

Minutes of LLTC Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10th March 2020, 7.00 pm at the Clubhouse

Present: Jason Burgess (JB), Ken Wappat (KW), Toni Butcher (TB), Ed Sharman (ES)
JP Lamy (JPL), Mike Glover (MG), Angie Axe (AA), Clare Major (CM) Shirley Short (SS)

1. **Apologies** - None
2. **Minutes of the last meeting** – Signed off and accepted as correct by JB
3. **Matters arising** – Suggestion box – see below
4. **Chairman's report** -JB -Members have had their say via the suggestion box and the committee will endeavour to move things forward on those items raised.
5. **Treasurer's report** -TB informed that savings a/c =£35,348.21 and current account =£5633.06 .Building retention=£1194.66 a/c now closed.

6.Membership update -CM-would like to recommend that the Committee sanctions the move to ClubSpark this season/year.By all accounts it is an 'easy to use' system that is working well for other clubs, notably for one of a similar size.It should reduce the time spent updating the membership lists.Information can be easily interrogated. i2c, with whom we have a coaching contract, uses the system and this will make it easier to identify those people who enjoy coaching and are/are not Club members. She plans to maintain our system of pegs confirming members and her spreadsheet to cross check.

She is not in favour of the monthly membership option as she believes it will encourage summer-only memberships. We are a relatively small club and she believes that monthly payments will cause more work and reduce funds for major expenditure. Following discussions, it was decided that monthly membership will be reviewed 6 months after Clubspark is up and running. It was agreed that we adopt rolling membership and family membership in addition to our reduced rate for students, juniors and minis.

Phil Watson will be asked to monitor and log the £5 monthly coaching membership as this is important for insurance purposes.

Pegboard Members March 2020 - Total = 118 (Includes 9 Senior Juniors, + 1 Student)Doreen Crook remains on the list pending recovery from new hips.

Junior Members =18, Mini Members=25 .

CM also informed that she is standing down as membership secretary at the next AGM.Consequently, we would welcome volunteers to take up this post from October.

7.Juniors/Welfare -AA reported that there were no safeguarding issues. She has reintroduced the holiday fun sessions with ice-cream cool downs at the end of the session for the juniors. The Club has also introduced a Junior Club session from 4.30 - 6.00 on the last Friday of each month. She is also trying to organise some fixtures for them.

8.Team league update – JP informed that winter league is still on going. With regards the upcoming league, we were unable to enter a 4th men's team due to no volunteer for D team captain before the closing date of entry, despite having sent out a request to members to come forward .

(Postscript : Since the committee meeting, Ed Sharman has stepped down from the committee and as B team captain and Martin Trayford has kindly offered to replace him)

9.Social events -KM informed that Ray McDonnell suggested that City club and David Lloyd join LLTC in a charity fund raising event for Sue Ryder to raise £3000 for a nurse. The committee agreed that as it is our 70th anniversary, we should highlight our own annual Sue Ryder charity event to make it an extra special one. Therefore, the decision was made not to join the other club's fundraising pool, but continue to support Sue Ryder Thorpe Hall as in previous years.

10. Website & publicity -MG said that Facebook is up for updating. There was a discussion regarding updating of our website. MG says weblink to Clubspark will enable us to access our own site. JB suggested we engage a web designer, SS said we should consult Chris Holmes who is our IT support. JB, MG and ES to explore 'Market'

11. Hall committee report -KW informed that the Defibrillator will be installed on Thursday and the Hall committee will organise training in the use of it.

12. A.O.B

- Court1 & 2 maintenance review – courts have dried out and the normal contract clean will be conducted on the 24th March.

13.Date of next meeting- Tuesday 21st April at 7.00 pm

Discussion of Suggestion Box items.

Summary of all suggestions and Reply from committee (*)

1. White Kit

- **Recent results** of all white ballot should be respected – move on
- **Whites for team matches only**
- **Abolish whites rules-** barrier stopping new members joining

*There was a full and passionate discussion regarding this item, with those for abolishing the 'predominantly whites' rule wanting the committee to enact this immediately because they feel this is the best way to increase membership. Other members pointed out that it was undemocratic and unfair to the membership in view of the recent ballot supporting the 'predominant white' rule and that if they so wish, they could raise this in the agenda for the next AGM where it can be reconsidered. The committee agree that the AGM is not an appropriate platform on which to conduct such a vote. The vote needs to encompass all members and not just those who turn up for the AGM. The ballot must include laying out all the reasons both FOR and AGAINST the 'predominantly white kit' to be circulated as part of the process.

A date will therefore be agreed for a further ballot around October.

*It was emphasised that good work by the committee is **currently in progress in implementing several avenues to recruit members** including updating our website, introducing LTA's Clubspark program, coaching, monthly fun sessions and camps for children, family memberships and reduced memberships, going into schools etc and clarifying the dress code.

