

HERMANUS TENNIS CLUB

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HERMANUS TENNIS CLUB HELD ON WEDNESDAY

11th OCTOBER 2023 AT 17H30

Opening and Welcome: The Chairman John Cowan opened the meeting and welcomed the other members present: Anneke Joubert, Dries vd Merwe, Betty Moore, Mervyn Hobbs, Koos Venter, Danny Grib, Marianne Redelinghuys, Phillip Smit, Viv Howarth, John Lewis, Lynn Kranz, John Cowan, Nicky Smit, Carien Gooding, John King, Anna Federski-Haering, Netarie Verwey, Theo Heyns, Warwick Addison, (19)

Apologies: S Owen-Smith, G Gillott, R Clement, L von Ludwig, L Bouchier, A Rademann, H vd Berg, D Stoltz, Nadia Scorgie, Rob Bolus, Martie Herbst

Notice of Deaths: We remember those members who have passed away in the past year.

Approval of Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting: The minutes of the previous AGM were made available and were approved. Proposer: N Smit Seconded: M Redelinghuys

Matters arising from minutes: None

Chairman's Report :

Thank you all for turning out for this year's AGM. This is the 4th AGM of the Hermanus Tennis Club, part of the Hermanus Sports Club. AGMs are traditionally not a very exciting event, and this year's will most likely be the same. Unless any members of the EFF are present, we are not anticipating any major disruptions.

Firstly, and importantly for the club, the matter of membership. We have approx. 255 members of the Tennis Club, by far the biggest entity of the HSC. I say approx. because we still have some issues of a few members who have not paid up fully. Many members are wonderfully prompt with their fees, but it has taken many many hours to chase members who are tardy with their payments.

The membership is well up on last year's 170, though a good many are not very active or regular at the club.

The membership numbers are very pleasing given that so many clubs around the country are struggling, as I mentioned last year.

I'm not going to steal Carien's thunder when she reports about the league results last year, which, as she will tell you, were outstanding.

All the more surprising, and possibly disappointing, to tell you about the current situation. We are mid-season in Mixed League. After last year's outstanding results, we are battling to find players to play this year. Most regrettably, and with a heavy heart, we had to withdraw the 1st team from 1st league, mainly due to the fact that we need singles players in the team and we did not have 4 ladies prepared and able to play singles at a high level. The 2nd team also has to have singles players and is struggling to find players to fulfil their fixtures. This, together with injuries to some important players and the fact that the promising and talented juniors in the club are almost never available means that the league situation is dire.

The 1st Mens team (Men's League) were due to win their league, but due to other teams not fulfilling their fixtures, league rules meant that all the points accrued against that team were disregarded, so we ended up coming second. We were aggrieved by this and wrote and petitioned the league to no effect. We will try to get the league rules amended so that this situation doesn't affect teams in the future.

At this moment, I'm going to break my report and ask if anyone would like to comment.

[No comments forthcoming.]

Social tennis: The past winter has put paid to social tennis on very many Weds and Sats. It's incredible how often a weather front has come through on Weds and Sats. You'll see on the financial report that the revenue stream for social has been ok, but this is despite the atrocious weather preventing our loyal social players from playing.

It may be down to the weather, but personally I'm disappointed that so many past and still potential social players are opting not to come to social. To me, the heart-beat of the club is Social and to see so many courts free on social days is sad. At a time when we have never had such wonderful facilities, (excellent courts, a clubhouse now providing shelter and serving teas, excellent change rooms) to see only a few social players is a big disappointment. It also reflects on the club when visitors from other clubs come and see such a thin social set.

At this moment, I'm going to break my report and ask if anyone would like to comment.

[Nicky Smit emphasized the disappointment that social is struggling and encouraged members to make an effort to attend. Visitors have noted the decline in social attendance. Netarie suggested that players (who play at other times in the week) should try to play at social once a month.]

The committee would welcome comments at a later stage in order to improve the situation – cake offered?

As I have said before, it's also disappointing that so few social players stay behind for a drink afterwards. One of my best memories this year was a fun time with Dutch visitors who came and stayed afterwards, and who are looking forward to returning to Hermanus with their chequebook and estate agent in tow.

