

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE TENNIS SUSSEX COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2011, AT THE WEALD LTC, AT 7.00 pm**

**THOSE PRESENT:** Mr. J. Barton (in the Chair)

Mr. J. Mayo	Mrs. P. Dines	Mrs. G. Andersson	Mr. J. Anderson
Mr. N. Greenwood	Mr. M. Comber	Mrs. A. Clark	Miss. L. Squires
Mr. P. Latham	Mr. S. Lindfield	Miss A. Trent	Mrs. C. Greenwood
Mr. S. Osborn			

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. M. Akers and Mr. R. Walmsley

2. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (17<sup>th</sup> May, 2011)**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as read and signed accordingly.

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**Facilities**

Billingshurst LTC – had received a grant of £25,000 from the LTA towards the cost of £54,000 for the building of a new tennis court. The remaining £29,000 was sponsored by BIFFA.

Southdown Sports Club – Mr. Osborn has a photograph of the new building if anyone would like to see it.

Preston LTC – opened their new artificial clay courts at lunch-time on 9<sup>th</sup> November. The official opening will be on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November from 10.30 – 12.30.

**Wimbledon Tickets**

It had been agreed that Sussex will retain control of the distribution of Wimbledon Tickets.

4. **HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Mr. Mayo confirmed the meeting dates for **2012** and beyond as follows:

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January – Singing Hills Golf Club – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January – The Weald LTC

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May – Southdown Sports Club

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November – West Worthing LTC

Followed in **2013** by:

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2013 – Singing Hills Golf Club – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2013 – The Weald LTC

5. **HON. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mrs. Andersson circulated the Tennis Sussex Treasurer's Report for the Annual Accounts year-ended 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2011 and reported as follows:

Page 2 – You will see that the total income has reduced by £30751 from £137495 in 2010 to £106744 in 2011. This was largely due to the change from Affiliation to Registration, with a top up grant, plus a reduction in sponsorship (2010 includes some brought forward from the previous year) and the ceasing of the 200 Club.

Page 4 – On the expenditure side I will leave Liz to answer any questions regarding the Development and Performance figures. With regard to Competitions and Tournaments I understand that the Junior County Cup

expenditure is being looked at by Liz and I am in the process of doing a survey of how much other counties contribute towards their Veterans Teams. Competition funding generally is being looked at by the LTA. Marketing and Administration costs overall are very similar to the previous year. You may notice that there is no cost under insurance and this is because it is now included on the main LTA insurance.

The additions to fixed assets were office furniture.

Out of a total surplus of £7598, £7,500 has been transferred into the Tennis Sussex Initiative fund which now has a balance of £15,139 at the year-end (page 3). £10,727 was paid out during the year. This money supported on-going schemes for disadvantaged children, both financially and special educational needs, the Eastbourne Stand, the County Awards at Wickwoods and the Junior Competition guide. Loans from TSI were made to Bognor, Southdown and Preston.

Mrs. Andersson went on to answer any questions from the floor.

Mrs. Andersson left the meeting after this item, due to suffering from a back injury.

## 6. LTA REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

**Mrs. Clark reported as follows:**

### LTA Council meeting 28<sup>th</sup> September 2011

The initial session was a 'call-in' session on the annual budget. We then covered the impacts of Registration on British tennis. Liz had provided a list of what clubs in Sussex were planning on spending the sums saved due to the change from Affiliation to Registration which was very helpful – available on request. Maybe the Club representatives can contact their Clubs allocated to see how things went? Nationally a few have not renewed, but overall the number of clubs registered has increased. The next agenda item was a review of the Wimbledon Ticket Distribution ballot pilot with recommendations for delivery in 2012. Overall the pilot adopted by Cumbria and the David Lloyd clubs went well. It was noted that Cumbria is a small County with about 30 places to play. Lessons learnt from the pilots are being used to develop the online system and automated ballot option. A question was raised as to whether Clubs could use the automated ballot but this be linked to the County rather than centrally. About 6 to 7 Counties including Kent have expressed an interest in adopting the automated / central distribution option in 2012. The intent is to keep this as an option. Where counties have volunteers who wish to run their Wimbledon ticket allocations themselves – that's fine. Yorkshire, Sussex and Bucks all emphasised the benefits of having volunteers do this process (links to Clubs, financial – no postage).

