

Tavistock Tennis Club

Committee Meeting 3/5/22

Present: Pete Rodgers (Chair), Lyndon Clark (Safeguarding), Dave Martin (Secretary), Julie Wigmore (Social), Nick Hill (Juniors), Christian Jenkins (House), Rhys Dunford (Coach), Richard Hendin (Trustee)
Apologies: Andy Wing (Treasurer), Hilary Picton (Ladies Captain), Inga Ziemina (Coach), Wendy George (Admin/Membership)

Agenda:

Approval of Minutes

After a short discussion regarding the minutes from the last meeting of 7th April pertaining to RH's induction as a L2 coach, the committee agreed that subject to a further update by the secretary to clarify the reason for the committee's decision, the minutes from that meeting could be approved.

Membership Offer to Ukrainian Refugees

LC reported that 2 families have so far been accepted for membership. And the committee have agreed that the offer will be extended to all refugees (approximately 40 to 45 families) within the Tavistock area. There was a suggestion that spare rackets be found for them where necessary.

Membership Secretary / Issues / Admin assistant required

- DM reported that he had spoken to WG who has offered to take on the administrative role of membership secretary while the committee seek to find a replacement for JI.
- PR then prompted a discussion regarding the role of membership secretary and how it could be simplified in order to make it manageable for an unpaid volunteer – it generally being accepted within the committee that the role, as it currently stands, is too onerous. One or two suggestions were then made (eg pay someone, disallow pro-rata subscriptions, compile a faqs page on the website) and differing opinions given but a decision was postponed until WG, who is very familiar with the membership secretaries duties, can be consulted.
- Meanwhile a volunteer to take on the full role of membership secretary will be sought by advertisement to the club membership with a job description, and WG will be asked to organise her work such that it can be easily handed over when necessary.

Membership Report

WG had provided a full report prior to the meeting and the following issues were discussed/agreed:

- A round-robin email should be sent to the membership encouraging all (who haven't yet done so) to register for LTA membership.
- With the exception of those members who it is known would be expected to have renewed their membership, "lapsed" members will now be assumed to have decided not to rejoin and no further contact will be made with them to renew.
- RD noted that some of his pupils had also not renewed.

Court Resurfacing/Status

- PR reported that he has emailed Courtstall regarding a commencement date for their work and awaited a reply. He also stated that while the Council had also required some quality

assurance matters to be discussed with them they were ready with the grant money available to us.

- CJ asked about timescales to carry out the work and PR believes that the artificial grass surface could be completed within a couple of days and the hard courts on existing courts 1 & 2 would take possibly 2 weeks.
- DM queried whether the extra work involved in maintaining 4 artificial grass surfaces as opposed to the 2 at present was manageable under the current voluntary regime. But PR considered that there should be no real problems as there were sufficient volunteers for this work.

Floodlighting Issues

- PR has liaised with Paul Newton who believes that parts are available to repair the faulty floodlight. The parts are on order and will be fitted when they arrive.
- PR had also talked to a Philips rep who had expressed doubts about the method of repair. But CJ thought that the LED solution should work.
- CJ prompted then a discussion regarding the future given that the cost of energy is soaring and the expectation further price rises. NH had seen the latest electricity bill which was in the region of £515 per month and which was a large increase on previous bills. PR then suggested this maybe was a good reason to install solar panels. CJ suggested also that it probably made the upgrade to LED floodlighting cost effective. As a result of this discussion **PR** will investigate Sport England's crowdfunding initiative for applicability to upgrading our existing floodlights to a LED system; **CJ** will obtain 3 quotes for this work with and without court 3 being provided with new lighting; and **PR** will ask the Council if there might be any objections to the installation of solar panels.

House Report

CJ reported as follows:

- The warning signs regarding slippiness of the courts are now in place.
- All previously agreed banners are now in place.
- **CJ** will liaise with WG regarding changing of combination numbers to locks on clubhouse and courts.
- The front door issues are now being discussed with Orchard and hopefully will soon be resolved.
- Clubhouse cleaning issues should now be resolved. AW, in his pre-written report stated that he had paid the cleaner by electronic bank transfer. At this point JW pointed out that the kitchen and its facilities needed some attention, ie some new cutlery and utensils required and maybe some repairs. **JW** will attend to these issues where she can.

Treasurer Report

AW had provided a report and in his absence of PR reported that AW is still negotiating with TSB for authority to sign cheques, and that the club finances, especially since membership renewals had continued to take place, remained healthy.

Building Insurance

RH reported that renewal of building insurance is currently in progress and he will liaise with AW as necessary to complete the renewal. He also pointed out that theft insurance is not possible

since the insurer will not provide such cover with just a combination lock on the main front door. However, this was not considered overly important given the items that are stored in the clubhouse.

Juniors

NH had already produced a written report from the juniors subcommittee. The main issues brought to the committee's attention were:

- IZ has noted that some juniors that are under the wing of the Devon Coaching programme are having coaching at other locations such as at the Devonshire club in Plymouth. The concern is that the juniors themselves and/or their parents may consider leaving TTC completely in order to play all their tennis elsewhere. IZ/NH wondered if the committee would endorse giving extra support to our junior coaching program with extra promotion, court time and coaching etc. The committee was generally in favour and **NH** will progress this with the Junior subcommittee and provide concrete proposals in the near future.
- Some older juniors will be asked to help umpire matches at the forthcoming mini-tournament, perhaps about 5 or so. NH asked for the committee's approval to pay them for this (£10 say). This was agreed.

