

ACLTC COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES HELD AT 7.30 PM AT THE CLUBHOUSE ON 15th MARCH 2022

Present:- Dave Forster (DF) - Chair , Pete Wood (PW), Chris Hawkins (CH), Ian Randon (IR), Justin De Vere (JDV), Claire Bridges (CB), Gray Hetherington (GH), Ken Ikin (KI), Julian Howard (JH), Emma Shales (ES), Gill Mathias (GM), Sarah Perry (SP), Julie Guzder (JG), Muriel Bouttier (MB), Katie Higson (KH), Neil Evans (NE),

Apologies :- Alex Adie (AA), Bob Williams (RW), Alex Guzder (AG), Gaz Bell (GB), Janet Hall (JH)

Minutes of the 1st February 2022 Committee Meeting were approved (copy attached)

Chairman's Report - DF

DF thanked committee members for their feedback on this proposal and asked if there were any further comments.

KH queried whether the committee would be giving priorities and structure to each 'focus group' or the other way round.

It was agreed that it would be the former and that we should now proceed so DF will fine tune and issue a document so this can be commenced at the next committee meeting.

DF reminded those committee members that had not yet submitted their Role Specs to do so as soon as possible. IR will confirm to KH which have been received so far.

Treasurer's Report - PW

Bank

The main item of expenditure has been on the fencing repairs (£5.6k). A number of posts have been replaced, some fencing has been replaced and some repaired. Hopefully this will avoid much larger costs further down the road.

The bank balance currently stands at £84.7k which compares with £74.3k at the same date last year.

Ignoring large 'one off' items (e.g. grants, donations, fencing) our expenditure is tracking last year's and our income is ahead of last year's at the same point.

LED lighting and Suez Grant Application

Our grant application for £35,000 has been submitted. Suez have confirmed it meets all the requirements and that they have all the information they require. It has been submitted to their 'decision making' committee.

We will be advised of the outcome by mid-May at the latest. It may be sooner but we have no 'line of sight' on their process.

When they make their decision, we will just get a 'yes' or 'no' answer. No reason for any decline will be given other than they are oversubscribed and there were more worthy applicants.

I believe we have a strong application and it was backed by 3 excellent letters of support from the community with the only area of weakness to our application being that we are a 'members only' club. I did highlight all the areas where we are open to non-members (coaching, cardio, summer camps etc) so 'fingers crossed'.

Exclusive have been advised that they are our preferred supplier of the LED lights but we cannot formally commit until we hear the outcome of the grant application. If we are unsuccessful then we will still proceed with them and they know we want the conversion completed by the end of August.

Exclusive have provided the technical spec. to enable the planning application to be submitted.

Cardless Payments

SumUp contactless payment is now up and running and working albeit the bar has been very quiet on recent Fridays. The payments come into the bank account a few days later and that is all working very smoothly.

Nothing else to report.

Membership Report - CB

The current active membership figures for ACLTC stand as follows :-

Family (2 adults)	48
Family (single adult)	38
Junior 10 - 22	101
Junior U10	56
Parent.	11
Senior 22-30	22
Senior 30+	133
Total	413

Gill, Chris, Muriel and I would like to hold monthly new members nights (to welcome newcomers and introduce them to other members) on the 1st Friday of each month starting as follows:

- Friday 1st April
- Friday 6th May
- Friday 3rd June etc

We would attend if at all possible and hope that other committee members might also be available to meet and greet new members.

Membership Subs & Categories

PW produced the following report:

2022 Membership Subs recommendation

There are two areas to consider:

1. General increase to each category

We did not have any increase in the subs last year and, therefore, require a 'two year' rise, this has been the methodology we have previously adopted.

Given the current level of inflation the 5% rise we had in 2020 would be insufficient. Additionally we are wanting to upgrade the floodlights to LED which is a significant cost and our reserves are insufficient for the LED and the court replacement cycle.

