

# DUSTON UNITED TENNIS CLUB

## Minutes of the Committee Meeting

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – 6.30pm in the Clubhouse

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

2. Apologies Elizabeth Moore

3. Minutes of Committee Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023 Approved

#### 4. Matters Arising

Lease – Chris Bennett reports that a new lease is being drafted by West Northants Council Court 4 powerwashing – subsequent to the meeting BW has confirmed that this will be done by Charles Lawrence Tennis Courts as part of the contract and will include the mini courts.

Electricity units usage – DB noted that it is difficult to get monthly readings due to the smart meter logging quarterly but noted that a comparison of the same quarter last year to this year was £233 to £381. The cost of electricity has risen but the number of units could not be compared. He estimates that the year total cost for 2024 will be £2900. Our supplier is Octopus Energy which is highly recommended and competitive on price. **DB will continue to monitor.**

Lock replacement on Clubhouse door – this is a click shut lock which is easier to close and secure. The committee has not received any other comments about closure of the gate but does recommend having two people around when closing late at night.

Membership fees and 2yr option to be advertised – **DB to send WhatsApp message before 1<sup>st</sup> April.**

RS recommended keeping to the same date deadlines as noted at the AGM as this would not confuse payments in the following years. All agreed.

#### 5. Correspondence

NLTA AGM (held at DUTC: 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024)

There was emphasis on Safeguarding, Diversity and Governance. The Volunteer award went to Judy Searle (County) and the Rising Star award to George (Roade). Team reports were all positive and Northants are in Group 1 of most divisions but Ladies are in Group 6. Juniors have healthy numbers in the County but the Minis standard is poor and not well represented at County level. Pickle ball and Paddle Tennis are not under the LTA governing body but popularity is being monitored by the LTA. Currently only Rushmere playing Pickleball. NLTA is reviewing their structure with an aim to get charitable status. NLTA website hosts all information and resources.

#### 6. Coach and Treasurer Report

Membership update total of 195 members of which 73 are adult. 6 adults have joined since AGM. Always a high turnover in the minis.

Club funds – currently the balance in the account is approximately £34,000 and the expectation, should the members who voted for 2years confirm payment, is that there will be an increase of £20,000 by 1<sup>st</sup> July this year. This will cover the cost of the courts and any overrun such as repainting of court 4 and the mini courts which has been requested by several members of the Club and Committee. IM was pleased to confirm that this will still leave a healthy balance after the payment of the courts.

## 7. Courts

Resurfacing to start Monday April 8<sup>th</sup> (weather permitting) although preparation and drilling can take place should it be raining. Completion by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> and then curing to take 3 weeks followed by the painting of the courts. Total cost £44,370 (inclusive of VAT) and the deposit of £4,400 has been paid. The next payment is £32,730 (inclusive of VAT) on completion of the resurfacing and within 14 days.  
**BW to be in attendance for the period of resurfacing.**

Note – court 4 and the mini courts will need to be closed when we have a date for powerwashing and repainting.

Heyford have offered 1 court from 2pm-4pm on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Monday evening Mens night and Wednesday afternoon Ladies. Flexibility is needed should numbers be greater than courts allow.

**DB suggested asking Harpole for use of their courts and will contact their Secretary.** Depending on the answer then we can confirm or refuse Heyford or accept both offers. No discussion of payment for their courts at this point although some payment will be appropriate.

RR – suggested limiting booking time on Court 4 to 1.5 hours maximum as only one court is usable. All agreed and **DB to implement on the Booking page of the website.**

**BW to contact Bowls club in case their car park is needed for lorry to park or turn in.**

## 8. NLTL Summer Leagues, Teams, Match Fees, MyDiv etc

Team selection (Dan Holman invited to attend)

Mens A – Max (captain). JH, Liam, Pete S, James W + player from B team as necessary.

Mens B – RS (captain). Pau, Uve, Piotr, Yannis, Lee, Dainius + player from C team as necessary.

Mens C - Dan (captain). Dave H, Duncan, Charles, Pim, Afan, Andy L

Mens D – RR (captain). Neil, Josh, Chris B, Jake, Brian, Rob + others as necessary.

Mixed teams – as Winter and Summer 2023. Good choice of players for these teams.

Ladies - EM ( note : this team does need to get promoted to allow for a second ladies team)

**DB to order balls.**

BW – could captains be efficient in recording results as there is a financial incentive (£100) for doing this which we have been awarded in past years.

## 9. Club Championships and Duston Cup

DB to run the Championships again starting in May and finals day in September.

RS to organise the Duston Cup in late September.

## 10. Social events

Thanks to Roy for organising the Quiz which raised funds towards the resurfacing of the courts. EM suggested an American Doubles event to start the season when the courts are repainted. All agreed and a date to be set at the next meeting.

## 11. AOB

IM – Netball on Court 4? There was no take up of the offer so this is not going ahead.

BW – was Abington usage of courts a success? **DB to confirm payment is received.** One comment from a member is that it restricted booking of courts but overall this did not affect players. **BW to ask Tim Walden for his opinion and whether they would like to use in the winter 2024/25.**

RR – can the start time for Saturday Club play be moved to 1pm as many players are now coming early? The general view was to compromise and start at 1.30pm and this will commence from 12<sup>th</sup> May when the courts are back in use.

RS – what is the procedure for vetting players? If a player wants to join and is already playing league tennis then joining does not require DB to check their standard otherwise DB will test their ability to rally and serve.

## 12. Date of next meeting

To be set after the courts have been resurfaced and before May 12<sup>th</sup>.