

BECCLES TENNIS CLUB
MINUTES of CLUB Committee
Tuesday 30 August 2022 at 7.30 pm
At the clubhouse

PRESENT

Philip Tye, Linda Green, Craig Broadley-Naylor, Emily Drake and Kate Smith

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mark Beamish, Izzy Mullally-Knight, Kate Murray, Giles Davey

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING - matters arising

The meeting on 19 July 2022 had to be re-arranged to today due to availability.

The committee voted unanimously on email to keep to a 7-year lease rather than extend to 25 years.

The junior tournament went ahead but the date was changed to 20 August.

The correct tree for pruning has been confirmed and therefore should be dealt with shortly.

CHAIR REPORT

1. Hedge: I have had a quote from our regular tree people for action on the hedge:
 - a. £1200 + VAT to raise side of the conifer facing courts to around 10ft (this was my idea of regaining the path in order to ease access and make possible digging a trench outside the courts (instead of on court) for a barrier to root growth. Also, we would retain the benefits of the hedge (screen from wind and noise)
 - b. £550 + VAT for trimming of the remaining conifer including top (their usual yearly maintenance)
 - c. £3300 + VAT to remove the hedge with stumps left cut to ground level

Given what we say below in relation to parking etc., we do not need to decide on this other than yearly maintenance for now.

2. There is space for our B team to come back in the Winter League so the A team will be in Division 2 and the B team will be Division 6. It was unfortunate that Giles was unable to attend the league meeting on 18 July as there was no Beccles representative there at all. Kate explained that she would have been able to attend if she had been informed that Giles was unable to but, in any event, Debbie from Lowestoft kindly raised the issue with the league about our B team. There is the League AGM on 12 September which is being held via Zoom. We will need some representatives to attend for Beccles.
3. Matt Thompson has been a great help with the gazebo and getting the brushcutter working.
4. Well done to Beccles Juniors at the Lowestoft league championships. They won two out of the 3 competitions. Wimbledon day very enjoyable once again, thanks to Izzy and Sam.
5. Tim Morton has kindly offered to clear the weeds before Autumn.
6. Lowestoft are getting lights at their club in the New Year but still want to rent out our facilities for October and November. It was agreed that they would be offered either Tuesday or Thursday evenings, but Philip believes that they will still want to keep to Tuesdays. Our coaching plan will work around this.

7. Linda noted that the wire fencing around court 1 has snapped and Philip will ask Gary Crook to look at this.
8. We also congratulated Linda who, as part of the over 70s Norfolk team, was victorious in the Inter County Championships.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Giles was unable to attend but sent through his report for the meeting originally scheduled for 19 July.

1. With regards to our teams the A team is currently 4th with only 2 points between 2nd and 5th.
2. We still have 2 rearranged matches to play against Lowestoft A and Harleston. If we put a good side out against Harleston, we should be safe in Div. 1.
3. The B team are currently 4th with 2 matches to play. They need to beat Saxmundham B team to stay in Div. 2.
4. Giles hasn't managed to play as many games as he'd wanted to in the A team and thinks if he'd been available to play more, the team could have been higher up the league.
5. Giles has noticed from the matches he has played and watched for the A and B team that there seems to be a lack of match playing tactics being used in the matches or maybe, it's just a case of not knowing what to do to win these matches? Beccles had, in many cases the better players but came away losing the match.
6. Giles is wondering if Beccles TC are just happy to play the matches or do we really want to compete to win trophies? He believes with some work, we could challenge for trophies, in both the summer and winter leagues.
7. Giles has asked Izzy, Sam if they can provide an update on any adult players progressing in their Tuesday and Friday night coaching sessions, for matches please.

It has been confirmed that the A team came third in their division and that the B team, although they lost to Saxmundham, avoided relegation.

As Izzy was unable to attend, we shall pick up on the other points at the next meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Figures were provided to 17 July for the last meeting and the only updates were to confirm 3 junior memberships, 4 ball machine payments.

Linda has reported that the electricity smart meter is not working on numerous occasions. It looks like SSE did send out an engineer but she was not informed and so it was by pure chance that she was there playing when he arrived and tried looking for it in the lights box. She showed him where it was, and he has confirmed that he will be looking into it.

We remain concerned about the costs of electricity once the fixed term comes to an end in January 2023, but we are unable to do much given the difficulties we are experiencing with SSE and the broken smart meter. We are still paying estimated bills therefore we are unsure what credit or debit we have, and SSE are not providing any forecasts. Linda will continue to chase this up as a priority.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Mark was unable to attend and therefore there was no report. We are enquiring about Masha's membership.

COACHING REPORT

There was no coaching report as Izzy was unable to attend. Sam attended this part of the meeting to confirm that he and Izzy were working on a coaching programme. His coaching subs query would have to be dealt with by the committee at the next full meeting.

Philip reported that the adult tournament had only 5 currently entered and we would therefore be looking to postpone it unless more entered.

Craig, Emily and Sam are going to meet to discuss the Open Day scheduled for 24 September and to look at other club initiatives to push out to the membership.

CLUB MARKETING

It was suggested that we have a sub-committee to push forward the marketing programme which would need to coordinate with the coaching. As above, Craig, Emily and Sam will be getting together in the first instance, but other members would be welcome if they wish to get involved.

We discussed the ability to communicate better with the club membership and the social media aspects which could help with the marketing. Although we had not previously been keen on using Clubspark previously for payments, Craig confirmed that this would assist with us not accidentally falling foul of the GDPR legislation (which can lead to very hefty fines) and the costings which he had looked at were very competitive. Clubspark have been very good at answering all our queries in relation to their service. Linda still had some queries in relation to payments so it was agreed that she would put these to Craig so that we could get more comfortable with this.

One of the key issues that we need to address for the club is in relation to diversity/inclusion and disability. We need to be doing more and if we were to be audited by the LTA, we are likely to be falling short.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

We need to be more transparent and publish these minutes for the entire club.

We have not had as many tidy up days as the last few years and we need to reinstate that.

The Sports and Social Club is looking to expand which causes a potential parking issue. Craig and Philip are liaising with the Council and other sports clubs in the area to look at ways in which this may be addressed.

We need to have a specific welfare update as part of these meetings.

Craig has done a lot of work developing the various policies for the club which need to be adopted and published. He would also like to finalise the club survey and send out to members.

Finally, a huge thanks to Jane for all her hard work on the website to date.

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

18 October 2022 at 7.30pm at the Clubhouse
Meeting closed at 9.45 pm.