

SALISBURY TENNIS CLUB

2019 Annual General Meeting
and

Presentation of Trophies

Minutes

<p>The meeting was held</p>	<p>In the STC Clubhouse on Tue 12th November 2019 Start: 19.30 Finish: 21.30 Approx 26 attendees</p>
<p>Apologies</p>	<p>Peter Baker, Peter Mole, Hayley Kirby,</p>
<p>Minutes of last AGM:</p>	<p>Accept the last Minutes that were sent out by email by Tristram Owen after the last AGM on 5 December 2018.</p>
<p>Matters arising from 2018 AGM minutes - updates on proposals accepted at that AGM:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Court lighting: The last 12 months have been very busy – please see Chairman’s Address below for more details. 2. Membership: Clubspark was introduced with the benefits of removing a large amount of admin and it offers data protection. 3. Re-Roofing of the Clubhouse : Completed. A bonus development to report, is that Nick successfully submitted a Small Facilities Grant Application to Herts Tennis for £1,000, which has paid for almost a quarter of the re-roofing costs. 4. Re-roofing of the Shed : This was completed by our groundsman Barry. 5. Repairs to the front gate: The wooden panel in the gate was replaced by Nick. It has a weather proof primer but it now needs a top coat of paint (volunteers?) 6. Recognition of Club Volunteers in Formal Posts: At the last AGM the matters of acknowledging the time and commitment invested by the Committee Members was debated, along with incentivising new Members to join the Committee. While no absolute conclusion was drawn, there were certainly views expressed from the floor that the Committee members efforts should be recognised, perhaps in the form of a discount on Membership fees. Indeed, views were expressed that Committee Members should not have to pay a fee at all. It was recorded that the Committee should take this away and put in place a proposal. The Committee’s proposal was that Committee Members (excluding coaches who pay a reduced rate already) should only be charged 10% of the published Membership fee (or the relevant part of that Membership category, for instance where it is a

	Partners fee). That was implemented from April 2019.
Election of Officers for next 12 months:	<p>Elected Committee were voted in as follows:</p> <p>Chairman : Nick Birchall</p> <p>Secretary : Tristram Owen</p> <p>Treasurer : Brendan Chambers</p> <p>Proposed and seconded by the members</p>
Notice given of other Committee members for next 12 months	<p>Sue Birchall Peter Mole Trish Jones – Welfare Officer Tom Dyball – Head coach David Lawlor – Coach</p> <p>A request for more volunteers to help in managing the club in particular: membership secretary (currently covered by Tristram), and social events.</p>
The existing Trustees are:	<p>The Club has 4 trustees in accordance with the Constitution. Two of which are Peter Baker and Sue Birchall. The other 2 have retired. Nick Birchall put his name forward and this was put to the vote and approved by the members present.</p>

Chairman's Address (Nick Birchall)

I would like to welcome Members to this years' Salisbury Tennis Club AGM, an important event in the annual calendar where we can report on the progress of the Club, highlight issues to you as Members which might continue to take the Club forward, invite your views on proposals to action next year and of course to celebrate the achievements of the players through the award of Club Tournament trophies.

This has been a year where we have invested effort, time and finances on the proposals agreed at the last AGM to maintain the current fabric of the Club but also to look forward to the future years. This time last year we tabled a series of proposals to be implemented this year, and we are pleased to say that all of them have been actioned or are well progressed:

- We proposed to re-roof the shed. This has been completed by our groundsman Barry Martin with help from his colleague Bernard and a past member Adrian Coggins. As part of that process, the mound of vegetation cuttings was removed into a skip and taken off site, which has tidied that end of the Club;
- We proposed to re-roof the clubhouse. This has been recently completed using an outside roofing contractor and funded from our sinking fund. The new roof has a 20 Year Insurance Backed Guarantee. As mentioned previously, we keep in good contact with Herts Tennis who, apart from giving us advice, have various sources of minor but important grant funding for clubs. Through this we secured a Small Facilities Grant of £1000 towards the cost of these roof works and our thanks to Herts Tennis for supporting us on this. Keeping our ears to the ground outside the Club pays dividends;
- We proposed to implement repairs to the front gate. This is partially completed and we still plan to integrate a notice board – a suitable winter project;
- We proposed to recognise the extensive input and effort of individuals in key formal posts, especially the Committee, by some form of incentive. This arose given precedents from the feedback from other small Clubs at the Herts Tennis Forums. This strategy has been implemented not only to recognise the input of current Committee Members but with an objective to encourage new Committee Members to join the team which manages the affairs of the Club. This was implemented as a discounted Membership Fee as suggested by Members at the last AGM.
- We also implemented an additional proposal – the use of the LTA Clubspark system to introduce online Membership renewals. This greatly assisted the Membership renewal process and reduced our paper outputs. Yes there have been teething problems and we would invite your feedback on this in order that we can discuss these issues with Clubspark. But we must not overlook the considerable efforts of Tristram Owen and Matt Knight last winter in testing the Clubspark system, adapting it to suit our club, making it as simple as possible to aid the roll out and for validating Members details to ensure that Clubspark was populated with as much information as possible before it was introduced. We will continue to review and improve the system.

