



Bramhall Queensgate Tennis Club

Minutes of AGM 28th November 2017

Chairman

Ray Phillips

Date

30th December 2017

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Participants

Judith Clayman, Bob Hall, Mark Johnson, Lis Bevan, Kath Donoghue, Darren O'Donnell, Mandy Southern, Susan Pettigrew, Phil Craven, Bob Pigeon, Jude Wheatley, Phil Stafford, Fiona Stafford, Clare Hinton, Karina Hartley, Darren Wagstaff, Hamdi Elghonemy, Harriet Boswell, Steph Almond, Martin Burrows, Fraser Hudson, Helen Hurst, Rob Chambers, Simon Wheatley.

Apologies

Mary Impey, Bev White, Jonathan Clayman, Deborah Hartmann, Jenny Pickering, Kat Biglen, Becky Lang.

Meeting date

Tuesday 28th November 2017

Time

7.30 p.m.

1. Prior to the AGM commencing, an amendment was approved by the participants to the existing section 8 of the BQTC rules re the dates of the AGM. As the accounting year-end has been brought in line with the other sections to 30th September, the AGM should be held between 25th October and 25th December to allow for the production of the accounts. **Action (Secretary): Amend the existing BQTC rules to reflect this change.**
2. **Minutes from the last AGM**
The minutes from the last AGM were accepted as a true record.
3. **Secretary's report**
The committee held 6 management committee meetings during the year, in addition to email resolutions and extra meetings to discuss important issues as required.

A questionnaire was circulated to the membership at the start of 2017 in response to the feedback from last years AGM as a club for the few rather than the many. We received 56 responses, which represented 22% of the membership of which 97% rated their experience as a member as good. However, it highlighted specific issues including: more for the non-team member; better integration of new members; more communication and the introduction of daytime workshops e.g. a serving clinic. As a result the committee agreed the introduction of more WhatsApp groups for social tennis; group emails were used for specific nights e.g. Men's Night; and we asked Darren to drive an initiative for daytime tennis groups. Thank you if you took the time to complete the questionnaire as it helps the committee manage the facilities and programme.

The club received the Tennismark accreditation during the year from the LTA. This is awarded to clubs who satisfy specific criteria including; the committee and their roles; the facilities offered; the financial security of the club and budgetary control; risk assessments; safeguarding the members and the tennis programme on offer to all membership categories both external (LTA graded tournaments) and internal e.g. club tournaments. If these categories are not achieved then the Tennismark accreditation will lapse. As a club competing against 2 other Bramhall clubs and several tennis clubs within a 5 mile radius, it is important we do not lose sight of what makes us stand out from the other clubs and helps to retain our members whilst

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attracting new ones. Tennismark is a Sport England approved accreditation that recognises our venue as safe, welcoming and inclusive.

The Wimbledon draw was again very popular and resulted in more applicants than tickets. Disappointingly the LTA only allocated 17 pairs of tickets with some being for the final weekend on Court 1. Despite 120 members opting-in, the allocation was the lowest to date. Opting-in continues on an annual basis so please make sure you have opted-in for 2018 if you want Wimbledon tickets.

The Open day this year was used to celebrate the pavilion launch and encourage new members. It was a successful occasion, attracting several new members and the sun even shone on the day!

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing committee, for what is sometimes a thankless task, and in particular Ray for the extremely hard work he has done for the club, most behind the scenes, such as the shrubs and borders, tendering and planting; help with the pavilion DIY; and analyzing the court surfaces to ensure the best surface for the members, to name but a few.

I am stepping down as Secretary this year after 11 years on the committee; 6 as Junior Chair and 5 as Secretary. I have found I haven't enough time to devote to the committee as it demands and believe its time to pass on the mantle. I have always put the club's best interests first during my time on the committee and trust that the new committee will continue to work towards a financially sustainable future for the club but most of all one that each and every member can enjoy and feel included. The club is only as welcoming as its members! Good luck to the new committee and I'm looking forward to just playing tennis!

Judith was presented with flowers and a bottle of wine in appreciation of her contribution on the management committee for 11 years.

4. Treasurer's Report

Thanks to Jonathan Clayman for auditing the accounts which are now all approved and signed up.

Overview

The last year has been one of very high costs but with normal subscription income at just about the same as last year.

Income

- Subscriptions are slightly down in monetary terms. Our membership secretary will elaborate on the actual membership levels as opposed to the income.
- The income from match fees is stable as would be expected from the same level of matches played.
- Income from floodlights has increased and the reasons are twofold. Collection of the money has been more controlled via the team captains and also through Rob Chambers for social evenings. In addition Rob has put a lot of effort into the social nights which have proved very successful and in turn has generated income from floodlights and the social nights themselves.

