

Minutes of the DLTC Committee Meeting

Monday 25th January, 2021 – 6.30pm

Present

Chair – Martin McCarthy (MM)

Sarah Maxfield (SM), Mike Robinson (MR), Ged Salisbury (GS), Kev Waller (KW) and Tracy Wyatt (TW).

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Julie Smith (JS).

1) Update on Membership Payments as a result of Covid-19

Members noted a decision was needed as to what the situation would be moving forwards due to the most recent national lockdown in terms of Membership fees.

Whilst a number of Members of the club had paid their fees at the beginning of the year, many had now suspended their payments due to the current situation further to the communications from Gill Ross regarding this and/or providing any refunds where requested until further clarity was available as to the reopening of the courts.

There were some discussions by the Committee as to the feasibility of moving the Membership year to commence on 1 April, 2021 and run to the end of March annually. This would be a positive move in many ways, as it would run alongside the traditional tennis season, which was more appropriate. In terms of this, the possibility of moving the Clubs financial year was also discussed and TW confirmed that having spoken to the accountants, this be facilitated and the last financial year would simply continue to the end of March.

MM proposed that he communicate these options to Members and it would be agreed formally at an Extraordinary General Meeting in the near future.

This would have a knock on effect on the ability to hold an AGM, and moving forward this would be held in May or June, allowing 8 weeks' notice to be given, following the receipt of the final accounts.

AGREED that MM communicate these proposals to Members with a view to moving the financial and membership year to commence on 1 April to 31 March annually.

2) Update on Contract with SKY TV

The Committee noted that the contract for SKY Sports had been paused when the Club was shut as a result of the Tiered restrictions imposed on the local area. Since this point in October, no payments had been made.

TW informed the Committee that payments had gone up from £304 to £500 last year following the negotiation of a good introductory rate. It was suggested that it was the perfect time to go back to SKY and renegotiate a good deal.

Whilst there were some concerns regarding the cost of this, it was felt to be a worthwhile investment as it had proven to bring in more business on 'big sporting events' such as Wimbledon, Cricket World Cup, 'Big' football games. It was noted that on an average Sunday, around £300 was taken behind the bar, but on days such as these it was in the region of £1200.

There had been the proposal initially when SKY had been introduced that organised social events would go a long way in funding this payment. However as a result of events over the past year, this had not been feasible, but moving forward, it was hoped that this would be the case.

Members of the Committee were in agreement that SKY Sports was a valuable commodity as it enticed new people into the club, and a sports club it would be expected by many, that sports games would be available to watch in the Clubhouse. Additionally it was noted that bar takings made up a great deal of the Clubs income, without which they would be considerably worse off, and therefore it was important that the bar was supported in being as an attractive a venue as possible.

AGREED that GR be asked to look into renegotiating new deal with SKY for SKY Sports.

3) Coaching Contracts

TW queried if the contracts for Jake Prime and Toby Mettam had been renewed and what the current situation was if not.

GS reported that the contracts ran to December 2020, so officially they were out of contract, but again this was largely due to the situation as a result of COvid-19 and in light of the proposed changes to the financial and membership years, it was proposed that their contracts ran concurrently also. This was felt to be a sensible idea and could be facilitated easily.

Further discussions were held on this agenda item, and it was agreed that their annual share profit be paid to the Coaches in advance of the 31 March and the renewal of their contracts in order that they were not left out of pocket in the interim.

Discussions were also held in regard of the retention fee, and more information was provided on this aspect of their contract of employment.

AGREED that an update be provided to JP and TM with regard to the issues raised in terms of their contracts and that moving forward, these be renewed annually, at the end of March each year, in alignment with financial and membership periods.

4) Any Other Business

MM reported that it was hoped from the 1 April 2021 plying would resume and the club would be able to reopen in some capacity. Discussions with the LTA, MM commented, had highlighted the potential of the Club and they needed to exploit its usability, not only in terms of tennis, but

also with regard to its social side and bar. Moving forward, there were many possibilities to look at in order to build the club up.

KW raised the issue of the Courts and queried if it was possible to get them cleaned. He had spoken to Dave Cole who was going to look into the price of hiring a machine to do this and would get back to us.

HD queried what the current salary to bar staff was and if this would be increased moving forward. They were all paid on the standard minimum wage, but would have a discussion with Luke Moglia as no increases had been made last year.