

Dunblane SC Virtual Board Meeting – 18th January 2022 at 8.00pm

Present: Stewart Milne, Maureen Carroll, Bernie Beattie, Judith Smith, Phil Wilson, Bill Perrie.

Apologies: Paul Forsyth, Richard Gallagher, Mark Goundry.

Minutes of last meeting on 6th December 2021 were approved.

Item 1: Buildings & Grounds

1. LED floodlights have been installed and favourable comments received. Installer is going to check flux levels at various points on courts.
2. Stewart has repaired the tape on court 4.
3. Stewart has sent information to body for funding for fans to improve ventilation indoors. No response has been received.
4. Electrician due to deal with electrical faults following the Club electrical inspection has not replied yet.
5. Stewart had a meeting with Craig Mitchell, DOE Sports to discuss tennis courts. Our current courts were 16mm pile artificial grass and wear has reduced them by about half. Courts are in good condition at present. Clubs usually renew their surface when pile starts bending or take a long time to drain. Craig thought the rejuvenation process would not be commercially worth while as little improvement would be achieved. DOE would advise on new longer lasting mono filament artificial grass carpet that plays slower than current surface. Sand for artificial grass can be sourced from the UK at about £300/t

Artificial clay surfaces were also discussed which should last longer than artificial grass carpets. It would need maintenance of cleaning after 1 year at a cost of £1000 a visit and from then on, cleaning twice a year would likely be necessary. Courts need to be well maintained with dragging after play and possibly hand sieving of sand depending on the amount of detritus falling on the courts. Artificial clay court sand comes from Belgium at about £500/t. Carpet and artificial clay technology has moved on from early artificial clay court surfaces.

Craig's estimate for artificial clay courts was about £96k and grass courts £54k including VAT.* Bridge of Allan have put in a cheaper artificial clay carpet which shouldn't be played on when there is any frost. Craig will supply quotes for both surfaces.

***Written quotations were received during review of the minutes and it is clear that Craig was referring to only two courts when giving the above verbal estimates which were also low. The Club should in fact be anticipating costs of £156.5k for artificial grass and £233.8k for artificial clay for 4 courts including VAT. Both quotes allow for a 32mm bitmac leveling layer over 2 courts,**

6. Plans for position of possible future padel court at the rear of clubhouse were distributed with the Agenda. We would need a clear area around court as balls can go over the court walls. Stirling Council, who we lease the land from and the Golf club would need to be consulted. A roof at 7-8metres high would be useful to allow play during wet days. Stewart will ask DOE to come and give a quote. 2 years ago a padel court funding initiative said a court would cost about £150k including VAT.
7. Craig recommended the Club has the mini courts repainted as the paint protects the porous bitumen macadam from UV light in sunshine which attacks the bitumen and causes the surface to break up.

Item 2: Finance

Bernie provided a brief summary of the current state of bank balances

There are lots of memberships and coaching fees being paid and Stripe system is proving popular. Bernie has given Mark an interim payment of £10k towards coaching fees. A final total of coaching payments should be available at the end of this week.

Bernie distributed a cost versus expenditure comparison for 2021 and 2020. Membership fees, visitor fees, tennis lights and cleaning were up while tennis and squash coaching, squash lights and clubroom lets were down. Income minus cost is about £20k. Finances are very healthy.

Mark Walker signed his contract with the Club and agreed to club taking fees for coaching, Club keeping nonmember portion and passing the rest to Mark. He is still wanting to keep non-member fees from last season. Another meeting will be arranged and perhaps a 50/50 split will be acceptable.

Item 3: Membership

There are about 10 or 12 new members. All existing members have been sent an invitation to renew.

Item 4: Tennis

Maureen received Tennis Central Scotland affiliation forms and will complete them. Judith is to check Ladies 3rd team want to play and Phil will check that team captains are happy to continue this 2022 season of matches.

17 members are continuing to play singles box league matches. A parent asked if their child could play in box leagues. Mark will be consulted. Juniors could have their own singles box league.

Mixed Social night, 6 – 7.30pm has started again last Friday, 14th January. Men's Sunday social night has stopped for now.

Trophies have been engraved and are in cabinet in clubroom. Winners can take them home.

Item 5: Squash

Normal squash can resume on Monday 24th January, after Scottish Government reverted to restrictions after the Xmas holiday. Bernie will email members about current guidance. Crieff and District league matches will recommence on 3rd February. The cup matches were cancelled.

Tuesday social and Wednesday ladies social squash will be back on from 25th January.

James Dougan contacted Maureen and is keen to coach at Dunblane. Bernie will organize James and Duncan Hegarty to form a coaching programme for 2022.

Maureen will contact Central club reps.

Item 6: Table Tennis

Nothing to report.

Item 7: House

Pilates has stopped. A bridge club has asked to use our clubroom and tables and been given prices for room hire.

Item 8: AOCB

AGM is on Sunday 20th March. It will be decided nearer the time if it is face to face or on Zoom. There may be a tournament beforehand depending on the weather.

Date of next meeting – meeting to be determined by Doodlepoll for week beg. 21st February 2022.