

## **Melrose Waverley Tennis Club Committee Meeting**

### **MINUTES of meeting held in the Clubhouse on Monday 5 September 2022**

#### **Present:**

Will Grieve (President); Glen Gordon (Vice President); Leslie Young (Treasurer); Alison Moore (Secretary); Rosie Leslie; Gemma Ross; Lorna Hutchison; Mac Brown; Lesley Watters; David Owen.

#### **1. President's welcome**

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Rachel Fourie.

#### **3. Matters arising**

Will reported that there is no word on fixing the gents door yet and also the sensor is not working for the light in the men's changing room but the engineer said it needs a spare part and he has ordered it.

The roundels on the fence outside the clubhouse: two are broken. Andrew said we should remove them and he will make a flat piece instead and get it painted.

#### **4. Reports: Treasurer, Membership, Juniors, Coaching**

##### **Treasurer's report:**

Leslie gave a written report which is appended to these minutes.

##### **Membership:**

This was covered in the Treasurer's report.

##### **Juniors / coaching:**

Borders Junior Confined

Jack Fairgrieve won consolation draw 14U Boys Singles

Jack Fourie: 14U Boys Singles Runner Up

14U Boys Doubles Runner Up with Harris McDougal

18U Boys Singles Champion

18U Boys Doubles Champion with Harris McDougal (Earlston)

Eilidh Fourie: 11U Girls Singles Runner Up

14U Girls Doubles with Ruby McKenzie (Innerleithen)

Jack Fourie and Jack Fairgrieve will be travelling to Spain with Ali McCulloch and others to attend a one week tennis camp 29 September, a great opportunity for them

Our 8U Team: Callum Ramsay, Leo Hume and Prishaa Chatel had a great afternoon on the 3 September at the Davis Cup Event hosted by St Boswell's tennis club and organised by Tennis Borders

Team 1 in the junior leagues have had a good start to their matches and are currently sitting well in Division One

Team 2 is allowing our new players to leagues to gain match experience and build their confidence and we are seeing great results

Several local events running September/October so all juniors have been encouraged to enter their age categories

## **5. Borders Confined**

This was a good week but we were disappointed at the lack of communication from Tennis Borders regarding sponsorship. They should also have a notice outside saying who is playing who.

## **6. Additional court**

Mac introduced this and there was a discussion around the table about how much ground it will need. The feeling around the table was that it is difficult to justify this due to the loss of ground for the children. Also this is perhaps not the right time to pursue this project due to energy price rise.

## **7. Club championships**

A lot of matches are getting through now but we can't decide the starting time until we know who is going to get through i.e. 1pm or 2pm start time.

***Need to check if we have enough tennis balls for the finals - we need 5 tins.***

## **8. Junior club championships**

Will informed the committee that these could not take place during the senior club champs due to a delay. They will take place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September.

## **9. Electricity**

Leslie reported that we were paying 14.5p per unit from July 2018 as we were on a fixed contract which ran out in March 2020. From May 2020 the meter didn't work so no record until July 2022. The new rate from 1 April 26.512, which is an increase of nearly 80%. And the standing charge also increased but this is not significant. The charges will increase substantially from 1 Oct. Scot Power will send an email between 8 and 9 Sept. Increase again in January 2023.

We use 12,500 units per year on average going off previous figures. We will be paying just under £3,500 for a full year compared to just under £2,000 on old prices. This is based on the price from 1 April. We appeared to owe Scottish Power £1,150 but actually they owed it to us as they haven't charged us for so

long and we have been paying this by d/d. They have re-credited this back to us. There has been a lot of comment in the papers about households and businesses but not much about sports clubs. Leslie informed the committee that he wrote to John Lamont MP on our behalf and expressed the club's concerns and asked about their plans to support sports clubs. In his response John Lamont said that because sports clubs are devolved, it would be the responsibility of the Scottish Government. ***Leslie offered to write to Christine Grahame MSP and also Cllr David Parker.***

Options:

- Turn off floodlights
- Increase membership fees
- Introduce a coin meter
- Charge people who use the floodlights

We are generating a bigger surplus this year than the £4,500 sinking fund and so we can absorb some of the increase. Leslie is proposing an increase to, say, £90 for the membership but he would like us to wait for four weeks because by then we will know what the October rate is going to be and also what the UK Government is going to do. ***It was agreed that we will revisit this issue at the next meeting.***

### **10. Solar panels**

Will and Leslie investigated solar panels for the south facing roof. They got a quote for Green Power for installing solar panels and battery. The quote is £18,000. The estimate of pay back is within 12 years, assuming a ten percent increase in price every year. £8,000 of the quote is for a battery which stores the charge and then we use it to power the lights. It is for 15 solar panels.

Questions:

Will they withstand tennis balls hitting them?

Can we get them without the battery to feed back into the grid?

VAT?

***Ali will enquire about a possible grant we might be eligible to apply for to cover the costs of the installation. She will also ask whether we will need more than one quote.***

### **11. Membership fees**

Covered in item 9.

## **12. Christmas raffle**

It's a good earner. It was discussed and we decided to go for a hybrid approach with some of the prizes being funded by the club.

*Gaming licence – Ali will pursue.*

Date for the raffle to take place is Monday 12 December

## **13. Quiz night**

Date for this is 18 November. Lesley booked the hall.

## **14. Membership Secretary vacancy**

Sophie MacBrayne has kindly emailed to say that she will be the membership secretary. She is coming down this Saturday / Sunday to have a handover with Andrew Panter. She can't always come to the meetings but she will try to come to every second one if we had them every 6 weeks or so.

## **15. Any other business**

Ali reported that she is pursuing the idea of an autumn wreath making event.

Will reported that he had been approached by a new tutoring company to put a poster along the fence to face onto the playpark. He wants to put it up for one week. *We agreed to it for one week.*

Court booking system: Lesley wanted it bringing up as a few people had raised it with her. *Ali to put it on the next agenda.*

Leslie Young: AGM. Monday 7 November. *Check the constitution to see if we can postpone it until the new year. To be decided at the next meeting. Can we have it in January? Auditor: Gemma will ask her mum as she is an accountant.*

## **16. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be on Monday 3 October 2022.