

DUSTON UNITED TENNIS CLUB

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Tuesday 14th March 2023 – 6.30pm in the Clubhouse

1. Present Brian Warren (BW - Chair), David Barr (DB -Coach), Richard Smith (RS)
Elizabeth Moore (EM) , Roy Robinson (RR), Joe Harrhy (JH)
2. Apologies Ian McIlwaine, Jan Johnson
3. Review of minutes of Committee Meeting 11th October 2022 - Agreed
4. Matters Arising
Lease (West Northants Council & Chris Bennett [DUTC Solicitor]). The Council solicitor designated for our application has left the council and Chris Bennett is waiting to be notified of their replacement so he can continue our Lease application. We are nearly three years from the initial application and this leaves four years to run on the existing Lease. We are not eligible for loans and grants due to such a short lease period.
Outside tap **EM to follow up with Nathan Meakins**
Court cleaning – completed and to approval by all present.
5. Correspondence
West Northants Council – application for discretionary business rate relief needs to be completed by 31st March 2023. **BW to follow up.**
6. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Coach retainer and coaching income. This was discussed because DB's Contract needs to be renewed and a re-appraisal of retainer fees. DB preferred a system where there is no retainer fee and that he receives all income from coaching. This was approved by all present with the proviso that everyone that is coached at DUTC becomes a member of DUTC. DB will inform the Committee of the people he is coaching so that they can be confirmed as members. **BW to redraft DB's Contract.**
 - b. Management of DUTC. There is no management role in DB's Contract although DB is content to perform some management roles as he is on site more than all other members of the Committee or members of DUTC. All management issues relating to DUTC will be directed to DB as the first contact and DB will then pass any issues that he is not able to deal with to a Committee member. The DUTC website will be updated to make members aware of using the Contact link to raise or report any issue.
 - c. Membership fees – Single adult now £ 195 (Monthly £25.99) : pro-rata all other memberships. Single adult monthly £25.99 and all other monthly memberships pro rata. DB has updated the website and there is a link to the Annual memberships. DB made the Committee aware that most members now take advantage of monthly memberships which they can start and stop as necessary. The change for 2023 is that the monthly memberships run for all 12 months and not 8 months as in previous years. **DB to notify members that 2023/2024 memberships are due for renewal.** RS raised the two year membership offer and how many members would need to take this up to raise enough revenue for court resurfacing. DB stated the financial status of DUTC. Bank account has £25,300. Membership income for 2022/23 was £16,700. Income from ball sales, court hire, events and bar was approximately £2000. Expenditure was £850 Rent, £452 Rates and £609 covering LTA fees,

heating, etc. This basically balances income (other than membership) with expenditure. BW concluded that in April 2024 the bank balance would be approximately £41,000 which would be about £ 3,000 short of court resurfacing costs and a further £4,000 short of a contingency fund. JH did a calculation which would mean that 40 members would need to take up two year membership to raise enough funds to resurface the courts in April 2024. RS & DB said that this was very unlikely to happen. DB suggested a poll of members to see who would take up a 2 year membership. BW stated that whilst we would be short by £7,000 in April 2024 the Club would be starting to see the 2024/25 membership fees being paid and we would then have enough funds to resurface the courts. RS suggested that the 2 year membership should be a Committee decision in March 2024. All agreed. RR raised whether the court resurfacing costs will be at least 10% higher in 2024. BW thought this was highly likely and could be more than 10% higher. RR asked if we could commit to court resurfacing now and make a downpayment to the court resurfacing company to keep the resurfacing costs to the quotations received. **BW to investigate (hopefully the Lease will be completed by April 2024).** BW noted that if the courts were resurfaced in April 2024 then DUTC would not need to pay all the costs until the courts were painted i.e. usually the last 20% is payable on completion.

RR asked the question that if a member who started paying monthly could then change to an annual membership. EM thought that this should be on request and DB agreed.

7. Courts

Floodlights – Philips want to change all the floodlight LCD panels as they could not guarantee the warranty due to the two failures we had on the panels. Philips had discovered a fault in the batch that were used for our floodlights. The replacement is scheduled for Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st March from 8am until 4pm. It probably will not take two days but contingency has to be scheduled in case of bad weather.

RR raised repainting of Court 4 and this was confirmed that it was needed by DB. DB knew of a company that could do this but BW preferred that it was done at the same time after the resurfacing and by the court company so that all the colours matched. **BW to ask court resurfacing company what the cost would be so that it could be compared to DB's option.**

8. NLTL Summer Leagues, Box Leagues, Championship

JH reported that all teams were registered but there are discrepancies in the Captains names. **IM to update the captains for Mens C to Dan Holman and Mens D to Aymen Mhimdi.**

JH to book out the courts for the matches. DB to order balls for the 2023 Summer season. EM was concerned that with only one Ladies team that some players will get few matches as it was important to get the Ladies team promoted which meant playing the best players. EM would have liked to have two Ladies teams but she is short of six per team and there is a discrepancy between the best female players and the other ladies. DB suggested concentrating on promotion so that we can try to get two ladies teams for 2024.

All Captains note : Match fee is now £2.50 home and away.

DB was happy to continue the box leagues as they were easy to run with 3 players per division. In the Summer the period to play the two matches would be one month and in the winter the period would be two months (under review).

RR would like a revision to the Club Championship as the weaker players did not get enough matches and were overwhelmed by the better players. He suggested three championships but other Committee members thought that this would be complicated. One sided matches will happen at some point whichever way it is done. RS considered the plate event a way that the lesser players would get more even matches. DB to run the Championships as in previous years.

9. Social Events

JH & EM suggested an open day to the season. DB thought that a better open day would be to open the Club to outsiders to come and try tennis with a hope of attracting new members. The LTA is in favour of these Open days so all the Committee agreed to have an Open Day on

Sunday 23rd April. DB to organise.

RS suggested a discount if new players on the Open Day decided to take up membership and thought a 10% discount or £20 off single adult annual membership. DB to consider the best way to do this such as one month free etc.

10. AOB

RR noted that the Mens Plate Trophy is now full. **DB to purchase a new trophy.**

Drinks (bar and fridge). A number of members have complained that there are no drinks to offer after a match. RR asked who should be stocking the fridge. DB normally does this but he did not do so this Winter as there was little call for drinks after matches. RS & RR were happy to provide drinks for winter matches but wanted clarification on how much to charge. DB decided that he will only fill the fridge with drinks during the Summer match period (April – August). EM said that she always looked after her post match drinks. The Committee decided that the captains of teams in the Winter League would buy drinks for the matches and costs recouped from team members. **DB to refill drinks in the fridge in mid-April for the Summer match season.**

Price of drinks – the Committee decided :-

Lager £2, Bitter £3, Cider £3, Wine £2.50, Soft drink £1, Sports drink £2.

BW was pleased that the sewer problem had been solved and that the smell had gone. Whilst this was not a DUTC problem there are no records as to how our toilets connect to the sewers. **BW would see if he could find some information should we have a problem in the future.**

A special thankyou to Jan Johnson for cleaning the Clubhouse.

11. Date of next meeting - tbc but probably end of July 2023