

Tavistock Tennis Club

Committee Meeting 7/4/22

Present: Pete Rodgers (Chair), Lyndon Clark (Safeguarding), Dave Martin (Secretary), Julie Wigmore (Social), Jo Irving (Membership), Nick Hill (Juniors), Christian Jenkins (House), Inga Ziemina (Coach), Rhys Dunford (Coach)

Apologies: Andy Wing (Treasurer), Hilary Picton (Ladies Captain), Richard Hendin (Trustee)

Agenda:

Pete Rodgers kicked off the meeting with a reminder that committee members should declare any known conflict of interest before any discussion of relevant tennis club matters.

Approval of Minutes

- The approval of the minutes from Mar 10th was given by all present.
- **DM** will forward the final documented minutes to RH for archival.
- PR asked whether the minutes could be published sooner than currently done, ie after approval at the subsequent meeting. DM stated that he can usually draft the first copy of the minutes within a couple of days and so ready for review by those at the meeting. It was agreed then, that subject to the extent and nature of any changes that might be necessary, that the secretary would strive to have the minutes ready for publication within a week.

Membership Contribution Renewals (including Stripe and promotion)

- JI declared that RH has resolved all login problems that have so far arisen, but given the overall workload caused by the explosion in membership numbers she suggested that extra help should be sought. *Secretary's note: JI has regrettably had to resign as membership secretary.*
- In the absence of RH, PR reported that most members have now renewed their subscription, and at the full amount.
- The hardship fund was discussed. JI reported being in contact with one member who she considered would merit free membership this year and this was in principle approved, subject to providing the necessary justification to ensure consistency in future claims. It was also agreed that "hardship" should be renamed "support" which latter word would carry less of a stigma. JI will ask RH to amend the website accordingly. And claims on the fund will be monitored.
- Court booking problems and invalid email prompts to renew subscriptions were noted but with RH's help problems have mainly been resolved and such problems should ease now that members have mainly renewed their membership.
- Discussion followed regarding JI's earlier suggestion that admin help to the membership secretary was needed. It was agreed that a volunteer would be sought. But to help relieve the workload RD suggested putting together a FAQ's page on the website and IZ suggested having only 2 membership renewal subscriptions rather than pro rata rates throughout the year, ie one for all year (as now) and one for winter only for those that renew after Oct 1st. **PR** will liaise with RH regarding the possibilities of amending the website and automating different payment options throughout the year.

Ukraine Fundraising Tournament

- PR reported that the tournament had been very successful in that it had been a very enjoyable event which had raised about £500. HP deserves many thanks for initiating and organizing it.
- Also the committee discussed the possibility of free court use or membership being offered to refugees who may settle in the area. This suggestion had initially been proposed by one member who will be accommodating such a family soon. **LC** will discuss with that member what may be required.

Membership Secretary / Issues / Admin Assistant

- Further discussion took place with continued agreement for the advertisement for a volunteer admin assistant.
- And as a further simplification IZ suggested that the Tavistock Tennis Club website, which exists primarily to enable a reasonable URL to be advertised in printed form, be simply a link to the ClubSpark site. This was agreed and **CJ** will implement this.

Court Resurfacing

- PR reported that a potential problem has arisen regarding courts 1 & 2 in that the council have expressed fears that the overlay of a new surface on the existing ash clinker surface, which is in theory susceptible to frost damage, does not carry a full guarantee. They have warned us therefore that the £15K grant might not be awarded. Moreover the extra work to resurface the courts and gain a "full" guarantee would be prohibitively expensive. PR has asked that Courtstall contact the council to explain the risks. But it is problematic in that PR has now signed the go-ahead contract with Courtstall. Discussions with Paul Newton (former House club officer at the time of a previous resurfacing project) produced a recommendation that we promise to return the courts to the council in a playable state should we no longer require them, and thereby nullify any risk to the council. Eventually the committee agreed that the club should go ahead if possible with the least expensive option and accept what is considered minimal risk given that the ash clinker has already lasted in excess of 40 years. But all now depends on the council decision which is expected on Tuesday 12th April.
- Finally PR raised again the issue of orientation of courts 1 & 2, ie should they be set at 90deg to the other courts. However, after consideration of the issues it was agreed to leave the orientation as before decided.

House Report

- The issues regarding the faulty floodlight above court 5 were discussed. Every effort has been made to get the halogen working but due to obsolescence issues of replacing capacitors we plan to trial an led solution for the faulty light which does not need these parts. So it was agreed that **CJ** would liaise with the electrician and go ahead with hiring a cherry picker (ca £200) to enable the replacement of the existing halogen bulb and wiring with a LED replacement fitting. Hopefully this will solve the problem.
- The playing condition of courts 1 & 2 was discussed. The majority opinion was that they were dangerous to play on and should not be used at present.
- The surface condition of the remaining courts was also discussed given that there is evidence of moss in various places, and due to the relatively slow draining of the astroturf these courts in particular can be slippery at times. PR reported that moss killer has been applied but that the residue has not been brushed away particularly at the perimeters. He

suggested that a scarifier/brush could be purchased to remove the moss residues and **CJ** agreed to obtain and place signs on all court entrances to the effect that courts are slippery when wet.

Treasurer Report

- In the absence of AW, PR reported that AW is still negotiating with TSB for authority to sign cheques.
- Main financial points are (approximately) as follows, but subject to issues previously given:
 - Cash £90K
 - Cost of resurfacing £74K (£20K already paid, ie £54K owing)
 - Award due from council £15K
 - 106 funding due: £5K
 - Which leaves £55K on completion of resurfacing
- PR posed the question: what shall we do with this sum? He suggested a priority was the replacing of existing lights and extending to other courts of modern LED lighting. Also the installation of solar panels was a possibility that could pay for itself over time. CJ stated that there could be grants available for LED conversion.

