

Bovingdon & Flaunden Tennis Club
Committee Meeting Minutes
04th December 2023 – 7.30pm
Venue: The Bell, Bovingdon

Attendees: Jill Cohen – Chair, Kevin Wilkes, Ali Lyons, Andy Ferguson, Martin Allen, Jo Alden, Danny Brennan

Apologies Phil Hill

Outstanding Action from previous minutes
None

Actions from this meeting

Actions	
1	Jo – Latest newsletter to be amended as below, uploaded onto website and email to follow.
2	Ali – To inform Jo with regards to the dates for floodlit and American tournament so he can add to the newsletter.
3	Ali – To come back to the committee with dates for the Club Championship and the Dot Burgen Cup in 2024.
4	Andy – Upload T&Cs onto the membership page on the website.
5	Kevin –to arrange a separate meeting with Phil to discuss 12-month forward planning for events and increased coaching activity at the club (as Phil was unable to attend).
6	Martin – To install a shed for the lawnmower & leaf blower by the bus stop @ Court 5.
7.	Jill – to arrange the Wednesday social poll and gather results.
8.	Jo – to investigate adjacent land ownership to further inform discussion on the opportunity for padel.
9.	Martin – to purchase 2 keypads to replace the existing locks.

Review of Minutes

Minutes from the 23rd of October 2023 were agreed as a true record of the meeting. Jill opened the meeting and thanked all for attending.

1. Membership (Andy)

Andy is looking at an alternative way that we might consider for new members to join, i.e., Banbury Tennis Club in Chelmsford which has a nominal joining fee of £75 followed by a subsequent membership fee once individuals find that the club offers what they are looking for. This was discussed but will not proceed at present.



We are seeking to clamp down on players who abuse the pro-rata options we offer rather than committing themselves to annual subscription as the vast majority of our members are happy to do.

The committee agreed that the pro rata payments basis will be only be made available for new members only or those that have not been a member for two years or more

Refunds were discussed in the event of unforeseen circumstances i.e., one off injuries, these will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis not by general rule.

Suggestion to introduce online payments which on the plus side would save Andy and committee members having to chase payments which is not a good use of time. Fees associated with these systems (Stripe & Club Spark) are £4.60 combined but could be added to the 5% increase in membership fees as agreed at the AGM. Further consideration to be given followed by discussion in January prior to new subscription fees being offered for payment.

2. Treasurer (Kevin)

12 months forward planning still to be discussed, see actions above.

Wednesday's socials discussed as looking to change start time from 5.30pm, as this deemed too early for most participants. The club funds the lighting to accommodate this and as things stand the committee feel that this social is not being maximised. The committee are going to set up a survey to gauge opinion.

3. Padel Courts

Jo presented a very detailed account involving potential costs, opportunities, financial returns, considerations, and ground availability. The committee discussed this as this is one of the country's fastest growing sports, and things to consider are.

- Funding
- 1 or 2 courts
- Pay and play / membership.
- competitive team events
- local competitors regarding existing courts
- risk element
- and whether this would attract sufficient new members.

The financial information that Jo presented is a guide and will be subject to recent inflation.

Pickleball was also mentioned as a suggestion.

4. Facilities

Jo presented what we currently have as an agreement regarding the floodlights with the council, going back to 2011, with another update in 2018, since which the club has not received one single complaint. The 12 Sundays we have as an option for usage have seldom if ever been taken up with a view to keeping the local neighbours on board. The committee see no reason to seek any change on the above.



5. The Chair (Jill)

Leaf blower is not fit for purpose and not conducive to females lifting to courts 4 & 5. Simon has been asked to clear more regularly in recent weeks, club are happy to cover the extra costs this incurs. Simon asked to source a more user-friendly leaf blower with next year in mind, approximate cost £400-£500.

Jo & Ali left the meeting.

Leaves must be cleared on a Sunday before matches, suggestion for a tree surgeon to cut back trees.

Martin suggested using a battery-operated lawn mower stored in a shed by bus stop court 5 to make life easier.

6. A.O.B

Next meeting agreed for 15th January 2024. Venue to be confirmed.