There are a number of established groups who play at various times of the week. The Friday Ladies (now Friday and Tuesday Ladies) have been superbly marshalled by Lynn Kranz and we are much indebted to her for keeping this important group going.

In August, we had a wonderful visit from Pinelands ladies who last visited 4 years ago, just after we moved to these premises. This day was an excellent advert for Hermanus's social side.

The Senior Championship was delayed for various reasons to October and will be starting today week. A smallish entry again, but a championship that the players have enjoyed very much. Senior players, sharpen your racquets.

The main Club Championship will start in November again. We had a superb championship last year and we hope for more of the same this year. The standard of play and the level of competition was excellent. I believe the Joubert Tennis Academy has a few spaces available for extra lessons.

While thinking of the Academy, we continue to be impressed by the coaching offered by the various coaches. There are many juniors who have been encouraged and mentored and who play with such technical skill and energy that passing members are often seen shaking their heads in admiration. Hermanus is truly fortunate to have such a strong coaching body for its juniors. You may want to know of our pre-eminent junior, Roxy Bredenkamp. We haven't seen her for some months as she has relocated to the premier coaching academy in Potchefstroom where she is receiving the best coaching that South Africa can offer. We're holding thumbs that in a few years' time we will see her on the biggest stages.

And now to Improvements: The committee agreed earlier in the year to fund, in part, the new south entrance. We hope you approve of the new entrance which is also the entrance to the tennis courts. Driven by Phillip Smit, we also paid for the avenue of Water Pear trees near the south entrance. We are

also very grateful to Build It for their monthly contributions to HSC which helped us to build that South entrance.

Padel – While not strictly a tennis matter – The Padel courts hit some difficulties with construction, and after 3 weeks of use in December, they were closed for another 6 months. Currently 2 courts are in use and Play Padel hope to have all 4 up and running soon. As we said before, it will be run and financed as a separate operation, similar to the Pro-Activ gym. Membership of Padel Hermanus will be separate from membership of HSC, but it will be an exciting addition to the racquet sports offered on our site.

This winter has not been kind to the grounds though happily we can report no great damage was done by the storms and floods. In spite of this, the grounds are looking terrific. You just have to admire many (if not all) of the garden beds around the club. And we hope it's not just you have to fetch a ball hit over the fence that you notice the gardens. The plants are flourishing after the rain and the flowers are making their presence felt. We are very grateful to all those who have donated plants, mentioning especially Janet Lewis, and all those who have worked on the gardens. I'd also like to mention Koos who always helps and is our 'tree man' and Viv who kindly donated grass and plants and so much else.

Nicky has been the driving force and creator of these wonderful gardens, spending many hours working with the gardeners and devising new creations for new beds. We are enormously grateful to her for all her efforts to help make this the best club in the Western Cape.

After last year's meeting we went ahead with stocking the Proshop with branded HSC clothing. Unfortunately, we are still sitting with much of that stock. I ask you, encourage you and even beg you to look at the clothing, check the size and buy some items. We did not stock the shop to make a profit, but we really want to see HSC out there. There's a rail over there for you to examine the goods. I think it may have been Craig who suggested that no-one will be allowed to leave the club tonight without placing an order?

At this point I'd like to thank Judy who spends endless hours in the Erica room downstairs, fielding calls and enquiries, keeping an eye on the premises and on us. She must have had many lonely hours during the many, many wet days and yet she greets all members and visitors with a smile. I'm always astonished how she remembers the names of all the members and people she's only met once. We are very grateful for her work and energy. Now we are going to add to Judy's load by asking her to be involved in selling HSC clothing.

Finally, you'll be pleased to hear, finally, once again I'd like to sincerely thank the committee, Carien, Craig, Enrico, Gauvain, Nicky, Marianne and Philip and for all their efforts this past 12 months. They have all made a valuable contribution in various ways. They continue to be a great source of support to me. Their work for club is invaluable. League teams, social functions, general maintenance, and improvements would all not happen without their input. Please join me in giving them a round of applause in appreciation.

