

Minutes of the 121st Newlands Lawn Tennis Club AGM on Thursday 13th March 2025 at 7.30pm

Paul McGettrick welcomed everyone to the 121st

AGM. Apologies were received from Christine Lockhart, Marjory Love and Gordon Whyte.

1. Adoption of the 120th AGM of Tuesday 5th March 2024

Minutes were adopted with no questions. The minutes were proposed by Paul McGettrick and seconded by Val Henderson .

2. Secretary's Report

Val Henderson reported that there had been 9 minuted Committee meetings during the year.

3. Treasurer's Report

The financial report was circulated to all members in advance. Alan Pearson gave a brief overview of the high-level points contained in the report, but mentioned that it is Douglas Cumine who does all the work on the accounts, pays invoices, produces financial reports, management accounts and that Alan was merely representing Douglas at the meeting.

- Strongest set of financial report we have ever had.
- With Colin McIntyre, Alan Pearson, Douglas Cumine and Paul McGettrick all accountants in various fields there is a wealth of accounting experience that gives the club a strong basis to keep moving forward.
- There is to be a proposal tonight to get members consent to go ahead with resurfacing the outdoor courts out of our own cash resources.
- Alan said there was a very strong committee this year across the board.
- We are at the highest ever number of members currently of around 1,200.
- Main achievement of the year was the completion of the 7 year project to build 2 padel tennis courts. There are still on-going issues with noise but we are in the process of adding in acoustic curtains that should hopefully satisfy all parties.
- Padel generated income of £17K over first few months and will turnover £100k with a net income of £70K per annum. This will allow us to carry out various projects i.e. outdoor courts, changing rooms etc.
- Alan also paid tribute to Douglas Cumine for all his help with LTA reports for Padel and also thanked Gordon Kent for his ongoing work with contractors on the project.

There were no questions regarding the financial accounts. Accounts proposed by Alan Pearson and seconded by Shirley Pearson.

4. President's Report

The President's report was circulated prior to the AGM by email to all members.

- Paul started by thanking the many people who work very hard throughout the year to make Newlands such a fantastic club. Thank you to Richard Pearson - Grounds, Alan Pearson – Treasurer/Padel, Tracy Edward -Tennis Convenor who has done a fantastic job in her 1st year in the post, Aileen Miller, Val Henderson and the reception staff, Steffan Gwyn and Matt Bedwell - Squash, Shirley Pearson – Social/ Past President, Gordon Kent - House, Bruce Malone -Gym/ Charities. Thanks to our raft of volunteers, Douglas Cumine, Colin McIntyre, Spud Inglis, Ike Grant, Tom Culshaw and George McCann. Thanks also to the tennis coaches, Kayleigh & all the bar staff and Café Dropshot.
- Some key highlights are the continued sporting excellence. Special mention for Marjory Love and Christine Lockhart our Tennis World Champions.
- There has been fabulous growth in our membership, currently 1,206 members with particular growth in family and senior memberships and new memberships due to padel. Once we pass the April renewal period, we may have to have to cap the membership in order that we can manage court time.
- Successful introduction of Padel courts which are getting very high utilisation, exceeding our expectations. We have some noise issues which we are dealing with. We are currently in good dialogue with the council and in the process of fitting acoustic curtains. Hopefully this will allow us to extend our opening hours again and satisfy our neighbours.
- We are in robust financial health and plan to resurface the outdoor tennis courts in July/August via our own cash resources.
- We are looking at adding solar panels to our indoor courts which the electricity company would manage resulting in 73% of our electricity being generated via the panels with a potential £12k pa saving. There would be no cost to install.
- We are spoilt with our current team of highly motivated volunteers but we are aware can't always rely on their goodwill so we will need to bring in accountancy experience and a grounds person at some point. **Are there any members with these skills who would be interested in helping in either of these areas?**
- Questions on Presidents report: a member asked a question on the Padel court noise solution. Alan Pearson summarised that we are working with the Council to find a solution that suits all parties.
- The President's report was proposed by Paul McGettrick and seconded by Val Henderson.