Incorporation is on track for 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011 so the next Council meeting will be under this structure.

Competition regulation changes and changes to the Risk Assessment Committee and Investment Committee Terms of Reference were approved. Geoff Newton gave an update on progress at the Tennis Foundation. He welcomed any details for disability tennis initiatives which Anne mentioned to Gill regarding Angmering and other programmes who have approached the TSI.

### **South East Region Forum meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011;**

Individual Councillors have been informally advised that the proposed amalgamation of offices has been put on hold (Berkshire and Oxfordshire). Written confirmation about this has now been sent. Report back from the Tennis Development Committee and Project Groups was that this is the first year and there is a need for processes and communications to improve. Some are working effectively, others need more impetus. A note has been sent to Peter Bretherton requesting a review of the 'governance' i.e. the formality (or not) of the regional groups, the treasurer's working group and how matters are communicated between these, the TDC and the project groups and Councillors. A meeting was held with Peter on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October and Anne, Roy Staniland (Surrey) and Malcolm Smith (Kent). Peter agreed to send a further letter out about the reduction in Council to clarify that this will not be covered at the November Council meeting but at the February 2012 meeting. He also agreed to ask Caroline to include a table of contents at the start of the Services Communications to highlight items of interest for Councillors (this has been done). The general view was that prior to any reduction in the size of Council; clarity of the working groups, processes, communications etc. is required before any 'next step' to reduce the size of Council is progressed.

Registration and Wimbledon ticket ballots were discussed.

County week changes – the trial for Ladies groups 5 to 7 to play over 3 days was hindered by the rain. A recommendation for next year is still be worked on (teams are being asked if they would prefer to play on grass for 3 days or another surface for 5 days). [post Council meeting note. The decision was taken to continue the trial for 2012 for ladies groups 5 to 7 to play over 3 days, with the dates being considered carefully to try to avoid clashes.]

County team funding – Counties are very inconsistent in funding for their county teams. Gill is collating data from counties and this will be discussed at the Treasurer’s Working Group.

Allplay and the Olympics – what opportunities can we plan to encourage more people to play tennis on the back of the Olympics.

## 7. **APPOINTMENTS AND NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL AND CLUB COMMITTEE**

Nominations were proposed and agreed as follows:

President – Mr. Nick Greenwood  
Deputy Chairman – Mrs. Anne Clark  
Treasurer – Mrs. Gill Andersson

Chairman – Mr. John Barton  
Hon. Secretary – Mr. Simon Lindfield  
Publicity Officer – Mr. Philip Latham

## 8. **PUBLICITY OFFICER’S REPORT**

Mr. Latham reported that the Argus will no longer be sending reporters out to cover events in the County but he will endeavour to get as much information into the newspaper as possible but has had very little information from any part of the County so far.

## 9. **COMMITTEE & OTHER REPORTS**

### (a) **Executive Committee**

Mr. Barton reported:

The EC have on-going discussions regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the LTA Councillor review and nomination process which in the case of Sussex County LTA reduces the number of Councillor representatives down from two to one. It will be remembered that until recently the County had three representatives. The EC have asked the LTA “Why has the agreed method and timescale been changed by the LTA Board?”

Anne Clark and Richard Walmsley have again been nominated to represent Sussex on the LTA Council for a further term.

A review of the Governance of the LTA has been raised by the representatives of the Counties within the South-East Region. The reason is, It is seven years since the previous review, much progress and many changes have taken place in the organisation and management processes in that time within the LTA.

The Incorporation of the LTA has had a number of repercussions amongst them a revision County and Club Rules or Constitutions. The County Rules Committee have made a detailed

study of the situation and put out to all Places to Play recommendations as to the steps which need to be taken by both County and P2P in order that their Rules or Constitution comply with the new order.