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- We received a £5000 loan from Cheshire County LTA for our pavilion extension. This is repayable over a five year period but the last payment will be refunded resulting in a total repayment of £4,000 against a loan of £5,000.
 - Miscellaneous income. We hired a skip for the removal of the hedge cuttings and QSC also used this skip and so QSC contributed to the cost of the Skip hire. QSC also contributed to the cost of the carpet in the new pavilion area as the bar area is a common area.

Expenditure

- This year has seen very High expenditure due to three main items: Artificial Clay court refurbishment at £11,328, Astroturf courts x 3 replacement at £36,978 (with 5% retainer still to pay but this will be subject to rectification of the flooding issues we are experiencing) and the pavilion extension completion at £7,568. There are no planned further costs for the extension but we need to consider blinds for the windows and perhaps a TV or projector to attract members out of normal playing times.
- Coaching costs take the form of retainer fees. These are down on last year as we have had only one coach for most of the last 12 months. The cost of balls from the coach includes some junior match balls and balls for the Open Day for which the coach is not responsible financially. Also some of the balls' costs refer to the previous financial year. The coach's school / other coaching costs are the club's contribution to these activities involving the coach's time.
- The Ground Maintenance costs are from the regular weekly / biweekly tidy up of grounds by Green Army Garden Services (Louis Walker) at approx. £40 for 2 weeks. General repairs to the grounds included replacement of the courtside fencing in front of the pavilion (just half the width). In time the other courtside fencing will need replacing which will be a substantial cost.
- Ground Maintenance costs also include the addition of Kickboards to protect sand on AC courts.
- CCLTA £5k loan first payment made.
- QSC fees were much higher this year due to costs associated with the overall pavilion improvements of which Tennis pays a large percentage as the fee is based on numbers of members of each of the sections, tennis snooker and bowls. It is expected to be just over half this figure next year.
- BT line / internet costs have increased in line with BT costs rising and also our fixed deal has ended. This will be reviewed asap.
- The cost of Match balls shows as much higher this year but this is as a result of the cost of balls for last winter's league matches and this winter's league matches (approx. £300 each).

Summary of Vernon Savings A/C & HSBC Current A/C

We have around £18k in our savings / sinking fund and around £6k in our current account. Our costs between now and next March will use up most of the current account so I would encourage all members to pay their subscriptions on time to avoid the need to dip into the sinking fund.

I have done a projection of 2017/18 costs and income and without any unusual costs we should generate around £9-10k for the sinking fund. Given the costs of courts and the frequency of refurbishment and replacement we need to aim for a higher annual surplus towards £12k approx. The simple answer is to increase membership. The committee will be looking at ways to achieve this.

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The members queried the cost of engraving the trophies for the club tournament. The income generated from the entry fees should cover this cost. **Action (Chairman): Consider using the income from tournament entry fees to cover the cost of the trophies and engraving.**

The members also queried the cost of the BT line and whether it was necessary. **Action (Chairman): Review the use and need for the BT line in order to save this cost going forward.**

5. Membership Secretary's Report

Current membership numbers compared to last season:

Membership Category	2016/17	2017/18	Difference
Senior (over 24)	126	120	-6
Senior Country (over 24 and living more than 25 miles from the club)	2	1	-1
Under 11	77	63	-14
Under 24 in full-time education	67	49	-15
Under 24 not in full-time education		3	
Total	272	236	-36

58 of current members (25%) were not members last year (23 being senior members, 13 Under 24 and 22 Under 11).

Family members:

Senior family members = 37 (making up 16% of our current membership) with 15 who were not members last year.

Under 24 family members = 22 (9%) with 7 who were not members last year.

Under 11 family members = 25 (11%) with 12 who were not members last year.

Overall family members = 84 (36%) with 34 who were not members last year.

Gender:

	2016/17	2017/18	Difference
Senior Male	65	62	-3
Senior Female	63	59	-4
Under 24 Male	45	34	-11
Under 24 Female	22	18	-4
Under 11 Male	52	39	-13
Under 11 Female	25	24	-1
Overall Male	162	135	-27
Overall Female	110	101	-9

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The meeting discussed ways of increasing membership income including introducing a partner membership category; increasing membership fees; referring a friend incentives. Bob Pigeon proposed an increase to £199 for the adult category, which was voted in favour by 13 to 7. As a result the following was approved by the meeting:

Action (Membership Secretary): Introduce a new Adult Partners category at an annual fee of £370 for 2 adults; Increase the Adult membership to £199; Family (2 seniors + 1 or more under 24 in FTE) to £443; Family (1 senior + 1 or more under 24 in FTE) to £296.

