

ACLTC COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES HELD AT 7.30 PM AT THE CLUBHOUSE ON 14th MARCH 2024

Present:- Dave Forster (DF) – Chair, Pete Wood (PW), Ian Randon (IR), Alan Geddes (AGe), Julie Guzder (JG), Alex Guzder (AGz), Katherine Pilbro (KP), Emma Shales (ES), Andy Simpson (AS), Janet Braithwaite (JB), Dave Rushton (DR), Gill Mathias (GM), Neil Evans (NE), Gray Hetherington (GH), Sally Harris (SH)

Apologies :- Sheila Jackson (SJ), Julian Howard (JH), Gaz Bell (GB), Alex Adie (AA), Ken Ikin (KI), Paul Sanders (PS)

Minutes of the 4th January 2024 Committee Meeting were approved (copy attached)

Chairman's Report - DF

DF welcomed Sally Harris as the Welfare & Child protection Officer and thanked all sub-committee members for their work.

Treasurer's Report - PW

YTD Update

Cash Position


Current cash balances of £55,200 versus £109,600 twelve months ago.

A comparison with the prior year is difficult given the expenditure on lights and courts and the members loans raised but a simple calculation is as follows:

Current cash position	£ 55,200
Less Members Ln	-£ 57,000
Plus Capex	<u>£142,300</u>
	<u>£140,500</u>

In summary, had we not had the capex/Members Loans our cash position would be £30,900 up on the prior year. This reflects a strong underlying profitability which is needed to cover the sinking fund and loan payments (c£20,000).

In summary the finances are positive.



26/5/24

Energy Contract

Our current 4-year contract expires 2/4/24.

I have tested the market and prices have, obviously, gone up significantly but are well down on the peak of c18 months ago.

Our prices will go up c50% - This does involve switching provider from BG (who were the next best deal). Changing provider will save the club between £1,300 & £1,500 pa compared to sticking with BG (both on a 3-year fixed deal to secure the price for a further 3 years).

The good news is that due to the reduction in usage from the LED our bills won't be much higher, if at all, than it has been the last few years.

Annual costs will be c£5,000 under the new contract based on my estimate for a reduction in usage. This compares with a budget of £12,500 in the 10-year plan.

If we went onto BG variable it would be c£12,500+ pa.

This is an excellent result for the club.

Subs

We need to decide on an increase, if any, for the annual subs and communicate it to members ASAP.

My proposal would be 5% (or thereabouts, rounded down to the nearest 50p) which is in line with inflation, the implications would be as follows:

Family (2 adults)	£472	increase to	£495
Family (1 adult)	£242		£254
Senior	£230		£241.50
Senior 22-30	£115		£120.50
Junior 10 – 22	£77.50		£81
Junior Under 10	£42.50		£44.50
Parent	£71.50		£75
Social	£12		£12.50

These new rates were unanimously approved by the Committee

Junior / Coaching Report - AGz

- A successful Leicestershire awards evening:
 - Olivia Cox junior girl of the year
 - Mens National League team club team of the year
 - Joe, Joe and Josh part of the county team of the year
 - Performance coach of the year
 - Club of the year
- 5 Ashby juniors involved with doubles session with former Davis Cup player Dominic Inglot.
- 18&U county cup in March – 15 Ashby juniors represented their counties.
- Ethan Williams has signed for Wingate university in North Carolina from September on a tennis scholarship, good luck to him.
- Holiday camp dates all online to be booked for Easter and Summer holidays.
- 24 juniors signed up for Cardiff trip this year, focusing slightly more on younger age groups this year.
- Older juniors are attending a training camp trip to La Manga in July.
- Joining with Oadby tennis club to each take 4 players for a Tenpro event in Geneva in August.
- Junior teams all entered, 14&&U and 18&U boys teams are in the regional premier divisions.
- Mens NL team competing in regional division for the first time, team made up of juniors after promotion last year. First match next Sunday at home against Oadby.
- This Saturday is semi final of the 18&U fallows cup at home against Bosworth. Potential final at Leicestershire on 28th April.
- New daytime squads starting from 17th April for best young players to get some extra training in small groups and to include more strength and conditioning.
- Two week-long junior tournaments over Easter and two during the Summer, including the town tournament.
- Tobey starting to go into schools to offer taster sessions and invite children to the club.

