



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Elsenham Tennis Club held on Thursday,  
10 March at 8.00pm 2016 at the Elsenham Memorial Hall.**

**Present:**

Mike Stiles, (Chairman) Elaine Wyld, (Secretary) Peter Scales, (Treasurer) , Hussain Shaida, Vivien Hart, Jeremy Drake, Ann Player, Lyn Segar, Petrina Lees, James Wyld, Ashley Harris, Barry Halliwell, Linda Steer and Darren Stevens.

**1. Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies were received from Petra Studholme, Jackie Booth and Megan Stiles.

**2. Minutes of last AGM:**

Minutes of last AGM were approved.

**3. Matters Arising from Last Meeting:** A request was made for the previous year's minutes to be re-circulated to members before the next AGM.

**4. Chairman's Report -** appended below

**5. Treasurers Report**

Peter Scales circulated the latest accounts. The club has a healthy balance of £18,899.37. Peter Scales reported that he had found a new Auditor for the Accounts. Hussain Shaida proposed the accounts be adopted and Petrina Less seconded the motion.

**6. Committee**

**The officers and committee elected in 2015 retired and officers and a new committee was elected as follows:**

**6a. Election of Officers:**

The following nominations that had been received were all accepted.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed by</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>
Chairman	Mike Stiles	Peter Scales	Hussain Shaida
Treasurer	Peter Scales	Barry Halliwell	Hussain Shaida
Secretary	Linda Steer	Mike Stiles	Barry Halliwell



**6b. Election of Committee:**

The following nominations were received:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed by</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>
Committee Member	Jeremy Drake	Lyn Segar	Petrina Lees
Committee Member	Darren Stevens	Linda Steer	Hussain Shaida
Committee Member	Barry Halliwell	James Wyld	Mike Stiles
Committee Member	Ashley Harris	Darren Stevens	Mike Stiles
Committee Member	Petrina Lees	Mike Stiles	Linda Steer

**8. Membership Fees**

The majority present at the meeting agreed to recommend keeping membership fees the same as previous year. Those present also agreed to recommend that students at university who belonged to a family who held Family Membership should be included in the Family Membership rather than have to pay an additional Student Membership fee. The new committee will consider these recommendations and decide shortly on the fee structure which will apply from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016.

**9. Any Other Business**

**Village Fete** – Lyn Segar suggested that the tennis club should be more involved with the village fete.

**Tennis Quiz Nights** – It was noted that the Bowls Club could not offer the tennis club a date for the Spring Quiz this year. Lyn Segar suggested that the club approach the Village Hall or Memorial Hall to hold the quiz there.

Elsenham Community Association – all those present at the AGM were happy to nominate Barry Halliwell to be ETC’s representative at the ECA.

## **Chairman's Report 2016**

**Date and time:** 10 March 2016, 8.00 pm  
**Venue:** Elsenham Memorial Hall

Good evening everyone, thank you for coming tonight. I would like to report back to you on the progress of the club since our last AGM. I shall review the past year and then summarise the position today.

As I did last year, I have collated my review under a number of headings. So, looking at each of these in turn:

### Constitution and Rules

There have been no changes to our rules or constitution during the past year. A copy of the rules is displayed in the Clubhouse and the constitution is available to anyone who would like a copy.

### Membership

We currently have 37 members. Although we have welcomed some new members, I am sad to report that, after increasing by 8 the previous year, our overall membership has fallen markedly, by 22, since last year.

The retiring committee is acutely aware of the situation and, in the course of this report I will explain what actions we have taken, and believe should be taken going forwards, to try to reverse the decline. It is worth adding that out of the 37, we have 4 student members and just 2 juniors. Clearly we have been failing to recruit juniors into the club and we must address this.

Confirming our membership fees for the next season will be one of the first tasks of the new committee. While we do not believe that the level of our fees is a cause of the fall in membership, since they are among the lowest in the area, the outgoing committee suggests that, following the increase we made last year, we should not increase the fees this year. Currently, the fees are: Full £60, Couple £110, Family £120, Student/OAP £30, Junior £20, Non-playing £5.

### Income and fundraising

Our income from membership subscriptions was lower than last year, down from £2225 to £1677, reflecting the fall in membership that I have just described.

