

## **HERMANUS TENNIS CLUB**

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

**2nd OCTOBER 2024 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 Redelinguys, Phillip Smit, John Lewis, John Cowan, Nicky Smit, Carien Gooding, Anna Federski-Haering, Netarie Verwey, Magriet v Broekhuizen, Alison Rademan, Louise von Ludwig, Bruce Paterson, Jakkie Swart, Kolvert Rautenbach, Katinka Ladewig, Annette Nieuwoudt, Marnus van Dyk, Paul Spencer, Warwick Addison, (25)

**Apologies:** Margy Wakefield, Adele van Emenis, Glynis Madden, Sheila Owen-Smith, Delwyn Stolz, Theo Heyns, Lynn Krantz, Rusty Clement, Peta McAdam, Lyn Boucher, Nadia Carbonari, Dulcie Sargeant, Viv Howarth, Martie Herbst, Pieter Joubert, Colleen Naude

**Notice of Deaths:** We remember those members who have passed away in the past year, especially Heather Kleynhans.

**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 Redelinguys

**Matters arising from minutes:** None

#### **Chairman's Report :**

This is the fifth AGM of the Hermanus Tennis Club, affiliated to the Hermanus Sports Club. Can you believe it, the fifth already. It doesn't seem like too long ago that we moved here from the 'old club', when there were no gardens, no paths, no clubhouse but lots of enthusiasm to make a success of the 'new club'.

There is no question that we have a wonderful facility here, excellent courts in a beautiful setting, with a healthy membership and much promise for the future.

It has been a fairly quiet year for the club with fewer than hoped for social fixtures, in part due the atrocious weather experienced from mid July onwards. Pinelands ladies had to cancel their weekend and Kelvin also cancelled. We are, however, making a trip to Kleinmond this coming Saturday which should be fun.

CHAMPS: The Club Championships were held once again in November last year. Carien will give you all the results. Compared to the year before, we had a smaller entry, but no less competitive. After canvassing the other clubs at the South Boland AGM, (btw, very few other clubs in our league region even hold club championships) and given some ongoing concern about the timing of the event, the committee is suggesting that next year's championships will be held in April/May.

[There seemed to be general approval for this.]

We are also hoping to still hold a Senior's Championship, possibly in parallel with the main championships. We believe that the seniors have really enjoyed past tournaments, which, by the way, is open to non-members. Any attempt to hold tournaments in August and September this year would have been disastrous.

FRIDAY LADIES: The Friday Ladies group, sometimes called the Rusty Cogs, run by Lynn Krantz continues to be a great success. Playing twice a week, they tell us they have great fun and greatly enjoy each

other's company. Lynn reports that they have around 30 active players, including 8 new ladies this year. Woe betide the day they all want to play!

Events they held this past year include:

1. Christmas Secret Santa combined with Christine Farrington's 80th (featured in the Village News) and a group tennis strategy lesson with Latham.
2. Annual tennis competition (with trophy) at Arabella complete with swimming and celebratory lunch. Thanks to Theresa Marshall.
3. A very jolly High Tea at the Marine with prizes for best tennis themed hat, sponsored by a generous Friday Lady.
4. Marking "a year since the Stanford flood" with a personal tour of Chelsea in Stanford and a bring and share lunch.

What a success story the Friday Ladies is.

Membership: We currently have 178 adult members, 9 student members and 55 junior members, total 242. This is slightly down from 255 last year, but we do obviously have fluctuations with members relocating or suffering injuries that prevent them from playing.

LEAGUE: Again this year we entered league teams in the South Boland leagues, 2 men's teams and 2 ladies teams in February and 3 teams in the Mixed league that is currently in progress. Carien will have results for you, but this hardly tells the full story.

Every league season, the organisers swear never to be involved in organising again. We know it always a thankless task, but it is made that much worse when members agree to play in the leagues, but when push comes to shove, they are not available. Or they only want to play home matches, or maybe they don't want to play with certain people. And then we have to call upon members to play at a standard they are not comfortable with, which doesn't make for an enjoyable afternoon for either them or the opposition. Hurtful comments about who is playing and who should be playing, without having the background knowledge to make those comments, are also unhelpful.

Hermanus Club does not withdraw from fixtures, unlike some clubs I'd rather not mention. We fulfil our commitments. But fickleness of availability leaves the organisers 'the moer in'.

Question - Do we want to have all this anxiety, stress and upset to continue to participate in leagues? [Your comments please : Anneke said it was very beneficial to Juniors to participate, but unfortunately they are rarely available due to school and other commitments. Most of the members felt that the club should continue to offer league, but there no suggestions as to how to ensure commitment, especially for away games. ]

Personally I would consider it a great shame if we didn't continue, and the majority of the committee feel the same. But we would appeal to members, if you commit to play, please honour your commitment.