Clearly the most significant Proposal which was tabled and supported at the last AGM was the Court Lighting Strategy. We tabled the Exploration Pack of information which was circulated to all Members. This reported back to you on the feasibility study and general direction of the proposals. The update was discussed at the AGM and received a unanimous vote of support to be taken to the next stages including expenditures on initial fees.

Since then, we have progressed this important Club project to a point where we can begin the consultations with St Albans District Council prior to submitting Pre Application Planning Information, and if supported in principle by SADC, we will then submit a full planning application for the proposal.

During the year we have appointed Sports Facility Planning and Design Ltd (Lee West) to prepare a court lighting design. Lee is a recent LTA Technical Director and has been able to direct the electronic surveys of the grounds and surroundings, to incorporate the latest LED lighting technology and design software, and to draw on his experience of other recent installations in sensitive locations, such as Roade Club, Northampton. Another organisation which has supported the Club in the development of the current proposals is Highlights Floodlighting in Luton, and we would like to thank Andy Parsons their project manager for his advice to us, for

attending design reviews, for preparing a Light Impact Assessment for the design and more recently for supporting us during the recent Residents Consultation Meeting.

Throughout this design development process, we have maintained the Briefing Constraints which we feel are appropriate for a court lighting installation here at STC :

- The decision to light two courts and not push to light all three courts;
- The decision to install close to 6.0m poles as opposed to the standard 8.0m poles;
- The decision to place lighting where it least affects the neighbours, especially on the north boundary;
- The decision to invest in the latest LED lighting technology to control light spill within our boundaries while securing a good standard of lighting on court;
- The decision to prepare a design which is affordable to STC in the future;
- The decision to operate the lights during prescribed hours and using a pay-an-play activation system;

The Committee has always undertaken to keep Members fully informed and to seek agreement at each stage of this project given the level of investment and the significance to the Club. By the end of July, we had a scheme clearly defined by Lee West and then reviewed this as a Committee. By September we felt were ready to communicate that design not only to Members but also to the local residents, and on October 15th, we held a Residents Consultation Meeting, followed by two Members Consultation Meetings on October 16th and 17th. These were well attended and the debates around the lighting proposal were insightful and useful. I always listen to the comments carefully because there are often useful observations which you do not always think about being close to the design development.

We have requested feedback on the Proposal and thank you to everyone who has responded to this. If you have not done so, please review the presentation which is now on our Website and we strongly encourage you to express your views in email format to the Chairman's email address. These are important to the Club even at this early stage.

My views on the Court Lighting are clear. When I was preparing the presentation, it was interesting to put together the timeline slide which logged the major improvements to the Club since its formation in 1961. That longevity has been achieved by loyal core members but also, at key points in time, decisions by the Club identifying improvements which were fundamental to securing the existence of this facility. The decision to progressively switch from grass courts to hard courts, the decisions to install new court surfaces as technology progresses, the decision to replace our old clubhouse. The all-year-playing agenda has been a prime area of discussion for a number of seasons. We now have the court surface to enable this, so why not reinforce this with the installation of court lighting.

We have calculated that the Club loses around 600 hours of potential playing time from mid September to mid March. The demand is there as expressed in the strong support from Members for the Proposal. We have the feedback from parents and past members who have moved to other clubs due to our lack of lighting. We have the request from our coaching team to provide more continuity of coaching throughout the year. We have a clearly defined design and have detailed costs for its implementation.

As I noted at the last two AGM's, it is very important for everyone to note that the proposal to install court lighting was not intended to change the fundamental ethos of Salisbury Tennis Club as a local friendly club. There is no intention to make STC some form of commercial venture or double the Membership. But we must recognise that virtually all other Clubs in St Albans provide some form of court lighting in order to provide playing opportunities all year round for their members. STC needs to respond to this trend, as well as the greater sports and leisure offering in the area, in order to safeguard its future. I recognise that this will need to be managed carefully but our objective is simply to preserve the future of the Club and maintain its current position in the local St Albans environment.

