

Tavistock Tennis Club

Committee Meeting 17/04/24 in Clubhouse

Present: Zoe Llewellyn (Chair, part), Dave Martin (Secretary), Hilary Picton (Ladies Captain), Ron Temperley (Chair/Mens Captain), Steve Buckley (Treasurer), Stuart Borthwick (Social), Carolyn Todd (Safeguarding), Sally Watmore (Safeguarding), Wendy George (Membership Matters, part)

Apologies: Jo McKinlay (Membership), Inga Ziemina (Coach) , Nick Hill (Juniors) , Andy Wing (Treasurer)

Note that ZL was unable to attend for the whole meeting and RT took the role as chair.

Agenda:

Approval of Minutes

The committee agreed that the latest version of the committee meeting minutes (dated 21st Feb), previously circulated, was an accurate reflection of the committee's deliberations. **DM** will archive them.

Acceptance of Draft AGM Minutes

Acceptance was discussed briefly but postponed until all committee members could provide their input.

Incorporation

RT reported that progress towards completion of the incorporation process is continuing. HMRC are yet to accept our proposed Articles of Association and other documents but that there should be no significant hurdle to overcome. TJ is liaising with the council regarding the lease etc and SBu is continuing to liaise with the bank regarding our new status and account. And finally Incorporation should as expected be complete by the end of May. DM raised the subject of the term of the club's lease from the council and whether this was being considered during this process. **RT** will discuss with TJ.

Membership Secretary

JM has given her resignation from this role and Wendy George has agreed to accept responsibility for the administration of the membership secretary's day-to-day work without becoming a committee member. RT welcomed her in that capacity. A brief discussion followed and **DM** agreed to be her point of contact with the committee. **RT** will contact NH regarding the setting up of the club's email address for her.

Coaching

Secretary's note: IZ was unable to attend the meeting but did contact DM (Sec) prior to the meeting as follows: "(...) the Spring term programme is now underway and (...) I have replied to the Coaching Subcommittee with regards to the final draft contract."

The coaching contracts were discussed. RT reported that IZ is happy with the final draft of the club's proposed agreement with her and is ready to sign it. Rhys Dunford has been sent a document covering his new role as Performance Coach and will revert with his feedback in due course. RT, on

behalf of the Coaching Sub committee, will send a similar agreement to Linden Hardisty, allowing him to continue one to one coaching. Once all of these documents have been signed, the Coaching Sub committee will review the club's demand for coaching services, and the capacity of its three coaching providers to meet that demand.

Safeguarding

After discussion **DM** took an action to investigate the possible need to update the club rules regarding consistency between safeguarding and behaviour and the club policy.

Insurance

DM reported that the B&C Insurance had been renewed through the existing brokers, Nevett and Taylor. He had obtained an equivalent quotation from Howdens who are the LTA providers of public liability insurance. But the quote from Nevett and Taylor was about half the price of Howdens and so DM decided to continue with the status quo. The only issue to resolve was the type of tree that is of concern to the insurers and is situated just outside the clubhouse side entrance. After inspection by HP it was determined to be a Beech tree. **DM** will inform the brokers.

Membership Matters

A discussion took place regarding membership status reports: how frequent, what information needed etc.

House and Court Maintenance Matters

RT reported that Technical Services plan to carry out their REVITE work on Courts 4/5 on 2nd May. The date for repainting of Court 6 is still TBD. **RT** also reported that the current quotation from Technical Services for maintaining the astro courts is ambiguous and he will clarify the costs with them. However, the committee agreed that the work currently carried out on a regular basis by PR et al is adequate and sufficient without having to employ Technical Services.

CT proposed a vote of thanks to SBU for all the hard work he has been carrying out on the clubhouse and club facilities. The committee agreed.

SBU suggested that a maintenance schedule would be sensible given the amount of work that was necessary.

League Matches and Tennis Balls

RT agreed to book all courts for all upcoming P&D League matches. RT also reported that the order for balls had been sent, including an amount for personal use. He had advised the members accordingly (5 tubes max per member) and had received a number of requests to purchase them.