Action (Chairman): Review an incentive scheme if a member refers a friend.

Visitors' fees were also discussed with a proposal to increase to £5 for adults and £3 for juniors. This was not approved by the meeting and it was referred back to the new committee to discuss further.

Action (Chairman): Review visitors fees, cost and collection.

6. Ladies' Club Captain Report

Firstly, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our team captains Bev White, Jude Wheatley, Sue Pettigrew and Judith Clayman for all their hard work getting teams out, week in, week out – and coping with any last minute issues. Also, for their offer to help organise our Monday evenings.

Summer 2017

It has been mixed summer season for the ladies this year, following on from an extremely successful 2016 season. Once again there was a little movement between teams and we lost a couple of our younger players to pastures new. (Molly, Kim and Camilla - to name a couple)

The 1st team came 2nd in the Premiership for the second year running; the 2nd finished an admirable 5th in the higher Division 1; unfortunately the 3rd after winning promotion the previous season, were relegated from Div 2, and the 4th finished 9th in Division 5. We are still waiting to hear if they are relegated, due to teams dropping out in both theirs and higher divisions. Spoken to Val Bowen today, matter won't be resolved until constitution of the league is finalised after the AGM tomorrow evening. That reminds me, I need to return the trophy! Ladies practice night as ever, continues on a Monday evening from 7pm.

Ladies Premier Division Table

Club	P	W	D	L	Sets		Points
					F	A	
Bramhall Lane 1	10	9	1	0	93	31	19
Queensgate 1	10	6	1	3	73	47	13
Northern 1	10	5	0	5	67	59	10
Bramhall Lane 2	10	3	0	7	49	74	6
Albert 1	10	3	0	7	52	81	6
Lymm 1	10	3	0	7	42	84	6

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Ladies Division 1 Table

Club	P	W	D	L	Sets		Points
					F	A	
Hale 1	10	8	1	1	76	44	17
Heaton Mersey 1	10	7	1	2	70	52	15
Mere 1	10	6	1	3	63	55	13
Davenport 1	10	5	2	3	80	60	12
Queensgate 2	10	4	2	4	67	64	10
Cheadle 1	10	4	2	4	66	68	10
Bramhall Lane 3	10	4	0	6	57	65	8
Bowdon 1	10	4	0	6	56	69	8
Prestbury 1	10	3	1	6	53	72	7
Bramhall Park 1	10	3	0	7	57	68	6
Macclesfield 1	10	1	2	7	46	74	4

Ladies Division 2 Table

Club	P	W	D	L	Sets		Points
					F	A	
Brabyns 1	9	9	0	0	94	24	18
Alderley Edge 1	9	7	0	2	62	52	14
David Lloyd Cheadle 1	9	6	1	2	70	47	13
Prestbury 2	9	6	1	2	67	51	13
Mellor 1	9	4	2	3	56	56	10
Woodside 1	9	3	1	5	48	60	7
Sale 1	9	2	2	5	47	61	6
Bramhall Lane 4	9	2	1	6	43	65	5
Northern 2	9	2	0	7	47	72	4
Queensgate 3	9	0	0	9	31	77	0

Ladies Division 5 Table

Club	P	W	D	L	Sets		Points
					F	A	
Albert 2	9	9	0	0	122	11	18
Davenport 2	9	8	0	1	102	26	16
Prestbury 4	9	7	0	2	69	63	14
David Lloyd Manchester 2	9	5	0	4	59	58	10
Brabyns 2	9	5	0	4	50	59	10
David Lloyd Cheadle 2	9	4	0	5	48	65	8
Ryecroft 2	9	3	0	6	49	73	6
Bowdon 3	9	2	0	7	41	73	4

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Queensgate 4	9	1	1	7	40	76	3
Macclesfield 4	9	0	1	8	22	98	1

Winter League season 2015-16

Both the 1st and 2nd teams had another successful season in Division 1, with the 1st team coming 2nd and the 2nd team coming 9th. Our 3rd team also did fantastically finishing 4th in Div 5 (after promotion the previous year).

Matches this year are underway so fingers crossed the weather stays pleasant enough.
Here endeth the ladies captain's report!

7. Men's Club Captain Report

Dan Teasdale had resigned from the committee due to his studies. Rob Chambers and Darren Wagstaff had helped organise the 2nd, 3rd & 4th Teams in Dan's absence.