The Working Groups (Sub-Committees)

Tennis. Julie, Sheila, Andy, Alex G, Alex A,

- The Ladies are adopting the principle of trying to pick players for the right Division and have a squad rather than have some players playing for lots of teams.
- The Mens Leics Teams have a performance culture.
- Team Practices for both have been arranged.

Social. Gill, Emma, Alan G, Katherine, Sheila, Janet & Jonny Shales

Open Day – a Working Group is meeting on Thursday to establish the focus, plans and ideal outcome.

The Bar Rota is beginning in 2 weeks and we want to make a big push to get attendees.

Quiz – 20th April

Sustainability Group. Gray, Alan Brown, Mike Briggs & Katie Higson

Nothing to report

Membership and Community. Gill, Emma, Ian, Neil, Alex A, Janet, Paul, Sally & Katherine

Membership Update

- We have 314 paid-up members
- Family 1 adult membership category is now sorted on Clubspark
- Clubspark is now up-to-date and accurate
- We are targeting increasing the membership to 350
- We ideally need less members not renewing. Can we track the attrition / exit survey?

Promoting the Club

- Open Day 11/5 & Ashby Sport 30/6 – New members with no New Joiner Fee. Should we reconsider having a New Member Joining Fee at all?
- **Let's remove barriers to joining. The above offer seems minimal. Could we replicate the Junior model. Offer 6-week taster session (Saturday afternoons)?** Rather than them having to commit to an annual membership without knowing if they will enjoy the club.
- Social Media Campaign to drive people to the 2 open days.
- Can we get a celebrity to attend the Open Day?
- Could we get some benefit / help from Yonex for the Open Day?
- Suggested to hold a new members welcome session monthly. Tennis and drinks at the bar -KP will run this

Inclusivity & Diversity

- Alex is requesting any member to come forward with knowledge, experience, ideas & assistance
- Speak to Gill Russell about Lewis Charlton (she used to work there)

Cut off dates for ages for different member categories

- KP asked if we could change the cut off dates to 1st June rather than 1st Sept
- We all agreed that this makes sense and will make life easier for the Membership Secretary providing there is nothing in the Constitution that will prevent it

Online payments

- KP asked if we could change to online payments and put together a proposal to fund it (see attached)
- We felt this was costly but agreed to put it to the Committee for discussion and felt **we particularly needed Pete's input**
- Welcoming New Members

Older members requesting reduced subs & special court allocation

- GM & JB will meet with these members (and non-members) to explain our position and discuss matters
 - Court Utilisation Stats to establish if there is a need for a special court allocation
 - IR offered to book courts for these members if they struggle to do so online
 - **We don't feel we can offer reduced subs / special measures for one category over another**
 - We consider that our subs are very competitive
 - **Could we consider a 'Pay & Play' option? If we did the cost would need to be high, such as £10 per person per session**
 - A lot of the 70+ age group use the facilities so we would be losing a lot of money with reduced subs for this age group
 - **We can't see any other clubs offering such discounts to 70+ members**
 - We have significantly better facilities now and we consider our subs offer excellent value for money
 - Could we set up an OAP (for want of a better term) morning / afternoon session (like a clubnight but focussed)? And include non-members access at a cost?

Clubhouse Grounds and Projects. Julian, Dave F, Pete, Dave R, Neil, Gray, Paul & Pete Buckley

We have prices for the refurbishment of the older courts and to sort out the moss and slip risk on court 4. Moss killing & rejuvenation will cost £9,000. This should keep 5&6 playable for 2 more years and should stop 4,5 & 6 being slippery. This will be done as soon as possible.

