

Minutes of Longthorpe Lawn Tennis Club committee meeting on Monday 6th February 2023, 7pm via 'Teams'

Present: Jason Burgess (JB), Ken Wappat (KW), Toni Butcher (TB), Keith Madeiros (KM), Vicky Axe (VA), Alison Hurford (AH), Ruth Swann (RS), Shirley Short (SS).

1. **Apologies** -Angie Axe
2. **Minutes of the last meeting** -Accepted as correct.
3. **Matters arising** not covered by agenda– JB -None
4. **Chairman's report** -JB is generally happy with matters regarding the club. There was a recent complaint that the Clubhouse had been left unlocked on a few occasions. A message will be sent to remind members to check that the Clubhouse is locked when they leave the club. A key for the clubhouse can be bought for £4 from Angie Axe, if anyone requires one.
JB informed that there is frustration with NowTennis and communications to coaches, customers and members who say that the planning and advertising of proposed events is not very timely. JB agreed to contact Becky Webb to follow up with progress regarding recruitment of coaches and to seek her commitment to deliver timely communications regarding events planning.
There has been a few complaints regarding the Slazenger balls 'moulting' and hard but it was pointed out that they don't absorb water as much as other balls, therefore less heavy when wet. This will be reviewed when we need to re-order.
5. **Treasurer's report** – TB informed us that the Community account=£2482.61 and the Savings Account =£61,576.64. It was agreed that she should move £5000 across from the Savings account to the community account now and another £5000 later to cover the cost of forthcoming expenses. Barclays Bank is closing its Stamford branch but not the Peterborough branch, so we still have access. She will try to speak to Barclays regarding the improving their interest rate as well as investigating other alternatives.
TB informed that a member of the club had suggested that instead of having to pay for tea and cakes everytime he has them, he would like to make an annual donation equivalent to his membership fee instead. The committee welcomes any donation as 'Tea and cakes' money pays for our tennis balls.
6. **Membership update** – VA reminded us that annual membership renewal is coming up soon. There is no change in the fees except the correction of last year's clerical error on 'Family membership' . This will now be corrected to £320 from £280. She will set up a workshop for people who have difficulty with renewing membership electronically and also those with 'hardship' requirements.
7. **Juniors/Welfare** – AA- No Welfare issues
Juniors- We ran a free Christmas session for our Minis in December which was well supported, and much appreciated by parents. Many thanks to Kevin for leading this session and for dressing up as Father Christmas to do so. There are still five Junior/Mini Coaching sessions being run, 2 on a Wednesday evening (Dave Forth) and 3 on a Saturday morning (Kevin Tighe). At present they are only at 50% capacity.
Despite continual requests for Holiday Camps to be organised and advertised well in advance this is still not happening. This half term we have been allocated just one 3 hour session. (With final information only being sent out last week - despite reminders to Becky). I will now ask Becky to organise the Easter Camps in the hope that we can get the information out well before the end of February.
Becky is still not very proactive in promoting our Club. Despite the plan that she produced, including 'bring a buddy' to a coaching session in January, this was not conveyed to the players or their parents.

This needs to be done through i2c as only they have the up to date list of monthly participants. I will bring this up with Becky so that it can be done in February instead. Kevin also complained to me at the weekend that he does not have an up to date register of the players that have paid for coaching so I am following that up with Becky too.

Entries for the Play your Way to Wimbledon (Juniors and Senior Doubles have to be sent by 20th February). No entry fee. I will enter the Junior section. Happy to run Men's and Ladies Doubles event if there is the demand. It involves a one off Round Robin Tournament with winning pair representing the Club in the next round.

8. **Update on leagues-** RS – League entries for P&H will be as last year's with 4 Ladies, Men's, and Mix teams. Alan Swann has volunteered to run the 4th Men's team. Coaching is not happening due to lack of coaches. Don Brace cup will require 2 men, 2 ladies and mix pair entries. JP has volunteered to play. AH queried if there are captains for all the teams. RS replied that there is a vacancy for Men's 1st team.

It was agreed that during the leagues period, there should be only 1 match per evening because of lack of space due to coaching.

9. **Social Secretary's report** – KM revealed the 2023 Social calendar . There is a query regarding the Sue Ryder competition date which is to be confirmed.AGM has been booked for 9th November 2023.

10. **Hall committee report** – KW informed that bookings for the Village have risen and calendar is very tight.

The tractor shed on the playing field is beyond repair and various options are being investigated. The Carpark posts have been installed to aid the rubbish bin removal, and to keep the fire exit clear. There is a problem of double parking by people attending events at the Village Hall, obstructing cars already parked from exiting. It was suggested that a sign be put up to help prevent this occurring and also informing Village Hall committee

11. **A.O.B**

- VA enquiries into Lights for courts 1&2 found 2 options. 1) Battery powered (rechargeable), attached to netting lasting 2.5 hours. 2) Attached to mains. A potential supplier claims there is No planning permission required. She has contacted 2 tennis clubs who are using one of the two options each and who are very happy with them, and their local residents were supportive. KW informed that we are in a conservation area under the remit of the Village community association which owns the Village Hall. AH offered to contact the conservation officer and environmental officer re-light limitation.

- Water absorber- VA was informed that no company will lend a squiggy absorber and that as it cost circa £100 it is worth giving it a try.

- Ball machine investigation by VA found that the Lobster Elite with remote control and different settings and rechargeable, costs £1968. JB suggested that we get 3 quotes as well as asking City Club re-their lending out process and procedure.

- Sporting Chance Grant - VA informed that the organisation provides funding for young people on low income and provision for hardship with membership fees. Committee approved joining the organisation.

- Bill Skead/ LTA County Representative suggested meeting committee to inform us of his role and how he can assist our club. Meeting to be arranged for the next committee meeting.

Date for next committee meeting- Tuesday 28th March at Clubhouse 7.30 pm