

**Minutes of Longthorpe Lawn Tennis Club Committee Meeting
on Tuesday 28th March 2023, 7.00pm at the Clubhouse**

Present: Bill Skead, Jason Burgess(JB), Angie Axe(AA), Toni Butcher(TB), Keith Madeiros(KM), Ruth Swann(RS), Vicky Axe(VA), Alison Hurford(AH), Shirley Short(SS)

1. **Apologies** – Ken Wappat
2. **Bill Skead** – Discussed his role as one of 9 LTA County Representatives in Cambridgeshire. Each county is its own entity and has its own strategy, safeguarding, funds for county teams eg training, £10,000 participation fund and grants to pump prime projects. LTA wants to improve governance and fees in counties. There is a suggestion of having a club liaison team to find out what clubs want from the county. Quick access loans are also available from the LTA to clubs. Pay & Play can be set up on ClubSpark to encourage use of courts during quiet periods. Junior county competition from 8 yrs, seniors, upgrades of courts in parks in Peterborough are recent proposed projects. Clubs are invited to county meetings and AGM where special speakers are invited.
Ade Bates is the county media lead. We thank Bill for speaking to us.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting-** Accepted as correct.
4. **Matters arising** – VA to source Water Absorber for wet courts. It was also decided that we buy the Lobster Elite2 ball machine following recommendations by members who have used it. A procedure and rules for using the machine will be set up prior to eligibility for using the machine.
5. **Chairman's report** -JB informed that new tennis balls have been bought. RS said that some members were unhappy with the current balls. It was suggested that we go back to using the Babolat gold ones for matches as they were the preferred ones and review the current ones when they run out.
Team coaching is being sorted out between Martin Trayford and Colin Pummell; 1 day for Mixed teams and the rest for Ladies' and Men's teams. JB has been informed by Becky that 2 coaches had been interviewed for head coach post but were found to be unsuitable.
Members of the public were seen playing football on courts 3&4. We will be changing the lock codes at renewal of membership.
6. **Treasurer's report** – TB reported that the community account =£7303.66, the Business account=£56753.77. Her research has shown that Barclays is the best bank and provides the best interest rates for the club.
7. **Membership update** – VA reported that there has been several new enquiries including one from Corby. It was decided that Membership renewal should open from 31st March - 1st May to encourage members to join/renew membership. It

has been noted that some people are inviting guest to play, who have not paid or been signed in. Could members please ensure that guest pay and are signed in by members otherwise our club insurance will be invalidated.

8. **Juniors/Welfare** – AA- Coaches are pleased with the Junior coaching at present with numbers increasing to nearly 70% capacity. After Kevin's suggestion, Becky is introducing a 4th group for 'Mini Orange' so that our current 'Mini Reds' can progress and allow space for new beginners. There are 2 girls, Anna Wild and Rey-hanna Choudhurri, who came to club sessions last autumn. AA is contacting their parents to encourage the girls to come again. Hopefully they will be available for some Ladies team D matches.

Half term Camp ran by Anita was full (with 12 Minis) and went well.

Following discussions with NowTennis, we are finally getting these Camps arranged and advertised well in advance. There are 4 morning sessions planned for Easter 3rd & 4th April, and 13th & 14th April, the Junior Pathway to Wimbledon will take place in May. Becky had intended to have a final free session on 4th April but coaches were on their Easter break and AA & VA are away. Will re-arrange for end of April/early May.

Becky's Report:

Current classes: On Wednesdays & Saturdays, Juniors on programme=40, Adults=5, membership = 82%. Players to receive email reminders.

Half term camps- February half term camp ran on 17th February with 9/10 spaces filled. Easter camps running 3- 4 & 13 - 14 April (9am -12pm) TOTAL BOOKINGS: 16 (average 4 per day). Looking at camp bookings at other clubs in other regions we have found that full day camps are no longer as popular, with parents no longer requiring the childcare following the work from home culture created off the back of Covid. Therefore, knowing that half days were a popular choice for children in the area we have decided to run this once again.