In 2015 we raised £994 mainly through two successful quiz nights which were held at the Bowls Club. As usual, these were well attended and everyone enjoyed them. Thank you to all of you who helped to organise, set up and cater for these evenings. One caveat here for this year. The Bowls Club has not been able to offer us a Saturday in April or early May for our next quiz night – so, at the moment, we do not expect to hold another quiz night until the autumn.

Now some very good news! Thanks to the care and attention of our current and previous treasurers, Peter Scales and Dave Verlander, the club now holds a balance of some £18,700, an increase of over £2000 since last year. Given that we need to have our courts resurfaced soon, within the next two years we now believe, we have continued to save money towards this. In a few minutes I will hand over to Peter to give you more details about our finances.

# ELSENHAM TENNIS CLUB



## Tennis

Club Nights on a Tuesday continue to attract the keen and the hardy. As in most years, while the winter weather has limited our opportunities to play, the stalwarts have continued to play on most Tuesdays. We hope that more people will come to play again as the weather improves.

League matches. First of all, let me say thank you to Ashley, Linda and Petra who have captained our Men's, Ladies' and Mixed teams during the last year and provided reports for me to include here:

Mixed. The summer proved to be a challenging time with lots of injuries to contend with and our dedicated mixed team sadly had to withdraw from the summer league. ETC started very well in the winter league. With 4 matches completed, we are currently in the lead. A big thank you from the captain to all our players who support the team so strongly. And it's always fun too, we have great games, but also a laugh which is just as important. Petra

The Men's team continue to consolidate in both the summer and winter formats, operating on a small but efficient group of players. The majority of the summer fixtures came late in the season allowing us to benefit from the return of university players – well, player. This resulted in narrowly missing out on the first division title, but on reflection this was probably best as we lack the numbers at present to compete in the top tier. The team are currently sitting in a solid position in the winter league, only a ridiculously strong Harlow A team preventing a push for promotion. Got to love facing a hundred and twenty five mile an hour serve. The team always give one hundred percent even in bad weather. A victory at Stebbing played in consistent torrential rain comes to mind. The team seems to be steadily improving year by year. Ashley

Elsenham ladies showed determination and great spirit throughout the summer season, with only a handful of players ready, able and willing to play but when they did, the standard of play from our ladies was a delight to watch (often by the opposition!!) resulting in a deserved result of coming top of Division II. Whilst bragging is neither ladylike nor gracious (fortunately I profess to be neither!), the final scores left more than a small margin between us and the other teams; a huge thank you to those ladies that dragged themselves out in all weathers, despite it allegedly being summer, baking amazing cakes and pies, and overall doing the club proud. It was with regret that we decided not to enter the winter league but with so few ladies available to play and too many of those with injuries, it was considered best to save ourselves for the forthcoming summer season and the possible challenge of moving up a division. Bring it on !!! Linda

The results in the Essex Small Clubs League in summer 2015 were:

Men's team – 3<sup>rd</sup> in Division I  
Ladies team – 1<sup>st</sup> in Division II  
Mixed team – 2<sup>nd</sup> in Division II

In the current Winter League our positions, as at 24 February, were:

Men's team – 3<sup>rd</sup> in Division II  
Mixed team – 1<sup>st</sup> in Division II



### Wimbledon

For those of you interested in tickets for Wimbledon, as our ballot administrator, I have good news and bad news.

The bad news is that only 17 members opted in for this year's LTA ballot which means that the club will be allocated fewer pairs of tickets than last year – we had 5 pairs last year. The club allocations are due to be published next Monday, 14 March.

The good news for those who did opt in is that you will be the only ones eligible for the ballot and, since at least two of the 17 will be away on holiday during Wimbledon, the odds on getting a pair of tickets should be pretty good. We will hold our ballot around the end of April.

### Coaching

As you know, unfortunately, we have not had a club coach for a number of years. The committee believes that this is one of areas we must address if we are to stand a chance of reversing the decline in our membership.

I am therefore pleased to tell you that, following recent discussions, we have appointed Ollie Toms to be our club coach. Like us, he is keen to attract new members and is looking forward to talking with the new committee about how he can help to attract juniors and contribute to the life of the club. He brings energy and enthusiasm and I hope you will join me in welcoming him to our club.

