

ACLTC COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES HELD AT 7.30 PM AT THE CLUBHOUSE ON 1st FEBRUARY 2022

Present:- Dave Forster (DF) - Chair , Pete Wood (PW), Chris Hawkins (CH), Ian Randon (IR), Justin De Vere (JDV), Bob Williams (RW), Claire Bridges (CB), Gray Hetherington (GH), Ken Ikin (KI), Julian Howard (JH),

Apologies :- Emma Shales (ES), Alex Guzder (AG), Gill Mathias (GM), Sarah Perry (SP), Julie Guzder (JG), Muriel Bouttier (MB), Gaz Bell (GB), Katie Higson (KH), Alex Adie (AA), Neil Evans (NE), Janet Hall (JH)

Minutes of the 11th November Committee Meeting were approved (copy attached)

Chairman's Report - DF

DF explained his proposal to discuss the restructuring of committee activity of ACLTC for 2022. The document had been circulated before the meeting with feedback invited.

Objectives: To rebalance the focus of the committee, spread more equally the responsibilities of committee members, align with skill sets, enable wider participation on committee goals from the general membership, reduce committee time commitments, increase autonomy and decision making for committee members.

Background: The committee (by constitution) is required to hold 8 meetings in a calendar year and additionally an AGM (we had 13 meetings inc AGM last 12 months). It is also required (by constitution and LTA) to have responsible committee members to execute the club activities for the benefit of the general membership on a democratic basis.

Additionally, the club, by our constitution have a board of Trustees to ensure the perpetuity of the club beyond committee control. We could widen their remit to an active participation in elements of running the club.

Current position: The committee has 19 valued and experienced members (5% of general membership, 10% senior membership) In no order:

Alex Adie	Junior rep
Alex Guzder	Club coach
Bar coordinator	TBA
Bob Williams	Grounds
Chris Hawkins	Men's captain
Claire Bridges	Membership
Emma Simpson	Media/Social
Gareth Bell	Junior coordinator
Gill Mathias	Social Tennis
Gray Hetherington	President*
Ian Randon	Secretary*
Julian Howard	Clubhouse
Julie Guzder	Fixtures
Katie Higson	Ladies rep
Muriel Bouttier	Ladies' Captain
Neil Evans	Male rep
Peter Wood	Treasurer*
Sarah Perry	Welfare
Justin De Vere	H&S
Dave Forster	Chair*

*denotes committee officer.

Discussion: Every current role is valued and provides an excellent service to the club. There is a desire to retain all of these roles, however this paper seeks to reduce the duration and frequency of meetings plus the duplication of discussion and decision-making process, without compromising the democratic process. We have a tendency at committee meetings to debate widely a subject

which is an individual's responsibility, and hence covering background and salient facts that are inherent within a role but require explaining to the wider committee. If these subjects were within the scope of a focus group of committee members to enable a diverse and educated discussion, and then brought to committee for vote it should reduce committee time without compromising skilled input.

The 4 general classifications for focus groups could be seen as:

1.0 Clubhouse Grounds and Projects.

2.0 Social fundraising and bar

3.0 Tennis

4.0 Membership and community

There are roles that have a potential input to all focus groups. There should be a principal lead for each group.

Proposal and further actions:

- Invite the committee to amend the 4 focus groups
- Invite the committee to identify roles within focus groups
- Consider maximum 6 committee meetings plus AGM (constitution amendment)
- Allow focus groups autonomy to meet as desired and report to committee
- Retain democratic and financial approval to committee
- Recognise the annual goals of the club within focus groups
- Widen committee input from general membership by inclusion within discussion groups
- The focus group would have a general JD that sits alongside the specific role descriptions of each committee member
- The Trustees may be taking over the annual diary (ie inspections/ licences etc that all need to be kept up to date) – in order that we could check with each person responsible for each item to make sure all is ok (I know of course Pete will sort out all his stuff), but, for example, as the clubhouse role - as an independent check.
- The Trustees to be involved in any conflict/ complaint issues rather than the Officers have to sort it out (was thinking about behaviour on court and on committee) - it might be easier if a slightly removed set of people were responsible for this rather than cause any direct bad feeling between

various groups.

Comment. There is, of course, no precedent for a restructure or maybe even requirement (if it ain't broke etc....). The writer invites informal comment outside of committee time initially to gain insight and critique, particularly on how the groups would communicate. Should the committee members agree that the proposal 'has legs' we would take committee time to formalize and agree.

DF invited committee members to submit feedback on this proposal to him by 28/2/22 so that a decision can be made at the next committee meeting. IR will prompt committee members.

