinson	Andrew Rodgers
Honorary Secretary	Denis Corry	Graham Mounsey	Pamela Parkins
Honorary Treasurer	Pamela Parkins	Hugo Frew	Margaret
Match Secretary	Jim Lonsdale	Philip Welsh	Paddy Brockerton
Gents' Captain	Eric Gould	Graham Mounsey	Jim Lonsdale
Ladies' Captain	Heather Mercer / Christine Sharpe (joint nominees)	Moyra Richardson	Mark McCrory
Membership Secretary	Mandy McCrory	Jane Mounsey	Denis Corry
Junior Coordinator	Michael McClurg	Rob Gilmour	Andrew Rodgers
Head of Facilities	<i>Paddy Frew has agreed to take on the role, but will not sit at Committee</i>		
CIYMS Council Rep	Greg Robinson	Mark McCrory	Stephen Watters
Chair of Coaching	Hugo Frew	Mark Paden	Mark McCrory
Child Safeguarding	Hugo Frew	Mandy McCrory	Philip Welsh
Outreach	Jane Mounsey	Mandy McCrory	Michelle Hutchinson
Marketing & Comms	Kelly McCullough	Moyra Richardson	Stephen Watters
Website	Graham Mounsey	Geoff Jordan	Stephen Watters
Equality	Andrew McBride	Jane Mounsey	Andrew Rodgers
	David Kee	Jane Mounsey	Denis Corry
	Mark Paden	Hugo Frew	Greg Robinson

Any Other Business

1. Darian Shotton: Can Day Members pay a little extra to join Saturday tournaments? Mandy McCrory advised that the Committee would discuss this.
2. Darian Shotton: Can a 30 minute period be available to play against the wall. Hugo Frew responded that it was already acceptable for a single person to book court 3.
3. Mark McCrory asked the Committee to consider a ladder which ranked members.

Greg Robinson thanked everyone for attending the AGM and brought the meeting to a close.

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