Boland is planning on introducing a new league structure in February next year. The idea is to have a Singles league, in which men and women play together, in a group according to their standard. Then there would be men's and ladies leagues, playing doubles only.

Huge Congratulations: Huge congratulations go to Esmaré Morkel, one of our league players, who played in the ITF National Masters 30 and over tournament in Cape Town early in March, and WON! This is a considerable achievement and we are most proud of her. You would struggle to find a fitter or

more resolute player than her. On the back of this, she was selected to represent SA in Portugal later in the year.

**SOCIAL** : Social tennis has continued on Wednesdays and Saturdays, though the foul winter weather has put paid to tennis on so many occasions. The social players who do come, and there is a core of very loyal social players, have a good time. Numbers at social have been disappointing quite often, even when the weather is good. I don't know the reason for this. I hear whispers that some folk don't enjoy playing with weaker players (forgetting that they themselves haven't always been strong or starting back.) It has always been the policy, as far as I can remember, that social is for all, weak and strong, young and old, members and non-members. As I said last year, to me the heart-beat of the club is social. It also reflects on the club when visitors from other clubs come and see such a thin social set.

**GRADING** : Some clubs have a grading system in place, whereby members are graded a – c, and the a and b players play together, b and c players play together. They are generally bigger clubs than ours and more players at social. I heard from one club that this caused great upset and trouble initially, but things settled down later. We do have a system in place that can mean that a better match can be selected. And the system 'falls away' at 4pm. There is no one perfect system – if there was, every club would be using it.

Show of hands, do we implement a grading system?

[Comment from members: Almost all members present were against a grading system, but it was felt that there are better ways of managing matches at social. Nicky commented that the current system would work much better if the person choosing was more realistic and chose balanced sets. (Also remember that the system ends at 4.30pm so players can choose their own sets after that time. Carien offered a 'winners and losers system' (which is worth trialling). Paul commented that his previous club had an appointed organiser each social day who arranged the matches.]

One social event we held in the year was a Quizzical, being a fun quiz for people who say, "they don't know nuthin". In one way it was very successful, in that we had 72 people in this space, had a great evening and raised about R3000. The disappointing aspect was that, in spite of comments in the survey that showed that members wanted social events, like quiz nights, very few tennis members actually participated. A lot of work, aimed at the tennis club, but very few tennis members there??

Which leads me on to a bug-bear: Sometimes I (or maybe some members of the committee), feel that we are simply running a facility rather than a club. Is it worth the considerable efforts the committee puts in? Should we be happy that members just turn up, play and go home, especially on social afternoons? Is it worth organising events, fun round robins, evening events, leagues, championships if we have to beg members to participate? Is there something we can do to change this culture? It is rather sad that just 3 [sorry 4] regulars have a drink on Wednesday and Saturdays after tennis.

If you have thoughts at a later stage, please pass them to the committee.

**FLOODLIGHTS**: An ongoing concern to members who generally play later in the day is the state of the floodlights. While in theory the floodlights are of good quality, there have been problems – some work some of the time, some never work, some work well. The business of having to switch on one-at-a-time is a problem. Replacing the bulbs, apart from being an enormous task, costs over R3000 a bulb. Enrico in the past has been extremely helpful, replacing bulbs and capacitors and doing his best to keep them going, but this is not sustainable. After trying for 2 months to get an electrician to look at some problems we have, today at 2 o'clock I finally achieved a meeting with an electrician. We are determined to move to having LED floodlights, that will switch on immediately and be as effective if not better than what we have. We will most likely convert 1 court and then progress. We hope we can do this at a cost of less than R20K per court. [By a show of hands, the members approved this.]

ACADEMY: The Joubert Tennis Academy continues to be very active on our courts, though the coaches must have had plenty of Netflix time during the wet weather. We continue to be impressed by the standard of the coaching offered by the various coaches. The technical skill and energy shown by the juniors is impressive and an inspiration to other members who wish they could have their time again. Hermanus is truly fortunate to have such a strong coaching body for its juniors. I believe the Academy has two new coaches who you will see on the courts.

[Nicky's report on the grounds : Ongoing story as the areas we are looking after are increasing, and building work has destroyed some of the gardens. We are very grateful to all those who have donated unwanted plants and irrigation bits, and we hope they will continue to do so. Especially John and Janet Lewis and Viv Howarth, and Koos Venter for help with the trees and use of his bakkie. Happily, Jean Vercueil and Nina Landman have offered to help Nicky with the gardens. ]

Thanks and huge congratulations to Nicky for such superb gardens.

