

Chaucer Tennis League

72nd Annual General Meeting

Monday 13th January 2026 at 19:45

Pit Farm Tennis Club

Minutes

Attendance: Richard Clarke (Chairman), Jonathan Freeston & Nigel Catlow (Committee members), Celia Gregory (Secretary) and 26 representatives from 20 of 21 clubs.

1. Introduction & Apologies: RC welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were sent from Reigate Priory. RC introduced the committee. There were five new attendees who introduced themselves:

- Konstantin Zakharyan from Oxshott
- Ginny Cook from Shalford
- Val Williams from Ash
- Paul Carter from Cranleigh CC
- Jo Campbell from Bourne

2. Minutes of the 2025 AGM: Approved

3. Matters arising

- Website Hosting: We have moved from Names Co to Hostinger. The transfer of the website is ongoing and should be completed in the next week. The savings will be significant, with an initial fee of £85 for 2 years.

4. Secretary's Report & Accounts

The 2025 league was completed in early October, following an exceptionally dry summer. There were just five walkovers conceded throughout the season and the penalty points conceded had no bearing on the final league placings. A total of 164 matches were played. Well done to all team captains for getting your players out, which I know can be quite challenging for many clubs.

You should all have seen the final results/standings from the season. One standout team performance was from West Surrey Men's 2, in div 2, who only dropped 1 point all season. all. Congratulations to Dorking whose mixed team (Div. 1) and ladies weekend team have now won their respective leagues for 5 years in a row. The scoring system in Chaucer, giving a point for each set won can make such a difference at the final count, and overall is a popular difference between Chaucer and other Leagues.

The LTA league Planner System has bedded in and is running OK. As you will all have seen from my email last week, club main contacts now have to enter teams themselves. Please add the team captains after the team submissions, that would really help. I will make sure that teams are put in the correct division.

2026:- Repeat fixtures from last season should change venue. New fixtures should be arranged to suit, giving clubs a balance of home and away. Please send me the dates by the end of January. I will add them to the website as they come in.

Withdrawals from the League:

Sadly, Alfold, David Lloyd and Normandy have all withdrawn from the League. St George's Hill and Claygate have withdrawn from Ladies Midweek, and Pit Farm from Mixed Vets.

Additions to the league:

We welcome Ash TC into Men's Div 2, Cranleigh Country Club in Mixed 3, and Reigate Priory into Mixed Vets. We hope the clubs will enjoy being part of the League for many years.

Bourne and Oxshott have both entered a 2nd men's team and Kingswood a 2nd Mixed Vets team.

The three men's divisions for 2026 all have 7 teams

The ladies midweek has been amalgamated into just 1 division of 8

The mixed weekend divisions have 6, 6 and 7.

Mixed vets m/w has 7.

So overall we have 55 teams competing, down 2 on 2025. Fingers crossed this doesn't start a trend.

A couple of reminders:

- Home team captains enter results, whether they have won, lost or drawn
- If you need to rearrange a match, a minimum of 2 weeks notice should be given. Any less and there is no obligation to change.
- If a match is rearranged, please update the LTA site, or let me know.

Thank you for your continued support of the Chaucer League and for all the work that the captains of the teams put in. Never an easy job and one that always comes with its challenges! Club tennis forms the backbone of tennis throughout the world. Padel and Pickleball continue their upward trends, with new facilities popping up all over the county, so we must work hard to ensure that tennis leads the way!

Accounts: The balance at 21/10/25 was £405 - down from £533 in 2024.

My thanks to the clubs that have already paid their 2026 entry fees. The costs of the website hosting fees were becoming unsustainable, so we have very recently found and moved to a new website host, Hostinger, which will mean big savings. It was quite a challenge, with the main communication being with AI chatbot, albeit a very good robot. It was only when I said that I was losing the will to live that a real person helped!

One extra cost this year has been the addition of bank charges of £4.25/month. Considering that for a number of months each year there are no transactions, it is very annoying. So if anyone knows of a bank that doesn't charge for small community accounts please let me know.

All the best for another successful and sunny tennis season in 2026, with lots of good tennis, played competitively, but always in the right spirit!

5. Winter Knock Out Tournament update

The winter K/O is now a 50+ tournament, with 11 teams competing. We hope that the change will encourage more clubs to enter in future. Matches are now at the quarter finals stage.

6. Committee

Richard Clarke and Jonathan Freeston will be stepping down from the Chaucer Committee at the 2027 AGM. JF has served since 2003, and his knowledge and experience of the league will be greatly missed.

RC joined the committee in the 1990's and has been chairman for the last 24 years. He has been lucky to have worked with 3 excellent League Secretaries during that time, Bob Gasston, Anne Pitt and Celia Gregory.

Celia and Nigel Catlow will continue but we need new committee members, so if anyone would like to volunteer, you have this year to decide. Please talk to RC. There's only one meeting each year plus the AGM.

7. AOB

- Brian Chubb (Weybridge) asked which bank we use (Lloyds)
- Nigel Catlow suggested investigating the Co-Op bank (CG to action)
- Lesley Gale reported problems with entering teams on the LTA site (CG to check)
- Eugenia Wachters asked whether results from Chaucer league matches counted towards WTN (Yes)
- RC asked whether Clubs still wanted the winners certificates as there are no more available. The general consensus was that they are still wanted and some clubs do display them in their clubhouse.

8. Date of Next Meeting: January 11th 2027

Celia Gregory January 17th 2026