Following a small and unrepresentative (in the opinion of the EC) pilot scheme to restructure the distribution of Wimbledon tickets (using a central booking and distribution system) to Counties and P2P, the EC have objected on numerous grounds that the existing system is fairer to all concerned. Our team lead by Gill and Kate are prepared to carry out the distribution of tickets within the county as are the volunteers in many other counties. We have now been given a choice and have opted out of the centralised system in favour of the status quo.

Sponsorship money has greatly helped the County support clubs and activities through Tennis Sussex Initiative (TSI). So, many thanks to Nick and Richard for obtaining that sponsorship money, thanks also to all those individuals and companies who have helped sponsor individual events within the county.

The Stand at Eastbourne was again a great success, a surprise to some, admired by many who were able to make personal contact with a county representative.

The targets set for the County to achieve in 2010-11 have all been surpassed so congratulations to Liz, Nicki and Hollie, not forgetting all the P2P and volunteers who helped make it possible. Well Done.

This is the last Council Meeting at which John will act as County Secretary, I know that we all thank him for his help over the many years in which he has held the post and wish him well in the future.

(b) **Sponsorship**

It was reported that Mr. Walmsley is in early negotiations with our sponsors.

(c) **Tennis Development Manager's Report**

Miss. Squires had circulated a copy of the Sussex Tennis Action Plan for 2010/2011 and reported as follows:  
**SEPTEMBER 2011 (END OF YEAR REPORT)**

**Progress on Target Areas:**

**1. Regularly Competing Juniors**

	<b>August 2011</b>	<b>September 2011</b>	<b>Target September 2011</b>	<b>Number Outstanding</b>
<b>6+ matches</b>	1271	1313 (+42)	1089	<b>Target Achieved</b>
<b>20+ matches</b>	466	434 (-32)	420	<b>Target Achieved</b>

**2. Club Mark**

	<b>August 2011</b>	<b>September 2011</b>	<b>Target September 2011</b>	<b>Number Outstanding</b>
<b>Sussex</b>	30	30 (-)	30	<b>Target Achieved</b>

**3. Beacon Sites**

	<b>August 2011</b>	<b>September 2011</b>	<b>Target September 2011</b>	<b>Number Outstanding</b>
<b>Sussex</b>	3	4 (+1)	4	<b>Target Achieved</b>

We have received £2,000 revenue funding to set up a programme at Fisherman Green public courts in Eastbourne.

**4. Number of Registered Places to Play**

	<b>August 2011</b>	<b>September 2011</b>	<b>Target September 2011</b>	<b>Number Outstanding</b>
<b>Sussex</b>	90	92 (+2)	92	<b>Target Achieved</b>

Lancing Manor Leisure Centre and Southwick Leisure Centre have become registered. They have adopted the template rules as agreed with Jim Anderson.

### 5. British Tennis Membership

	August 2011	September 2011	Target September 2011	Number Outstanding
Sussex	13,199	13,402 (+203)	12,782	Target Achieved

### 6. Facilities

- Southdown Sports Club – TSI has agreed a £10,000 loan over 10 years to support the build of a two court bubble.
- Billingshurst LTC has received £21,450 funding from BIFFA towards a proposed 4<sup>th</sup> court and have now submitted an application for the remaining funds from the LTA.
- Seaford and Blatchington, who were awarded funding towards floodlighting earlier in the year, have now received planning permission for the work to go ahead.

#### (d) Competitions & Tournaments

##### County Winter Inter-Club Leagues

Mr. Comber reported that for the first time, the Winter Leagues have been sent to every club on line i.e. fixtures, rules, entry forms for summer 2012, club team contacts and result cards. The winter rules have sanctions, and clubs entering results without BTM numbers will not have results listed – it appears there are clubs not following these instructions. Phil Latham is the administrator for the Winter Leagues, with help from Nick Greenwood and me. I would like to thank Peter Tripp for his great help in getting everything out on time with hardly any hitches. This saved us much office time and postage.

