

Minutes of Longthorpe Lawn Tennis Club Committee Meeting on Tuesday 16th May 2023, 7.00pm at the Clubhouse

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

- 1 **Apologies** : Toni Butcher(TB)
- 2 **Minutes of the last meeting** accepted as correct and signed off by JB.
- 3 **Matters arising not included in the agenda** – VA reported that Central Park Open Day/Easter Sports Hunt had gone well thanks to the hard work of RS and Sue Roberts and Julian Dowse.
The charity Sporting Chance have awarded a grant to 6 families with hardship. This pays for their club membership fees. 2 families have since registered and the others have yet to do so.

The Light demonstration which formed part of our investigation for improving courts 1&2 went well and was attended by LLTC committee, club members, several neighbours and Village Hall committee members.

The setting up of the lights appeared to be straight forward. The lights are completely removable and were attached to the steel post which form part of the perimeter fence. The lights are powered by rechargeable batteries and have to be taken down for recharging after use. The cost of recharging is 30p, with the charge lasting for over 2 hours.

There has been a mixed view with support by some of the neighbours and objections from others. It has been useful to receive the views and concerns from our neighbours in order that we can work on solutions to manage the various aspects accordingly.

The committee agreed to further explore the feasibility of taking this investigation forwards. We have been advised to apply for a Certificate of Lawfulness and to ascertain any requirement for planning permission.

When all the relevant information is collated, the committee will feedback to all interested stakeholders regarding our proposed next steps.

It was decided that we will purchase the Elite Lobster ball machine. VA will liaise with TB regarding the purchase. Members must under go training in how to use the machine before they are eligible to use it. RS has volunteered to be in charge of training. The ball machine can be booked for a maximum of an hour. It will be housed in the clubhouse and needs to be signed out and a court booked to use it. Insurance for the machine will also be required.

- 4 **Chairman's report** -JB informed the committee that he had received a complaint from one of our neighbours regarding an inadvertent early morning use of the court at 7 am. He has apologised on behalf of the club. The member was a new

member who was unaware of the 9am rule. VA assured us that new members have been sent the information about the club including start and end times for play. We agreed to send a note to members to remind them of the times of play and other essential information.

Following the light demonstration on courts 1&2, JB received emails from some of our neighbours who have concerns over to the installation of these lights.

Paul Stevenette requested that we record his dissatisfaction that JB chose to decline his request to attend the committee meeting. The reason for this decision was to allow the committee time to discuss any feed back from the light demonstration and to decide on the next steps.

Bill Skead has asked for a nomination Volunteer Of The Month from LLTC. Angie Axe was unanimously voted as the nominee. Proposed by AH, seconded by RS.

- 5 **Treasurer's report** – TB reported that the Community a/c=£5612, Business a/c = £70,303.82
- 6 **Membership update** – VA- Reported that there appears to have been some confusion regarding the membership of Coaching members. Some coaches were not aware that coaching members need to register for coaching membership. She has informed Kevin Tighe and Becky.
Current membership is as follows: Adult = 69, Seniors= 26, Juniors=5, Minis=16. She is chasing up those who have not renewed their membership.
She has received £1940 from Living Sport grant. Two of the 6 families have joined and she is awaiting the other 4 to join.
- 7 **Juniors/Welfare** – AA reported that Becky from NowTennis has informed her that half term Camps have been cancelled due to lack of coaches however, they are running them at City Tennis Club. She has now told parents that they must join the club to register the children as Mini or Junior members. They must pay LLTC membership fee to us and pay NowTennis for the coaching.
Due to the fiasco with the LTA championship registration last year, it was decided that we are reverting back to the tried and tested method of manual entry for the Club Championship. Finals will be held on 16/17 September 2023.
- 8 **Update on leagues-** RS reported that the matches are proceeding well. However there was an ambiguity regarding the rule about what happens when a player plays for a higher or lower team twice. They must then remain with that team. This did not appear to apply for the Mixed team. It was decided that this was an oversight and that we should stick to the overarching rule.
Colin Pummell will be coaching the Ladies teams in the near future.
- 9 **Social Secretary's report** – KM said that the Coronation weekend went well. The next event will be the PIZZA NIGHT in July. AH has volunteered to organise an American Doubles like the one we had last year.

10 **Media & Communications report** – AH says she has joined Facebook and Instagram for the club

11 **Hall committee report** – KW informed that the LCA are monitoring the LLTC lights study progress.

12 **A.O.B-**

- Water cooler update – KW informed that the machine is 10 years old and probably passed its useful life as the coolant coil is showing signs of corrosion and needs replacing. A new one cost £520-ish (including VAT) installed. Annual clean and new filter will cost £90 including VAT, thereafter. It was decided that we replace it.

- Changing the court codes- KW to change the court codes tomorrow and members will be informed by email.

- Possible purchase of

- **junior tennis racquets.** It was agreed that we need about six. AA to source them
- **bike rack.** It was decided that we retain the current one
- **sign indicating whereabouts of our club.** -RS and VA to speak to Mike Taylor, Village Hall chairman, and contact the council.

13. **Succession planning-** JB suggested that we need to start succession planning as soon as possible. To begin with we should invite members to consider volunteering and welcome them to attend a committee meeting to get an idea of what it involves. Anyone interested in participating should speak to any members of the committee.

14. **Date of next meeting** : 18th July , 7pm at the clubhouse.