

**Cringleford Tennis Club
Extraordinary General Meeting**

Minutes from the meeting of the Cringleford Tennis Club EGM held on Monday 15th April at 19:00
(*The Patteson Room*).

Minutes: Holly Setchell (HS)

Apologies: Steve Smith, Nick Brewin, Isobel Brewin, B Dale, John Rockcliff, Lea Denley,

Committee Members In Attendance: Holly Setchell (HS), Hon. Secretary Fraser MacMillan (FM), Paul Henery (PH), Amanda Bailey (AB), Sally Hardwick (SH), Hon. Treasurer Kevin Woolrich (KW), Hon. Chairman Chris Mitchell (CM), Jenny Chambers (JC), Chris Hardwick (CH).

Club Members In Attendance: Insert from Sally

STATEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR: - Chris Mitchell

The chair welcomed all to the EGM and made the following statement:

Cringleford Tennis Club originally had open use of the pavilion as and when it needed. However, over recent years the availability of the pavilion facilities to the club have been reduced further, and further, to a stage that this year we are finding it difficult to find an available date for one of our Sunday tournaments. Social serve offs which are so important for prospective members and those members who enjoy club sessions have become more difficult and cumbersome to organise since we have had to resort to using the gazebo.

Whilst access to the toilets in the changing rooms was welcome, as opposed to no access, it has presented difficulties. Concerns around safeguarding have been raised by our Welfare Officer Paul Henery with the parish council. When resigning Coach Katie cited the lack of a clubhouse as one of the major factors-juniors are out of sight line when using the toilets creating a worry for her. This safeguarding problem has been acknowledged by the Parish Council in their response to the Planning Application submitted by the club to South Norfolk in which they state :

Dear Planning, This application will be built on Parish Council land, which is leased by the tennis club. The clubhouse will solve current safeguarding issues caused by young members having to use our multi-use sports pavilion and will aid the wellbeing of the community by allowing easier access for parishioners and a social area for all members. The Parish Council has no objections. Kind regards, Sonya Sonya Blythe .

Some members have raised the very pertinent question as to why we do not enter into further dialogue with the parish council to negotiate making facilities available to the tennis club when we need them. However, the club need access at varying times during the day and evening

unlike the football club who simply need access on Saturday and Sunday mornings and rent these slots all year round. The parish council are budgeting to receive £20,000 income from bookings this year and with an ongoing budget deficit are simply aiming to maximise income.

The proposed clubhouse would give the tennis club the opportunity to resolve an unsatisfactory situation, remove safeguarding issues whilst providing opportunities for members to mix and socialise. I never dreamt after the AGM that any grant was likely to be available, let alone a grant of £25,000, which covers one third of our projected costs. The benefits of offering social inclusivity by having a Clubhouse and accessible toilet were very much taken on board when considering our application and I have to say I am delighted at the funding being made available to us.

This unexpected bonus has provided the club with a watershed moment to enhance the club's facilities to a new and exciting level. The club facility will be transformed as all courts will be linked with a new accessible pathway. This will enhance all club sessions by removing the 'block' between the upper courts and lower courts, making social play much easier to organise and more appealing to members. The introduction of Pay & Play, which will be controlled by the club so as not to take time away from popular times with members, will offer tennis to the wider community and with it the raising of the club's profile and chance to attract more members, increasing viability for the club.

Sally's drive and determination has secured the club a new and exciting coaching provider, National Tennis Association. Feedback from initial sessions with Coach Sam have been very positive and we are delighted that we are now offering coaching to team players, beginners, intermediates and ladies, as well as juniors.

With our juniors and parents of those juniors leaving the club to follow Katie to Wymondham tennis club, (where they have just had a new clubhouse) we now need to rebuild our junior programme. National Tennis Association are promoting coaching at the club externally and have juniors in local schools who are looking to join coaching groups. With their advertising in the wider community, we are confident that awareness of Cringleford tennis club will increase as new players have coaching at the club, offering the opportunity for membership and revenue to increase as a result. This is the start I am sure of exciting new period for coaching.

Memberships are currently down, largely due to the loss of juniors and their parents. Our current income for this financial year is £3000 less than included within the feasibility study. However, we predict we will still hit our target surplus of £8500 this year due to interest on our deposit account. Going forward there will be less interest earned as we will have spent capital and therefore we are aiming to increase and build membership levels. We have already started new marketing and incentive strategies and the addition of a clubhouse and improved access facilities will surely attract and engage more members. A full reconciliation of the financial adjustments are available tonight to those who wish to review them. I would like to point out that during our 40 year plan, our bank balance rarely drops below £40000 even after substantial outlays such as resurfacing. This is a very strong financial position, one that ensures the club can ride out any future dips in membership that do occur.