2. Membership

•**Family membership, Different membership levels.** In line with a lot of other clubs could there be two tiers of membership? A reduced rate of membership for members who only want to attend coaching sessions i.e. tennis express and cardio tennis etc

*Family membership is currently available as is reduced rate for students, juniors and minis and we are very happy to introduce a new reduced rate of membership of £5 per month for new members who only want to attend coaching sessions. It was felt that this would help I2C to introduce potential new members for the club going forwards.

3. Booking system/court availability

•**Introduction of a on-line court booking system for peak times** i.e. weekends and evenings to fully utilise the courts.

***Clubspark** – an LTA app is being implemented for our club to improve membership registration, tracking payments, court booking system, coaching. This will enable those wishing to book courts to do so.

4.Club sessions

Club sessions could be used for team players wanting match practice and to play competitive games.

•**Should not have to alter club sessions to accommodate a small minority of the club members.** All for **improving the club, but for all members not just the few.**

•**Club afternoons/evenings are a waste of time** To expect a first-team male player to turn up and play matches with people who play in third/fourth teams and beginners is not going to happen.

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*The primary aim of club sessions is to ensure that all members get a chance to play with any player in a sociable environment. Everyone has the opportunity to pick the players they wish to play with when it is their turn to do so. This helps to create a social atmosphere. With the implementation of Clubspark, members who wish to play with their own group can book courts at non-club session time. The committee felt that to allocate a court specifically for team players at club session would be divisive

5. Juniors-Encourage juniors to play in matches let them wear what they like

+coaching

•**Longthorpe becoming a LTA player development centre for juniors.** Need to become hot bed for player talent in Cambridgeshire.

*Juniors are being encouraged to play in matches especially the ‘senior juniors’. Angie is trying to organise some fixtures for them. **Juniors not subject to the white kit rule.**

*There is already an LTA juniors development centre for Cambridgeshire and it was thought that it would be more efficacious to have only one centre.

6. Coaching sessions that range from ‘beginners’ through to drills for ‘first team players’. For example, the four courts could be used over a 60-minute period graded by ability (beginners on one court through to first team players on another court) Membership fees could increase by £10/£20 a year to include coaching/training for a specified period of weeks.

*As a small village club, we need to keep our cost down to compete with other clubs. We have contracted with i2c to provide coaching for our members who wish to have lessons. It also ensures their coaches will benefit financially from giving lessons as they need to make a living.

7. Better communication, improve web site, highlight good values of club

*The committee acknowledged that the website needs improvement. Clubspark has been used by other clubs for their communications as well as the other attributes mentioned above. We will be exploring how we can utilise it as well as looking at alternatives.

8. Better publicity/road sign for club. A5 flyers with lots of info about the club and leave them in the village shop or any other prominent places

*We will be looking into the possibility of a road sign for the club as well as flyers .

9. Look after new members better especially the lesser players

- **New member info** - do we give any of the above info out to new members when they join? If not we should
- **A more welcoming and accepting attitude** from existing members, particularly committee members. "I've always had the feeling that I've joined a stuffy old boys club and had to fit in with all the silly rules."
- **Guest passes** - could members be issued with a couple of guest passes a year to try and encourage new members to try it out for free?

*All new members get a welcoming letter and with Clubspark they will be better able to access club information. We should **All** be welcoming to **All new members** and engage with them, invite them to play with us whatever their ability. Make them welcome!

*It was felt that **Guest passes** would be difficult to police as we do not have the set up for it, like a receptionist at David Lloyd.

10. The **club has always been a village club** and it certainly cannot compete with Virgin and Town with their indoor courts. *Agreed and we should highlight our positive points such as good courts, friendly atmosphere, free use of courts and balls, competitive membership fee, etc

11. Most members enjoy the tennis weekend tea and cakes. Some do not approve

- Add teas/ coffee to annual subs

*The provision of cakes and milk for afternoon tea is based on a **voluntary basis by members** of the club. Those who do not wish contribute have always been able to opt out. The reason for doing it is to raise funds for the club, so that we can help towards the cost of maintenance of the clubhouse, courts, matches, balls and social events.

12. Could we provide a practice wall/ or a come back practice area

*We will look into the possibility. But restriction on any further development on Trust land makes it highly unlikely.

13. A young mothers tennis group-

*We will investigate this proposition with the mothers at the play group

14. Investigate Padel tennis –

*This was done last year and was rejected by the Village Hall committee

15. Cabin with table tennis or similar –

*Unlikely to be approved as above, however there is a table tennis group in the Village hall .

16. Ice pack for the new freezer – *We have got 3 packs in the freezer.