The 1st team were runners up in division 1 and promoted to the premier division; 2nd team in 2nd division had been relegated after 2 wins; 3rd team had also been relegated and the 4th team had just escaped relegation. There had been no penalty points incurred during the season!

8. Junior Chair report

This year has been another successful year for the Juniors. Currently we have 111 Under 24 junior members.

Friday nights continue to be popular and I would like to thank the parents who have taken over the organising and cooking of tuck (no more burnt pizzas from myself and Lis).

We have a number of juniors who are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh award and they are doing a fantastic job of helping Darren on Junior social evenings.

Last year's Junior Christmas party was enjoyed by many and this year's will be on Fri 1st December.

Yet again, the standard of play at the Junior Club Closed tournament was exceptional.

Bramhall Queensgate junior teams have had another extremely successful year. Yet again they have been excellent representatives of the club. Many thanks to all the parents who have supported the club and for transporting their children to clubs and supporting Darren.

BQTC Junior Results 2017

Winter League 2017

U8 Mixed 2nd in Division

U12 Boys won the division and won the final against David Lloyd, Cheadle

U14 Boys won the division and beat David Lloyd, Cheadle in the final.

U16 Boys won the division but lost in the final

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Aegon

U14 Boys A won the division and beat Queensgate U14 B team in the semi- finals and became Cheshire champions after beating Hoylake in Cheshire final.

U14 Boys B won the division before losing to A team in the Semi -finals.

U16 Boys 2nd in Div.

Junior North East Cheshire League

U13 Boys Div 1 Champions for the 3rd year running

U13 Girls Div 1 Champions for the 4th year running

U15 Boys Div 1 Champions for the 4th year running

U15 Mixed Div 1 Champions for the 3rd year running

U18 Boys Div 1 Champions for the 4th year running

U18 Boys B Team 2nd in Div 1

9. Coaches Report

Throughout the year we have run over 15 groups of all ages along with holiday camps and the schools programme. The programme continues to offer all ages and abilities the chance to develop their tennis throughout the year.

We have organised Junior Club Night tennis on Fridays. These sessions allow new members and players considering joining, the chance to meet new people with the same interest. From these classes we were able to point people to teams tennis, social mix-ins, team training sessions and to practice partners according to their ability. The new bar is proving to be popular for the parents of junior club night!!

I would like to thank Kath Donoghue/Lis Bevan and other parents for making these sessions work so well.

Over the winter we have started 4 new afterschool clubs with Queensgate primary school age ranging from 4yrs - 7yrs. This is a great way to introduce young children into tennis and most importantly into Queensgate tennis club along with the parents.

Also we have created a welcome back to tennis group which took place in September. Basically it was an idea of bringing more adults (35+) into the club to promote a healthy lifestyle by providing them with coaching sessions/social events and offering them opportunities to join a local tennis club. Four 90min sessions have taken place for non members of Queensgate TC and it was advertised via social media.

Tennis camps have taken place over the Summer holidays, but none during Easter or Whit as we had a problem with the flooding of the courts. These have been well attended by kids from a wide cross section of schools. The camps again continue to be a great way in for new junior members.

School links have been maintained this year with coaching taking place in local schools such as Queensgate Primary, Moss Hey, Thorngrove, Hursthead, Stockport Grammar. The links involve lunchtime clubs, afterschool clubs, curriculum time PE lessons and teacher training. The links are designed to promote club membership and act as a chance to spot young talent. Each child was invited to a free taster of junior club night, the summer open day and holiday camps. We hope to continue this next year as it's proven to be a great way of recruiting new junior and family members. The club has financially contributed towards this along with funding from the schools and stockport schools trust. Links have been agreed for next year for schools mentioned.

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I would once again like to thank the members of Queensgate for their support throughout the year.

10. Grounds & House Report

This has been a busy year for Queensgate. Due to personal circumstances I was unable to be as involved in the maintenance and development of the facilities as I should have been; however, several people stepped in and I would like to thank them for all their hard work.

Firstly, thanks to Ray for organising and project-managing the refurbishment of the clay courts and the replacement of the Astro courts. The clay courts are draining much better than they were last year and I think the refurbishment can be considered a success. There have been some drainage problems on the new Astro courts, which we are monitoring and have informed the contractors about. As a club, we need to develop a maintenance programme for the courts.

Lewis from Green Army Gardens continues to come once a fortnight to maintain the areas around the courts.

Ray also organised the replacement of a section of the perimeter fence in front of the clubhouse; however, further sections will need replacing.

Following the installation of the bar, Mandy and Sue furnished the extension. I would like to thank them for taking on this project and for doing it so well.

Ray thanked Deborah in her absence, presenting flowers and wine for her time served on the committee.

