

BinstedTennis & Croquet Club AGM

28 Nov 2025, 6pm, Pavilion

Welcome (SC) – 15 attendees (Croom-Johnson x2, Clarke x2, Shelley x2, Spicer x2, Corney x2, Woods x2, Ron Neil, Graham Jones, Chris Beare)

Apologies received from: Nial & Angela Dunne, Jonathan & Susan Bourne, Sarah Baker, Georgina Beare, Chris Lowther

Thanks (SC) to Graham Jones for his work as secretary, socials, tennis court maintenance

Andrew Croom-Johnson – finances

Stella & Andrew Croom-Johnson – croquet organisation and coaching

Ron Neil – for the great work he does in preparing the croquet lawns

Chair's Report (SC)

We applied for and received a grant from the Parish Council for £465 for pickleball – this may have to be repaid if we decide not to proceed with that. Also £250 from the Fete Committee

We had a croquet presence at the Fete (SC, GC), although it generated only a little interest and no new members

We had a meeting with Chloe Devanagh from EHDC – she had lots of ideas as to how we could improve court usage:

-LTA Registration – we need a meeting with Zoe from the LTA to determine the cost and see how many extra members we'd need to justify the cost. If we were affiliated we could use the LTA booking system for Pay & Play

-Find a coach to rent the court

-Investigate school usage

-She advised watch and wait re Pickleball as it's now being offered at Worldham, shortly to be offered at Blacknest, maybe Kingsley

Renewal of our Insurance Policy led to the setting up of a safeguarding policy, a code of conduct and a risk assessment – all are available to view on the website and in future the membership form will include a section such that on becoming a member one agrees to abide by the safeguarding policy

Election of Officers

SC was re-elected as Chair

GJ was re-elected as Secretary

A C-J was re-elected as Treasurer

No-one came forward to be a tennis member of the Committee

Ron Neil volunteered and was welcomed as Croquet member

Ron Neil would like to know how much improvement of the Croquet Lawns we'd like.

A lot of weed is present in the cricket outfield

Sport England has in the past offered to fund improvement to the tune of £70k but they demanded a 50 year tie with the cricket club so instead Ron has worked hard on the Square to improve it, however the Outfield remains as it always was.

A few hundred pounds could make a difference. We could apply for grants eg from the ECB. The way forward is for Ron and Rob to make a report, obtain quotations and potentially apply for grant money.

GC and GJ will approach the Parish Council

Membership update (GJ)

Graham is continuing to work on the IT

We have 67 entities (family/single/couple)

Tennis Report (GJ)

It is noted that we provide a facility rather than operate as a club in the true sense of the word.

A safeguarding policy has been put in place and has been posted on the website

314 x 1hr sessions were booked last year, this year that has increased to 544 sessions

There has been a small amount of vandalism

Members are able to comment online – there has been a request for a new bench – we will have a look at the bench and see whether it needs to be replaced.

Booking system very easy to use, names are at present not visible – this could be changed to help members find playing partners.

There may be someone who is enthusiastic enough about Pickleball to take on the role of Champion – GJ to follow up

Croquet Report (A C-J)

This summer the weather was generally good and there was lots of play. Often there were in excess of 20 people present

We have had a number of new members – around 25 croquet members

Finance Report (A C-J)

There is an ongoing need to build reserves for the eventual resurfacing of the tennis court.

We have received, in addition to subscription income, £715 in grants - £465 from the Parish Council and £250 from the Fete Committee

AOB

Jacci Corney asked if there is enough croquet equipment – we think so for now but will keep under review

Barry Spicer asked how we can keep footballers off the Croquet lawns during the winter – Ron suggests moving the football goalposts, he feels that the area of the Rec could be shared better. This will be taken up with Mike Mordecai at the Parish Council (GJ)

Dog poo is also an issue.....

Alan Woods suggests that we contact Alton College and Alton schools re possible use of the tennis court

GJ will organise a meal in January at the Barn Owl pub.

Meeting closed 19.05

Matters arising:

Meet with Zoe (LTA)

Meet with Pickleball proponent

Approach schools

Promote tennis court eg at Inn

NB EHDC will disappear - ?renew fencing of tennis court

Report on state of cricket outfield (RN)

Approach Parish Council re improving outfield, keeping footballers off? (GJ,GC)

January pub meal (GJ)