5. Proposal for subscriptions for 2025/2026

Despite inflation, a modest 3% membership increase was passed unanimously at the most recent committee meeting

Category of membership	Notes	Without Gym	With Gym
Family	Note 1	£1,170	£1,235
Mini Family		£1050	£1,115
Senior		£495	£560
Restricted A (closed)		£225	£295
Off Peak	Note 2	£225	£395
Associate A (closed)		£100	£165
Associate B (closed)		£100	£165
Social		£100	£395
Intermediate (age 18-23)	Note 3	£300	£375
Student (age 18-23)		£215	£260
Junior (age 10-17)	Note 4	£205	£245
Mini (P1 to age 9)		£130	N/A
Country		£50	N/A
Gym		N/A	£395
Life		£35	£35

Note 1 - Family membership will include all eligible family members and covers any children still in full time education, training or not employed up to age 23.

Note 2 – Off Peak is for racket sports 9am – 5pm Mon-Fri and 6pm -10 pm Sat & Sun.

Note 3 - An intermediate who is still in FT education, training or not employed, up to and including age 23 will be charged a student rate.

Note 4 – Junior membership is from the age of 10 at 1st April 2025.

Subs for 2025/26 were proposed by Paul McGettrick and seconded by Eileen McHardy.

6. Election of Office Bearers

Position	Office Bearer	Proposer	Second
President	Paul McGettrick	Shirley Pearson	Val Henderson
Vice President	Richard Pearson	Paul McGettrick	Gordon Kent
Treasurer	Alan Pearson	Paul McGettrick	Eileen McHardy
Secretary	Val Henderson	Paul McGettrick	Bruce Malone
Past President	Shirley Pearson	Paul McGettrick	Gordon Kent
Tennis Convenor	Tracy Edward	Paul McGettrick	Cindy McNeill
Gym Convenor	Bruce Malone	Paul McGettrick	Gordon Kent
Social Convenor	Shirley Pearson	Paul McGettrick	Steffan Gwyn
Squash Convenor	Steffan Gwyn	Paul McGettrick	Alan Pearson
Grounds Convenor	Richard Pearson	Paul McGettrick	Alan Pearson

House Convenor and Sponsorship	Gordon Kent	Paul McGettrick	Bruce Malone
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Paul McGettrick thanked all our current sponsors.

Paul proposed the Election of Office Bearers and was seconded by Eileen McHardy.

7. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Paul McGettrick thanked Colin McIntyre for carrying out the role of Independent Examiner. Colin is retiring from the role, so Paul asked for approval to find another Independent Examiner by 30th June 2025.

8. Approval for Resurfacing Outdoor Tennis Courts in 2025

Calum McKnight provided a very good report and advised the artificial clay is in keeping with all other clubs who have resurfaced their outdoor courts in recent years. Stuart Biggart asked about members having to brush courts after they play. Calum advised that that other clubs have found that members are happy to do this and it becomes part of their gam. We will provide an information sheet when the courts are completed. Ike Grant confirmed that he plays regularly at Western Tennis Club and the surface is lovely to play on and sweeping the courts is not a big deal. Work will commence on courts 1 and 2 first and then courts 3-7. Likely to take about 5 weeks but is weather dependent. Planned work to be July/ August 2025. There was a show of hands and full support was given to this.

A.O.C.B.

Stuart Biggart commented about the popularity of pickleball and the committee agreed to go and look at solutions including lining the 2 outdoor mini courts.

Diane Hazlett raised the safety of the car park entrance for pedestrians. Paul advised that this is part of a bigger exercise around the entrance area in general. We recently added lighting and 5mph signs.

Colin McIntyre asked about guest fees. We need to re-emphasis the rules around these. Reception will send out an email covering all aspect of guest fees.

Carol Kerr asked about padel bookings – some people playing for 2 hours which is reducing the chance for others to play. We are awaiting to see how the acoustic curtain helps the noise issue.

Paul McGettrick gave a vote of thanks to all and closed the meeting.