Student Hosting

An approach from GuardiansUK had been made requesting that the club might ask its members to host students for short spells during summer holidays. The committee decided that it was not in a position to do so especially given current safety and safeguarding considerations.

AOB

1. Practice Wall / Ball Machine

A number of members had expressed their opinion that a practice wall and/or ball machine would be an asset at the club. And Ben Whalley had investigated those possibilities which he

had set out in an email (the text of which is appended at the end of these minutes). A discussion took place and it was generally thought that a practice wall (whether permanently sited or moveable) would be both impractical given the layout of the courts and clubhouse and too costly, as well as possibly involving planning permission issues. The ball machine was also considered but again cost considerations and maintenance issues were considered to make the acquisition inappropriate at the current time, and maybe next year might be better for considering it. As an aside it was pointed out that IZ has a ball machine which she has been prepared to hire out on an hourly basis in the past.

2. HP suggested 22nd Sept for Club Tournaments Finals Day. The committee agreed.
3. SBU suggested getting the very old external sign on the clubhouse replaced with a new one professionally made locally for £300. The committee agreed.

Post Meeting Note:

Subsequent to the meeting SW agreed with SBo that she would like to take on the responsibilities of Social Secretary, and SBo agreed to work with/help her accordingly. SW will also relinquish her “job-sharing” role as Welfare Officer, having earlier agreed this with CT, and furthermore accept responsibility for maintaining the club’s first aid facilities.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 4th June 2024, 7:00pm in clubhouse.

Later changed to 5th June.

Key to initials:

AW - Andy Wing (Treasurer)
CT - Carolyn Todd (Safeguarding)
DM - Dave Martin (Secretary)
HP - Hilary Picton (Ladies Captain)
IZ - Inga Ziemina (Coach)
JM – Jo McKinlay (Membership Sec)
MB – Mike Baker (Marketing / Comms)
NH - Nick Hill (Juniors)
PR - Pete Rodgers (Co-opted House Rep)
RH - Richard Hendin (Trustee)
RT – Ron Temperley (Mens Captain)
SBo – Stuart Borthwick (Social)
SBU – Steve Buckley (Treasurer)
SW – Sally Watmore (Safeguarding)
TJ – Tim Jackman (Incorporation matters)
WG – Wendy George (Membership matters)
ZL – Zoe Llewellyn (Chair)

Text of email from Ben Whalley (see AOB above):

Dear Dave,

I think you're on the committee at the moment, so just wanted to drop you a line to see if we could start a discussion about practice walls and other options for the club?

There has been a lot of discussion about building a practice wall at Tavistock, some of which I have been involved with, and which I am very supportive of.

Personally, I would value a way to practice in a focussed way, both before club sessions and at other times when I have a short period free. I think many other club members would benefit from this too — there are few of us who couldn't suffer to hit a few more backhands rather spending our matches shuffling awkwardly to the left and being passed on the right.

Last year I spoke to a structural engineer friend who did some calculations to size the required foundation and structural components for a wall. Chris was kind enough to provide an estimate of what would be needed, and ballpark estimates of the total cost of the project. (Incidentally, his fee for the full drawings would only be £250 should we wish to take him up on them).

However, my sense from all this effort and speaking to other members is that a wall is perhaps too large a project to take on this year, both from a cost perspective, and because of the disruption it might involve.

I've since thought that if the club bought a _ really good_ ball machine then we might get quite a lot of the benefit of a wall at a much lower cost. And if it were well used then it would demonstrate the appetite for individual practice that might justify a wall in future.

A high quality ball machine is in the region of around £2000, plus around £150 for a suitable set of long life balls. This would be battery operated, and on wheels so that members could put it on court relatively easily.

The modern ball machines take a wide variety of balls and are better in the damp than older models, so if people have older experiences of them being bad, perhaps worth reminding that they have improved a lot. They also have an amazing range of pace and spin — so it could be a real challenge for a wide range of members. It would be easy to add the machine as an extra 'court' on our online booking system.

If the committee were amenable, I would be happy to investigate the precise costs, and recruit some volunteers who could be trained in it's use and care (charging the battery etc).

Could this proposal perhaps be considered at the next committee meeting?

Kind regards,

Ben Whalley