CLOTHING: A couple of years ago, the Tennis Club bought HSC clothing, in the main to promote the club and show off the best club in the Western Cape. We have sold fewer items than we had hoped, and last year's attempt to hold hostage all those who had not bought a club shirt was only partially successful. Judy still has a number of items for sale and we now accept all credit cards except American Express.

I'd like to thank Judy once again who spends endless cold hours in the Erica room downstairs, fielding calls and enquiries, keeping an eye on the premises, welcoming visitors and keeping tabs on what's going on at the club. She must have had many lonely hours during the many, many wet days and put up with the banging and hammering going on upstairs. Yet she greets all members and visitors with a smile. I don't know 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.

I'd also like to thank the other HSC staff, Killanie the cleaner who always has a smile and does her cleaning meticulously, George who has a mammoth task in trying to maintain the grounds and Adam on the maintenance side – I hope you approve of the paving he has been laying around the edges of the courts. (Our thanks again to Viv for donating those paving bricks.)

Now I come to the FINAL bit – note I said Final!

I'd like to sincerely thank the committee, Anneke, Carien, Nicky, Marianne Mervyn, Philip and Warwick 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 2023 – September 2024)**

Tennis Captain's Report (September 2023 – September 2024 2 October 2024 Our third Seniors (55+) Championship were played in October last year. 18 players entered the various competitions and matches were played over 3 weekends. Gold and Silver medals were awarded for the first two places on each round robin log. Everyone seemed to have fun and enjoyed a celebratory meal in the clubhouse afterwards. The results were as follows: Ladies Doubles: GOLD: Nicky Smit & Delwyn Stoltz SILVER: Isabel Fauël & Carien Gooding Men's Doubles: GOLD: John Cowan & Mervyn Hobbs SILVER: Koos Venter & Russ Truter Mixed Doubles: GOLD: John Cowan & Nicky Smit SILVER: Robert Bolus & Carien Gooding Social tennis on Wednesdays & Saturdays were 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. 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. A Ladies group lead by Lyn Kranz are still doing very well, they play Tuesdays and Fridays. The 2023 Club championships were held over 3 weeks at the end of November with on finals day on Sunday 3 December 2023. 35 club members including 3 Juniors took part in the championships. It was once again a bit of a family affair, as we had father and son teams in the Mens doubles: Jakkie & Liam, Carl & Emile and Werner & Ben, as well as mother and daughter, Heather & Michelle in the Ladies doubles. A memorable Award Ceremony and braai followed the final matches. A Round Robin format was followed for all the events due to the limited number of entries, with semi finals and finals on the last weekend.

The final of the Mens Singles competition was a father and son battle, won by the younger family member. Ben Loots bt Werner Loots 6-2; 6-1. Ben & Werner Loots were victorious in the Mens Doubles final, beating another father and son team, Jakkie & Liam Swart 6-3; 6-2. Youngest player, Surita Lamprecht (15) beat Isabel Fauël 6-2; 6-2, to win the Ladies singles title. Surita has entered the competition three times in the past (first when she was 11). Isabel Fauël and Charlotte Setzkorn won the Ladies Doubles title after winning all their matches in the Round Robin, Alison Rademan & Nadia Carbonari finished in second place. Werner Loots & Adèle van Emmenis beat Jonathan Just & Michelle Kleynhans 6-1; 6-2 to lift the Mixed Doubles trophy after a thrilling match. All events had first time winners and a few other prizes were handed out at the prize giving: Phillip Smit received the Spirit award. Our oldest competitor in the club champs, Martie Herbst (72), deserved her award as the most Tenacious player. Marianne Redelinghuys received an award for the most improved player. The Jack Sock Sportsmanship Award as well as the Cliffhanger award (most Tie-breaks won) went to Michelle Kleynhans.

League results: 2023 Spring Mixed League: After winning all three divisions that we entered in 2022 Spring Mixed League, we had to drop our 1st team that won the 1st division league as most of the players in that winning team were not around, healthy or available for the 2023 Mixed League. Our other two teams were promoted to higher divisions and found it more difficult than when they were victorious the previous year. In the 2nd division Hermanus finished 6th out of 8 teams while our team in the 4th division finished 4th out of 8 teams. Brackenfell won both those divisions. The 2024 Mixed league started at the end of August and we decided to enter another team so that more players get a chance to play. After 3 matches we have not had much success. Our 1st team (2nd division) had a resounding win over Malmesbury, but they lost to both Durbanville and Countryclub, placing them in 4th out of 6 teams on the leaderboard. The 2 team (4th division), drew the first match and lost the last two matches resulting in 5th/7 on the log. Our new extra team had to enter at the 6th division, they lost the first two matches and drew the last one, putting them in 4th place out of 5 on the leaderboard. 2024 Autumn Ladies and Men's leagues were played earlier in the year. After much success which resulted in promotion for two of our men's teams, we had to withdraw our team from the first division before the league started as we had no players of that standard available at the time. The team that won the 4th division last year, did very well to finish 2nd in the 3rd division (not many points behind the winners). Similarly, after winning the 6th division last year, our team placed 2nd in the 5th division. We also had to withdraw our 1st ladies team that played in the 1st division last year for the same availability reasons, unfortunately several other Boland clubs followed suit which resulted in our 2nd team that played 2nd division before to be moved up into the 1st division, it was hard to explain to the 2nd division payers that they had to play in the top league, but we had no choice. They did well to finish 3rd in the final log. Our team playing in the 4th division also finish 3rd.