##### County Summer Inter-Club Leagues

Mr. Comber reported all Summer Leagues were completed by clubs with only a few not co-operating. As sanctions were not in place for the first year, results were not always completed (the Ladies being far better than the men)

##### Veterans' Leagues

These have been completed and play-offs arranged. I will be circulating League results shortly.

##### The Results Website

For the summer of 2012, the results website will be improved, making it easier for clubs. All members of a club with BTM membership will automatically be entered into the club players' box on the website.

#### (e) Wimbledon Tickets

Nothing to report

#### (f) Disciplinary

Nothing to report

#### (g) Rules

Nothing to report

#### (h) Patrons

Mr. Danes reported: 215 Patrons, some dying, some leaving, others joining. Surplus this year estimated at £2500. For the first time in years I can confirm that due to the circulation efforts of Treasurer Gill we have 10 new Patrons!! Hooray. Still my appeal to other Council Members continues. Just one each would generate £200pa. All Clubs in the County were emailed and I know that two actually sent the contact details out.

Both Clubs have enrolled new Patrons.

Price – a modest £20pa. All I need is the email address of anyone interested and I will take it from there. It cannot be simpler. Surely Councillors have one friend between them?

Thanks to the Chairman, John, and West Worthing for the office facilities which are required to get this job done. Database kept by RAD, copied to Chairman, just in case and for posting Tennis Review and AGM papers.

(i) **Ladies' Match Secretary**

Mrs. Clark reported as follows:

**Summer County Cup** – Sussex ladies played in Division 2 at Havant. The week was spoilt by the bad weather and despite winning on the first two days we were disappointed that the team was relegated. This was a very close and hard fought division. The ladies will be fighting to be promoted back to Division 2 next year.

**Winter County Cup** – The ladies are playing in Division 3 in Barnstaple on 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November. Supporters welcomed! The provisional team includes Lizzy Thoms (doubles only as recovering from a knee operation), Tasha Khan, Michaela Ince (2 days), Kate Smith, Kyria Dunford (1.5 days), Lydia Hammond, Helen Clements, Anna Woosley and captain, Caroline Matthews. A strong young team – we wish them good luck.

**International update** – Anne has been asked to captain the ladies 55 team for the world championships next year, with Frances Candy in the team too. Julie Salmon is in the ladies 45 team and Jenny Hughes reserve for the 50s [post meeting note, Jenny has now been asked to go as a player has dropped out of her team]. The event is in San Diego in February 2012.

(j) **Men's Match Secretary**

In Mr. Walmsley's absence it was reported as follows:

The Men's Senior County Cup will be held in Cambridge from 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> November – Division 3A. The Sussex Team will be as follows:

Tom Pocock (Captain)	Miles Bugby	Kieron Oakley	Jarryd Bant
James Cuthell	Ben Reeves	Sam Kilhams	

(k) **Sussex County Junior Closed Championships**

Mrs Greenwood reported:

The summer holidays drew to an end with the Junior County Closed week. There were no hold-ups in the schedule as we did not have any rain at all. The highest achiever was Elise Van Heuvelen who won three titles, 14/Under girls singles, 15/Under girls doubles and 15/Under mixed doubles.

Joshua Southern had an outstanding achievement by winning both the 16/Under and 18/Under boys singles titles. Mariella Blackwell was the 16/Under girls singles champion but was later beaten by Anna Woosley in the 18/Under girls singles. And Jack Beuttell-Triggs had a brace of titles, 12/Under boys singles and doubles. Sam Rice having been runner-up in the 16/Under boys singles won the 14/Under title.

All the mini tennis events were played at the Southdown Club including qualifying in the boys Orange and Green events. The courts closest to the clubhouse were used to mark out the Orange and Red courts pending the construction of the new bubble at the club. Entry numbers for the mini tennis events were good especially the 10/Under boys which had 26 entries!