JOHN COWAN

Tennis Captain's Report (September 2022 – September 2023)

The 2022 **club championships** were held over 3 weeks in November 2022 culminating on finals day on Sunday 27 November 2022. 46 club members including 7 Juniors took part in the championships. It was again a family affair, as we had father and son teams, Carl & Louw, Pieter & Jean, Werner & Ben and also brothers, Tom & Wilhelm Combrink competing in the Men's doubles. The Bredenkamp family had Craig and the sisters' doubles team Roxy & Caelan. Jakkie & Liam Swart both played in the singles & doubles competitions. Sisters Danny & Helene both played in the Ladies doubles. A memorable Award Ceremony and braai followed the final matches.

Our youngest competitor, Caelan Bredenkamp was 12 years old while the oldest, Mervyn Hobbs was 70 or thereabouts.

The Men's Singles competition drew 17 entrants, in the final, Pieter Joubert beat James Corns 6-4; 6-1.

James Corns & Charles Wheeler were victorious in the Men's Doubles final, beating father and son, Pieter and Jean Joubert 6-1; 6-2. James & Charles won all their matches in straight sets and conceded only 3 games in total (which was in the final).

The defending Ladies Singles champion, 13 year old Roxy Bredenkamp, retained her title beating Adele van Emmenis 6-1; 6-1.

Adèle van Emmenis and Helene vd Berg won the Ladies Doubles title for a second time, beating Isabel Fauël and Dulcie Sergeant 6-4; 7-6.

Rising stars, Ben Loots(15) and Roxy Bredenkamp(13) beat defending champions Nick Tuttelberg and Danny Grib 7-6; 6-2 to lift the Mixed Doubles trophy after a thrilling match.

Nadia Scorgie received an award for the most improved player, while Caelan Bredenkamp was the most tenacious. The Jack Sock Sportsmanship Award went to Tom Combrink.

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Our third **Seniors (55+) Championship** will kick off on 18 October. There will be a Men's doubles, Ladies doubles and Mixed doubles competition. Closing date for entries is tonight (11 Oct) at 23h59.

When we look at our statistics, funds and entry pages for Social on Wednesdays & Saturdays we realise that the club social days are not as well supported as it was before. In previous years there were always at least 4 courts, but often all 6 courts were in use with players waiting. Possible reasons may be because the weather was often not that great on Wednesdays/Saturdays, or maybe because Nicky, Carien & Dries were on the "Crutch-list" after surgery. We appeal to all social players to try and attend social if you can, and to spread the word to your tennis playing visitors. We thank Judy for always having the tea tray set up for the thirsty social players.

League results:

I can only speak for the last 20 years, as I do not have access to the club's history before that, but Hermanus Tennis had the most successful **Mixed league** since I have joined the club. After winning the 2nd division the previous year, our 1st mixed team competed in the Grand Challenge league for the first time. They only lost 1 fixture and won the Grand Challenge league, and there were some outstanding performances. Charles Wheeler & Pieter Joubert won all their matches. Roxy Bredenkamp played in every league fixture and won every singles match she played and all but one mixed doubles matches. James Corns played in four fixtures winning all matches apart from that one mixed doubles match.

Our 2nd Mixed doubles team played in the 3rd league. They won all their fixtures by a considerable margin, winning the 3rd league and were thus promoted to the 2nd league. Stefan Stieger, Adele van Emmenis, Nick Tuttelberg & Michelle Beukes won all their matches in straight sets (as part of doubles and mixed partnerships). Craig Bredenkamp played in every fixture, winning most of the matches he played. Special mention must go to 12 year old Caelan. She helped us out in one fixture winning the doubles with Michelle. Subsequently, she also played in the Ladies Doubles league.

Our 3rd Mixed doubles team played in the 5th league. They only lost one fixture, won the 5th league and therefore are promoted to the 4th league in 2023. Alison Rademan, Netarie Verwey and Nadia Scorgie won all the matches that they played in.

We entered 3 Ladies and 3 Men's teams in the 2023 **South Boland Spring League**.

Our first men's team finished 2nd , on 75 points only 3 points behind Durbanville (a somewhat controversial result after Durbanville were awarded points for the last match that was not played).

Our second men's team won the 4th division, on 83 points, 25 points ahead of the team in second place that had 58 points. They won all their fixtures. They also won 29 out of 30 matches played, and the match they lost was in a 3rd set Match tiebreak. Craig Bredenkamp was again the anchor of the team. He played in all the fixtures. Three Juniors: Ben Loots, Jean Joubert and Lucas Calitz also played a valuable part in the success of the team.

