



**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Held at Possability Place**  
**Friday 26th May 2017**

PRESENT

Christine Laurence (chair), Jane Thomas (Coach), Jenny Anderson (minutes), Keith Turner, Liz Bartlett (Sussex Tennis, disability co-ordinator), Nicky Salmon (Secretary, Pav & Av), Paul Gillett (treasurer), Ray Woolven, Steve Evans, Sue Henning

		<b>Action</b>
1.	<b>INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME</b>  Chris welcomed and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and asked us all to introduce ourselves.	
2.	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>  Chris Baily, Chris Dutton, Sue Fever, Sue Joseph, Sandra Agnew	
3.	<b>MINUTES FOR LAST AGM 2.6.16</b>  These were taken as read and there were no matters arising.	
4	<b>CHAIRS REPORT</b>  Chris highlighted the success of	

	<p>Chris Baily who won B3 men's world championship in Spain. This achievement, causing local media interest has raised the profile of Sound Tennis enormously. Chris also commented that it is one of the fastest growing sports.</p> <p>The new arrangement with Pav and Av has been working very well and Chris thanked Nicky for making us so welcome. The use of this venue with Withdean has widened the scope for indoor and outdoor play and reduced the costs too.</p> <p>We are proud of Jane winning coach of the year and thank her for all her meticulously planned coaching sessions.</p> <p>Chris thanked the many people, without whom STS would not thrive, Helen – regular coach at Southwick, Paul – organizing mastermind, and volunteers, Steve, Ray, Sandra and Jenny.</p>	
5.	<p><b>FINANCE REPORT</b></p> <p>Paul reported that we had carried forward £1774 at the end of the financial year, £300 less than the previous year</p> <p>We are managing to get funding in</p>	<p><b>Ongoing, Paul/All</b></p>

	<p>to cover the bills but there is no scope for complacency, the projection for 2017-18 showed we needed either an extra £400 or to reduce our costs by that amount to avoid going into deficit in 2017-18.</p> <p>Subsequent to year end we have received £250 from See me Excel and are receiving funds from the Co-op community fund (see below)</p> <p>Paul and the committee were constantly on the lookout for other means of funding and other suggestions were welcomed, these included Waitrose, Asda, Brighton and Hove Sports Development, Fundraising events.</p> <p><b>Co-op Community Fund</b> Paul advised that we have so far got £479 committed from this fund (including for carrier bags), if you live within 15 miles of Brighton &amp; Hove and have a co-op card you can select for 1% of any purchased made using the card to be paid to STS.</p>	
6.	<p><b>COMMITTEE ELECTIONS</b></p> <p>Steve took over the chair</p> <p>Sue Fever is standing down and Sue Henning was nominated by</p>	

	Christine and seconded by Paul and approved by all. The rest of the committee members, Christine Laurence, Paul Gillett, Keitgh Turner and Chris Baily were re-elected.	
7.	<p><b>PROPOSAL RE SUBSCRIPTIONS</b></p> <p>Paul suggested it might be the right time to change from membership and subscription fees to just subscription fees as many other clubs seem to be doing. There was much debate about this, bearing in mind cost to players and suggestions to make 2 sessions free for new members. It was decided to pass this to the committee for more thought.</p>	Committee
8.	<p><b>COACHES REPORT</b></p> <p>Jane read her report, she thanked Paul for his organising of the sessions, Steve and Ray for their commitment as volunteers and all players for their hard work and stressed how much she enjoyed the challenge of coaching us all as individuals within a group</p> <p>Jane mentioned the value of working on strength, fitness and balance to improving as players and mentioned ideas to work on this in the coming year. She</p>	

	<p>thanked Ollie for his support and advice</p> <p>Jane congratulated all on their achievements during the year particularly noting Chris Baily becoming world number 1</p>	
9.	<p><b>CURRENT PROGRAMME, NEW MEMBERS, PAV &amp; AV</b></p> <p>The main discussion was how to attract new members bearing in mind the relatively low numbers of VI people and the increased popularity of other sports that people with disabilities are accessing. There were lots of suggestions including some kind of flyer that can be distributed and displayed, Sue has connections with Blind Veterans UK (St Dunstons) so will try there. She could also link into a Macular road show</p> <p>Chris said that Pav and Av have been most accommodating with a reduced membership fee and are interested in the development of Sound Tennis.</p> <p>Nicky appreciates the need to encourage new players and will encourage their players to be more aware and send out mailchimp.</p>	<b>Committee</b>

	Nicky also acknowledged Paul's work in organising and is offered help to spread the word and find funding.	
10.	<p><b>SUSSEX WIDE DEVELOPMENTS</b></p> <p>Chris introduced Liz Bartlett from Tennis Sussex Disability Strategy who explained she had only been in the job for 3 months. Liz went on to say her objective included to find new players and promote Sound Tennis in Sussex. She has been contacting all clubs in the region and is hoping to hold an evening event –Nicky invited Liz to hold this event at Pav and Av.</p> <p>Players and volunteers were invited to Aegon International at Devonshire Park, Eastbourne on Friday 30th June</p> <p>Paul advised of Torch Trust event on June 8th at The Weald, Hassocks</p> <p>There was more discussion how to attract new players including school children.</p>	
11.	<p><b>SOUND TENNIS DEVELOPMENTS</b></p> <p>Sound Tennis is now the fastest growing VI sport in the country</p>	

	<p>with the international competition giving a lot of new publicity.</p> <p>National Championships will be over 3 days 6 -8th October 2017 and will move from London to Loughborough where facilities are larger.</p> <p>Sound Tennis balls are still a problem being expensive and short living, research is being sought for a new prototype.</p>	
12.	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>None</p>	
13.	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT AGM</b></p> <p>To be advised</p>	