

Melrose Waverley Tennis Club Committee Meeting

MINUTES of meeting held in the Clubhouse on Monday 7th March 2022

Present:

Will Grieve (President); Leslie Young (Treasurer); Ali Moore (Secretary); Andrew Panter (Membership); Rosie Leslie; Mac Brown, Lesley Watters; Glen Gordon (Vice President); Lorna Hutchison.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Rachel Fourie, Gemma Ross and David Owen.

1. President's welcome

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Matters arising

Will reported that, since the last meeting, Doe Sports have been back to tighten all of the fencing around the courts as a goodwill gesture due to the issues that we had with the installation of the practice fence.

3. Reports: Treasurer, Membership, Juniors, Coaching

Treasurer's report:

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

Membership:

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

Juniors / coaching:

Rachel was unable to attend the meeting but Leslie reported that the coaching is ticking along. The first week of the 6-week block of adult coaching had to be cancelled due to the weather so Leslie had to arrange a refund of one of the weeks to the participants as the block was reduced to 5 weeks.

4. Membership Fees

Leslie informed the committee that new members who join now pay a pro-rata winter membership amount as the winter membership season is about to end and the new yearly membership window is about to open. For those who have paid by credit card recently, they have been offered a reduction on next year's fees. Leslie proposed that the winter membership should be changed to a reduced adult membership rate with pro-rata rates set at 1 October (this rate will be the current winter membership rate) and a further reduced rate introduced at 1 December. This was approved by the Committee following discussion.

ACTION: Leslie to introduce the new reducing pro-rata adult rates for the new membership year.

Leslie also reported that, if we introduce the staged membership payments through Clubspark, this has to be done through GoCardless who charge a fee, as well as setting up an automatic payment that will go out of the member's account the following year. Instead, Leslie will add a note to the new membership information saying that if anyone wants to pay their membership over 3 months, they should contact him directly.

5. Balls

Alison raised the issue of which type of balls we should buy as a club for the Melrose Mixed Open and for the leagues: the balls we have been using up until now (Dunlop Fort) or the new eco-friendly Wilson Trinita balls. The committee discussed the pros and cons of the new balls in that the bounce is different, some members are not keen on them, they may be hard to get at the current time. They also come in a big box which won't be as good for league play, although we could re-use tins for them.

ACTION: it was agreed that Will will contact Doe Sports to enquire about purchasing the Wilson Trinita balls to try out during the Melrose Mixed Open, and that Andrew will go through the balls in the clubhouse to sort them for recycling in the future when the person is back who does this.

6. PAT Testing

Leslie raised the fact that PAT testing has not been done for four years.

ACTION: Leslie will get in touch with Stewarts to arrange for this to be done.

7. Events

Lorna, Gemma and Lesley met as the social committee to prepare a draft events planner for 2022. This was run through and some dates were discussed and agreed.

ACTION: the final events planner will be circulated to members and put on the website when ready.

Lesley also reported that Mike Turner of Tennis Borders had requested that Melrose host the Borders Confined again this year. This was discussed with some concern being raised about how it was run last time and also the fact that it is taking the courts away from members. A vote was taken around the table and a majority vote in favour of hosting was recorded.

ACTION: Lesley to tell Mike Turner that we are willing to host the Borders Confined (presumably along with St Boswells?) and that Will will discuss our concerns with him and/or Eddie Brogan

8. Scottish Cup Entry

Leslie voiced his concern about the payment problems and the login problems that both he and Lesley had experienced with Tennis Scotland when trying to register and pay for our teams. Tennis Scotland has apologised and said it was because of a new payment system this year but the payment system is the same as for the past few years and we have experienced problems every year.

ACTION: Will will communicate this to Eddie Brogan in case other clubs have experienced the same and this should be fed back to Tennis Scotland as a complaint.

9. Men's Practice

The men's captain, Andrew Stavert, had put in a request to the committee for three courts on a Monday evening for the men's teams – 1st, 2nd and 3rd – to practise, including during the duration of the season. His written request was read out for the committee to consider. The following points were discussed:

- that the men should indeed have court time for team practice
- that allocating 3 courts might be better than 2 as they could potentially have one court for each of the teams
- that Monday nights are the only evening in the working week that the courts are available for court bookings
- that this is a balance we are trying to strike
- that Wednesday evenings are not working very well just now
- that ladies should be able to receive the same court allocation as men

It was agreed:

- that we would offer three courts on Saturday mornings for men's team practice in place of men's morning, 10am to 11.30am
- that we will change men's night from two courts to three on Wednesday evenings 6.45pm to 8.30pm. This will enable all of the men to mix in together. Andy could have a role in structuring these sessions if he gets the agreement of the men who come

We discussed offering Friday evening instead of Saturday morning but we are not able to do that as junior matches are starting soon.

ACTION: Will to discuss the above with Andrew

10. 2023 - 25th Anniversary

Leslie raised the fact that it is our 25th Anniversary of the club re-starting next year and we should do something to celebrate.

ACTION: it was agreed that we will circulate this fact to members in May and we can ask for suggestions such as a family day

11. AOB

Andrew Panter mentioned that he needs new swipe cards. ***Will will order some.***

Lesley asked whether the ladies could be given all three courts on a Tuesday evening for ladies' team practice as social ladies' tennis is not taking place on Tuesday evenings at present and the men have been offered three courts for men's team practice. ***This was discussed and approved.***

Leslie informed the committee that the logo is now on the club website and is also on the bottom of club emails.

Leslie updated the committee that the electricity supplier had been in touch to say that the spare part is now in stock but they still have not arranged a date for it to be fitted.

Leslie asked whether we could and should put reports on the website. ***It was agreed that pdf files of the minutes will be added to the website.***

Mac asked that senior reports be added to the agenda of future meetings.

Will asked how the club noticeboard can be updated and ***Lesley agreed to arrange for this to be done.***

12. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 4 April 2022.