

LANSDOWN TENNIS, SQUASH AND CROQUET CLUB LTD
MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY, 9th JANUARY 2020
Start Time: 7.00 pm

Present:

Andy Ewings	Chairman
James Scully (JS)	Deputy Chairman
Mark Groves (MG)	Treasurer
David Barnes (DB)	Fabric Manager
Julian Moore (JUM)	Squash Secretary
Howard Grove (HG)	Croquet Secretary
Claire Ackerman (CA)	Committee Member
Jill Kingaby (JK)	Committee member
Jeremy Labram (JL)	Committee Member
Rupert Larkin (RL)	Member
Philip Torjussen (PT)	General Manager

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Jean Wilson and Jeremy Goulding. These were accepted.

2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting with the following alteration:

The paragraph at the bottom of the first page should read:

JS explained that these courts need resurfacing urgently and he wanted to commit to explore the funding of this work. A discussion took place regarding the planning permission that was being obtained to put floodlights on these courts. This may then determine what surface was to be installed. E.g. If we had clay courts, with lights, then it would be better from a coaching point of view. JK suggested that we apply for permission **for floodlights** on just two of the courts with a 9.00 pm finish.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

JS reported that Chris Bannister had regrettably resigned from the Tennis Sub Committee and hence the main committee due to family and work commitments. The Committee thanked him for his help. It was

suggested that Rupert Larkin be co-opted on to the committee to take over this role until the next AGM. This was unanimously agreed.

CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

AE went through the detail relating to the recent member offer. It was considered to be a great success and, as a result, 39 people had joined the Club. It was important that they were made to feel welcome and for them to integrate well with the Club.

It was asked if we had any plans to do another one and it was agreed to wait until after the AGM.

Renewal of membership – AE went through the planned process. The budget for 2020 was explained by MG and he recommended a zero increase in subs. AE and DB supported this.

There was a unanimous decision to not have an increase in subs during 2020.

Clubroom - some staff have had an increase in salary and staffing levels were now back up. It was planned to now look at what we were providing for the members as phase 2. It was possible that this would include carrying out a survey amongst members once options were available. With regards to the margins, they were treading carefully at the moment. Jo spends a lot of time liaising with suppliers at the moment so it was not a priority. They were also looking at coffee machine suppliers. JS said he was really pleased and feels that we have the platform for the next stage.

Office - Christine had handed in her notice and was leaving on the 31st January. They were not rushing into recruitment at the moment and wanted to ensure that we were getting the right person to deal with.

Padel Court - AE gave a summary of what has been done so far. There is a potential for two courts to be installed and the cost was approximately £50K per court. He was very confident that they would be a huge success for our membership and it would be good to be the first in the area. Timeframes – 8-12 weeks from order to both courts being ready to play, subject to EGM.

Some discussion took place regarding when to apply for planning.

There was an agreement to go ahead and get accurate quotations.

ACTION: PT agreed to talk to the LTA regarding possible funding.

ACTION: AE to send a link out to watch a Padel Tennis match on video.

6. SUB COMMITTEE UPDATE

Governance

No further action had been taken as yet. A discussion took place regarding anyone who could possibly help with the burden of this job. AE to talk to JG.

ACTION: AE

Marketing

CA confirmed that the marketing committee were meeting next week to think of some new ideas and would keep the committee informed.

ACTION: CA

Development

PT gave a summary of where we were. Following the last committee meeting, he had been in touch with several suppliers and had obtained quotations for LED lights to be installed on courts 8,9 and 10. He explained the rationale of getting planning permission for the preferred type of lights because in the application, one had to be quite specific. DB asked if we had considered asymmetrical lights. PT hadn't and would look at this but it may delay the process even further. PT to provide an update in a couple of weeks but in the meantime would meet up with Jill Kingaby and get a planning application prepared.

ACTION: PT

Social

A meeting was taking place next week and the committee would be updated with the progress.

ACTION: CA

Access Control

JL confirmed that plans were underway to have a meeting in the next week or so. The committee would be updated.

ACTION: PT & JL

7. FABRIC

All safety documentation was now in place. There was a problem with the squash heaters had been identified and would be working properly soon.

ACTION: DB

8. MEMBERSHIP FIGURES

There were no questions on the membership figures.

9. ACCOUNTS

There were no questions on the Treasurer's report.

10. SQUASH

JM confirmed that the Racketball Championships were being held in February and we would be hosting the Avon Closed this year. A Lansdown team were also in the National Championships in Racketball and there would be an Squash Exhibition Match in February where Nick Matthews, a former World Champion would be playing.

11. TENNIS

RL gave a précis version of his document which is looking to improve the services to the membership. The TSC were currently spending £4800. He had discussed the plans with TT and a tennis strategy had been created. There were a broad set of objectives and a fully costed proposal had been requested from Tom. It would mean that there would be regular tennis coaching throughout the year, with a creative licence from Tom as he is the professional.

It would improve performance of the team tennis, improve the participation of club play and help improvers - creating a pathway to move forward with playing tennis.

This will encourage people to renew their membership and provide a better experience over 50 weeks.

After discussion, the committee agreed the funding with a cap of £9K, on top of existing retainer. However, this has to be all costed out and the TSC are to have an ongoing reporting arrangement with TT Tennis and regular feedback so that the expenditure is carefully monitored. JL suggested that it could be monitored with KPIs.

Some discussion also took place regarding the resurfacing of courts 1 – 3 and the TSC would discuss this further and agree a timescale.

ACTION: TSC

12. CROQUET UPDATE

HG confirmed that the lawn is currently in hibernation and not much play had taken place. They had problems with the water supply and it was agreed to look at putting in a pipe down to the croquet lawn area. PT and DB to action with HG.

13. SAFEGUARDING

There were no safeguarding issues to report.

13. AOB

CA asked whether it would be a good idea if some funding was allocated to a basic refurbishment of the changing rooms?

It was agreed that the Development Committee would look at this. It was also agreed to go ahead with the new carpet in the corridor and a new wooden/laminate floor outside the squash courts.

ACTION: PT, JK & MG

DB advised that the extractor fans were out of use at the moment in the changing rooms because of a fault. They were to be repaired as soon as possible.

CA raised the idea of having a Club Lotto where 50% of the income would go to club funds. There was some hesitation about this as it was considered the members would not want to take advantage of it. PT tried a similar venture a few years ago that was not successful. CA to give it more thought.

ACTION: CA

15. NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting would be Thursday, the 5th March 2020.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 21.23 hours.

Signed _____

Andy Ewings, Chairman