Treasurer's Report - PW

Bank

Quiet month, no major items of expenditure. Bank balance currently stands at £93.5k which compares with £75.5k at the same date last year.

Omnicon Grant

Our grant application was approved and £2,677 has been received into the bank account.

LED lighting and Suez Grant Application

Our grant application for £35,000 is almost ready to submit. The only items we are waiting for are letters of support from Nick Rushton and Carl Benfield. Both have agreed to provide them, we are just awaiting the letters following which I will 'press the button' and then all we can do is wait.

We have concluded that the Exclusive quote is the preferred one at £54k. The LED units are lighter in weight than our current ones and are also more streamlined to reduce wind drag.

My view is that, whilst we cannot formally proceed until we hear from Suez, we should advise Exclusive that they will get the contract but we need hear from Suez before we can formally sign the contract, however, if we are unsuccessful with our grant application we will still proceed with them at the quoted price.

Armed with this information they will hopefully assist us with our planning application which can then be pursued without delay.

I would hate to be successful with the grant application and then get timed out due to the planning permission and have to go through the whole process again.

The committee agreed with Pete's view and RW will speak to Exclusive accordingly.

Cardless Payments

I have purchased a SumUp card reader and cradle which will enable us to take card payments at the bar. The reader should be with me this week. There is a one off cost of £35.99. The only ongoing cost will be a transaction cost which isn't significant (1.69%) and hopefully members will appreciate the ability to pay by card.

Anyone on the bar will need to download the SumUp app and link to the card reader by Bluetooth for it to work. The payments will be paid straight into our bank account and I will have access to the transaction summary to see all the payments.

I am sure that we will be able use the card reader for match fees if required, so long as the team captains let me know so that I can allocate the receipts accordingly.

JDV suggested that we could use the App for new members on the Open Day.

RW suggested that we could use an old phone rather than members / bar staff using their own phones.

Nothing else to report.

Membership Report - CB

CB reported that we now have 399 members which it is thought to be the most ever.

Member totals differ from the LTA figures so we CB/IR will be marrying these up over the next month.

As membership subs will be increasing on 1st June CB confirmed that new members will be offered pro rata membership subs to see them through to 31st May.

CB is keen for Social Tennis nights to generate new member interest

Clubhouse & Grounds – RW & JH

Lights

Kiwa have carried out an inspection on the lamp posts and the initial report, when I spoke to the technician who carried out the inspection, is that they are in good condition. I am awaiting the results as they need to carry out some further calculations. I have supplied them with size and weight data on the existing lights, and the likely replacements. There shouldn't be any problems with loading as both the favoured Philips and Bell lights weigh less than the current lights (24kg and 21kg against 28kg), and have a lower cross sectional area than the present boxes (.13sqm against .2sqm).

The lights on courts 3 and 7 have been repaired and it is worth noting that the cost of the replacement bulbs have gone up from £100 to £150. Exclusive have been busy replacing a bad batch of halide bulbs they fitted six months ago. The cost of the LEDs hasn't changed, so our quote for replacements isn't affected.

Courts

John Vernon did an excellent job cleaning courts 1&2 after the recent deluge, however, it is a sign that they will probably need rejuvenating, or replacing next year.

All the courts were revived on 28th January.

John Vernon also asked if we wanted the old furniture by the gate chopping up. He could also use a skip. CH suggested combining this exercise with the downstairs tables that are no longer safe and need disposing of. The committee agreed.

I have asked EL Fencing to carry out some fencing repairs, but have yet to get a date out of them. RW will chase.

RW confirmed that he has ordered more key fobs

JH reported that he is liaising with Pete Buckley to get the decorating progressed. After discussion the committee agreed that the upstairs looks so much better with the new furniture and that decorating the upstairs is less of a priority but the downstairs definitely needs decorating.

CH suggested we get 2 new tables (the same as the upstairs tables) to go downstairs but continue to use the downstairs chairs.

By general discussion it was agreed that the office should be decluttered and could be re-purposed as a club shop if AG doesn't actively use it as an office (understandably as there is no natural light).

It was agreed that the trophy cabinet area is much improved but now the entire downstairs needs an overhaul to make it something to be proud of.

JH confirmed he will address all this.

JDV suggested that it is possible to get a wallpaper made with one large picture of the club. The committee thought this was a good idea and JDV will look further into this.

CB suggested that team captains should put used match balls in a specific place. This will be arranged before the season commences.

Ladies', Men's & Mixed Reports

Ladies'/Mixed Captain's Report - MB

Ladies – Leicestershire Winter League Div.2

We have played our last 2 re-arranged matches and have now secured a promotion in Division 1 for next season joint 1st with Lutterworth but with a higher % for games won vs lost.