Entry numbers in the older age groups were generally good especially the boys' singles events but the 16 and 18 girls singles were weak as were some doubles events. The total number of entries was 310 and there were 457 matches played. Some people have questioned the need for umpires during the last two days of the tournament, a practice that was introduced some years ago to lessen the friction between parents and players among other things. The question of cost also arose. Although we do have court supervisors I still feel it is relevant to have umpires for semi-finals and finals as it adds a formality to the proceeding, keep discipline and ensures fair play. I realize that there are sometimes "bad" line

calls. but the umpires are unbiased and the matches are supervised throughout. The cost for umpires on the two days this year was £459.00.

(l) **Veterans**

Mr. Greenwood reported as follows:

**County Veterans' Teams**

Tennis Sussex fielded eleven veterans' teams in the Inter-County Championships in 2011. Of these, five were ladies teams (ladies 40's, 50's, 60's, 65's, and 70's) and six were men's teams (men's 45's, 50's, 55's, 60's, 65's, and 70's). The results of these teams were as follows (all divisions comprise six teams) :-

<u>Team</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Promoted/Relegated/Remain in Division</u>
Ladies 40	Millie Fawssett	1B	4th	Remain
Ladies 50	Hilary Wynter	1A	2nd	Remain
Ladies 60	Lyn Paterson	1A	6th	Relegated
Ladies 65	Sheena Blenkinsop	1B	4th	Remain
Ladies 70	Liz Simmons	1A	5th	Relegated
Men 45	Nigel Allingham	3B	4th	Remain
Men 50	Andrew Newton	1B	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Remain
Men 55	Chris Nichols	3B	1 <sup>st</sup>	Promoted
Men's 60	Chris Ornstien	1B	5 <sup>th</sup>	Relegated
Men's 65	Peter Sellar	3B	1st	Promoted
Men's 70	Ken Shufflebotham	1A	6th	Relegated

Congratulations are due to the Ladies 40's, 50's and 65's for remaining in Division 1 of their respective age groups, and to the Men's 55's and 65's for winning their Divisions and achieving promotion. This means that in 2012 Tennis Sussex will have four veteran teams playing in the top divisions, six teams in the 2<sup>nd</sup> divisions, and one team in the 3<sup>rd</sup> division. In addition to this there is a new men's age category being introduced in 2012. This is for over 75's and Tennis Sussex is intending to enter a team in this age group. The only age categories in which Tennis Sussex does not currently enter teams are the Ladies 45's and 55's. Efforts to identify players and captains for these two age groups have, to date, not been successful.

My thanks to all the captains for their work in organising the fixtures, selecting the teams, and controlling expenditure during this last summer season.

(m) **Tennis Sussex Review**

Nothing to report

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**LTA Representatives**

Mrs Clark reported that the LTA had appointed her as the new Chair of the Rules Panel and as a member of the Funding Committee.

She also informed that Mr. Walmsley had been appointed to the Performance Committee.

Council congratulated them both on their achievements.

**LTA Tournaments**

Mrs Greenwood reported that LTA tournament organisers, paid by Pay Pal, have been asked to formalise their agreement. Unfortunately, the paperwork only refers to businesses or non-profit-making organisations and she is neither.

Miss Squires was asked to seek guidance from the LTA and liaise with Mrs Greenwood on this matter.

**Sussex Tennis Awards**

Miss Squires said she looked forward to seeing as many Council members as possible at the Awards on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting, the **Annual General Meeting**, will be held on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2012**, at **Singing Hills Golf Club**, at **7.00 pm**.

Followed by:

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 – The Weald LTC – 7.00 pm

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 – Southdown Sports Club – 7.00 pm

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2012– West Worthing LTC – 7.00 pm

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2013 – Singing Hills Golf Club – **A G M** – 7.00 pm

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2013 – The Weald LTC – 7.00 pm

There being no further business for discussion, the Chairman thanked all those present for attending and closed the meeting at 8.50 pm.

CHAIRMAN: ..... DATE: .....