The festive season Fun Round Robin was held on 4 January 2024, and the proceeds of the events went to the Garden Fund. The event drew holiday makers as well, 50% of our 20 entries this year, so we could split into 2 groups. Steve (a visitor) was the 1st Gentleman and Netarie the joint 1st lady with Jenna (a visitor) in the Wimbledon Group (Henk (a Visitor) & Surita were 2nd respectively. In the Australian Open Group, Adré Smit was the 1st Gentleman with Clive (a visitor) 2nd. Viv was the 1st Lady, with Nicky &

Martie in joint 2nd place. Lots of Tennis and treats were enjoyed! Coaching: We are lucky to have the world class coach Pieter Joubert spearheading the JTA Tennis Academy at the Hermanus tennis courts. The academy continues to produce top quality junior tennis players, some of them who are already incorporated in our league teams and our last Club Championship had juniors as men and ladies singles champions.

## **CARIEN GOODING**

### **Financial report for 2023-2024**

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### **FINANCES MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPT 2023 – 31<sup>ST</sup> AUG 2024**

[ If members wish to see the financial sheet (as distributed at the AGM), please contact one of the committee. ]

John highlighted the following : We are in a healthy position, given that we had no major expenses this past year. Once again it was emphasized that we need to build a considerable fund for the time when the courts will need resurfacing. We have added to the income stream by running the Skye Bar (approx. R27K). We also hosted UCT rugby which brought in about R8K. Court hire, Social and Social Visitors were down from last year, maybe due to bad weather in the winter months.

Judy's salary is considerably more than previous years as Squash and Tennis have taken on greater responsibility for her salary as she works mainly for those two clubs and not so much for HSC. Skedda booking system is costly (R10K) and we are open to ideas for a more cost-efficient but equally useful booking system.

[No questions were asked.]

### **Membership Fees:**

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

### **HSC Matters:**

Restaurant : Bossa were hoping that the new restaurant would open at the end of October, but it may be a couple of weeks later. The Skye bar will no longer operate but they will have a designated waiter who will service the downstairs areas. Members will get 10% discount with a membership card (which Jakkie is arranging with Bossa).

The open space at the northeast corner of the building will be completed by HSC (have a floor and windows) and this space is available for renting to someone who is sport or recreation aligned.

The Protea and Erica rooms are used by the Darts Club on two evenings a week, but they are also available for hire.

HSC is in talks with the Cricket Club in an effort to get them affiliated to HSC.

BMX are extending their track so that they can (again) host the Nationals next year.

HSC is talking to Pickleball to see if it is possible to have them on the site.

The upper car park surface has been redone by OM, but the connecting gravel road is still a problem, but we are raising this with OM at every opportunity. We might have to put some overhead solar lighting at the far car parks.

Padel has offered a reciprocal reduced fee membership to Squash and Tennis Members.

Structure of HSC now and to be : John explained that HSC is currently being run by a 'Steering committee' (originally initiated in about 2011), who are largely professional people. The day-to-day management is done by Adre Smit (Chairman), Pieter de Jager (recent Chairman) and himself. As soon as the clubhouse building is completed and signed off by the municipality, the proper constitution of the HSC kicks in, and an Executive committee will be elected by the members to run the club. (The first executive committee must be formed from the current steering committee, but as soon as a Special meeting is called, the Executive will be elected.) A second body, the Sports Committee will be formed with a representative (probably Chairman) from each affiliated Sports Club. This body will be represented on the Executive committee.

**General** : Question was asked about the historic photographs. Nicky replied that we attempted to salvage the photos from the old club. They are stored but need remounting and reframing.

**Election of new management:**

Happily we can report that all existing members are happy to serve again, but Carien will take on the role of Treasurer and Katinka Ladewig is happy to join the committee as secretary.

The existing committee and Katinka were elected *nem. con.*

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

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

**Meeting closed at 18h43**