

SUTTON MONTIS TENNIS CLUB

Minutes of the AGM held on Monday 7th April 2025 in Sutton Montis Village Hall at 7.30pm.

1. Welcome and Introduction – Chairman

Mark welcomed those members present and thanked them for coming to the AGM. Once again he said how lucky we are to have such a thriving club with such a beautiful setting.

2. Members Present – Mark Harding Rolls, Barry Blight, Lindsey Maguire, **Richard Pearson, Sarah Williams, Lucy Booth, Anne Pitt, Jacqui Taylor, Lizzie Snell, Fiona Morgan, Jacky King, Pauline Farror, Trina Cole.**

3. Apologies – Caroline McGregor, Charles Fielder, Yolanda White, Pauline Lewis, Louise Cort, Marie Jackson, Jackie May, Simon Wilcox, Rhoda Tyley, Anne Ing.

4. Minutes and Matters Arising from the last AGM – Mark read through the AGM Minutes of 2024. There were no matters arising. There was unanimous agreement the minutes were a true reflection of the AGM. This was proposed by Lizzie and seconded by Lindsey.

5. Treasurer's Report – Barry reported the club accounts are in a healthy state with £8,519.48 in the account. £5,000.00 of this has been held in the Shawbrook Bank and the club has received £250.00 in interest. Barry explained all the entries in the accounts. The seemingly large amount in the savings account is kept for 'a rainy day' for when the court needs maintenance such as cleaning, painting or resurfacing. There was unanimous agreement that these accounts are correct with Jacqui proposing and Anne seconding them. Mark thanked Barry for all his time spent on the club accounts.

6. Ground Maintenance – The club has employed a ground maintenance team, Mark and Linda Perry who live in Sutton Montis. Depending on the season they cut the grass, maintain the hedges and any encroaching weeds. There is a summer and winter timetable but they usually spend about one and a half hours each visit costing the club £75.00 per visit. This adds up to £900.00 pa and is working very well and it was agreed it was a good use of club funds.

7. Subscriptions – There was some discussion about the cost of the ground maintenance so it was decided that the subscriptions should be raised to £40.00 pa to offset this. It was unanimously agreed that this was the correct thing to do. Members will be notified of this when the new membership forms are sent out in the near future.

8. **Website / Facebook** – Lindsey started by asking who, of those present, uses Facebook – not a single hand raised!
Lindsey continued by saying he will continue with Facebook as it is widely used by the younger generation and several new members have joined by seeing a post. This group is private and cannot be seen by anyone except by those who are on the SMTC Facebook page.
There followed a lengthy discussion of Facebook versus WhatsApp and it was decided that those members present would prefer to use WhatsApp. It was also decided that there would be two SMTC WhatsApp groups. One purely for communicating with other members about playing and booking the court etc.. The second a 'chat' group for those wishing to talk about other things. This will be set up by the incoming committee.
There will also be something to this effect on the newly revamped Membership Form.
Mark thanked Lindsey for his perseverance in managing to get the tennis club onto Google Maps which involved many phone calls to and from America.
Lindsey said he has sent out advertisements to various parish magazines and has received some enquiries.
9. **Club Responsibilities** – Mark mentioned this list which will need updating when the new committee meet as many of the tasks fall to committee members.
Lizzie asked if the club maintenance day will still go ahead as we have gardeners and it was agreed it would so the club's buildings can be cleaned and sorted.
10. **Annual Knockout Tournament** – Fiona has agreed to organise this event again this year.
It was decided that the pairings for this event should be as fair as possible to make the matches competitive. Mark suggested that if a player has to drop out, one player from the previous round is asked to step up. This was agreed by all those present.
11. **Events / Club Activities** – Mark suggested the dates for 2025 based on last year activities.
Maintenance Day – Saturday April 26th – 10am to midday.
Christmas Lunch – Saturday 13th December, The Orchard Inn, Galhampton or somewhere else.
New Year Fun Day – Saturday 3rd January 2026
AGM – Monday 13th April 2026.
The following events are flexible for the incoming committee to confirm:
Opening Tournament – Sunday 11 May, Midday start.
Team Tournament – Sunday 7th September, 1pm start.
Closing Tournament – Sunday 14th September, 1pm start.
An Event is also usually held in July but once again this is subject to interest and the availability of the organisers.
The Finals for the Knockout Tournament is subject to the availability of the finalists.
12. **Pickleball / Club Sessions under the Lights** – Barry would like to run a couple more Pickleball sessions on Saturday afternoons and if there is enough interest he suggested the club bought its own equipment (not expensive) so it could be an

alternative to tennis. He emphasised that this does not damage the court surface and those wishing to play tennis will always take precedence.

Mark has been encouraged with many members using the lights. If playing there are envelopes in the club house for those wishing to pay (£4.00) per hour. Please add your name and whether playing under the lights or bringing a guest.

13. **Election of Committee Members** – Mark has been encouraged by members volunteering to join the committee and has suggested members rotate frequently, possibly only doing two to three years in one post to keep ideas fresh and spreading the commitment.

Fiona, Secretary – keep the data base up to date and liaise with committee and members.

Richard, Treasurer – keeping club accounts up to date and collecting monies for lights and sundry activities. Liaise with Fiona with membership payments and contact details.

Sarah Williams and Lucy Booth, Event Organisers – liaise with committee to agree dates of events. Confirm all details are sent to all members in good time.

Lindsey, Website, Social Media and Marketing. Liaise with Mark and Linda Perry about ground maintenance and with James Tabor should there be any need to access the water or electrics.

Louise currently overseas the notice board and advertising.

Anne, keeping the club supplied with a regular supply of balls. In the past these have been bought in bulk. Other committee members may assist with the purchase of these. Old and used balls are taken to charity balls.

Mark is retiring as Chairman and although there is no current replacement it was decided that the new committee work as a group to make decisions.

14. **Date for AGM 2026** – Monday 13th April 2026, Sutton Montis Village Hall, 7.30pm.

15. **AOB** – Mark has made a list of the contact details of all the companies involved with the court maintenance. This has been given to Richard and Lindsey so it can be stored securely for future reference.

The new code will be decided by the incoming committee and sent to members when they have paid their subscriptions. Mark will give instructions on how to change it on the padlock.

There was some discussion on the use of Shlott and Barry will give instructions to those who are having trouble with the system.

Mark and Barry were presented with thank you gifts for all their time and commitment to the club over many years.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Trina,
Secretary