

MINUTES of TTC COMMITTEE MEETING, TUESDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2020, TTC CLUBHOUSE

Apologies: Christian Jenkins, Hilary Picton, Mike Baker

Present: Peter Rodgers, Nick Hill, Richard Hendin, Jo Irving, Claude Sparks, Lyndon Clark, Rhys Dunford, Inga Ziemina, Julie Wigmore, plus our President, Michael Prout

The meeting commenced at 19:45

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOMES

Peter Rodgers reflected on recent changes to the committee, some possible reasons for these changes, and welcomed Nick Hill as our new Treasurer, and Jo Irving as our new Membership Secretary. The committee unanimously and gratefully accepted Ron Temperley's offer to remain as Men's Captain, submitting reports to the committee.

CENTENARY DINNER

Menu finalised, and list up for diners. We need 60 to avoid £180 surcharge, 70 to qualify for complimentary coffee. RH to website and FB advertise, plus a round robin or two to encourage participation. Honoured guests to be offered their meal, but may also contribute if they wish to. Pre-payment preferred. Members may contact Julie directly to sign up/pay.

TRUSTEES – Advice from Mike Prout

Ideally around 4, minimum 2, who may be closely associated with the running of the club, and preferably relatively young as every time one dies off the deeds with the Land Registry should be alerted. Our deeds currently with the solicitors Nash's via Tim Jackman. Committee members to put their names forward to RH, as well as potential suggestions. Richard to investigate making self-changes to the Land Registry without incurring legal fees.

TTC RULES – Advice from Mike Prout

The Club is an unincorporated association and is registered as a CASC. RH and MP to begin trawling through the rules to bring them up to date, so that necessary amendments, once approved by the committee as a whole, can be put to our whole membership at the next AGM.

Thank you to Mike Prout for his advice.

MEMBERSHIP

In principle, a raise of subs (which have remained static for three years) in line with inflation, was approved. Also approved was a 10% (voluntary, as before?) discount to be offered for those who pay on time, thus reducing JI's workload. As part of a Clubspark automation process online payment will be necessary for all members.

WELFARE

We are preparing for our LTA Welfare audit via Zoom on 22nd October. LC has been checking relevant DBSs, and updated our reporting policy to make it clear member to member behaviour is a welfare issue, and should be reported as much by a witness as by anyone directly involved. Posters have been amended. Potential Whatsapp issues were raised. RD pointed out it's important to have a moderator for club initiated groups. Private Whatsapp groups are fine, but it was felt the Club Night Whatsapp group, designed to help smooth numbers at Club Nights, may nevertheless be perceived as discriminatory, so it will be decommissioned (RH, once he's figured out how).

RH to action posting committee members on a notice board, with voluntary pics.

COACHING/COURT ALLOCATION

The committee acknowledges that group coaching on Tuesday and Thursday evenings means that under floodlights there will only be three courts available for Club Nights (currently 6-8pm on Tuesdays and 6-7pm on Thursdays) and that this has caused some recent tensions within the club. However, the committee unanimously accepts the recommendation of the coaching/allocation sub-committee (see below) that in the interest of the club as a whole, taking into account the needs of members of all standards who work full time, group coaching on Tuesday and Thursday evenings under floodlights on courts 7&8 will continue. (Also please see below re. floodlighting court 3, a way to alleviate these tensions.)

COACHING/COURT ALLOCATION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Thursday 23rd September 2021 at Tavistock Tennis Club

Present: Peter Rodgers, Claudine Sparks, Richard Hendin, Linden Hardisty, Rhys Dunford, Inga Ziemina

1. All participants gave their views regarding the opportunities and challenges around coaching at TTC. Notably, there was agreement to monitor and manage court usage for the benefit of all members and coaches, along with our commitment to provide public pay and play.
2. There was a consensus to emphasise good communication, organisation and to develop clarity and trust.
3. Specifically, it was mentioned by those present to protect social tennis while making available coaching for individuals and groups. Of particular mention was the introduction of a ladies' team practice session and junior experience. We were thankful to Linden H for sharing his experience and expertise as he is the coaching manager at The Devonshire. From his advice and the general discussion action points are:
 - PJR to construct a timetable for debate by the committee at a future meeting
 - PJR to look into the possibility, if needed this winter, of portable LED lights for court 3
 - Consider a questionnaire to members once the timetable has been considered
 - Monitor court usage to avoid pinch points

Decisions that were made included the continuation of Inga's coaching on Thursday and Tuesday evening. It was felt by the sub-committee that this was unlikely to cause serious disruption to social tennis sessions occurring at the same time.

