

## **Longthorpe Lawn Tennis Club committee meeting on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm via Zoom**

**Present:** Jason Burgess (JB), Ken Wappat (KW), Toni Butcher (TB), Angie Axe (AA), Jean-Pierre Lamy (JPL), Shirley Short (SS)

**1. Apologies** -Scott Murray (SM), Anita Duff (AD).

**2. Minutes of the last meeting – Accepted as correct and to be signed off by JB**

**3. Matters arising** – AA informed that coaching for the Ladies team has begun. Anita Duff sent this update: The coaching program continues to be delivered Wednesday evenings, Thursday and Saturdays. We were excited to add a block of lessons for players aged u8 on Thursday 4pm. These have 2 weeks left and we will then offer a follow on. The Adult Try Tennis course has also now been converted into a short term time course with 5 players. This is now a beginner/improver class and Sophie will continue to deliver this. Coach Katrin has been able to arrange some Mens sessions with Toby's Team and the Ladies Team.

Harry Clark is starting his Level one Coaching course this week and is supporting the coaching on Thursday at Saturdays.

In Half term we will run two morning of camps 9- 12 for 5-11 years olds. These are on the coaching website ready to book.

Eve Robinson will return to our coaching team until August when she will return to the US. In other recruitment news on Wednesday I interview George Stockford at the club and we are in ongoing discussions about the potential of a role in the i2c team.

SS informed that Angela Pepper and Perri Selwood have volunteered to jointly take up the role of Social Secretary. SS to arrange for Angela & Perri to meet with JB and Keith Madeiros

**4. Chairman's report** – JB informed that the renewal process has gone well and thanked SM for the sterling work that he had done. Numbers are good although minis and juniors are a bit down. He suggested, following discussions, that we need to look at simplifying the discount rate to ensure that the process is compatible and applicable with Clubspark- perhaps a discounted winter package around Oct/Nov time.

JB was approached by a club member who wants to hold a special event for his son, (who is a junior member) and his friends. They will be supervised by Coach Max and pay guest fees.

JB has spoken to Chris Havard regarding the committee's decision on family sessions.

**5. Membership update-** SM sent this report- The existing members were invited to renew their membership from April 18th at a discounted rate to take into account the 2021 lockdown period enforced by the UK Government. There were a number of new members on the waiting list who were also invited to join the club. The membership was then opened to all from the end of April as published on the club website.

As this was the first year that we used ClubSpark to manage the renewal process there was a learning curve to take into account. I'm pleased to report that ClubSpark has made the management of membership much simpler and the system appears to be well adopted by the club members. There were only a couple of minor queries with the renewal payments which

were resolved. As ClubSpark was adopted after the 2020/21 subscription year I took the data from December 2020 to compare against. We have had 173 members register by May 19th 2021 compared with 71 who had registered by May 19th 2020. This is further evidence that ClubSpark has brought benefits to the club and has allowed income to be realised much faster than before.

There is a reduction on membership from 2020 across all categories apart from Families and Seniors. This might simply be a reflection of the on-going impact of Covid-19 such as the opening up of other clubs with internal courts that are now open for use again. There are also financial pressures to consider with members reducing the number of clubs they join. As the country returns to normal there will be competition for members. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the “all whites” clothing rule continues to cast a perception on Longthorpe as a more elitist club which could hamper our efforts to attract new members. The majority of, if not all, other clubs within a 20-mile radius allow members to wear tennis appropriate clothing of all types and colours.

**6. Treasurer’s report** – TB Reported that the Rate reward/savings account= £51,433.17 and the Community account=£2741.06. She is happy that the monies are coming through well with both GoCardless and Stripe although the latter is a bit slower with credit card payments. In future, she will be including the interest charged by GoCardless and Stripe to highlight the cost of these facilities.

**7. Juniors/Welfare** – AA reports that there is still no coach appointed to coach the juniors and minis which may account for the drop in numbers of children. I2c are trying their best to recruit coaches.

The local Road to Wimbledon competition has been won by Charlie Whitty. He will go forward to the county competition next. Congratulations to Charlie!

**Our Club Championship** is now open for registration. All entries must be done on line by 4<sup>th</sup> June.

**8. League update**-JPL informed that he had received a schedule for the H&P league fixture asking that we check and verify that we are happy with the schedule. JP will be circulating this to the team captains to verify they are in agreement too. He will then feedback to Geoff Smith. JP will do an extract of Home fixtures, book courts, contact captains & let Scott know about how many tubes of balls are needed.

**9. Hall committee report** -KW -The Village hall remains closed at the moment although we can use the toilets.

#### **10.A.O.B**

-Wednesday Ladies session extension to 3 courts was requested by SS because we have had a high level of attendance since lockdown was lifted. JB agreed to extend the booking and SS will monitor and report should the numbers decrease and the 3<sup>rd</sup> court is not required.

- Clubhouse remains closed for all food and drinks for now. We hope to open for Teas and cakes from 21<sup>st</sup> June depending on Covid guidelines.

- ‘Signing in’ for club sessions remains a pre-requisite for ‘Track and trace’ purposes.

**11. Date of next meeting: 9th August 2021 at the Clubhouse at 7pm**