Our 3rd Men's team won the 6th division, after losing the first fixture of the season against Malmesbury. They regrouped after the loss, won all the other fixtures and finished top of the log on 72 points, 17 points ahead of 2nd placed Vlotenburg.

Our first ladies team stayed in 1st division. They fought very hard winning 3 of 6 matches played (1 near win had rained out 1 set away from the win), resulting in 4th position out of 8 teams.

The ladies second team finished 3rd out of 7 teams in the 2nd league.

Our 3rd Ladies team finished 2nd out of 5 teams in the 4th league, on 27 points, only 2 points less than the league winners.

The **Mixed League**, Sept-Nov 2023, is under way. Due to lack of player availability, especially singles players, we had to withdraw our first team. Our 2nd & 3rd teams are playing in the 2nd and 4th divisions respectively.

The festive season **Fun Round Robin** was held on 27 December 2022, and the proceeds of the events went to the Garden Fund.

The event drew holiday makers as well, we had a bumper 40 entries, so we could split into 3 groups.

Adrian (a visitor) was the 1st Gentleman and Delwyn the 1st lady in the Wimbledon competition. Craig & Netarie were 2nd respectively.

Roland Garros was won by Nicky Smit (1st lady) and Ferdi (a holiday Maker) 1st Gentleman.

Sean was the 2nd Gentleman while Lyn Bouchier and Glynis shared the 2nd Lady spoils.

The Flushing Meadows competition had some youngsters as well but the winners were Paul Kruger (1st Gentleman and Douwien (1st Lady). (Mervyn & Lynn Kranz were 2nd respectively)

Lots of Tennis and treats were enjoyed!

Special Thanks must go to Alison Rademan for organising the ladies league players. She is always very helpful and kind towards everyone, a real jewel in our crown.

CARIEN GOODING

[Betty asked if it is possible for the league results to be put on the notice board, to keep members in the loop. John said that this would be done, when the board is remade. Betty offered Ken's help to rebuild the board.]

Friday Ladies

Current numbers on the group: 29

Of which, 19 are club members and 10 are non-members.

Last year we had 13 members and 12 non-members. Just had their 3rd anniversary and are enjoying their tennis and each other's company very much.]

LYNN KRANZ**Financial report for 2021-2022**

Financial statements are available for perusal. The statements are accurate but not necessarily in a shape that an accountant would present them. Any volunteer Treasurers – please step forward.

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FINANCES MAY 1ST SEPT 2022 – 31ST AUG 2023

ASSETS	2021	2022	2023
Cash on hand :	R29324	R5439	7865
Money Market :	R39128	R46000	72196
Current Acc :	R7364	R17471	14202
Owed by HSC :	R67924	R83160	108641
Owed by Squash (lights)		R14277	0
Sportswear		R21500	(21000)
New Balls		R1950	(1000)
Memb subs from HSC:	R73550	R68120	(65000)
Sub Total	R217290	R257917	230805

LIABILITIES	2021	2022	2023
HSC			
Affiliation fees	(R5000)	(5000)	(5000)
Flooring		R25909	
Geyser		R2370	
Sub Total		33279	5000

Grand Total	212290	224638	225805
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INCOME	2021	2022	2023
SUBS	73550	68120	(65000)
COURT HIRE	39400	40409	52129
SOCIAL	19465	15810	18685
SOCIAL VISITORS	11550	12450	11600
FRIDAY LADIES	6300	9750	9635
DONATIONS & SURPLUS FRM CHAMPS ETC	4500	157385	3150
NEW BALLS	840	6865	0
USED BALLS	593	900	0
INTEREST	567	974	1324
TEAS			1042
DRINKS			560

