

# DUSTON UNITED TENNIS CLUB

## Minutes of Committee Meeting

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023 – 6.30pm in the Clubhouse

1. Present            Jan Johnson     (JJ)     David Barr        (DB – Coach)     Brian Warren     (BW – Chair)  
                         Roy Robinson   (RR)     Ian McIlwaine   (IM)                   Joe Harrhy        (JH)

2. Apologies        Richard Smith   (RS)     Elizabeth Moore        (EM)

3. Minutes of Committee Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023 agreed.

### 4. Matters Arising

DUTC Lease with West Northants Council. This requires Chris Bennett to finalise and let DB know what documents DB needs to alter as he is named on the Lease, the Trust Deed and the Trustees documents. **BW to contact Chris Bennett so he can advise DB.**

Outside tap        - **EM to contact Nathan Meakins**

Discretionary Business Rates – Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) Application – it is not clear whether we are receiving Discretionary Business Rates as the rates are now double that of 2022. BW applied for Discretionary Business Rates as a CASC but no documents have been received at the Club address. DB to let Committee know if there are any changes in costs.

David Barr – Contract    Signed and witnessed at this meeting. One copy with DB – one copy with Chair.

Floodlights – all LED's were replaced in March 2023 and working well.

Open Day – replaced by Ladies Sunday morning tennis. This is a monthly event and hosted by one member of the Committee who will organise the morning. Next date will be in October. **(JJ&EM)**

Sewer connection. **BW to detail on a diagram showing route to sewer.**

### 5. Correspondence

NLTL – IM and RR wanted the rule for penalty points to be enforced as it is always the same clubs that abuse the rules. IM pointed out that the larger clubs can field a team but they only want to play their best players and not pull lower ranked players into their top teams. BW will attend the NLTL AGM on 6<sup>th</sup> November and support the views noted here.

Accident report – IM reported on the player from County TC who rolled their ankle at the back of court 1. BW inspected the courts and noted that the levels of aggregate filling had dropped making a small gulley. BW had filled the gulleys and levelled the aggregate the day following the incident but all Committee members to check courts regularly in case a gulley appears again. IM asked if a disclaimer notice should be posted on the courts but unfortunately this is not appropriate following advice from Chris Bennett (Solicitor)

Northamptonshire Coach of the Year – DB was congratulated and this item added to DUTC Facebook page.

### 6. Treasurer's Report

Membership update – currently 66 full members and 183 in total which includes juniors etc. Total was 236 in 2022.

Club funds update – detailed accounts will be provided for the AGM but the bank balance is currently approx. £38,000. This is £12,000 more than at November 2022. DB estimates that April 2024 balance will be £48,000.

Lighting costs DB was not able to break down the costs for this meeting but IM and BW felt it was important to ascertain whether the new LED lights are saving on costs. RR noted that electricity prices had increased but the units used could be compared. **DB will report on units used.**

## 7. Courts

Resurfacing costs have increased about 10% with the revised quotations from the four court companies approached. BW will have exact costs for the AGM but all are in the region of £38,000 plus VAT i.e. a total cost of approx £46,000. IM noted that this would be all the financial assets of the Club and will leave little for running costs. BW had asked members of the Club what their views were on the DUTC facilities and the number one item was resurfacing of courts. BW was not sure whether we would always be chasing to have a contingency fund of £5000 as recommended by IM. JH asked if we could get a loan in a number of ways ( LTA, grants, personal loans, bank loan). BW reaffirmed that the Lease period is critical to getting any loans or grants from organisations. JH asked about the possibility of taking a bank loan for contingency even though we would have to pay interest on the loan. BW thought that this should be considered at the point of payment for the courts. If the resurfacing was commissioned for April 2024 (the ideal time before matches and the summer) the payment terms are usually 20% on order, the next 60% on completion of resurfacing and the final 20% after painting. This would give the Club a little leeway on funds. RR asked if the court construction companies would extend their payment terms over a longer period even if that meant some interest payment. **BW to investigate.** JJ raised the option of a 2 year membership and what would be attractive to members. RR thought that 10% discount would be an attractive option. DB suggested £338 instead of the normal £390 (all other memberships pro-rata) . JJ and BW did not want to raise the full adult membership fee (inc. all other memberships) for the 2024 season because the membership fees were raised this year and the financial situation for most people this year is tougher. BW was of the opinion that we should use the Club funds and go ahead with the resurfacing because the courts could deteriorate further this winter. DB suggested patching the courts but the rest of the Committee were cautious on proceeding as it could not be guaranteed to solve the problems and it might leave a ridge when cutting out areas of the court. RR advised caution on spending funds on remedial repairs. The Committee agreed on putting the proposal to resurface courts in April 2024 to the members at the AGM. **BW to outline proposal and costs.**

## 8. NLTL Winter Leagues

IM asked if there were enough players for the Mens A team. JH listed himself, Liam, Richard, Max, Yannis, Piotr, Pau, Yuvi with perhaps Sylvain, Ian, Mikey being available for one or two matches. Three Mens teams to go ahead. One Mixed team (RS), one Ladies Vets (EM) and two Mens Vets (IM and Chris Bennett).

DB was asked by Abington TC if their winter matches could be played at DUTC. Committee agreed.

**JH to book all the courts for the winter matches and also for Abington teams.**

## 9. Duston Cup – currently 17 pairs and RS hopes to get 20 pairs. DB to provide balls. RS will organise a BBQ. Bar to be checked and possibly restocked after Club Finals day.

Club Championships : Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September – DB was reasonably confident that all matches would be played in time. DB wanted to have the Junior finals that day alongside the Seniors. DB suggested

10.30 am	Mens and Ladies finals
1pm	Mens and Ladies singles finals and Mens Plate final ( Courts 1,2,3)
3pm	Mixed final and Junior Boys and Girls finals (Courts 1,2,3)

DB was keen to have trophies for the Junior awards across a number of categories apart from the finalists e.g. player of the year, etc. Committee agreed for **DB to purchase the trophies asap and get them engraved if possible**. Costs will be from the Club funds.

DB wanted to start the evening social and awards at 6.30pm on Finals days with a Fish& Chip supper at 6.30 pm and awards at 7pm. Committee agreed and this to be advertised starting at 6pm so that food can be ordered to arrive at 6.30pm. **DB to get numbers for food and attendance**  
**JJ, EM and Suzanne McIlwaine to run the bar for the evening event and check stock levels.**

Box Leagues – organised now by Victor who is happy on how matches have progressed and been played.

10. Social events – see above and for discussion at the next Committee meeting.

11. AOB

AGM – this was set for Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October – 6.30 pm and on ZOOM

Agenda and all documents, reports, etc to be uploaded to website prior to meeting.

IM asked if we can encourage some of the new members on to the Committee. DB thought that the best way would be to approach them personally. All Committee members to consider who and ask them personally if they would be willing to be on the Committee.

DB to note that Bill Knight is still alive as this caused comment from Club members

BW had been asked by about eight members who come on a Tuesday evening if the start time could be earlier than 6.30 pm. Committee agreed that a 6pm start would be agreeable and that DB should send out a WhatsApp message.

DB was asked not to send beginners to the Social Club play times as this would discourage existing members from playing and who would then organise play at other times.

12. Date of next meeting AGM Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> 6.30 pm on ZOOM

