

DUSTON UNITED TENNIS CLUB

Minute of Committee Meeting

Wednesday 16th March 2022 – 8pm in the Clubhouse

1. Present: Brian Warren BW Chairman
 David Barr DB Club Manager

Ian McIlwaine	IM	Liz Moore	LM	Suzanne McIlwaine	SM
Richard Smith	RS	Jan Johnson	JJ	Roy Robinson	RR
Joe Harrhy	JH				

2. Apologies – none

3. Review of Minutes of meeting on 27th August 2021 approved.

4. Matters Arising

Lease – BW has followed up on many occasions since starting this process in June 2020.

There is now a sixth change of personnel in the Estates department that deal with the Lease.

BW to continue contacting the West Northants Council.

Floodlights – all works on the floodlights are now complete but restoration of the path at the back of courts 1-3, levelling the ruts in the carpark plus checking expected light lux levels are outstanding. All members agreed that the lights were excellent and that as soon as the outstanding works are complete then the invoice should be paid in full. **BW to follow up with Highlights for the outstanding items.**

Channel at the side of court 1 and behind courts 1,2 and 3. This does not affect play on the courts but the loose hard core could get kicked onto the courts. The general opinion is to leave this as is for now but to use more artificial grass matting by the gate so as this area gets a lot of wear and foot traffic. IM – suggested that, depending on timing of resurfacing of courts, it should be incorporated into resurfacing and not spending money on repairs that may not fit with a court resurfacing companies specification. **BW to extend the matting that he laid as a trial area.**

5. Correspondence – Highlights invoice for completion of floodlights costs. See above.

6. COVID update and DUTC procedures.

SM – suggested that we have a statement on our website and/or in the pavilion in line with the current recommendations. Although most measures have been lifted there is still a great deal of COVID in circulation. **DB – to add link on our website to the LTA official statement on the LTA website.** JJ – suggested that we may need to adapt procedures if COVID infections increase and follow recommendations by the Government.

7. Treasurer's Report.

The balance in the DUTC bank account is now approx. £42,000 and after the payment of the Highlights invoice it will be approx. £10,000. There are about 290 members of DUTC of which 60% are junior members. This is a healthy balance and this years subscriptions are due at the end of the March. Resurfacing of the courts is the next project and it would be a choice of all weather macadam as at present or upgrading to an artificial clay surface. Most of the Committee liked the idea of artificial clay and it would depend on the cost of the courts. **BW to get estimates.**

8. Resurfacing of courts

See above

9. Maintenance and Management

BW -raised the subject of whether members assumed that DB would do maintenance and what members expected DB would do as maintenance. Is the expectation that DB would carry out all tasks himself or to employ trades as necessary and is there an assumption that budget is allocated to this. DB – commented that he had not got a job description. JJ – felt that members assumed that DB would attend to all maintenance work. BW – this was too vague and would lead to maintenance falling behind. He noted that we had a couple of external tournaments for youngsters and that parents etc visiting the Club would notice windbreaks in poor condition, notices hanging down, pavilion not clean and seating broken. SM – suggested a **list of all jobs should be made by DB and listed on WhatsApp** so that members could sign up to do one of the jobs. DB – would see what the response is like and decide on what is possible. **RS – wanted to know if the strimmer was working and, if so, he would tackle a part of the grass bank behind the courts.** RR – wanted a more permanent solution to the strimming of the bank and suggested using second hand artificial grass. **BW – would ask court companies when he gets estimates if they have any artificial grass when replacing courts.** BW – wanted to know what could be “dumped” from the mens changing room. **DB – to check what is surplus.** IM – suggested to review this at the next meeting.

10. NLTL Winter League, Teams and Captains

The Ladies and Mixed teams are all set for the summer matches.

Mens A captain – RS – team: Joe H, Liam, Rich, Max, Pete S, Mike

Mens B captain - IM – team: Ian, Lee, Pete A, Yannis, Sylvain, Joe C

Mens C captain – RR– team: Roy, Andy L, Rob, Dave & Dan, Andy H, Brian

Mens D captain - *vacant (Chris B declined), Choices Mark Y, Marco, Colin, Athos, Phil (BW to ask in order)* – Daniel, Aymen, Tony, Simon, Theo, Cristian, Nathan & Josh, Allesandro + those listed

JH – to update bookings with the Summer fixtures. Note : Thursday will not have 2 matches

DB – to collect the tennis balls from John Henry (already ordered)

IM – will the fridge be restocked with drinks before match season. DB – will restock by mid April.

11. Coaching update

Ed, the deputy coach, has now left the Club and DB is advertising for a new coach but there is short supply of coaches. At present the older teenagers are assisting with the junior sessions. Thursday Adult clinic has 4 people attending. Juniors average 110 per week.

12. Social Events

LM suggested the middle Sunday of Wimbledon week or the Jubilee 4 day holiday for holding an American doubles tournament. All agreed that this was a good idea and will be confirmed at the next committee meeting.

13. AOB

DB would like to run the Club championships again and in the same format. All agreed that a knockout competition is the easiest way for arranging matches. Finals day set for Saturday September 10th.

SM asked if the Wednesday mens practise night would restart and whether ladies could join. The general opinion was that there were some ladies who were suitable but Wednesday night is really for the mens team to establish who is in each team and for practise at each team level.

RS asked the committee to consider purchasing a racquet stringing machine but DB informed everyone that he no longer wants to string racquets and those needing restrings should ask Aub Draper or the Harpole tennis club stringer.

LM asked whether the Tuesday Club night should start at 6pm but the general opinion was to leave it at 6.30pm as coaching is still continuing until 6.30pm and that if members wanted to come earlier then they should arrange between themselves.

JJ thought that there is confusion about membership fees as it is not clear on the website what the membership fees are because emphasis is on the £25 reduction. **DB to check the wording on the website and amend where necessary.**

DB asked when the automatic cutout activates for the floodlights. **BW noted that this was initially set for 11pm but was not sure whether the clock takes account of BST and now cutoff is set correctly at 10pm. BW to check with Highlights how the timer clock works.**

14. Date of next meeting

Sunday 22nd May at 5pm in the Clubhouse