

## Stewkley Tennis Club Committee

### Minutes

Oct. 13, 2021

Attendees: Neil Shefferd (Chair), Matt Evans, George Gater, Jeremy Gibbs, Malcolm Lee, Rob Owen, Phil Whitecross.

Apologies: Kris Pratt.

1. Minutes from previous meeting (Jul. 21, 2021) approved.

2. Correspondence:

- Invite to participate in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations on June 2, 2022 – JG to attend PC planning meeting representing the club on Nov. 1 at 7pm.
- Member expressed concern about thoughtless behaviour and vandalism, and unexpected expense, as well as prompting less active members to switch to 'pay-as-you-go' depending on hiring charges, now that court booking is open non-members.

Committee agreed to put up hiring fees from £5 to £8 per hour for non-members and to monitor usage. PW reported the club received ~£150 in non-member and guest fees so far this membership year.

ML to buy a combination key box (five tumbler, ideally, to match court lock code) to put on the side of the light box to hold the key. Thus allowing non-members to play after sunset and removing ~£60 annual cost of new lightbox keys for new members.

PW to continue attempt to set up internet banking with Lloyds to allow integration with LTA booking/payment system for non-members, and allow settlement of expenses in ways other than cheque.

3. Finances:

- PW shared draft year-end figures (see appendix for summary) and reported finances are healthy for upcoming big ticket spends: (1) resurfacing, (2) shed / club house and (3) lights. See maintenance.
- Electricity costs have gone up substantially (likely ~£700 vs. ~£300 in recent years). Other clubs include those costs within fees and found charging for light use separately an administrative burden. The group suggested that membership fees should be increased to cover power at the AGM, but given that Rec Association fees will no longer be included in 2022, to limit the increases:
  - Adults – was £70, propose £80
  - Families – was £150, propose £160
  - Students – was £30, propose no change
  - Juniors – was £15, propose no change
  - No change to joining fees: adults £10, families £30, students £10, juniors £5

- Note: Rec Association fees currently £5 for students/adults, £1.50 for juniors and £13 for families. This will no longer be collected in 2022/23.
4. Subscriptions:
    - JG to update the group on bookings – how many are being made by non-members vs. members. [Note: uptake is fairly limited. In the last three months, we've had ~50 bookings of which 3 were from non-members].
    - At present, we've 11 family members (vs. 7 in 2020/21), 56 adults (vs. 52), 4 students (vs. 2), 7 juniors (vs. 9) and 3 non-playing members (vs. 6).
  5. Welfare:
    - Nothing to report, issue-wise. JG attended LTA's virtual Safeguarding conference in September.
  6. LTA:
    - Public liability insurance – GG to review and end in October if our separate public liability insurance is doubling-up with the LTA's insurance.
  7. Maintenance:
    - Resurfacing – group to take a look at the current state of the court. Note: court resurfaced in 2008. Feeling that court warrants one more repaint before resurfacing.
    - Shed – the committee agreed to the suggested design and size (5m x 3m) circulated by KP. ML suggested that we should make use of practical volunteers to lay a new base – post-kids' football Saturday afternoon job. JG to ask the Parish Council and Rec Committee about planning requirements
    - Lights – RO looking to get a quote on light cleaning. Suggest asking at the same time how long lights last. ME to ask about Lindford club's lights
  8. Coaching:
    - Matt reported attendance of 5/6 in early group of ~12 age group Summer coaching, and 4/5 in later, adult group, as well as 4/5 on team coaching. Brought in 2 new adult members and 1 family.
    - Matt looking to bring in Nick or others to set up a coaching program in new year.
  9. Events, teams & competitions:
    - Captains Ian and Claire to start collecting a fee for balls of £2.50 per player per match. JG to inform the Captains.
    - No plans for a Ball in early 2022 – lack of willing organizers. Looking to reinstate in 2023.
    - ML reported that the singles ladder will return next year possibly in a new form. The previous ladder went somewhat 'stale' – players reached positions that reflected their competitiveness and without some form of handicapping it became difficult to move up or down.
  10. Next meetings:
    - AGM on Tuesday, Nov. 23 at 8pm. Points for the agenda so far: (1) giving the Treasurer sole control of bank payments as part of the move to electronic banking, (2) membership fees and (3) election of officers.

Jeremy Gibbs

Nov. 7, 2021

Appendix: draft year end figures - summary

- Received £19k in covid grants this year (on top of £10k last year) from the council/government
- Subscription income of £4076 this year – Jeremy to confirm whether consistent with his calcs. However, this is after the £25 reduction to take account of lockdowns - without this, I think subs would have been around £1.5k higher at £5.6k. This compares to £4.6k in 2020 and £4.4k in 2019. Before then it ran at about £5k pa (at lower subs rates). So good improvement and need to do whatever we can to retain the new members in particular.
- Decent guest fees due to on line system - £142 received (£58 last year and hardly anything before then).
- £100 compensation from Lloyds for messing us around on the old (now sorted) deposit account. Also in 2020 they repaid us £130 too much for direct debits taken in error (now written back to income)
- Not yet sure whether or not we have to pay the fixed £360 fee to the Rec this year – not yet in the accounts
- LTA affiliation fees were waived in 2020 – but restarted in 2021 at £240 (was £220 in 2019).
- Spent £414 on electricity, despite being shut for pretty well all winter – suspect it will be nearer £700 going forward. Do we need to start to charge as getting a big number?
- Accounts include £840 for the subsidisation of lessons during the summer.
- No social income –will next tennis club ball will be 2022 or 2023?
- Year end cash of around £62k. Need to decide what we are doing about court replacement/resurfacing, new hut, likely lifespan for floodlights etc...