11. Webmaster Report

Over the past year, we have endeavoured to use the website more to promote the club as a whole as well as keep members up-to-date with events and news such as:

1. Tuesday social tennis nights
2. Tuesday tournament nights
3. Social events such as the Bop Night
4. Open Day
5. Competitions won amongst senior and junior members

Working with other members of the committee we have also aimed to share these events and news pieces on social media including Facebook and Twitter.

For the Open Day event, the club also placed a small online promotional advert with I Love Bramhall which was also shared on Facebook and Twitter. This was complemented by leaflets organised by Ray and delivered by several members of the club to local homes. It was also a great opportunity to show off the newly refurbished clubhouse with refreshments being served throughout the day and a raffle generously sponsored by members and local businesses which also help to generate a small income. The event was viewed as a success and thanks to the good weather there were a number of people who came to 'try' the club.

Subsequently, we have also 'placed' a small profile advert on I Love Bramhall which provides brief details about the club and links to social media and the website. We chose this option as relatively inexpensive and also allows us to just do further adverts as and when we need them, such as an Open Day in 2018.

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Going forward, we are looking to use the website as a source of further information for forthcoming social events and tennis events as well as 'blowing our own trumpet' about successes in senior and junior tennis and encouraging members where possible to like and share news on social media to create more awareness of the club in Bramhall.

12. Chairman's Report

The past year has seen mixed fortunes for the club.

On court the first teams have done well and the juniors were again outstanding. Most of our other teams found it challenging to compete successfully at the higher level following promotion the previous season.

Notwithstanding a very successful open day membership declined mainly as a result of a significant drop in junior membership.

As regards our facilities, it was a busy and expensive year. The pavilion project was completed including the bar and furnishing. Warm thanks to Brain Horrocks, Mike Sarginson and Lawrence Hancock who helped guide and deliver the project. Over the two years 2015/2017 the total project cost £137,000 of which the tennis section paid around £24,000 some £5,000 of which was covered by a negative interest loan from Cheshire LTA.

Our reserves were heavily depleted when all six courts unexpectedly started pooling badly through contamination during the winter. The old astroturf surface on courts 1,2 and 3 was replaced with a long life dual tone polyethylene carpet and the artificial clay surface refurbished at an overall cost of around £50,000.

The management committee met regularly and conducted its business efficiently. There were some issues with the organisation of the men's teams that were resolved with the assistance of the a few senior team members. The club tournament finals day was widely regarded as successful and well organised by Darren.

Social tennis on Tuesday evenings became popular and well attended especially the monthly themed events. Warm thanks to Rob for his enterprise and energy is making his happen. Thanks also to Rob and to Darren for concluding a revised forward looking coaching contract.

This is my last AGM as Chairman. Since I first joined the committee there have been many developments: Clubmark, Solar panels, artificial clay courts, landscaping with raise plant beds, the pavilion project and new dual tone courts. Our facilities indoor and outdoor are now very good.

But there are challenges ahead for the new committee.

The biggest and most urgent is to rebuild the sinking fund over next 5 years to ensure the sustainability of facilities. A new far higher level of annual operating surplus will be necessary. The main scope for increasing fee income is by increasing membership of social players; there is little or no scope for increasing the number of regular adult team players who contribute about 40% of all fee income. The key indicator is membership and income per court.

My thanks to current and past committee members for their support over the past 8 years and to members for their forbearance and goodwill.

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Judith thanked Ray on behalf of the membership for all his hard work on the committee as both Chair and Treasurer and presented him with a gift in recognition of his time served.

Chairman's Plate

This year's recipient of the Chairman's Plate is Darren Wagstaff for his help with the Men's teams and Tuesday night socials and the very successful 'Bop' night.

13. Election of Officers

The meeting agreed to take the election of officers on block as follows:

Chairman – Susan Pettigrew
Honorary Treasurer – Robert Hall
Honorary Secretary – Rebecca Lang
Honorary Membership Secretary – Mark Johnson
Men's Club Captain – Phil Stafford
Ladies Club Captain – Lis Bevan/Kat Biglen
Junior Committee Chair – Kath Donoghue
House & Grounds Officer – Craig Donoghue
Social Secretary – Rob Chambers
Webmaster – Clare Hinton
BQSC Representatives – Susan Pettigrew
QSC Representatives – Susan Pettigrew; Mark Johnson

11. AOB

Bob Pigeon advised the meeting of the social tennis groups on Wednesdays at 1.30pm and Sundays at 10am.

Susan Pettigrew offered a vote of thanks on behalf of the membership for all the hard work of the outgoing tennis committee.