



**Minutes of Annual General Meeting
held at Space for Change
Thursday 2nd June 2016**

Present:

Chris Dutton, Christina Mendez, Christine Laurence (chair), Cliff Jenkins, Daniel Brookbank (ESAB CEO), Helen Chipchase (Tennis Sussex, disability co-ordinator) Iris Keppler, Jane Thomas (Coach), Keith Turner, Paul Gillett (minutes), Ray Woolven, Sue Fever, Sue Henning, Sue Vivian,

1	<p>Introduction and Welcomes Christine welcome everyone to the AGM, Helen passed round the regional disability programme award and said that we had therefore been put forward as a nomination to the national tennis awards. Daniel said he had passed the ESAB cup to the engravers to add STS as winners for 2016 and should have it back next week With all this success we need to think about where we keep the trophies and other mementoes Action – Committee</p>
2	<p>Apologies for absence Chris Baily, Chris Wooller, Jonathan Dutton, Margaret Pearson, Steve Evans</p>
3	<p>Minutes for last AGM 10.7.15 These had been made available previously and were taken as read, proposed Daniel, seconded Chris D</p>
3.1	<p>Matter Arising from last AGM Funding for players and volunteers attending tournament Christine introduced the subject by saying that this had arisen due to us identifying an opportunity as part of our bid to Sport England. Subsequently the introduction of regional tournaments meant there were more chances to</p>

	<p>compete nearer to home The Committee will keep the issue under review but currently there are no funds ring fenced for this purpose Action - committee Helen advised that it may be possible to include the item in a future bid (see Finance below)</p>
4.	<p>Chair's report Christine presented her report commenting on it being a busy year for STS with highlights including our second tournament against Metro, taking part in regional and national tournaments and the Tour of Wimbledon</p> <p>Christine explained our current use of the two venues and indicated that we were looking at alternative arrangements. We are keen to ensure there is opportunity for both competitive practice and more leisurely play. Christine thanked Jane for her meticulous planning of our coached sessions and Helen Mitchell for making STS welcome at Southwick, she also thanked the volunteers and Paul</p>
5.	<p>Finance report Paul presented the report which showed a carry forward of £2,091. In the year to 31st March 2016 we received a total of £6,925 income and had expenditure of £6088</p> <p>The main items of expenditure were Venue Hire £2,300 and coaching £1,520</p> <p>£5,753 of the income was in grants which included contributions from Sport England, Sussex Tennis (LTA) and Brighton and Hove City Council. We also received £1,500 from the Dan Maskell trust which was being used to fund coaching from Jan 1st 2016</p> <p>Paul explained that fundraising was an ongoing challenge. The year end accounts showed our being nearly £900 short of funds for 2016-17 though this</p>

	<p>has now improved to a potential shortfall of £350. Thanks were due to the fantastic efforts of Frances Baily who raised nearly £1,000 running the Brighton Marathon</p> <p>The committee continues to work hard on ensuring we have sufficient funds to keep the club running</p> <p>We are looking at an arrangement with Pavilion and Avenue Tennis Club (near Dyke Road) whereby we could get a group membership, this could potentially save significantly on court hire costs</p> <p>Helen Chipchase is working with us to develop a funding strategy which would help us to get larger grants in particular through Oaks (a fundraising body working with the Tennis Foundation)</p> <p>There followed a general discussion about venues around the city including at the university and potential means of raising funds and publicising the club</p>
6	<p>Election of Committee Daniel took the chair for this item The following committee members were re-elected, proposed by Cliff, seconded by Sue H and carried unanimously: Christine Laurence Paul Gillett Sue Fever Keith Turner Chris Baily.</p>
7.	<p>Proposal for members subscriptions to remain unchanged Current payment £5 per annum + £3 per session, option of £9 per month BACS payment Proposed - Paul, Seconded - Chris L, Carried unanimously</p>
8.	<p>Constitution Paul informed the meeting that the constitution had</p>

	<p>been changed to reflect our becoming part of ESAB and the chance had been taken to make some small amendments. The document had been previously distributed. Acceptance of the changes was proposed by Christine, seconded by Sue Fever and agreed unanimously</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Coaches Report</p> <p>Jane told the meeting that from her initial connection with us last summer she had noted 3 things which continued to hold true</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The enthusiasm of players and volunteers • That she sometimes had to remind herself that we had visual impairments • The difficulties of Sound Balls <p>Jane congratulated Christine and Paul on the organisation which helped to make coaching a pleasure and added thanks to the volunteers</p> <p>Jane explained about the use of regular tennis balls to help players develop shape in their shots. A general discussion on Sound Balls followed</p> <p>There was also a discussion about the game for B1s acknowledging the impact that the uncertain bounce has with the third bounce that is required</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Tennis Sussex Disability Strategy</p> <p>Helen told the meeting about her role with Tennis Sussex and how she was working with disability groups like STS</p> <p>She informed the meeting of a strategy which had been developed based on 4 pillars</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Building a disability confident workforce, so that Tennis Clubs are confident to work with and welcome people with disabilities 2) Accessible Facilities 3) Partnerships 4) Competition <p>Helen commented on the contribution STS had made in developing the strategy and mentioned forthcoming opportunities in Hastings and Worthing</p>

11.	New Developments
11.1	Pavilion & Avenue – see finance report
11.2	Marathon – see finance report
11.3	Sponsored Kit. Christine advised that we had received funding from Tennis sussex to allow us to purchase some T shirts, Jacket (Fleece) or Hoody and Caps. Players needed to pay £10 and volunteers would be free, details to Paul Action – All/Paul
11.4	Tournaments Christine reminded the meeting about the new structure of regional and national tournaments
11.5	Sound Tennis Balls – see coaches report
11.6	Hastings – Helen mentioned about a new opportunity for Sound Tennis on Saturday 16 th July 2.30 pm - 5.30pm (details from Paul)
11.7	Worthing - Davis Cup in town on Saturday 9 th July, we have been invited to demonstrate Sound Tennis at Steine Gardens midday to 2pm. bring picnic, Wimbledon Ladies Final to be shown on big screen (details from Paul)
12	Any Other Business
12.1	Daniel advised that there might be fresh opportunities to develop Sound Tennis re Blind Veterans, Paul to follow up Action - Paul
12.2	New Flyer to be developed with support from Helen Action Paul/Christine/Helen
12.3	To explore Fundraising with Waitrose and Sainsbury, co-ordinated with City Synergy Action - Paul
12.4	Daniel said how proud ESAB are to have STS on board. Paul to send report on Sound Tennis to Daniel for ESAB Bulletin Action - Paul
12.5	Daniel mentioned about Sight Awareness training provided by ESAB and suggested this could be made available to Tennis coaches and people within Tennis clubs
13	Date and venue of next meeting – To be confirmed