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
New Balls	14600	21000	27277
Affiliation Fees	(5000)	1200	800
Garden and Maint	3653	965	2356
Legal	0	0	0
Judy salary/bonus	11760	14740	16130
Other salary/wages		1150	2025
Incidentals/minor purchases/teas	2905	6022	6375
Purchases	1249		1170
Stationary/printing			800
Bank charges	980	735	935
Net repairs		7713	0
Fencing		148430	0
Net posts		6730	0
Tennis Wall		38527	0
Bulbs/Capacitors etc		9190	4307
Skedda Booking		7052	8666
Events room kitchen		20798	711
Events Room lighting		28554	0
Events room flooring		25909	8275
New south entrance			21755
Trees			3420
Glasses/Drinks from Clubhouse			9000

Donations

Chris Nel, Charles Wheeler

[Betty enquired why HSC owes Tennis so much : John explained that Tennis accumulates cash which Tennis loans to HSC from time to time to pay for example – electricity bills, the gardener. HSC is very well aware of its debt to the Tennis Club.]

[Viv asked why we don't have an amount down for insurance: John explained that HSC has insurance and that covers the Tennis Club.]

Membership Fees:

Committee decided on a 7% increase in membership fees. Retrospectively, the meeting agreed that this was fair.

HSC Matters:

Grand opening – This event was held earlier in the year, reasonably well attended. Mostly organized by tennis committee. We opened : tennis wall, fountain, new entrance, new car park and of course the new changing rooms and events rooms. Morne du Plessis did the honour of cutting ribbons.

Completion of downstairs – Erica room and Protea rooms are complete, mainly financed and organized by tennis and squash. Thanks to all the donations (money for flooring, photographs for walls, kitchen equipment (Betty, Friday ladies) paint (Paintsmiths), sliding door etc) Thanks to Alison Rademann who is co-ordinating the venue hire. (50% discount to members). We need to work on improving the acoustics.

Restaurant : Clubhouse Restaurant closed down in May. HSC needed to bring that lease to an end, in order to bring in another restaurant. A franchise company has signed the first draft of a lease. It will take some months for a complete new restaurant to open. Hopefully opening in March – it will open 7 days a week, from breakfast onwards. This will bring the building up to proper completed standard. A member discount has been negotiated. It is still our Clubhouse.

Questions/comments

Question about other Clubs – the other clubs (Darts, BMX, Skatepark, Netball) at HSC do contribute in a minor way as they have few members, but of course Squash contributes in a much more major way. HSC is talking to Cricket Club about affiliation.

Lynn asked about Country Market – long legal wrangle – HSC is ‘piggy-in-the-middle’, between HCM and the municipality. HSC has to protect interests of HSC. HSC is in favour of the market, but we would like it to move to the upper site. Negotiations are ongoing regarding the length to their lease. We are close to sorting it out.

Communication : Lynn would like a monthly newsletter to be produced. Who and how? HSC is always appealing for volunteers to help with all sorts of jobs. We do have Facebook.

Does HSC have an AGM? Not yet, as HSC is still being run by a steering committee, which will be in place until the building is signed off. At that point, the constitution kicks in properly and HSC will have an elected Executive Committee and a Sports Committee (representing all the various clubs). A small group of the steering committee (the management group of Pieter de Jager, Adre Smit and myself, JHC) are responsible for the daily management of the club. A Special Meeting will elect the Executive Committee and AGMs will be held.

Warwick- Donations : Who determines where donations are directed? Donations to HSC are used by HSC, donations to the Tennis Club are used by Tennis.

General : A suggestion is to use the vacant space upstairs for an event, soon – so please support such an event.

Anna - Sports scientist space (the area under the deck NE corner of the building) – a doctor involved in hi-tech physiology measuring is looking to rent the space and has spent money to help build the walls etc. The deck above has to be supported – urgently. Only a sport or recreation orientated business or group can use HSC property.

Election of new management:

Our thanks and gratitude go to three members who are resigning : Enrico Orru, Gauvain Booyens and Craig Bredenkamp.

Five members of the existing committee indicated their willingness to continue and were elected *nem. con.* Three other members indicated their willingness to serve and were elected : Mervyn Hobbs, Anneke Joubert, Warwick Addison.

Committee: Chairman: J Cowan. Additional members: M Redelinghuys, N Smit (Secretary), C Gooding, P Smit, Mervyn Hobbs, Anneke Joubert, Warwick Addison.

Thanks : The Chairman thanked everyone for their ongoing support, generally and at this well attended meeting.

Meeting closed at 18h19