Additionally, we have a price to replace court 7, which has the least pile and shortest remaining life span compared to courts 5 & 6.

We have had a Grounds working party meeting to discuss and we have come up with a plan but, at the time of preparing this note, we have a few more questions for Fosse before we can finalise our proposal. The committee agreed unanimously that we should go ahead and get court 7 upgraded to artificial clay ASAP.

Fire extinguishers were re-certified two weeks ago as supervised by John Vernon. All certifications are up-to-date.

Wilson Alarms visited on Monday 11th to complete the alarm installation for the new patio door arrangement. The technician had misunderstood and thought it was a maintenance visit so was not suitably equipped to complete the work. A further visit to complete the work will be advised.

The Gents urinal is now working for reasonably limited use until a permanent fix is completed.

Pete Buckley has installed soffits very nicely to the balcony eaves and 3D Windows are to start work on the fascias on Tuesday 19th.

The redecorating of the water damaged areas downstairs is still pending. Will have it done by the Open Day. We have found and corrected the source of the water ingress (a badly fitted downpipe) and solved it so there will be no repeat.

The trimming of trees (particularly those overhanging lights adjacent to Court 4) is a priority along with the welding of the currently temporarily repaired fence posts in that area.

The question arose as to whether John Vernon would appreciate some help. PW & DF will talk to him.

Ladies', Men's & Mixed Captains Reports

AS is keen for us to get some team kit before the season starts. He will organise this.

Health & Safety - DR

DR has completed the recent Leics Risk Assessment Questionnaire and it has raised a few questions, namely:

Changing Room policy needs reviewing – DR, SH & AGz will discuss

A Risk Management Plan needs reviewing – DR, SH & AGz will discuss

Fundraising - PS

Nothing to report

Communication - ES

Nothing to report

Welfare & Safeguarding - SH

SH explained that she has carried out a lot of research and spoken to the Tennis Leics Welfare Officer. A lot of the Policies are being reviewed and updated by SH & will circulate for approval after the Easter break.

All committee members to attend some training on the topic. SH will arrange this.

Fixtures Secretary Update - JG

A lot of fixtures have been finalised with some remaining to be organised.

AOB:

Use of the Clubhouse Facilities

At a recent junior tournament, one member felt that the clubhouse and facilities (kitchen, kettle, coffee etc) should only be for members and not for visitors. This was an unpleasant experience for all in attendance and embarrassing for us as a club.

A meeting has been held between the Officers and AGz following the incident and it was agreed at that meeting and explained today that **we consider ourselves to be a 'welcoming club'** and that all members, guests, visiting players, spectators, friends and family are very welcome to use the clubhouse facilities. It was suggested that we could include an 'honesty box' in the kitchen for those using the hot drink making facilities to leave a donation if they wanted to.

The committee approved this policy unanimously for the avoidance of any doubt in the future.

Food Hygiene Inspection

Sheila is meeting with somebody on Tuesday 19th April to carry out the food hygiene visit / review.

The next Sheila's Meals is planned for 12th April – JG to discuss with ES.

Committee Members / Membership Roles 2024 / 25

IR will look into which committee role specs have been received and which are outstanding then will circulate to everybody.

Old Club Tournament Programmes

Nigel & Kate May (previous members) sent an e-mail explaining that they had inherited a number of programmes from the Ashby Open Lawn Tennis Tournament which date back to the 1920's. These were believed to be acquired by Kate's father, Trevor Cartledge, when he was involved with ACLTC in various roles. They have very kindly donated these to us. It was agreed that we should have these framed to display in the clubhouse.

AGZ explained that Ken has some old minutes. DF will review these and speak to GH & RW who also have some old documents that need retaining.

Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting was agreed to be held at the club on 21st May 2024 (7.30pm).