Therefore as Chairman it is my clear recommendation to you that we formally sanction taking this project forward – firstly to gain a town planning permission over the next six months, to validate to the installation and running costs model in parallel with this, to identify and report on an appropriate funding strategy, and to arrange tenders and procurement during the mid part of next year once planning permission has been secured - all with a view having an installation ready for us in the autumn of 2020. These is still a significant effort

required achieve this but it is very encouraging to hear so much support at this stage for this significant project.

There are three other things I would like to mention.

Firstly, STC continues to be very fortunate to be steered by a solid committed Committee in conjunction with a wider group of people willing to contribute time and effort to enable the Club to provide a good range of tennis activities across the year. I include in this the team captains who coordinate and orchestrate match play at all times of the year and those individuals who just help on key social days. I would say that we effectively have a core voluntary team of 10 – 12 people helping the Club deliver tennis, reinforced by the Tom Dyball, Paul Wood and Megan Godfrey Evans as our Coaching Team and Groundsman Barry Martin. Our big thanks to these people for everything they contribute, and particular thanks to Tristram as our Club Secretary, Brendan for his stewardship of the finances, and Peter Mole for his combined role as a team captain and careful management of the website. As we all know, the success of grass root sports across the country is so dependent on volunteer time.

But.....last year I noted that the Club was keen to hear from Members who would be willing to join the Committee and assist with the running of the Club. I mentioned that we had two vacant posts – someone to undertake the Membership Secretary role, and someone to act as a Socials Coordinator (not to run the social side of the Club single handed but to coordinate the input of others and inspire ideas for social events). Alas we are still looking to fill these two roles, especially the Membership Secretary. I would like to thank Anne Watson and Sue Birchall who have stepped up to help on the social side as and when we have events.

But it should be noted that we are looking for a next generation of Members to understand the operational issues that make STC tick as a successful Club and to progressively hand over the management of the Club for the future. We have been focused on the Court Lighting as an important element to the future. New blood and fresh eyes at Committee Level is equally important. I have been Chairman for over 12 years (not bad for an initial offer of “temporary chairman” for a year back in 2007) and I would certainly feel that it would be reasonable to be aiming to hand over in no more than 2 – 3 years time. Therefore as part of the commitment to a major investment such as Court lighting, we also need to be thinking about a structured succession on the Committee and for future Officers of the Club. We are at a point where they begin to go hand in hand.

We consciously organise the Committee such that the load on one individual is relatively small, but please be clear, it is important that we have some additional volunteers to the Committee in order to maintain this approach. Tristram and I would be more than happy to discuss these remits and shape a role to suit an individual. With the new incentive strategy in place for Committee Members, we hope there are some who would give this serious thought.

Secondly, the discussions relating to the Court Lighting have raised some useful observations which I believe we could consider formalising and adding to our management philosophy and promotion of the Club as a responsible local entity :

- Parking was an area of strong debate at the residents meeting but it was interesting that the residents concluded that it was a challenge for Salisbury Avenue as a whole not just the impact of the Club. Nevertheless it was a reminder that patterns of life change, and that car ownership in Salisbury has changed (and with it the need to be conscious about important issues such as emergency vehicle access along the road at all times and avoiding damage to the grass verges). In response to this, I plan to introduce parking guidelines and monitor closely how we can implement these. For instance, do we aim to park on one side of the road; should our Coaching Team be asked to monitor how parents are parking and continually remind visitors of this; equally should team captains monitor how visiting teams park in the road ?? It is not a major issue as yet but with sensitive proposals such as the Court Lighting, we may need also to be more mindful of other aspects of our wider environment as a Club.
- Linked to this, and to our promotion as a local club with many members living within a one mile radius, is the policy of how members access the Club. Currently my perception is that we have a reasonable balance of players who come to the Club on foot or by cycles. Could we do better ? Should we have a promotional campaign to encourage Members and visitors to access the Club through

modes other than cars ? Should we add more cycle parking facilities at the Club ? It would certainly be a positive direction.

- One comment from residents was occasional noise during play especially when things are maybe not going so well. The reference is more focused at the Men Players, dare I say, and perhaps might have established a certain notoriety through one or two past players. Again it is not a major issue but one we should remind players of perhaps more than we do currently.
- Finally, the useful observation was made as to whether we promote ourselves strongly enough. Should we invest more in promotional material or signage – for example the signs which frequently add colour to the barriers on Hatfield Road ? We should definitely repeat the Flyer Drop to houses on the south side of Hatfield Road which was successful this past year. We would welcome ideas and thoughts on this.