Loughborough Indoor Winter league

We have 2 teams entered, one in Division 1 and another in Division 2.

Ashby A have played 1 game and drawn 4-4 vs Loughborough Town. The team is currently in 2nd place.

Ashby B have played 2 games, drawn 4-4 vs Desford and won 8-0 vs Hinckley. The team is currently in 2nd place.

Men's Captains Report - CH

Winter League

A fabulous result at the end of January has placed the team a very strong second with a great chance of promotion Thanks to Ian for all his leg work in putting teams on court.

Club Shirts

I have asked all the team captains to encourage their players to purchase a club shirt (as shown on the Team notice board in the clubhouse) to help lift the profile and club identity in matches. All details ref. purchase can be located with Alex.

Men's Doubles Coaching

I am inviting all Men's Team players to doubles coaching sessions on Sunday 13th and 20th March and will circulate on email during the month.

Junior / Coaching Report - AG

Leicestershire 16&U county team played in the 12 counties event at Corby - Evie, Sophie, Joe, Harry and Joe were all in the team captained by Alex.

Producing some videos to show the improvement in players over past few years, posted on facebook page.

Junior teams for season all entered.

Alex on national performance coaching workshop at Loughborough this week.

Teams selected for 18&U county cup at the start of March. A great achievement to have so many Ashby players involved, several of them very young too: Ben, Harry, Ethan, Dylan, Noah playing for Derbyshire, Joe and Harry playing for Leicestershire. Girls teams still to be selected.

Thanks to Chris for starting the open day plans, should be a great event!

We are looking into a trip to Rafa Nadal's academy for 3 of the 12&U players to compete in a tournament.

Junior teams currently top of 5 division age groups and 2nd in 2 age groups in the Leicestershire winter leagues.

Social Tennis Report - GM

Nothing to report but a suggestion was made to encourage the parents of juniors to attend a social tennis event (or regular events) to try and encourage them to join themselves.

Health & Safety

Nothing to report

AOB:

Fundraising bricks - CH

CH suggested that we could consider individuals sponsoring bricks in a wall to raise money for the club. PW will ask his Golf Club who they used.

Committee Role Specs

DF reminded all those committee members that have not yet completed their role specs to do so at their earliest convenience. If the proforma isn't suitable to your role just draft something up so we at least have a starting point.

Open Day May 28th - CH

Our Open day this year will focus on raising funds for the club and an activity day

- A 24 hour marathon starting on Friday 27th
- Membership incentive on the day x 2 free tennis lessons
- Open tennis FREE session on the day –Attempt a celebrity /Show court game
- Events will include –Fastest serve/Mini tennis /Senior-junior competitions
- Series of tennis events on court overseen by Coaching team –Example attached -all
- Other activities to arrange /confirm and add to:
 - Silent Auction CB
 - Cardio gym session PW
 - Invitation Tennis CB
 - Strawberry and Pimms JM
 - BBQ and food TBC
 - St Johns ambulance JM
 - Face painting ES
 - Evening Music ES
 - Compere CB
 - Gathering Prizes ALL
 - Inflatables ES
 - Poster competition CH
 - Bar rota ALL

- Brownies /Cubs Invite AG
- Schools Invite AG
- Marquee to put up ALL
- Promote event –Local media/shops/contacts etc
- Invite Ashby sports to attend

CH reiterated that all ideas are encouraged, support from committee members and club members is encouraged and any prizes welcomed.

CH will set up a small focus committee to organise the Open Day.

Tanya & Patio Furniture

PW suggested that the committee send a message of thanks to Tanya for all her hard work on behalf of the club re. the furniture and her kind donation then to request that she sources 2 more tables for downstairs plus the patio furniture so it is in place for the better weather.

IR will deal with this communication.

CH mentioned that the sofits and facias need checking / updating – JH will speak to Pete Buckley. JH also will look into getting the railings painted.

Bar Coordinator role

IR has spoken to Marie Brien about taking on this role. She seemed reticent because of the committee commitment needed but it was agreed today that this doesn't need to be a committee role. We need a responsible person to take over from Julie but they can report into one of the new sub-committees. IR will discuss again with Marie.

JDV requested that committee members occasionally attend Friday clubnight if they can and requested a regular 'adult coaching session' be discussed for all adult members as opposed to team members. A Saturday or Sunday afternoon

seems to be the most logical place to slot in such a session as there is usually court availability. DF will discuss with AG.

CH confirmed that he will be organising the Club Quiz again for the end of April – more to follow.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Date of the Next Meeting

Tuesday 15th March at 7.30pm at the Clubhouse