I have assumed a 10% increase in all my forecast submitted for the Suez grant and also in my calculations should we be unsuccessful with the grant application. I also assumed an inflation rise of 2% annually thereafter. Obviously inflation is currently running at a much higher rate.

We are limited to a maximum 15% rise in the constitution but I consider a 10% rise to be fair.

Once the Suez process outcome is known and we have the LED work done we will be able to reforecast and decide on increases, as a committee, in future years as required. To ensure the club can meet its obligations and continue to invest in the facilities. We need to decide on this year's increase before we know the outcome of the Suez application.

We are fortunate that our energy is subject to a fixed price contract until 2024, had this not been the case the current energy increase would be more than the 10% subs increase. Hopefully things will have settled down before 2024 and the increase we will undoubtedly face at that point will be manageable.

Even with a 10% increase our subs will compare well with similar clubs in the region. See table later.

I recommend a 10% increase across the board.

2. Current Categories are they sufficient

We have received a request from a member to review our categories of membership, the member believes we need several more categories (e.g. age related, daytime, carers plus many more).

The majority of clubs in the region, but not all, offer either age related discount for their older members and/or a daytime membership.

For us to offer these at the current time would be financial suicide. Our subs income would drop, we could not increase the few remaining full membership subs sufficiently to compensate (due to 15% limitation) and we would be on the slippery slope to a poor finances and an inability to invest in the clubs facilities.

The daytime suggestion is arguably an odd one as working members have access to far less hours of court time and can only play when the courts tend to be busy, the members that prefer to play in the daytime have far more hours in which they can play and the courts are far less busy. There is a stronger argument for evening members having a discount (which I do not support either).

The age related discount for older members is really linked to the fact there are older age discounts in many areas of life, however, in the past retirees were less well off than the working population whereas in more recent times that is unlikely to be the case and it is difficult to put forward an affordability argument for our 'senior' members to be given a discount.

I do not support increasing the categories of membership beyond those that we currently have.

ACLTC has the benefit of being the only club in the immediate area, we are competitively priced (ignoring some council owned/backed club which we cannot compete with) and provide an attractive venue with good facilities when compared with other clubs in Leicestershire.

	ADULT	AGE RELATED SUBS	AGE	JNR UNDER 19	JNR UNDER 10		DAYTIME/WEEKDAY	FAMILY
LEICESTERSHIRE	£475			£100	£40			
CARISBROOKE	£270			£45	£25			£520
HAMILTON	£230	£150	65	£20	£15		£150	£460
OADBY	£225			£45	£25		£99	
LFE	£220	£165	60	£54	£24			
LICHFIELD	£211			£63	£37		£105	£449
CHARNWOOD	£195			£30	£30		£96	
ACLTC	£190			£64	£35			£390
VICTORIA	£188			£48	£32		£94	£386
ROUNDHILL	£183	£123	65	£85/£70	£40			
MARKET BOSWORTH	£179	£122	65	£51	£36			£383
GYNSILL	£162			£44	£22		£91	£348
LOUGHBOROUGH	£158	£105	70	£30	£15			£308
ROTHLEY	£155	£134	65	£24	£24		£70	
BIRSTALL	£155			£52	£25			£275
	£3,196							
Average subs (mean)	£213.07							
Median	£190							

The above figures are based on 2021 subs for all the clubs, I suspect all clubs will need to impose increases this year given the inflationary environment we are facing.

2022 Subs with a 10% increase (no roundings)

Full	£209
Jnr <10	£38.50
Jnr >10	£70.40
22 – 30	£104.5
Family (2 adults)	£429
Family (1 adult)	£220
Parent	£64.90
Social	£11

Some logic to round up/down to the nearest 50p which would see Jnr>10 being £70.50 and the Parent membership £65.

P Wood 9/3/22

The committee discussed these two topics. PW mentioned that once the floodlights had been converted to LEDs he would recommend that members receive these free of charge going forward as an additional benefit of membership.