My third point is to recall a terrific moment at the Club early this year. In May we achieved a first – Live Jazz Music at Salisbury Tennis Club. Tagged the “Great Balls of Fire” Event, a group of us enjoyed a wonderful evening of social discourse, great food from the Oasis Restaurant (our thanks again to Anne Watson for her ideas and planning for this aspect of the event) and excellent music from Chris Clulow and his jazz trio. Guest appearances were made by Peter Baker and Maureen as well. It said so much about the local friendly environment of the Club and everyone agreed that we should repeat it if Chris is willing to offer a return performance.

So to conclude, we have had another positive year as a club but there are always ongoing goals. The coaching offer is consistent and professional, the holiday camps are successful and Tom Dyball and his team continue with their objective to build the junior numbers. It is important to offer adults accessible coaching also – the summer Monday evening sessions increased in popularity as they progressed and will be repeated. The Open Days are important occasions, and hopefully for next year we will be a step closer to offering all year tennis to new members. But we should not lose focus of the objective to restore a Membership level more consistently around the 200 Members target. That is a collective effort for all of us – and we must remember that this was part of the undertakings we gave to the LTA when we applied for the new court surface funds. These remain realistic core expectations in safeguarding the health and continued development of this amazing tennis club.

A final closing remark – that moment for some tennis anecdotes or tales - and I found a story which relates our weapon of choice – the tennis racket. First, some historical context. Apart from earlier variants such as hands, the first tennis racket was made on 1874 in London by Major Walter C. Wingfield. This racket was the first one made of solid wood, meaning players such a John McEnroe could have inflicted serious damage. In 1947 we had the Lacoste Laminated racket, deploying advances in timber laminating technology which produced a lighter and more flexing timber racket. The Dunlop Maxply was a famous version of this game-changer.

Then in 1968 Wilson introduced the T2000, the first steel racket, legendary status after tennis great Jimmy Connors adopted it as his own. In 1976 Prince followed suit with the oversized racket trend, giving players a larger sweet spot for added power. By 1990, wooden rackets became obsolete. Instead, brands like Dunlop and Prince switched over to graphite frames and world class tennis players dominated the courts with the Dunlop Max2000, the Wilson Pro Staff and the Prince Graphite. Wilson continued its innovation with the Profile, introduced in 1987, this first “widebody” racket allowed for more powerful shots thanks to a larger beam width. Since 1990, Head, Wilson, Babolat and Yonex have lured us with the Hammer, the Radical, the Pure Drive, the AeroPro Drive, the K Factor and the Youtek,

But as I experienced in my Mixed Doubles Final in 2018, these are fragile tools which highlights the importance of not throwing that old racket away and keeping it as a spare. I found an appropriate example of this.

Goran Ivanisevic entered the 2000 Samsung Open in Brighton with high hopes. A weak field gave him a great chance and a second round match against South Korea’s Hyung-Taik Lee didn’t seem much of a problem. Then in the first set, when he dropped his serve to go 6-5 down, he promptly smashed his racket. He recovered his composure to take the second set 7-6 after a tie-break but in the third set racket number two cracked. Ivanisevic persevered with it until the next changeover before dumping that one too in the bin. Four points later a double fault presented Lee with two break points, Ivanisevic then smashed his third racket on the floor

before telling the umpire that he had no more left. There was no alternative but for the racketless Croat to retire, becoming the first player in history to lose a match in such a way.

Alas, with Matt Ambler a past Member, we may never repeat this. May you continue to enjoy the facilities and opportunities offered by the Club, please let us have your suggestions and ideas for improvements and we look forward to another year of promoting the enjoyment of tennis.

Thank you.
Nick Birchall
Chairman

Club Championships 2019 - Junior Trophies (Tom Dyball/Nick Birchall)

Awarded according to the Club Championships 2019 results set out below.

Isabel Brugnoli Award for Services to Salisbury Tennis Club

This years award is to be presented to an individual who is a long serving Members having joined the Club in early 1990's – over 25 years. A master of the kick-serve, this individual plans his shots with clinical analysis. It is sometimes a game of minds when looking across from the other side of the net trying to assess which way the ball will go. The game plan is definitely one of "place the ball in the most difficult position and they will struggle to get it back". The drop shots at the net are infuriating which is reinforced the look of satisfaction as this person walks back into position thinking "a slice well executed". It is also the post shot analysis shared on court which is part of the enjoyment, coupled with a stare at the Smart Watch to see if the heart rate was still firing on all cylinders.