Monica Sutherland has continued to provide coaching for juniors and to offer coaching for ladies. I have spoken to Monica about Ollie's appointment and they will discuss the way forward when Ollie returns from his holiday in the Far East shortly.

### Marketing and Communications

Elaine has continued to prepare and send out our newsletters, Paul has continued to look after our website, Jeremy is writing a regular report for the Elsenham village magazine and Viv has continued to create notices and act as custodian for new tennis balls! Many thanks to Elaine, Jeremy, Paul and Viv for all their help.

In pursuit of raising the profile and membership of the club, we believe that, together with the recent appointment of Ollie as club coach, we now need to improve our marketing. Among other things, there are two issues that we believe the new committee could consider:

1. Invest in updating the website (we wanted to confirm the club coach before doing this)
2. ETC communications (leaflets) for the new houses being built in Elsenham

Having said this, however, there is an important caveat. Members of the committee already give noticeable amounts of their time to the club and we need some more people who are able and willing to help.

### Facilities and maintenance

Those of you who have been playing recently will know that the courts became dangerously slippery in the autumn. We had a maintenance day at the end of November and James Wyld treated the courts with moss killer – thank you very much to James for doing this.



Unfortunately, it soon became apparent that the moss was too embedded to be removed by conventional spraying. Consequently, we arranged for the courts to be pressure washed and re-treated by K B Court Services, at the beginning of January. Including some work to repair and retention the fencing, this cost just under £1000.

There has been some additional small expenditure to deal with a broken netwire. The old net on the court next to the memorial hall, which was put back up when the netwire snapped, needs to be replaced. In addition, one floodlight is currently not working and needs to be repaired.

While the court surfaces have been fine to play on since they were cleaned in January, Kevin Bax (K B Court Services) recommended that we should get the courts resurfaced rather than spend money with him to patch and paint them. Although we have a strong bank balance for a small club, we expect that resurfacing will cost approaching £30,000 and so we will need to raise additional funds. The committee believes that we should aim to get the resurfacing done within the next two years and, to this end, we have started to investigate potential sources of grant funding. This will be an important job for the new committee.

#### Committee

I would like to thank the members of the retiring committee – Barry, Darren, Elaine, Jeremy, Megan, Peter and Viv.

As last year, there are two officers of the club who merit special thanks. I would like to say a particular thank you to Elaine and Peter for all their work over the last year.

Now I have to tell you that three of the retiring committee will not be standing for re-election – Elaine, Viv and Megan. Megan is now at university and is no longer able to participate as a member of the committee.

While I do, of course, understand their reasons, I am very sad that Elaine and Viv will not be standing again. Let me say a few words about each of them.

First of all, Viv has been a member of the committee for some 5 years and has made a great contribution to the club. In her characteristically understated way, she has never made a fuss about things, she has just got on and done them! For those of you who don't know, she has been a major contributor in catering for quiz nights, has dispensed floodlight tokens, looked after the stock of tennis balls, provided keys for visitors and grown flowers in planters outside the clubhouse! Thank you, Viv, for all that you have done.

Now what do I say about Elaine? Despite now living over ten miles from Elsenham, she has organised the committee and me, no mean feat, to make sure we do all the things we have needed to do. In addition to organising and writing minutes for our committee meetings, she has written the newsletters, taken the lead in organising quiz nights and always been there to pick up the extra jobs that, of course, arise. In short, she has been a brilliant secretary! Elaine, thank you for everything you have done for us.



Conclusion

Finally, let me conclude by summarising where we are now.

As you have heard, we have had some successes in the small clubs league and thank our captains for leading us to do this. We have had two successful quiz nights and thank everyone who has helped to organise those. Financially, we are in a strong position for a club of our size with nearly £19,000 in the bank.

We have suffered a significant decline in membership and need to act to reverse this. I believe that appointing a new club coach will help but, clearly, the new committee will need to continue to work on marketing and improving attractiveness of the club to potential members.

I would like to invite all of you to contribute ideas and time to raise the profile of the club and make it more fun for all of its members.

Elaine and Viv, it has been a pleasure to work with you on the committee and I wish you both the very best for the future.

Lastly, can I ask everyone to support the new committee which we will be electing shortly?

Mike Stiles