I believe the proposed project is vital in order to meet our proposed mission statement; the

accessible facilities and clubhouse will enable us to create a vibrant, inclusive and friendly, sustainable tennis club with enhanced coaching opportunities which will encourage player development of both competitive and social tennis.

I recommend the project to you. I am happy to answer any questions, simply raise your hand.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND VOTE

1. Mission Statement

The mission statement proposed by the committee is:

'Our mission is to promote and encourage the playing and enjoyment of tennis for all ages, abilities and backgrounds to the population of Cringleford and surrounding areas by offering a vibrant and sustainable tennis club encouraging player development with both competitive and social tennis in an inclusive and friendly environment.'

Comments and questions were invited from those present.

- i) Are there limits to 'surrounding area'? This is a general statement and not fully defined as it wasn't felt that this was necessary.

Those present submitted an anonymous vote with the following result:

Votes for – 40

Votes against – 0

The mission statement has been officially accepted by the club membership and will be added to the club website.

2. Clubhouse Project

- i) Thank you for providing such a comprehensive feasibility report.
- ii) How much will the total project cost? Where will the rest of the funds come from after the £25,000? The full project will be approximately £77,000 and the remainder of the funding will come from the club funds.
- iii) Has inflation been factored into costings? Contractors were asked to quote based on costings that would stand until after the summer.
- iv) Concerns were raised relating to meeting the conditions of the grant – particularly in relation to increasing membership numbers. The increase stipulated as part of the grant application is relating to new members within that period, not total member numbers. What are the implications of not meeting this? These are targeted outputs but are not conditional of us receiving the money.
- v) Are we going to get competitive quotes for different suppliers for sectional buildings? We do already have quotes, but we may need to adjust these based on requirements of planning permissions.

- vi) Pay and play – what are the implications for the club? The community grant stipulates that ‘the community’ can use the facility. How the pay and play element is administered and managed is at the discretion of the club. Court usage is only 30% at present so there is scope for more people to have access to the courts. This would be achieved through the booking system by block-booking club events, matches etc. Anyone would be able to access a booking through pay and play, irrespective of being a parishioner or not. Concern was raised about surrendering independence of the club if pay and play is introduced. Club facilities would be subject to the care and consideration of non-members which will be difficult to monitor.
- vii) The accessible toilet would be available for pay and play by having a combination lock as it is a separate provision and wouldn’t require access to the clubhouse.
- viii) Do most clubs offer pay and play provision? Yes, as this is an LTA priority for any on-going support and financial backing for projects.
- ix) Pay and play locks would be digital but we may still need to have padlocks in place for members. A sub-committee will be set up to look at these details should we progress with the project. How is it set up? Would it be per hour? We can set this up as we choose as and when the time comes.
- x) We do seem to have a lot of control over which time slots would be managed for pay and play access.
- xi) Would pay and play sessions be used for social tennis only or could a coach book these? An LTA coach isn’t permitted to coach on a clubs courts without registering with the LTA so this is unlikely to be a problem.
- xii) Do you know how long it takes to receive grant payments from South Norfolk? We don’t know the exact timescales but they do have the funding readily available from central government and they have been very helpful so far so it would be surprising if there are any delays.
- xiii) Are there any big costs expected in the near future that have been factored in? There is a 40 year plan for the financial future of the club and all big expenditure has been budgeted in relation to that. We expect approx. £40,000 in the club account once the project is completed to be used as a buffer.
- xiv) Are the internal furnishings factored into the costings? We haven’t looked at these in detail yet but there is some scope for variation.
- xv) Plans for grass court – the planning application does include hard court surfacing and a pickleball court, although this would require considerable additional funding. How long do we have the planning application for? This would be a minimum of 5 years. Are we voting about the extra court? No, only phase 1 at this stage (ie. Clubhouse, pay and play entry and new accessible footpaths/gating between all courts.
- xvi) Grass court maintenance – what has been factored in? £1250 was quoted from PC, we’ve factored in £1500.
- xvii) This would really help Cringleford TC courts become much more accessible to those in wheelchairs which is an excellent progression for the area.

Those present submitted an anonymous vote with the following result:

Votes for – 39

Votes against – 1

As those present voted in favour of the project, the committee will continue to move the project forward, providing planning permission is granted by South Norfolk Council.

DRAFT