This person is a keen observer of wider ball sports and is as happy in water as he is on the court surface. This person is one of our bionic members. As well as restoring a car, this individual has been having some restoration with integrated metal additions to the original chassis over recent years. It is inspiring to see someone remaining very committed to tennis and to reaching that wide shot despite suffering skeletal components needing more than WD40.

This individual has played an increasingly important role in the Committee affairs, a loyal attendee and someone who always contributes well considered opinions as well as bringing the ipad to bear when assessing information or statistics. This person is a strong representative of the Club Teams on the Committee and has brought great initiatives to the Club such as encouraging teenage players to join the seniors team matches in order to widen their experience.

More recent has been the important application of this person's technology background to set up and manage our website, such an important portal to communicate the Club to the outside world. Not only are requests processed, but more often than not the response is "while I was doing that I noticed that this could be improved and so I have fixed that as well". Proactiveness has been a characteristic of this person on court, in the Committee Room and in executing duties for the Club over the years.

This individual has been a key member of men's tennis at the Club and has successfully captained the Men's Second Team as well as sharing the captaincy of the winter mixed tennis. Commitment to the success of STC even extends to playing under pseudonyms. I am reliably informed that a couple of years ago the Men's First Team could only get five players for a match against Hitchin. At the last minute, this ever-reliable person said he'd play but he'd already played his full allocation of 8 matches for the year. As the First Team had a weak team and were going to be relegated regardless, they decided he could play under the pseudonym of "Steve Georgas" (Steve was injured and had only played a couple of times). This person played and they duly lost but at least we managed to field a full team.

A few days later the Hitchin captain emailed Brendan to advise that he was confused. He was entering the score sheet online and advised that "Steve Georgas" had introduced himself at the net before play as "Pete". Rather than tell the truth and being paranoid that we'd be reported to the league organiser, Brendan wrote back to advise that "Pete" was a nickname. Because of his super serve, Steve Georgas was called "Pistol Pete"

at the club after his idol Pete Sampras. The name had therefore stuck and everyone now knew him as just "Pete". Brendan never heard anything further.

A great believer in the importance of the next generation of players, it was special to see this person knocking up with his grandchild during the summer with the gentle comments on not only how to hit the ball but also some early steers on court etiquette. This says much about the player and the individual.

Therefore it our great pleasure as a Club to present this year's Isabel Brugnoli Award for Services to the Salisbury Tennis Club to Peter Mole.

Treasurer's Report (Brendan Chambers)

Copies of the accounts for 2018/2019 were circulated and presented to the members (copy attached at the end of the Minutes).

Notes to the accounts:

1. Excess of receipts over payment of £3,259.
2. Subscriptions are down on last year in line with reduced number of members.
3. Court fees are lower but this is a timing issue with a large deposit after year-end.
4. We maintain a small yet steady income stream from ball recycling. This has dropped as they are being more selective about which balls they will pay for.
5. Ground keeping fees are up. There was a large payment in May particularly for extra works with clearing, skips and shed reroofing.
6. Court maintenance is similar to last year. This is at a cost of approx. £2,500 inc VAT for moss kill, sweeping and new granules.
7. The LTA loan (court resurfacing) has reduced from £24,000 to £21,000. The LTA loan is repayable in 2 equal instalments of £1,500 in May and November each year for 10 years. This is interest free.

The independent examiner that verified the accounts:

Mrs Angela Barker A.C.A.
Lyric Cottage
1b Singlets Lane
Flamstead
Herts
AL3 8EN

The accounts were proposed and seconded by the members

Subscriptions and membership (Tristram Owen)

Category	2019		2018		2017	
	Totals	Change	Totals	Change	Totals	Change
Individual	37	4	33	10	23	-9
Family	82	-11	93	16	77	24
Partner	12	-4	16	-2	18	-4
Junior	30	-2	32	15	17	-2
Mini	3	-1	4	2	2	-6
Student	2	-4	6	0	6	0
Midweek	10	3	7	3	4	-1

176	-15
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191	44
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147	2
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Although we have had a slight increase in the Individual and the Midweek categories this gain has been offset by reductions in all other areas. We have 176 Members. 15 fewer members in 2019 than 2018 but we are up 29 members from 2017 (20%) and 31 members up on where we were in 2016 (21%). We are now at similar numbers to 2015. Over the coming years we need to focus on bringing membership numbers up to 200-210 to keep the Club sustainable and financially healthy.

2020

Build on the benefits of Clubspark and ensure the process is smoother for all; New and Existing Members.