Building Insurance

- It is believed that this is now in place. This must be confirmed with RH.
- As a related issue to buildings insurance CJ raised the issue of the front entrance door which Orchard had been contracted to repair. This has not been done satisfactorily in CJ's opinion and he has informed Orchard of this. Orchard have, however, not adequately responded and **CJ** will therefore pursue the issues further with them and report back next time.

Juniors

NH had already produced a report from the juniors subcommittee. The main issues needing agreement were that Charles Stanley Investments who have provided £250 towards prizes at the Mini tournament would like to have an advertising presence on the day, eg a pop up banner in the clubhouse. This was agreed. Also would the club pay for refreshments on the day – also agreed.

Events

- JW has produced a scheduled list of events, currently displayed in the clubhouse. She would also like to arrange 2 other events, ie a bbq and a curry night/evening. There was agreement to this and 23rd July was chosen for the bbq. No specific date was agreed for the curry do but it was accepted that one Saturday (after tennis) should be chosen.
- 10th Sept was chosen for Finals Day.
- Details for the Open Day have yet to be finalized and IZ and RD will start doing so once the Easter camps have been completed.
- JW reported that there are issues regarding the organization of the Family Festival day which make it difficult to run, eg lack of a marquee, possibly large numbers of people wanting to attend etc. But **PR** will talk to Claudine Sparkes to ascertain if she would be willing to organize the event (for sometimes in mid-July) and will report back.

Distribution of balls and sale of new balls

- Ron Temperley is running the system of selling balls to members for personal use. The balls have been acquired and the first sales day will take place soon. Orders must be placed with Ron by 16th Apr. **LC** will chase AW to purchase the card payment machine for this purpose.
- The issue of balls for club sessions was discussed given that 2 members have written to the committee stating their particular concerns. The committee recognized that there had been a problem communicating the details of the system that would be in place for club sessions and that had now been resolved. Also the particular balls (Wilson Trinité which are semi-pressurised) that are to be used was discussed in that they are considered by some to be “heavy” and might possibly cause issues of tennis elbow. Although IZ had previously experienced elbow problems when using pressureless balls RD had not and the committee considered overall that the use of the Trinité ball would be the best solution to the problems and related issues that have been apparent so far under the existing system.

Coaching

- Banners to replace the existing had been ordered and should be placed iaw CJ/IZ/RD’s best judgement. **RD** to carry out placement of coaching banners.
- IZ indicated that the Easter camp had now been organized and groups are nearly full.
- IZ raised the issue of membership subscription discounts for the STLIL group that she runs. 3 of the group are already members and she believes some of the rest would consider joining, especially if they are offered the early bird discount which has expired for the general membership. The committee agreed that the discount could still be applied for this group. **JJ** will liaise with RH accordingly.
- RH is imminently expected to qualify as an LTA L2 instructor. The subject of his integration into the current coaching structure at the club was discussed but IZ and RD felt that there was not presently a place for RH within the coaching programme, for which the club / committee and IZ and RD have a coaching agreement.

Club Session Court Allocation

- DM indicated that he had not heard of any further issues concerning Saturday’s court allocation. But there had been an issue on a recent Thursday when booked coaching on 2 of the floodlit courts prevented some social session players from playing once darkness fell. The committee generally felt that such issues will be solved once the court resurfacing had been carried out and so no action should be taken.

Accident Record Book, First Aid Kit and Ice Packs

IZ had expressed doubt about the existence of the said items. However, these items were located and have now been placed in a more sensible and accessible location. **LC** will check the contents of the first aid box and determine whether it is deficient in any way. PR offered to help with the supply of any items needed.

AOB

- There are still problems with lack of toilet rolls and bin liners etc. **CJ** will contact the cleaner accordingly.
- Mens Team Captain report (sent by email prior to meeting):

Men’s Team Captain Update

Men's team coaching & match practice

- Final pre match coaching sessions finish next Monday – programme well received by team members, 16 participants in 2 cohorts
- Season starts at the beginning of May
- Negative comments during practice evenings about poor lighting on courts 5 and 6 due to long term floodlight outages

Men's league entries and playing nights

- At the P&D AGM we were lucky to get approval for our E team to compete this season – instead of a ballot where members voted teams in, names were pulled from a hat!
- The new D team Captain is Simon Church
- Phil Harbottle has kindly offered to take charge of E team which will play home fixtures on a Friday evening
- Rhys, Ron and Sean continue as A, B and C team captains
- We have 42 players who have confirmed their interest in playing league tennis. The A team squad is just 4 strong, so we have 38 players to assign to the other 4 teams

Members' orders of Head Tour balls - update at 12 noon on 6th April after 3 days of selling

- Total tubes available – 360
- Orders placed – 29
- Total tubes ordered – 163 tubes
- Average order size – 6 tubes
- No negative feedback from members (apart from comments from * and * which are already known about)

And finally many thanks to Jo Irving for valuable contribution to the committee. She will be missed.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 3rd May 2022, 7:15pm in the clubhouse.

Key to initials:

PR - Pete Rodgers (Chair)
DM - Dave Martin (Secretary)
JW - Julie Wigmore (Social)
LC - Lyndon Clark (Safeguarding)
NH - Nick Hill (Juniors)
HP - Hilary Picton (Ladies Captain)
AW - Andy Wing (Treasurer)
RH - Richard Hendin (Trustee)
IZ - Inga Ziemina (Coach)
RD – Rhys Dunford (Coach)
JI - Jo Irving (Membership)
MB – Mike Baker (PR)