



SURBITON METHODIST CHURCH TENNIS CLUB.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 11 October 2025.

Opening Prayers: The chair Rev Vindra Maraj-Ogden welcomed everyone and shared her personal story on how she joined the Methodist Church. She then opened the meeting with a prayer.

Attendance and Apologies for Absence:

30 members were present and apologies were received from Liz and Clive Rose, Margaret Turner, Monika Spencer, Jen Manhire, Amitesh Sinha, Joan Young, The Mullaney's, and Jacob Hutchings.

Approval of Minutes of Last Annual General Meeting: The minutes of the last AGM were approved.

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising from the AGM.

Captain: David referred to the Captain's report which had been circulated ahead of the meeting and reiterated thanks to everyone who supports the club.

Finance: David summarised the financial position noting that at the end of August (end of financial year) the club had £32,482 and noted that we had spent £35,088 on resurfacing courts 3 and 4 and if the club hadn't made this investment the club would have made a profit of £25,712. John pointed out that a copy of the accounts has been posted on the club's notice board and circulated to members by email. He confirmed that Peter Robson had confirmed that amount in the bank account tallies with the accounts. The accounts will be audited by the Methodist Church.

Membership: David thanked Karen Burgess for managing the membership well and said that he hoped that the new courts and coaching programme will enable us to attract new members next year. It was noted that we did not run a marketing campaign for new members this year and this coupled with the disruption due to the court resurfacing has meant that we have not attracted very many new members this year. Karen raised a case of a recent member who has recently resigned stating family pressures and the inability to play on a Sunday morning. Karen asked if courts could be

opened on a Sunday morning as the balance of community members and church members has changed. David responded that we are a Church club and the Surbiton Hill Methodist Church service is on a Sunday morning. Vindra offered to take the minutes to church council for discussion but stated that she didn't personally support play on a Sunday morning. There was a discussion on how we could make the club more attractive to working members. Suggestions were sought from members as were volunteers to be part of a working group to shape plans for attracting new members in 2026.

Grounds and Projects: David thanked everyone for their support to the maintenance of the grounds. He drew attention to the projects that have been completed this year including the resurfacing of courts 3 and 4 and the new fencing. He also explained that Kingston College have hired our courts on Tuesday morning and Wednesday afternoon for their talent development programme and some of our student have volunteered to support Juniors next summer. David also reported that the club has launched a new coaching programme catering for both adults and juniors.

Club Usage: David reported that we are planning to install CCTV cameras which would cost c£400 and thanked Les for supporting this. He reminded members that we are reliant on members' honesty to register and pay for visitors. A question was asked about the lighting in the lane which was raised in last year's AGM and David undertook to investigate. He also stated that the hole in the lane is going to be repaired.

Juniors: David congratulated Louise, Karen and Joan for running a very successful junior season which is full every week and presented flowers to Louise and Karen and sent some to Joan.

Social: David reported that two notable social events had taken this year. The club's 100th birthday celebration in September and the opening of the Mit Roy court to celebrate our oldest playing member's 90th birthday.

Catering and Cleaning: David thanked everyone who helps in keeping the clubhouse clean and providing and serving teas each week. Teas will be finishing at the end of October. The AGM thanked Jen for making this work so smoothly.

Tournaments. David thanked everyone who participated this year. We have unfortunately struggled to complete 3 of the competitions but hope to do so over the next few weeks.

Subscriptions: David proposed a £5 increase (2.7%) in adult subscriptions 2.7% with the other subscriptions increasing inline. Proposed new subscription rates: £190 Adult, £419 Family, £8.20 Social. These increases

were agreed by the AGM.

Election of Committee: The following were elected:

Officers:

President: Rev Vindra Maraj-Ogden.

Vice Presidents are elected for life – Len Cook, David Fullbrook, Peter Robson.

Captain – Terry Ingham, Secretary – Vicki Saward, Treasurer – John Botterill.

Committee: Linda Bridges, Louise Cooke, Andy Hutchings, Kathryn Ingham and Jen Manhire.

Appointment of Coaches: Paul Ambrose and Gary May. Teone Aldridge and Jake Warrington were appointed as coaches.

Any Other Business. The following points were raised:

- Louise Cooke checked that we had coaches locked in for next season's junior coaching and David reported that Teone has confirmed as have students from Kingston College.
- Alisdair reported that there is now a list of members ordered by first name attached to board to help those on Board Duty identify members easily.
- Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club will be using courts 5&6 on Saturday mornings between 10 and 1.
- Mike Wood asked about the approach from a commercial Padel company to install a Paddle Court. Vicki said that this had been considered by the committee but there were a number of issues including church consent, security and operation given that we don't have a full-time present at the club. David agreed to raise the potential of Padel courts using a different model at the next Committee meeting. He noted that Pickle courts would be easier if there is demand as they use existing courts.
- David raise the potential of installing broadband wifi access that the club with BT currently offering the most competitive rate of £38 a month. There was broad support and it was agreed that this should be taken to the Church Council.
- There will be Christmas carols at the club on Saturday 13th December from 3.30. More information to follow.
- Linda asked members to note that there is now a list of court bookings both on the window of the pavilion and on the website. Please check before taking a court as the bookings have priority. Linda also pointed out that the club is careful in taking on bookings to ensure there are a good number of courts available for members based on usual demand for courts at that particular time.
- Linda also thanked Jen for taking on updates of the website.

Date of Next Meeting: Saturday 10 October 2026

Closing Prayers: The meeting closed with a prayer followed by the grace.