Proposed Fee Structure for 2020

Membership Type	Proposed 2020 Fees	Early Bird 2020 Fees - 2% discount	Early Bird Discount 2% (pay by 1 April 2020)	% increase between 2019 to 2020	Current 2019 Fees
Individual	£165	£162	-£3	5%	£158
Family (2+2)	£339	£332	-£6	5%	£322
Family (2+1)	£289	£283	-£6	5%	£275
Family (1+2)	£240	£236	-£4	5%	£229
Family (1+1)	£189	£186	-£3	5%	£180
Partners	£284	£279	-£5	5%	£271
Mid-Week	£102	£100	-£2	5%	£97
Student (18 - 25)	£66	£65	-£1	5%	£63
Junior (8 - 17)	£63	£62	-£1	5%	£60
Mini's (4 - 7)	£48	£47	-£1	5%	£45
Visitors	£4	-	-	-	£4

Proposals for agreement by the AGM to set Policy and Objectives for next season.

Each year the Committee puts forward proposals to the AGM on key issues which we feel need agreement for the forthcoming year. These range from administrative matters to improvements to the Club Facilities. The proposals we wish to table for approval this year are as follows :

1. **Court Lighting Proposal** – The Chairman noted that there had been 52 feedback responses following the consultation evenings and the posting of the presentation on the website. These included 11 from local residents (incl Members living locally); 1 strong objection had been received. The Chairman thanked everyone for the feedback and asked those who had not done this yet to please do so. It was important that the Club understood the level of support accurately. The Chairman noted that the Club would continue with pre- planning consultations.

The Chairman noted that a letter had been submitted to Club Members by Mr and Mrs Telkman opposite at 38 Salisbury Avenue who had asked this to be passed on at the AGM. The Chairman noted the key points of the letter – that they believe that light pollution would be clearly evident if we installed lights; that installation of lights would be a step too far given other improvements at the Club; that should we install lighting that they might have a claim against the Club for Private Nuisance under Common Law or using the European Court of Human Rights Article 8 (Nuisance). They ask us not to proceed with the installation. The Chairman noted that this communication should be respected and wanted to make Members aware of it.

It was also noted that there had been lobbying local councillors against the proposal even though we had not submitted anything – as per latest Lib Dem newsletter.

The proposal was voted on and unanimously agreed.

2. **Court Lighting Town Planning Actions** – that the Committee undertake further actions as are required in preparation for the town planning application such as professional town planning advice, consultations with SADC for a Pre Application Submission, erection of a sample light fitting at the Club, other professional advice as is required and preparation and submission of a full town planning application for the proposal.

The proposal was voted on and unanimously agreed.

3. **Court Lighting Finance Strategy** – that the Committee prepare a funding and financing strategy in consultation with Herts Tennis and the LTA, exploring interest free loan options and the development of a costing model including capital returns from the winter court fees. This will include proceeding with tenders for the lighting should town planning be secured.

The Chairman noted that any financial strategy and commitments to loans would be openly reported back to the Members for agreement prior to execution of agreements or plans.

The proposal was voted on and unanimously agreed.

4. **Membership Fees** – in the context of the 2020 / 2021 season being a period to build our Club reserves, it is proposed that Membership Fees are increased by 5% for all categories. In addition, it is tabled for discussion whether the early bird discount should be reduced or suspended for this coming season only to optimise revenues and to build the sinking fund. 5% increase with a 2% early bird discount should increase fees by about £600 for the year, if membership numbers remaining at 176.

The proposal was voted on and unanimously agreed.

5. **Defibrillator Installation** – it has been suggested that the Club might consider installing a defibrillator plus training a number of Members on its use. These pieces of equipment cost between £1000 – 1500. Plus training costs for volunteer users.

DL TD noted that this was a positive addition and that the modern defibrillators have clear instructions for us, including clear audible instructions. It was noted by Members that we need to find a suitable location for such a device which was accessible but also secure. Suggestion that we look at secure box with key pad code access. Members agreed that it should be investigated further and for the Club to identify a way to install it.

The proposal was voted on and agreed.

6. **Improve storage facilities at the Club** – to purchase some storage shelves and/or cupboards to be located in one of the back rooms to assist on keeping these areas tidy and safe for junior members using the Clubhouse.

It was suggested that Members investigate whether any Member has some storage shelving that they did not use and which could be donated to the Club.

7. **Promotion of Events** – to allow the Committee to take forward ideas and limited expenditure to enhance the promotion of key Club events such as Open Days (eg to locate a banner on the railings on Hatfield Road).

The proposal was voted on and agreed.

8. **Source a replacement amplifier for the music system** – ideally to find someone with an old amplifier they do not need any more.

Mark Blaxill offered to try an old amplifier he had to see if this worked with the CD player.