The committee voted unanimously to accept the recommendation to increase subs by 10% at the next renewal (1/6/2022).

With regard to the discussion about categories, comments were made that there are already quite a lot of categories, that the membership secretary role is complicated enough without more categories and 'where do you stop?'

Whereas some members would want a 'daytime only' category, others would want an 'evening only' category or 'weekend only' etc.

All members have equal opportunity and 'policing' such categories would prove problematic. In addition, it was felt that membership subs remain competitive and we have excellent facilities that need funding.

The committee voted unanimously to retain the current categories without amendment or addition.

Joining Fee

CB raised the question of when a joining fee should be paid. After discussion it was agreed that a joining fee should be paid when:

- A new member joins
- A previous / lapsed member re-joins

The purpose of the joining fee is to encourage members to renew on time and give a benefit to renewing members. It was also agreed to continue to offer a special 'no joining fee' for those joining on the day of the Open Day.

Clubhouse & Grounds – JH & RW

Clubhouse - JH

Maintenance

A number of small maintenance issues have arisen and been rectified since the previous meeting. The most dramatic of which occurred as a result of, probably, the entrance door remaining open as the roller security door was lowered resulting in the roller door jumping off its tracks. Special thanks to Rob Shields and to his contact, who apparently came out of retirement to help fix the door.

I've thanked Rob and asked him to pass on our thanks to his door man. It occurs to me that I should at least ask if any payment is due, but I have the impression the fix was carried out free of charge. Maybe I could acquire a bottle of bubbly or some similar gesture? Will enquire of Rob Shields.

Have discussed with John the destruction of the monstrously heavy red velvet seating. We will break it up somehow without polluting the planet and I can dispose of the wood. I managed to get rid of the two remaining brown, mock leather seats.

Trestle Tables

I am awaiting a reply from Tanya re expected delivery of her kind acquisition of two tables for downstairs (along with, I believe a balance of three chairs of the same type as in the Bar.) N.B. She now reports 2nd week in April.

In the meantime, storage of the existing trestle style tables is proving problematic. Have investigated under the stairs, the coaches' storage room and John's shed and none have sufficient space (without being a massive inconvenience.) They could live alongside the recycling bins under a tarpaulin although this would be rather grotty.

Gray suggested a patio storage box which is a good idea although I think this would have to live beyond John's shed to avoid being an inconvenience. I've checked my space at home and I regret that I do not have room for them. If anyone can offer them a temporary home until we find a solution that would be welcome. The alternative is a second shed to be placed further along from John's. There are plenty of things that could usefully live in there including proposed patio furniture in the winter months, especially if it were to have wide barn doors.

It was felt that with the office not being used that JH would discuss with AG the possibility of storing the tressle tables in the office.

Decorating

Plans are afoot for decorating parties to undertake the refurbishment during two suggested work periods end of March and early April (if required) to be completed before the Easter Holidays. Mike Briggs is kindly lending dustsheets

for this exercise. Peter Buckley and I spent a full day prepping for the job (filling, caulking and removing fittings where required.) We also cleaned a lot of the yucky electrical switches up a bit too.

We concluded that the stair well and its ceiling would be 'A Bridge too Far' from a safety point of view, so we propose not attempting that. However, we are happy to do just the wall outside the entrance to the bar and its associated woodwork (as well as the remainder of downstairs area.)

JH suggested a 'professional' might be a better option but after discussion, it was agreed that the cost of this would be prohibitive bearing-in-mind the number of adult members we have and that a sizeable working party should be able to do the job.

A communication will be issued to the membership asking for volunteers, particularly those that have this skill set.

Downstairs Rationalisation

There is space between the rear face of the half wall which houses the court lighting boxes and the window, for one large cupboard-the one at the far end would be ideal. Alongside this we could fit two of the low units and that's about all that is needed I would suggest, leaving the remainder of the area clear for the soon to be arriving tables.

