

DUSTON UNITED TENNIS CLUB

Minutes of the Committee Meeting

Monday 10th June – 7pm in the Clubhouse

1. Present	Brian Warren (Chair)	BW	David Barr (Treasurer, Coach)	DB
	Ian McIlwaine	IM	Richard Smith	RS
	Roy Robinson	RR	Joe Harrhy	JH

2. Apologies – Elizabeth Moore EM

3. Review of minutes of Committee Meeting 19th March 2024 - Agreed

4. Matters Arising

Lease (West Northants Council & Chris Bennett [DUTC Solicitor])

Chris Bennett will follow up on Monday 17th June and BW has spoken to the retiring Chair of West Northants Council who will also follow up with new Chair.

5. Correspondence

Abington Tennis Club – “Please thank your committee for agreeing to host us again.” Tim Walden.
Abington are playing their winter matches at DUTC and JH to check that all the fixtures fit when they are put online later this summer.

6. Treasurer’s Report

Membership update

DB reported that there are approximately 62 Adults and of these about 60% have chose the 2 year membership fee.

Club funds update. DB produced a best guesstimate spreadsheet for income and expenditure over the next year. IM did some calculations and estimated that by 30th March 2025 the balance of funds would be around £3000. RS noted that new subscriptions would be due and although this would be low in 2025 it would take the balance up to at least £5000 which is a good balance for the Club. DB was still unsure what expenditure on Electricity would be due in April 2025. DB was aware that April has been high every year but he will monitor outgoings. RR asked about grants and loans but these are dependent on a 25 year Lease and personal loans were possible but it was hoped that the Club had sufficient funds without asking for personal loans. BW added that we would expect £624 income from Abington and hopefully some additional funds from fundraising and events such as the Duston Cup. The general view was that we should go ahead with the expenditure on Court 4 as this would bring the facilities to a high standard and that it would complete expenditure on court facilities for the foreseeable future. DB noted that the trees around the courts would need pruning again and to be discussed later in the year.

7. Courts

Court 4 – cleaning scheduled for week commencing June 24th. Repainting date – July 1st depending on weather conditions. Everyone agreed that this should go ahead. Costs – £4,650 + VAT

Courts update – BW and everyone agreed that Court 2 and 3 and playing well and the costs for this should be made to Charles Lawrence Tennis Courts (final payment of £4800). **DB to action.**

Court 1 – comments were made on the patching of the poor area of macadam and puddling on the court. DB said that it was not acceptable. IM was disappointed on behalf of all the players that we did not have a surface comparable to courts 2 & 3. Team captains have noted that the patch is distracting although few bad bounces have been noted but there is a minor lip between the level of the patch and the court surface. DB asked BW to get Charles Lawrence Tennis Courts to return and repatch to get the level correct. DB was doubtful about the macadam and considered whether it may need to be re-laid. **BW to contact Charles Lawrence TC to get them to address the problems as noted here** (this has been done on two site visits). **BW to check Warranty.** A final payment of £2400 is due on completion of Court 1. This have been agreed by BW and Charles Lawrence TC.

NOTE : Clause 40 of the contract states : “We warrant to you that all the Work will correspond with the detailed description of the work and will remain free from defects due to faulty workmanship and/or materials for the duration of the Warranty”

Clause 46 : “The Warranty in Clause 40 above shall not apply if you have not paid us in full for the work by the due date for the final Invoice for the Work”

BW is endeavouring to work with Charles Lawrence TC to ensure that we maintain a good co-operative outcome without resorting to a legal process.

BW is aware that there is some inconsistency in the macadam on Court 1 and if it is not rectified by the site visits and repainting then we will take further action. All Committee members to monitor the playing surface of Court 1.

All members of the Committee to be aware that if the air temperature is above 30C then the courts may soften and if the temperature is above 35C then the courts will need to be taken out of use until the temperature cools but only in the first summer. They are likely to soften and if playing on the courts damages the court then this will also invalidate the Warranty.

8. NLTL Winter Leagues

Teams, captains & fixtures – JH has registered the following teams for the NLTL Winter leagues.

Mens A (Max), Mens B (IM), Mens C (DH). Ladies (EM). Mixed A (RS), Mixed B (EM). Ladies Vets (EM). Mens Vets A (Yannis), Mens Vets B (RR). DB has paid league fees.

9. Club Championships and Duston Cup

DB has organised the Club Championship and the matches are underway with the Finals Day being Saturday 14th July. DB will decide format of Finals Day and the awards by the time of the next Committee meeting.

Duston Cup on Sunday 29th September organised by RS.

10. Social events

tbd later this year

11. AOB

DB has suggested an Open Day on Sunday July 7th. All agreed. It will run from 11am until 4pm with a set format (taster sessions) in the morning and a more open “turn up and try” play in the afternoon. **DB will ask Liam and Katie to help with the taster sessions** (now done and agreed). BW and RR will be at the Club in the afternoon (2pm -4pm) to welcome any new members. DB will organise ½ hour slots for the taster sessions which will be supervised. **DB to publicise as necessary. DB to request if members can make a cake so that there are refreshments for visitors.**

JH has had requests for the Championship winners boards to be updated to show the 2023 winners. DB will action and as it is near in timing to the 2024 Championships so he will update 2023 and 2024 winners at the same time.

DB has asked for trophies for the Red, Orange and Green mini winners so that these can be presented on Finals Day. Committee agreed for **DB to purchase of these trophies but to a maximum spend of £200.**

Pigeons – RR and DB have noted the mess at the bottom of the floodlight columns which is difficult to clean and it is acidic to the court surface and paint. There is no easy solution but all Committee members need to think of a solution. BW asked Highlights (the floodlight installers) if we can add anti bird spikes on to the lights where the pigeons roost. Philips who supplied the LED light panels will not allow this and it will invalidate warranties if we install the spikes. BW will follow up with Highlights as this is a problem faced by many tennis clubs.

12. Date of next meeting

Monday September 2nd – 7pm in the Clubhouse.