

## **Elmwood Lawn Tennis Club AGM 22nd November 2020 Minutes**

### **1. Attendance**

Attendees (19):

Shaun Bangard, Guy Batchelor, Louisa Burnand, Jean Chalaby, Nobuko Dias, Charles Dimpfl, Flavia Fabrina, Valerie Foltz, Teresa Hill, Rock Hirani, Hakeem Khalil, Dirk Lindner, Richard Ormerod, RD Patel, Daniele Piccoli, Rose Rouse, Faraz Siddiqui, Jackie Speechley, Rosette Wilkinson,

Apologies of absence (9): Paul Maskell, Graeme Gilchrist, Angella Hodgson, Gordana Thompson, Angella Hodgson, Robert Yates, Diana Marcus, Luka Lightfoot, Katie Cowan, Matt Michaud.

### **2. Committee Reports**

**Club Secretary's Report** – Jackie Speechley

#### **Safeguarding support visit**

Took place on the 27th November.

The outcome was that Elmwood achieved the overall required standard with a number having been exceeded. There was evident commitment from the welfare officer supported by members of the committee in raising safeguarding standards at the club.

#### **Coaches Hut**

The container was raised in November to the agreed level at a cost of £4,338 using the sinking fund.

#### **STGB/LTA Tennis Grant/LTA seniors**

Coach Faraz ran Rusty Rackets weekly group sessions in groups of 8 at a rate subsidised by the grant. These were really popular and will hopefully resume in the near future.

#### **Digital Elmwood**

On trend

We now have an Instagram Account thanks to coach Flavia who this set up to promote the Junior Programme and Elmwood.

Electronic renewals

Members can now renew their membership online – big thank-you to Guy Batchelor (part of the membership team), who researched this and spent considerable time setting this up.

Court Booking

Although unplanned it was an absolute saviour in terms of enabling the club to open safely post lockdown.

I would like to thank Richard Ormerod, Guy Batchelor and Rocky Hirani on behalf of the committee and the members for setting this up so quickly.

Trustees Update

The registration in this matter was completed on behalf of the club by solicitors Akin & Palmer and the 3 remaining registered proprietors of Elmwood Tennis Club are Barrie Nielson, Paul Downing and Jacqueline Speechley, who hold the property as trustees on behalf of the Club.

#### **Request for Survey Telecoms Mast Provider**

In April the club was approached by a telecoms mast provider [Waldon Telecom acting for Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure (Vodafone & O2)] to gain access to the club to carry

out a survey with a view to erecting a mast. They stated that they had a statutory right to do this due to 2017 legislation.

The club responded at the time by informing that we were closed until further notice and that previous proposals to install any masts had been rejected unanimously by the membership and the surrounding residents. When approached again we requested the exact piece of legislation referred to regarding our obligations as Elmwood is on private land and the club has CASCA status. The document received was larger than expected (221pages). We informed Waldon that this would take time to review.

Legislation Summary received from Waldon.

*To briefly summarise, in December 2017 the Government introduced significant changes to the legislation that governs the mobile sector by amending the Electronic Communications Code (ECC). The ECC now provides a statutory basis whereby communications providers, such as the mobile operators, can place their apparatus on land or buildings owned by another person/organisation and enter into a 10 year Code agreement with the land owner which, among other things, will provide the rights to install, inspect, maintain, and operate the apparatus. These are similar rights afforded to the essential service providers, such as gas, electric and water, which the Government now considers mobile connectivity to be. These rights extend to accessing private land to carry out a survey which is what we would like to do here please. The survey will consist of visiting the grounds of the tennis club to assess its suitability for accommodating mobile telecommunications equipment. If it is deemed suitable, photos and measurements will be taken, and some proposal drawings produced. A planning application would then be submitted to the local council.*

In the October Committee Meeting it was agreed unanimously not to give our permission or co-operation in access to survey for a mobile tower.

Waldon have since informed that they will be requesting an application to court to ask the court to impose an agreement on the club to allow access to the surveyor team.

No further communication has been received since October 21st.

### **Safe Play during Covid-19**

A massive thank-you to everyone who has supported Elmwood by following our rules for safe play at Elmwood during this time. There was some terrific weather over the summer and a bumper number of our members have been playing, having lessons and genuinely welcomed the opportunity to exercise outdoors with friends and family.

### **Treasurers Report** – Hakeem Khalil

The Revenue Account and Balance Sheet was shown and explained at length.

Due to the Covid pandemic and lockdown coinciding with a leak to the club house roof the clubhouse had been closed since March-20 with very little bar sales or social income.

Responding to the Covid pandemic and first shutdown we had deferred expenditure on rates, LTA loan repayment, LTA fees and secured an emergency grant from the Local Authority to assist with finances.

Unexpectedly after lockdown membership surged and continued to grow and has exceeded any previous membership revenue income.

At the end of the Financial Year 30-Sept-20 the club's finances are in a healthy condition.

### **Men's Captain & Fixtures Secretary's Report** – Jean Chalaby

In Winter 2019/20 season.

Men's 1st Team avoided relegation in Division 2. 11-players contributed.

Men's 2nd Team in relegation position in Division 3. 9-players contributed.

Men's 3rd Team finished upper mid-table in Division 4. 5-players contributed.