Events

- A short discussion took place regarding the proposed Family Festival Day. JW thought there had been enough events planned already and thought also that such a day would need too much extra work and preparation. However, **PR** was willing to talk with Claudine Sparks to decide if she would take the event on.
- The open day was also discussed with **RD** intending to have a planning meeting with IZ soon and PR stressing how important it was that preparations are soon begun. **RH** will place a suitable ad in the Tavi Times and **CJ** will locate and date-change the current banner. **RD** also said he could place an ad on the LTA website. PR suggested contacting MB for advertising but **RD** will check that he has renewed his membership this year.
- JW reported that IZ has suggested a "Fun and Touch Tennis Tournament" and BBQ on the early evening of Sat 30th July. There was no disagreement to this taking place.
- **RD** will soon post a sign-up sheet for the French Open tournament taking place on 28th May in order to ascertain numbers.

Distribution and sale of new balls

Various points discussed and noted:

- RT has now completed the sale of tennis balls as planned. However, he reported that some members (14 in number) had not collected their balls (61 tubes in total). The committee was asked whether these members should be chased to collect them, but it was decided not to, unless RT wishes to, and the balls should be left in stock.
- At this point PR raised the point that these balls had been acquired from the P&D League, and that this had made him uneasy since not only have we ordered far more balls than any other club in the league which is not a particularly wealthy organization but that we could have obtained similar balls from Sports Direct for little more than the price from the league. He therefore thinks that in future such an initiative will be better served by buying from the likes of Sports Direct.

- **CJ** proposed buying 3 laundry baskets for the various balls that currently lie loose on the clubhouse shelves. This was agreed.
- **PR** reported that he had seen a sale offer for the Trinita club session balls and gone ahead and bought another batch.
- **AW** (via his written report) stated "I have ordered and paid for the 3G Sumup card reader that we as a committee had agreed to purchase, that is due to arrive this week. I have set up the account profile and attaching the Club bank account to the account and I will see that the card reader is all set up and linked when it arrives, so again, this solution is imminent"

Coaching

- **IZ** produced a written report prior to the meeting. The points raised had already been discussed apart from an issue regarding booking of Court 5 which recently had been booked for the use of the coaches, but then that booking had been cancelled without warning. The committee was told that this had been an unintentional error and would therefore not happen again.
- **RD** stated that he wanted to organize a tennis festival involving youngsters, staff etc from Mount Kelly school, Mannamead club etc on Friday 17th June (4:00 to 6:30pm). He therefore requested the necessary court time for this event. This was agreed. He noted that Mount Kelly will provide the catering.

Voting Rights for Coaches

IZ had prior to the meeting requested that action be taken to ratify the voting rights of both coaches on the committee. **PR** will liaise with Mike Prout as to how the rules should be amended so that the structure of the committee can be amended accordingly. **PR** will then organise an e-vote of the members.

LTA Initiative: Bringing Clubs and Coaches Together (Model C)

RH briefly explained the initiative, but he and the rest of the committee agreed to shelve consideration of it until a later date.

Induction of RH as L2 Coach

The committee was informed by **PR** and **RH** that further discussion on this subject would take place with **IZ** and **RD**. No discussion took place in committee at this time.

Competition Ladders

RH reported that there are 2 closed ladder competitions organized for starters and intermediate level players. However, he has not yet organized the open ladders for singles and doubles. **PR** suggested he just organizes a singles ladder anyway, given that the members play plenty of doubles throughout the year, and this he agreed.

Ladies Captain Report

HP reported one league match result so far: *"Our B team brought their first match against Looe B forward to last Wednesday. I'm delighted to say that Tavistock scored a narrow victory in spite of Looe fielding an A team member in their squad"*

First Aid Kit

LC has acquired a new first aid box (with log book) and placed it in a prominent position. The old box will be used for refills. A member he knows has volunteered to check that it is kept up-to-date. LC also reported that he has been in touch with the member who recently had an accident and needed hospital treatment. At this point **RH** suggested providing court inspections for insurance reasons and he will investigate the issues involved.

AOB

- The abuse of a committee member by abusive comments recently left in the clubhouse was discussed. All on the committee (including of course the member concerned) were aggrieved that this should have happened. The committee discussed how best to respond and it was agreed that something bland/anodyne in the form of an email should be circulated rather than anything strongly worded which might fuel the ego of the perpetrator.
- The committee was informed that HP was willing to organize the club tournaments again this year. **DM** will ensure there is an agenda item for the next meeting.
- LC reported concern amongst some members at club sessions that there were members playing who had not yet reached the required standard. And there was a general discussion regarding court allocation for club sessions particularly on Tuesday and Thursday. RD suggested introducing a register again to ascertain numbers attending. However, PR and DM doubted the value and workability of doing this. Meanwhile the situation will be monitored.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 9th June 2022, 7:15pm in the clubhouse.

Key to initials:

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