NEWTON ABBOT TENNIS CLUB
MINUTES OF THE MEMBERS MEETING 24 FEBRUARY 2026

Present
Brian Mackness (Chair), Pauline Allsop (Membership Secretary), Andy Lloyd (Vice Chair), Douglas Chalmers (Treasurer), Julie Collins, Ian Chan, Gordon Hooper, Kate Hooper, Bruce Nell, Rupert Heathcote, Chris Jones. Jason Gordon, Claire Andrew, Alex Pettitt, Valerie Weare, Ian Nightingale, Tracey Milton, Julie Doxsey, Jane Comyns, Emmanuel Victor Tackie-Yaoboi, Alison Ainscough, Madeline Ramsey, Mark Ayliffe, Lindsey Beasley, Alison Melville-Shreeve

Apologies
Barbara Robillard, Chris Long

Finance
The club has run at a loss for the period ending 30 September 2025 of approx £2,000. The projection for the 2025/2026 financial period is forecast to be around £5,000.

After a lengthy discussion regarding the way forward, it was agreed that membership fees would need to be increased, bearing in mind that membership fees have not been increased since February 2024. It was also agreed to speak to the Rec Trust to discuss the club's contribution each year to ensure that it is fair and is best value.

Membership
Membership numbers have remained fairly stable since the split but we need to accept that we are going to lose some income due to squash and tennis adult and junior members moving to squash only on their annual renewal date. This number should become clear after April 2026.

Competitive Tennis and Club Sessions/Social Tennis
It was agreed that participation in tennis leagues is important not only for the club's reputation but also as a way of attracting new members.

The question was raised regarding information given to prospective membership. It was agreed to confirm the role of the tennis leadership groups, roles and club sessions in order to better inform prospective membership what is available as an introduction to the club.

Ground Development
It was agreed that, however successful membership income is, the club will struggle to be able to fund the cost of any major work arising. The main issues that will arise are the refurbishment of the courts and upgrading the lights.

Chris Jones and Claire Andrew have kindly agreed to establish a project group to research the costs of major work and possible sources of grant income.

Ground Maintenance
There are always odd jobs to do around the courts to keep them tidy.

Mark Laughton has kindly agreed to take on this role but all members are asked to help out if they can.

The Pavillion

Following its refurbishment a couple of years ago, the Pavilion is now very respectable.

However, there is still the problem of the plumbing.

Tracey Milton has very kindly agree to take on the role of looking into this.

There was a discussion concerning this into the possibility of installing a toilet adjacent to the pavillion. It was agreed that this would be a good idea.

Jane Comyns said that she had made some tentative enquiries into this and will follow this up to obtain quotes for this.

Padel
There was a lengthy discussion on the feasibility of developing this facility. Opinions were very divided on this and it was agreed that we need to set up a project team to assess the pros and cons for this.

Ian Nightingale has kindly agreed to set this up.

The subject of an alternative of Pickle Ball, which will be looked at also.

Communications
It was agreed that both internal and external communications are an important contribution to the club's success.

There is work in progress at the moment to update/improve the existing website. Julie Collins is working on this in conjunction with Jamie Bowdidge (Squash).

Organisation
Brian Mackness stated that he did not think he was the best person to carry on with the position of Chairman of the club. This was mainly due to the fact that he originally took on the role as a temporary basis whilst the split was happening, also that he does not use that club as often as he feels the Club Chairman should be. He asked if there was anyone who would be interested in this position but there was no response.