Coaching Team: -David Forth- Wednesdays , Kevin Tighe- Saturdays, Colin Pummell is joining the team as a Level 3 coach to run team training and adult sessions.

2023 Going forward: We are still in the process of trying to recruit a new head coach for Longthorpe with job adverts across various platforms. We have had 2 applications to our most recent role however we have decided not to pursue either at this time. One was a Level 2 (of which we already have in place with Dave & Kevin) and did not live locally, the other was only interested in a short term role which wasn't suitable for our longer term vision of growth for the coaching programme at Longthorpe.

From April 2023 (after the Easter break) we will be expanding our Wednesday & Saturday junior programme to allow us to split players into more suitable age and ability groups, thus creating more space for potential new players to join our coaching programme. Colin will be delivering a series of team training sessions through April/May. Times and dates currently being agreed with the club captains which will then be circulated to club members to book.

Update on leagues- RS reported that fixtures for the P&H leagues have been sorted out. Team Captains have been secured as follows:

Mixed A - Ben, B – Martin, C – Vicky, D – Angie

Men's A – Ben B- Martin, C – Paul S, D – Alan

Ladies' A Ruth, B – Vicky, C – Sylvia, D – Angie

Don Brace - Lesley

9. **Social Secretary's report** – KM informed that the Quiz night went very well and was enjoyed by all who attended. He thanked all the contributors especially AA and Roger Cresswell, the cooks who contributed the food and the helpers. We also thank Patchree for hosting the Night out with Toby & the Debs at East & Charters. There will be Easter Tea on Monday 10th April, 2pm at £5 each.

10. **Media & Communications report** – AH to publicise 'Pathway to Wimbledon' Men's match on Sunday 16th, 10am. She will contact Ade Bates, the county social media lead.

11. **Hall committee report** – KW reported that the Village Hall, as previously mentioned, will not increase the fees this financial year. They ask all users to switch off surplus device.

Lights- I think it might be useful to briefly recap on what the intentions for having the lights would be. eg having lighting for match and club play as per the previous draft note, or a general training play area. The required lighting levels will be very different.

-The committee decided that the low lighting would be for club sessions, training and coaching as they are not up to LTA Lux requirement for matches.

12. **A.O.B**

- Evening for light demonstration for courts 1&2 will be held on 2nd May' 9pm. SS and VA will produce a leaflet to invite neighbours to attend.(See below)

- Easter Sports Hunt, Central Park Open Day April 8th, 11-3pm. Ruth and Sue Roberts to volunteer. This is an opportunity to recruit members.

- Sporting Chance Grant update- LLTC will receive funding for 6 families for membership or coaching fees or both from this charity. For information and link to the scheme is <https://livingsport.co.uk/sporting-chance-scheme/>

-JB offered to speak with NowTennis to discuss the coaching recruitment situation and whether there were any solutions to work with other coaches in the interim period.

- Water cooler has not been working despite several attempts at turning it on and off. KW will contact the service company when he returns.

Date of next meeting: May 16th, 7pm on 'Teams'

Longthorpe Lawn Tennis Court 1 and 2 Light Proposal

Dear neighbour,

LLTC are exploring low level lighting for courts 1 and 2. Further information on these lights can be found on the website at riteliteportablelighting.co.uk. We will be holding a demonstration of these lights at the club at 9.00 pm on Tuesday 2nd May and you are most welcome to attend.

These lights would be used when required for a maximum of 2.5 hours for coaching or non-league match play. This is to ensure that more of our members can enjoy club tennis and that LLTC are not restricted as to when they can hold competitive league matches.

LLTC will ensure they adhere to the current playing rules i.e. that no play starts before 9am every morning and that play must finish at 9.30pm in summer and at the following times in winter: 9.30pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; 8.30pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and 6pm on Sundays.

The Sports-LITE's 'beam control' light beam system is not LTA regulation standard, however has been designed to minimise light pollution into neighbouring properties, as shown in the diagram below. All light is directed on to the playing surface offering uniform light to optimum levels for players with no light pollution to external areas. Should you have any queries, please email clubsecretary@longthorpelawntennisclub.co.uk

