

Tavistock Tennis Club

Committee Meeting 8/2/22 – by Zoom

Present: Pete Rodgers (Chair), Dave Martin (Secretary), Julie Wigmore (Social), Lyndon Clark (Safeguarding), Nick Hill (Juniors), Hilary Picton (Ladies Captain), Andy Wing (Treasurer), Richard Hendin (), Inga Ziemina (Coach) – part

Apologies: Jo Irving (Membership)

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 Jan 4th was given by all present.
- The AGM (3rd Feb) minutes will be formally approved at the next AGM. DM was tasked to check with RH that such minutes had been taken, which he did later verify during this meeting.
- Action: PR to contact RD regarding return of his signed contract (coaches' contracts having been discussed at the previous committee meeting).

Social Events 2022

- 'Open/Slam' tennis tournaments. There was agreement that these could and should be repeated this year at times appropriate to the French Open, Wimbledon and US Open, each with appropriate catering, ie cheese and wine, cream tea, barbecue respectively. £5 was suggested as the contribution from each participant who will be expected to pre-book a place. JW will liaise with RD regarding these events.
- Dinner/Dance. JW has booked the Bedford Hotel on the 19th Nov for the annual dinner/dance.
- Early Sept social event. General discussion regarding such an event taking place this year. Last year Bill and Claudine Sparks organized an event only for COVID to force its cancellation.
- Return friendly match against Okehampton. Discussed and JW will try to arrange.

Distribution of Tennis Balls

PR outlined the problems caused by the current policy of distribution of tennis balls, whereby new balls are bought in bulk and normally distributed once a week on Saturday afternoon prior to the club session. These problems include:

- a) The great amount of management necessary.
- b) The financial cost to the club.
- c) The cost to the environment caused by a multitude of plastic tubes etc.
- d) The inequity felt by some members that they are unable to take full advantage of the provision of the new balls.

PR suggested the following solution:

we offer eco friendly last a long time balls in the clubhouse for club session/ general play.....look at trinity ball reviews online.I have bought some of these and will leave some in club. They don't come with loads of plastic tubes.

We ask members, if they wish, to place an order for maximum 10 tubes of balls Head Tour at £11 per dozen and ask people to write their name and order on a sheet in the clubhouse. We have a Saturday and a Sunday say when members can collect their balls at 2pm. We have first come first serve up to a number of balls that is the number we have bought minus balls needed for competitions. We either collect cash on the day of collection or get payment by bacs and check on our account.

There followed some questions and debate. But there was general acceptance of this proposal and it is intended that we should go ahead with its implementation, probably around April/May time.

LC also agreed to investigate the feasibility and cost of acquiring and using a wireless payment card machine.

Court Resurfacing

The committee intend, see previous meeting minutes, to proceed with resurfacing courts 1 & 2 (with synthetic all-weather) and 7 & 8 (artificial grass). The committee discussed in general terms the various surfacing options from proposed suppliers, but decided that no firm decisions could be made until PR had circulated to them the quotations that have been sent to the club. Consequently PR will circulate these to committee members and if there are no objections, within say 1 week, authorize Courtstall to do the work. It was agreed that Courtstall are best placed to do the work given that they have already completed previous work for us satisfactorily and in any case have provided the lowest prices.

It is hoped that the work may begin by mid May, but there is the complication that we await a decision from the LTA concerning the possibility of a government funded grant being available for resurfacing courts 1 & 2. However, a decision on this is not expected until April and the committee agreed that it was sensible to wait until then before committing to that work.

Notes:

- a) There had previously been a suggestion that courts 1 & 2 be laid with markings at 90 degrees to all other courts in order to provide more flexibility of court choice vis-à-vis time of day, position of the sun and exposure to frost. There were no objections.
- b) The court fencing is going to need attention in the future. More medium-term than short-term however. PR will liaise with PN to ascertain who has provided this work for us in the past.

TSB / Banking Issues

It has so far proved impossible to persuade TSB to accept and authorise new club signatories. There was some discussion as whether it may be better to change banks but TSB's generally good reputation for dealings with charities and other small organisations makes them suitable to stay with. Consequently PR who is the only currently authorized signatory will with new treasurer AW seek to gain TSB's approval to authorising AW, and maybe up to 2 other signatories.

In addition PR and AW will agree with TSB generally how many signatories are required for cheques etc and up to what amount.

Trustees

PR recommended, after liaison with Tim Jackman, that Liz Webb should be removed from the list of trustees but that himself and RH should remain. There were no objections.

It was decided that RH will liaise with Mike Prout who is the Club President and a retired solicitor for the correct wording.

CJ and MB should, if they wish, carry on with their work regarding proposing future changes on the roles of Trustees.

Competition Ladders

RH reported that he had found on-line software that better met the needs of the club for organizing ladder competitions than playwaze provides. It was agreed by the committee that RH should progress this option and institute 2 ladder competitions – one for singles and one for doubles, and neither gender specific.

Junior Programme 2022

The “Juniors” subcommittee, via NH, had made several suggestions, the outcome after committee deliberation was as follows:

A mini tournament to be held on 15th May. Run by RD and IZ who will be paid at an agreed rate. Prizes and medals will be awarded.

Advertising banners were requested and considered but they are a contentious issue particularly with regard to their prominence in the centre of town. The Juniors subcommittee will reconsider the matter.

Junior box league to go ahead during May and June. A prize to be awarded.

P&D League. It was agreed that the club should enter 2 or 3 teams, as the subcommittee deem appropriate. It was further agreed that players should have court time allotted after Easter in preparation for matches, possibly an hour per week on Sunday AM or Friday evening.

It was agreed in principle that the club could be a venue for Devon Tennis and/or LTA junior tournaments. The subcommittee should investigate further and report accordingly.

The subcommittee announced also that a member of the club has generously offered a donation of £250 towards aforesaid prizes, medals, trophies and refreshments at the aforesaid events. AW also offered to provide financial support for the event in May. NH thanked AW for his kind offer.

Open Day

The committee agreed that an open day should be organized on 3rd July. Open to all ages and abilities. There will be various activities to be led by RD, IZ, RH, PR, JW with assistance from committee volunteers. DM will approach JI regarding promotion.

Mini Touch Tennis

The committee agreed that a Mini Touch Tennis tournament be organized. This will be open to invited organisations and will have a view to possibly attracting new members. Action PR & IZ.

STILL

The committee agreed to IZ organizing a 5 week course to beginners beginning on 12th March. The course fee will include the chance to take up a free introductory club membership offer as well as discounted membership after. IZ to invoice the club accordingly.

AOB

- There was a brief discussion regarding the archiving of club documents and other “official” material. It was agreed that Clubspark would be used for this purpose. DM has material handed to him by a previous secretary and he will pass this on to RH for this purpose.
- The committee agreed that the time was now appropriate to abandon the requirement for members to register their names prior to participating at club sessions.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 10th March 2022.

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
JI - Jo Irving (Membership)
PN – Paul Newton