Men's 4th Team finished second & promoted in Division 5. 7-players contributed.

No matches played in the Summer 2020 due to the Covid emergency.

In Winter 2020/21 season we have only 2 teams (Men's 2 & 3 – in the same Division!) due to Covid emergency.

Men's 2nd Team have played 1 match and then Lockdown#2 happened!

Men's 3rd Team have played 2 matches and then Lockdown#2 happened!

No internal club championship was held due to the Covid emergency.

### **Women's Captain Report** – Valerie Foltz

In Winter 2019/20 season.

Women's 1st Team mid-table in Division 1. 7-players contributed.

Women's 2nd Team in relegation position in Division 2. 10-players contributed.

No matches played in the Summer 2020 due to the Covid emergency

In Winter 2020/21 season we have only 1 team due to Covid emergency.

Women's 1st Team played 1-match and then Lockdown#2 happened!

### **Junior Teams Report** – Flavia Fabrini

In Winter 2019/20 season.

9 & Under Team reached first place.

8 & Under reached second place.

No matches played in the Summer 2020 due to the Covid emergency

Matches are currently on hold for Winter 2021 due to Covid emergency.

8 & Under mixed team entered, but no matches yet.

9 & Under mixed team entered, but no matches yet.

10 & Under mixed team entered, but no matches yet.

### **Membership Secretary's Report** – Richard Ormerod & Guy Batchelor

While the membership year is 1-April, and the financial year is 30-September there is usually a difference in total income. But for the first time ever membership was closed due to over subscription and a waiting list established for April-21.

In the 2019/20 season we had 344 total members (237 adults & 107 juniors/cadets), but in 2020/21 we have 552 total members (337 adults & 215 juniors/cadets) a massive and unprecedented increase due to the popularity of tennis after the first Covid lockdown ended!

Total revenue increased by 47.7%.

A waiting list for joining after April-21 as current members do not re-join presently stands at 98 requests representing 140 adults.

### **Social Secretary's Report** – Rocky Hirani

Due to the pandemic the club house has been closed for Social Events and resulted in zero sales from the bar.

There was also a water leak in the roof above the Women's changing and that closed the club for toilet access on Safeguarding grounds.

The roof has now been repaired – arranged and supervised by Mindy and Hak.

The club house for toilet access only will be available from 2-Dec when the current lockdown is due to end.

### **Coaches Report** – Louisa Burnand, Flavia Fabrini & Faraz Siddiqui

Pre-lockdown to 23-March – Junior & Adult groups running successfully.

Post-lockdown 16-May – Demand was unrepresented but no group coaching.

Post-lockdown (2-June to 5-Nov) – Group coaching restarts. Junior demand exploded from 30 to 80 and we recruited Daniele as part-time coach to assist. Adult coaching full every week with old & new members.

Post-lockdown 2 2-Dec – Challenges are anticipated with rearranging and reorganising coaching sessions once we come back after the 2nd of December (if we do), as we don't yet know whether group lessons will be permitted.

The tennis programs have been affected both positively (more members) and negatively (lockdowns)during this difficult time.

Flavia has sold over 90 personalised Elmwood hoodies!

### **3. Election of Honorary Auditor**

Susan Davies and Ramesh D Patel have agreed to continue for a further year.

### **4. Election of Committee Members**

Due to the practical difficulties of secure voting in these circumstances, and for continuity in these difficult times, the existing holders of the current offices have agreed to remain in post for a further year. There were no objections to this arrangement.

Except for Charles Dimpfl who retires from the chair but has agreed to become the Honorary President.

Fulsome tribute by all attending was expressed to Charles for all his input over the 20-years ha has been in post.

Louisa Burnand has volunteered to fill the role of the Committee Chair, with the wholehearted support of the full committee and coaches, and retain the Coach Liaison role

#### Confirmed Committee Members for 2020/21

<b>Role</b>	<b>Holder</b>
Chairperson	Louisa Burnand
Secretary	Jackie Speechley
Social Secretary	Rocky Hirani
Bar Steward	Mindy Burzdzius
Treasurer	Hakeem Khalil
Men's Captain	Jean Chalaby
Ladies Captain	Valerie Foltz
Fixtures Secretary	Jean Chalaby
Membership Secretary	Richard Ormerod & Guy Batchelor
Grounds Liaison	Rosette Wilkinson
Coach Liaison	Louisa Burnand
Junior Parent Liaison	Matt Michaud/ Dirk Lindner

#### **5. Clubhouse renovation update – Rocky Hirani**

A sub-committee/working group was set up to help with the project.

We are still in the planning stages and awaiting surveyor's quotation, as previous ones didn't cover what the team had requested. The teams' intention is to preserve all the trees.

Our current committee/working group members are:

Sava Mihajlov, Ana Pavlovic, Thomas Ziglemier Edward Norman, Louisa Burnand, Hakeem Khalil, Mindy Burzdzius, Valerie Foltz, Magdalena Berankova and Rosette Wilkinson.

I would personally like to thank Louisa Burnand for keeping this project going in my absence earlier this year.

#### **6. Other business**

Rose Rouse thanked all members who have contributed to the foodbank that is helping 40 vulnerably families of children attending the local school Newman College and to pass on the thanks of the school who say that Elmwood members have made a significant contribution.

End