

Minutes of Longthorpe Lawn Tennis Club committee meeting on Tuesday 5th January 2021 at 7pm via Zoom

Present: Jason Burgess(JB), Angie Axe(AA), Toni Butcher(TB),Mike Glover(MG), Jean-Pierre Lamy(JPL), Scott Murray(SM), Shirley Short(SS), Ken Wappat (KW)

1. **Apologies** – None
2. **Minutes of the last meeting** – Accepted as correct
3. **Matters arising** -JB -None
4. **Chairman's Report** -JB extended a warm welcome to Scott Murray as Membership Secretary. JB is very pleased with the increased membership and would like to maintain it around current level. He acknowledged the positive role of ClubSpark in enabling easier access for newcomers to register as new members, for court bookings and improving communication with members. This is enhanced by the updated website where we have been publishing events, photos, updates and minutes of committee meetings. The highlight of the year was AA organising the Club Championship which was hugely enjoyed by all participants and supporters. Financially, we have done well despite the 25% discount for this year's membership, and very limited fund raising due to Covid restrictions. Next year may not be as good due to payment for the court maintenance. Fund raising with Castor and City tennis clubs for Sue Ryder organised by Ray McDonnell was a great success. Our challenge for the future is to maintain membership numbers, particularly of younger members who require nurturing and support.
5. **Treasurer's Report** -TB reported that she and KW had finalised the annual accounts. The Reward A/c=£40,570, Community A/c=£10,095. She retrieved £40 from the cash box. There was a 25% discount on membership for this year but not for next year. We have a £205 bill for electricity and circa £7000 for court maintenance to come. TB felt that there was an increase in guest bookings due to payments via ClubSpark. All in all, despite limited fund raising. We have a surplus of £5,908 for the year.
6. **Membership update** -SM gave a very comprehensive overview of our membership as of 31/12/2020:
Active members=196, consisting of Seniors=147 (75%) Juniors=45(23%), Senior juniors=4(2%), under 10s=18, over 10s=27. The over 60s made up 50% of the membership. This has been a record year for membership numbers. However, with the covid restrictions of playing singles only, some have experienced difficulty in booking courts. KW felt that we should think about capping numbers as our original target of 145 has been met. Following discussions, it was agreed that the cap should be 160 and apply from Junior/Senior upwards. Under 10 years are not included. Due to concern raised previously regarding the apparent decline in numbers of younger players, SS suggested we find out what the numbers are of similar age groups in other tennis clubs in Peterborough. This will give us a perspective of where we are with regards membership in this age group and how we can improve our numbers.
7. **Website/Publicity** -MG has announced that he is resigning from this role but will hold the Wimbledon ballot in the summer and then hand it over to SM. JB is currently updating the website with occasional input from SS.

8. **Juniors/Welfare** -AA reported that due to the lack of continuity between coaches and juniors, there is difficulty in relationship building between children and their coach. This was possible when Marcie was here permanently and able to nurture and retain them here. There are no coaches here permanently. Coaches tend to be based in the bigger centres and so children go there. Covid has not helped. JB and AA believe though, that it is right for the Club to remain with i2c and acknowledge that Anita has done her best to build up the Junior membership under the very difficult circumstances of the last 10 months. They also understand the difficulty of employing and retaining coaches. MG suggested we speak to the coach in Stamford who coaches the schools there. JB/AA will inform Anita Duff and suggest she invites him to join I2C so that he can be allocated to LLTC.

9. **League update** -JPL informed that hope of potential H&P league is unlikely to happen this year. However, with the winter league he has managed to recruit volunteers for team captains including Vicky Axe for mixed team D.

Mixed team captains: Lesley Luton=A, Martin Tryford=B, Angie Axe= C,VickyAxe=D

Ladies team captains: Ruth Swaan=A, Pauline Daintith=B, Sylvia Murray=C,Angie Axe=D

Men's team captains: JP Lamy=A, Martin Trayford=B, PaulStevenette=C, Toby Eldred=D

JP tendered his resignation as Club Team Captain but will continue until the end of the H&P summer league 2021. The committee thanked him for his hard work and contributions to the club which is much appreciated. We would like to invite volunteers to take up this position.

10. **Hall committee report** -KW – Nothing to report at the moment.

11. **A.O.B**

- Courts review -KW reported that maintenance work on courts 1&2 went well and has been in use.

- In March 2020 (following the feed back and suggestions exercise with all members) the committee agreed to bring the white clothing ballot to the AGM in October 2020 for discussion. The AGM was subsequently postponed due to Covid restrictions. Jim Daintith has emailed JB regarding the plans for re-balloting members on the 'predominantly white kit'.As the AGM has been postponed JB suggested 3 options:

1) Committee members vote in the meeting to hold clothing ballot in February 2021

2) Seek members views during Feb 21 for holding a ballot for changing the white clothing rule to 'recognised tennis clothing'.

3) Wait until we are able to hold an AGM where we could discuss and check the support for a formal ballot with the members

A vote (option 1 above) was taken with a resulting 5 to 3 committee members voting to arrange a ballot for members in February 2021

Following a period of further discussions and reflection after the meeting it was agreed that it would be judicious to include the membership as a whole at the next AGM regarding the ballot as previously set out in March 2020

12. **Date of next meeting** - TBC