We propose painting the very 1970s notice boards a brighter colour more in keeping with the walls.

As for the office space, this is a room that nobody wants to spend time in as there is no natural light.

I considered the possibility of putting a window in the far wall to replace the serried ranks of tennis racquet display boards; which aren't really used. The view however would be miserable unless a climber of some sort were to be grown up the back wall of Springthorpe's garage (but not as miserable as no window) and it would need a security shutter. Just an idea; I'm sure it's been considered before. I haven't had a chance to discuss the proposed alteration of use of this space with Alex yet. Would a Safe with a combination be a good idea too?

It was felt that a window would be unnecessary and costly at this stage.

JH mentioned that quite a sum of money was in the office when he last looked in. SP will source a safe.

Alarms

Wilson Alarms have now re-scheduled their visit to check our alarm system to Monday 11th April.

Bar Key

It was not possible to un-lock the door to the bar today and I believe it's an ongoing problem. The key which I have is I think the correct one but it doesn't work. Perhaps if some of you have keys to the bar, you could try them and report back? Otherwise we will need to call a locksmith.

IR was able to open the door with his key so it seems that Julian's key is the problem. IR will meet with JH to check both keys.

Grounds - RW

The fencing work has been completed but wasn't helped by the weather and the attitude of the people who carried out the work. It probably required more supervision than I was able to give it because of work being carried out at home.

Note that quite a bit of the work required was down to the age of the fencing and wind loading from attaching windbreaks to the nets. The new posts put in are a box section rather than the simple angle of the originals and are much stiffer and stronger.

The floodlight posts were inspected by Kiwa, and given a clean bill of health, with a recommendation that they are tested every two years.

Exclusive Leisure have provided a detailed plan showing illumination levels for the proposed LED installation which includes leakage to the surrounding area. They point out that the present lights were designed to meet the same LTA standards. Nick Cox has a data pack to approach NWLDC to find out if we need planning permission, and if we do, the best way of going about it.

I am working on a set of notes for the Grounds Coordinator

Ladies', Men's & Mixed Reports

Ladies'/Mixed Captain's Report - MB

4 practice sessions have been organised

Mixed Box Leagues have been successful and beneficial

Men's Captains Report - CH

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 are located with Alex G.

Mens Double Coaching

The first Men's doubles team sessions started on Sunday 13th and a second will happen 20th March. With the season quickly approaching we are looking forward to a positive one.

JG commented that the Burton fixtures are all complete apart from one and all Leics fixtures are complete with a number of away fixtures yet to be agreed.

It has been agreed that we won't be offering hospitality so if any team, captain wishes to do so they need to let the visiting team know in advance.

Matches are likely to start by the 3rd week of April so the decorating needs to be completed by then.

Junior / Coaching Report - AG

No junior report this month but it was noted that the 'Battle of The Castle' won Leicestershire LTA Tournament of the Year.

Social Tennis Report - GM

Gill will be focusing on the '1st Friday's of each month' sessions.

Health & Safety

Nothing to report

AOB:

Fundraising bricks - CH

PW confirmed that the golf club charged £25 per brick. It was felt this probably would be a 'non-starter'

Open Day May 28th - CH

The organisation of this is progressing well. It will include the Harrison Tournament this year.

ES will be issuing communications. Raffle prizes are requested.

Clubnights

JG mentioned that we should be reviewing clubnights at the next committee meeting as the Summer approaches. This was agreed and IR will add o the agenda for next month.

Town and Club Tournaments

TT will be 7/8/22 – 13/8/22

CT will be 7/9/22 – 18/9/22

Website

ES mentioned that she is in the process of updating the website and asked for positive news items to be sent to her as and when.

Court Usage Document

IR mentioned that the court useage document is not up-to-date. IR will obtain AGs views then circulate the current and new/proposed document for all to review and comment.

Date of the Next Meeting

Tuesday 26th April at 7.30pm at the Clubhouse



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