We agreed that we would propose to the full committee that in the spring we would run multiple social sessions splitting them into weekend and weekday slots and having sessions for starters and separate sessions for intermediate/advanced.

We agreed to meet again after half term - date to be decided.

FLOODLIGHTS

Replacing our halogens on 45678 with LEDs, although has considerable advantages (60% less running costs, reliability, lowering our environmental footprint) but will cost c. £30,000 (CJ's quotes) and we don't have the money. Temporary LED lights on 3 are also prohibitively expensive. Permanent LEDs on court 3 will cost c. £10,000 and is our first priority, not least because it will ease the current court usage pinch points. PR has

investigated planning permission, and it may not be needed (if it is, something of a formality). PR/RH to get together re. wording for potential internal fundraising (appeal, “crowdfunding”, event?) for this. However, if the LTA do fund re-tarmacking 1&2 we may already have the funds? So many potential outcomes, and no final decisions yet.

Floodlight £1 payments

Due to the perennial insurmountable problems with the coinbox, and the c. £1,000 cost of switching to a swipe card, it was decided to take the plunge and incorporate the cost electricity for floodlights into our annual subs. The committee acknowledges this will disadvantage some who never play under lights, but the necessary increase to be absorbed by all will be small, not least due to the large number of new members we have. CJ/RH to investigate a master cut off switch for 10pm in case someone mistakenly leaves the floodlights on. Long term refurbishment to total LEDs will reduce any cost, and motion sensors can be installed to ensure minimum electricity wastage.

REFURBISHMENTS

Quotes are coming in, and we are almost ready to go, but now there is the distinct possibility of the LTA directly funding the re-tarmacking or 1&2 as part of a new scheme to revive club tennis courts that have fallen into disrepair. RH is already liaising with Kim Eschbaecher (our LTA link) about this. LTA will require 1&2 to be available for pay and play, and to have a £6,000 online controlled gate (also funded by the LTA – they’ve been offering us this for years, but we went with a £20 combination padlock instead). 7&8 can be rapidly asto’d, and the £18,000 s106 funding for this ties in with their use for pay-and-play.

REINVENTING OUR JUNIOR SECTION

Claude Sparks has run our junior section (brilliantly, unobtrusively) for 10 years, and will be standing down at the next AGM. However, there have been significant problems she has had to deal with, so she, Inga and Rhys will get together re. the formation of a permanent Junior Sub-Committee, to include well-motivated parents, to work on inter-club tournaments, intra-club competitions, coordination of coaching, full involvement of all parents (starting with a parents’ social get together?) etc. Claude, Inga and Rhys to report back to the main committee their suggestions in due course.

STARTER CHRISTMAS TOURNAMENT



To keep the good feeling afloat and maintain the momentum we gained through the Spring and Summer with the Starter level players. I am proposing to run a Fun Starter level [Christmas Tournament](#) on Sunday 19th of December from 12pm – 2pm.

DETAILS:

- Sunday 19/12, 12pm-2pm
- A max of 32 entries (doubles)
- On all 8 courts
- Entry £5 per participant + food expense

- Christmas Music
- Prizes
- Mulled Wine and nibbles provided
- Food Options: 1-order food at the Club or 2- food at the pub afterwards. 3- bring your own food
- Christmas outfit mandatory 😊

Unanimously agreed. Full credit to Inga.

CORPORATE TEAM BUILDING/DAY/HALF DAY OUT

We've had an inquiry re. a corporate half-day mini-tennis team building exercise. Agreed we go ahead with this, not to make a profit but to cover costs, increase the profile of our club locally, and keep our membership growing. RH to action

PR TO INITIATE A MIXED DOUBLES BOX LEAGUE

Agreed. (Next committee meeting to discuss revitalisation of the ladder, competitive tennis over the winter.)

2022 PROVISIONAL DATES

Revival of Grand Slam Saturdays (great for full club integration), plus Open Day New Facilities Celebration Exhibition Match

Sat Jan 22 - Aussie GS

1st Week Feb - AGM

Sat Apr 9th TTC New Facilities Open Day/Exhibition Match

Sat May 28 - French GS

Sat Jul 2 - Wimbledon

Sat Sept 3 - US GS

The meeting closed at 21:45.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 4th November