Coaching Report (Tom Dyball)

Firstly, I would like to thank all of the players, both adult and junior, for all of their support with the coaching programme this year.

An update on the STC Coaching Programme this year and goals and initiatives for 2020 –

As a quick over view, the after school coaching programme includes a full 11 week Summer Term from April to July and a 6 weeks Half Term from September to October in the Autumn Term on Wednesday evenings. We run Saturday morning coaching all year round

Our challenges are to attract players for the most active coaching time from Easter through to the October Half Term when we run after school lessons, this links in with the court lighting project in which the committee have been fantastic in moving this forward. Having access to court lights would allow the coaching programme to retain players all year round and also attract players as a constant activity, which seems to be the way children's activities are going.

An example of this would be the high number of players attending the Summer Camps could then be retained and converted into members who can then access the coaching programme through to Christmas and from January to March.

As a team we would like to increase and extend the coaching offering all year round on Monday evenings for juniors followed by adults. We started a new adult group on Monday evenings during the Summer Term, which proved to be very successful. This was aimed at the members who work during the day. Continuing the Wednesday all year round from 4pm onwards and maintaining the Saturday mornings as usual. The demand will govern the increase and we will also welcome additional nights if the club strategy and court usage allows.

The school programme at Fleetville Junior School continues to thrive on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

We helped run the Junior and Adult Finals Day, where a great level of tennis was on display for all to see and there was a really nice atmosphere at the club.

This year we ran a new format for the men's singles, doubles and seniors to try and avoid playing matches at the last minute.

The STC Open Day and Great British Tennis Weekend, which are annual events, were both a big success with the club seeing so many new faces and gaining some new members, many of these players signed up for the coaching programme and the Summer Camps.

The coaching team ran 4 pre-season training sessions (two ladies and two mens) for the team players. This was very well attended and this is a great opportunity for us to pass on new ideas about Doubles.

Finally, a huge thank you to David Lawlor for his continued support behind the scenes and to Paul Wood and Megan Godfrey-Evans for all their hard work with the coaching and to the Committee for all their tireless help and support in moving STC forward.

Club Tournament 2019 results (Tom Dyball/Nick Birchall)

Event	Winners	Runners-up
Green	Archie Dorsett	Parthu Signal
Mini Orange	<i>No match</i>	
Under 12 boys/girls	<i>No match</i>	
Under 14 boys	Ben Davies	Tom Mitchell
Parent and Child	Uli & Finlay Denton	Max & Felix Raison
Men's singles	Tom Dyball	Steve Spring
Men's doubles	Andy Denton & David Mitchell	Brendan Chambers & Steve Spring
Men's vets doubles	Brendan Chambers & Steve Georgas	Mark Collins & Mark Blaxill
Ladies singles	Megan Godfrey-Evans	Jill Barnett
Ladies doubles	Pam Green & Hayley Kirby	Ann-Maree Dunn & Diana Maynard
Ladies vets doubles	Hayley Kirby & Donna Fletcher	Jill Barnett & Uli Denton
Mixed doubles	David Mitchell & Oksana Jardzioch	Steve Spring & Diana Maynard

Most improved Junior 2019: Archie Dorsett

Men's Doubles match reports (2 teams)

Men's First Team (Mark Blaxill)

The 1st team won 4 matches & lost 2. We were unlucky not to get promoted.

We had a good turnout of players. Steve Spring, Andy Denton, David Mitchell, Paul Wood & Matt Knight together with Brendan & Mark Collins were all keen to play. A special mention goes to Robert Collopy who was honoured to be asked for 1st team duty & played very well. Pete, Clyde & I also played without much success.

1st match – We beat Townend 5-4 at their place. They were the eventual group winners.

2nd match – We beat Hitchin 6-3 at home. Hitchin's 1st pair were very strong.

3rd match – we lost 6-3 away to Barnet.

4th match – we won 5-4 at home to Welwyn.

5th match – we lost 6-3 to Radlett.

6th match – we beat Bishops Stortford 6-3.

As captain I enjoyed the season & am looking forward to next year.

Men's Second Team (Peter Mole)

The Second Team – 2019

This year Salisbury's second team played in division 4B, one division up from 2018. We seem to have oscillated between divisions 4 and 5 over the last few years, and once again division 4 proved too strong for us. We failed

to win a match, though several were competitive and we were divided from our opponents through losing a couple of rubbers in tight tie-break 3rd sets.

After discussion amongst the men, I propose that we will not enter a 2nd team in the Herts league next year, but enter it in the Hot Rackets league. The aim will still be to ensure that players not playing regularly for the first team will get matches, however the shorter format of each match will hopefully make it easier for players to commit.

We fielded 15 players for the second team over the season giving the men plenty of opportunity to play team tennis during the season. Unfortunately, we had no juniors wishing to play in the team this year. Congratulations to Mark Collins who won all 6 rubbers he played in and Brendan who won 8 of his 9 rubbers.

Standing of Men's Doubles - Division 4B on 3 rd November									
	Points	Played	Rubbers		Match results for 2019				
1 Hertford 2	6	6	45	-	9	Home	-	Away	Score
2 Hoddesdon 3	5	6	30	-	24	Hertford 2	-	Salisbury 2	9-0
3 Knebworth	3	6	65	-	54	Salisbury 2	-	Northaw & Cuffley 2	3-6
4 Townsend 5	3	6	62	-	69	Hoddesdon 3	-	Salisbury 2	5-4
5 Northaw & Cuffley 2	2	6	21	-	33	Elliswick 5	-	Salisbury 2	5-4
6 Elliswick 5	2	6	20	-	34	Salisbury 2	-	Knebworth	3-6
7 Salisbury 2	0	6	17	-	37	Salisbury 2	-	Townsend 5	3-6

Player	Won	Played	Player	Won	Played
Brendan Chambers	6	6	Steve Spring	2	6
Andy Denton	8	9	Matthew Knight	3	9
David Mitchell	5	6	Mark Woodward	1	9
Mark Collins	3	3	Robert Dicker	0	3
Mark Blaxill	0	6	Clyde Kirton	0	15
Steve Georgas	2	3	Tomasz Jardzioch	0	6
Peter Mole	0	12	Tristram Owen	1	2
Robert Collopy	3	9			

Women's Doubles match reports – Summer (3 teams):

(a) Hot Rackets League (Hayley Kirby)

Our first season playing in the Hot Rackets League, moving away from the Herts League and we all enjoyed the shorter format! 6 matches were played with 5 wins and 1 loss, finishing a respectable second place in our division. Many thanks and very well done to all the ladies that played.

(b) Watford League - evening (Pam Green)

We had some very good matches in division 4 and aim to get back there before too long. Special thanks to Sue Birchall who, in spite of being unable to play matches for most of the season, is still very much part of the team and turned out to support us regularly.

(c) Orchard League – daytime (Anne Watson)

After being promoted to Division 3 this season, we finished 3rd in the league despite winning all 4 matches (the results are based on the number of sets won). Bizarrely, we won the same number of games as the division winners! Thanks to everyone who took part - especially Una who played all the fixtures.

Women's Doubles match report – Winter Vets (Una Campbell)

Ladies vets team had a fun time playing in division 5A. We won 2 games , lost 2 and drew in 5th game. All games were played 1st time round. We were lucky with the weather. One was frosty and gloves and scarfs stayed on throughout the match.

Mixed Doubles match reports: 3 teams:

Summer Team: (Tomasz Jardzioch)

2nd June vs Potter Bar - lost
7th July vs St Albans - lost
8th Sept vs Elliswick - won

Redbourn - pulled out and we still have to play Greenwood Park - rained off and being played on 24th November.

If we win last one should be somewhere in the middle of the table, if we lose probably second from the bottom. So far 6 mens and 7 ladies involved in playing.

Winter: 1st team (Pam Green)

By some accident, we went up to division 2 last year, but are looking forward to our matches in division 3 this year. Thanks to everyone who played and to Hayley and Anne Watson who kindly went to the fixtures meeting this year.

Winter: 2nd team (Jill Barnett and Peter Mole)

Not the most successful season for the winter mixed 2nd team – having come up a division the previous year, we won only one match this year and lost four others, so found ourselves second bottom of the league at the end of the season. However, as we will be playing down a division this coming winter I fully expect that we'll win all our matches and come right back up again! Thanks to the 11 ladies and 8 gentlemen who took part and especially to Peter Mole for helping to organise.

Close and any other business

- The Committee will arrange for moss killer to be applied once all the leaves have fallen.
- Reminder that the Wimbledon 2020 ballot is now open until Valentine's Day, 14 February 2020. 29 June-12 July 2020.
- A special thanks to Peter Mole, Matt Knight and Sue Birchall for covering for Tristram over from May to August, including Membership and Wimbledon.
- Finally, the Members want to make a special thanks to Nick for his vast efforts and time commitment on the lighting proposals, including when not always in full health. A project like this need someone with the skill set that Nick has so we are lucky to have him and very thankful.

STC Financial Accounts (.pdf attachment):



Salisbury Tennis
Accounts 19[691177]

END

