

LANSDOWN TENNIS, SQUASH AND CROQUET CLUB LTD
MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY, 12th MARCH 2020
Start Time: 7.00 pm

Present:

Andy Ewings	Chairman
James Scully (JS)	Deputy Chairman
Jeremy Goulding	President
David Barnes (DB)	Fabric Manager
Julian Moore (JUM)	Squash Secretary
Claire Ackerman (CA)	Committee Member
Jill Kingaby (JK)	Committee member
Jeremy Labram (JL)	Committee Member
Jean Wilson	Committee Member
Rupert Larkin (RL)	Member
Philip Torjussen (PT)	General Manager

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mark Groves and Howard Grove. These were accepted. Whilst Julian Moore was present at the start of the meeting, he had to leave urgently as the meeting started due to a family illness.

2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

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

JK asked that the paragraph relating to floodlights should read that 'we would be attempting to gain permission for all lights on three courts and that we would attempt to get them to be on until 10.00 pm. The flood lights will also be LED.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

Office – The office has been very busy in the last three weeks, with some support from Sarah.

Five interviews have taken place for Christine's replacement. One has been offered the job. Some discussion regarding salaries and the offer that was made. The committee will be kept informed with how this goes.

JL: Most people think that Philip is the port of call so we need to get the membership to know that he isn't which will deflect a lot of queries.

Clubroom – New staffing now completed and all appears to be working well. New breakfast menu and other ideas will be implemented soon. New menu will be launched in a new format that will also be visually pleasing. AE thought think that this will be a good year for the bar.

Corona Virus - Likely that schools will close at some point in the future, four weeks behind Italy as the country doesn't want to repeat what went wrong there. The same measures will then have to be repeated down the line. It is likely that someone will test positive at some point. Insurance have advised that we are covered and we should keep in touch with the company to keep up to date. We are insured for staff, loss of income, members refunds. PT will continue to talk to the insurance company.

JL said that there is a difference between inside and outside sport. The key thing is that locally, they have suspended gym membership but they can still do outside exercise.

AE reminded all that there is a possibility of members cancelling their DD.

JG said that we needed to do an assessment on how much it costs the club to be closed per week.

PT is to check with the insurance company and find out what the difference is, if any, between members having access to playing squash and tennis.

Membership Renewals

We are currently 85 members down at the moment which is similar to the previous years. From the list that has been sent out, AE asked everyone to please identify anyone who has not renewed but is still playing. Anyone who doesn't renew is a potential trespasser. Emails and phone calls do work. It was suggested that perhaps those who recommended any of these to join could chase and encourage them to come back.

Padel Tennis

Drawings have been done and posters have been created. Tentative enquiries with the LTA suggest loans for 50% of the cost may be available. It was agreed that we would include the actual cost of the project per year and that we should check if we are writing it off over 5, 10 or 20 years? Some guidance should be obtained regarding ongoing costs.

JW said that surely the fact that we will be the first to have such a facility will be good for us?

RL said that there was not so much support from the TSC for Padel Tennis as the main committee. A tennis court would be lost so this was understandable. There wasn't a vote but some opposition

particularly from Tom. AE reminded all that there is a great opportunity too for the coaches. We would make sure that they didn't lose any court availability.

Positives: Easy to pick up and good for older members

Negatives: Not very energetic, could get cold in the winter. Skills not generally transferable from Padel to Tennis. Once it gets wet, not so easy.. AE reminded everyone that if it is wet, the tennis courts aren't used anyway. Some clubs have seen a resounding success in the amount of play on Padel courts.

JK said that the recent video that was sent around showed how it would appeal to the squash players.

AE to propose that we go ahead and ask the membership. We could then call an EGM or have a vote at an AGM.

Some discussion then took place regarding the benefits of an EGM.

JL asked if it was possible that a 'pop up' court could be available so that members would perhaps 'see' what it could be like. It was agreed that:

- We would see if a pop up court was a possibility
- Literature and the posters would be put up in the clubroom so that members would be informed of our plans.
- A survey would be sent out to members asking what their thoughts were.
- A business case would be included with the pictures.

PT was asked if he would check on the notice periods that were required for an EGM

5. SUB COMMITTEE UPDATE

Governance

JG confirmed that there will be something produced in the next few weeks. In a voluntary organisation like this, it will be a Policy document on how things can be done.

JL said that if tennis is going to change in a positive way, there will be a clear set of rules. JG confirmed that the current articles will allow the TSC to create the new rules.

Marketing

There was nothing further to report at this moment.

Development

Changing rooms: CA confirmed that to do it properly, it will cost quite a lot of money. If there is to be a major development of the clubroom done in four years' time, we don't want it to be wasted. It was agreed that the work would not be considered as a stop gap and JG said that if the life of the work was to be ten years then the actual cost would be less from an accounting point of view. Some discussion took place with regards to the reasons for doing this work.

It was proposed that we vote for the quotes to be obtained and if it comes within £25K to £35K then it should go ahead. This was unanimously agreed.

Social

There is a social evening planned on Friday, the 27th March and there will be some social BBQ's coming up in the next few months.

ACTION: CA

Access Control

There had been some complaints regarding the notices that had been put up. JL felt that it didn't make it clear why we were doing it. PT felt that he was asked to ensure that the signs were put up but agreed that consultation could have taken place with JL first. It was agreed that PT would consult with JL and AE regarding the work that is to be done in the future.

6. FABRIC

One of the boilers was broken but we may be able to get spares. However, it is likely that new boilers will be required. First quote for both boilers to be replaced amounted to £18K. DB to keep everyone informed.

Car Park: High priority now. DB will get quotes so that a 'permanent' repair is made.

ACTION: DB

7. ACCOUNTS

In MG's absence, PT advised that the following notes had been sent:

- Revenue up 2.6 % to £486k
- Profit up by £11.7k to £92.9k
- Cash position at end 2019 was £390k
- Club room losses down from £17.3k to £7.8k
- Summary- the club is in excellent financial health, ready to ride any storms

8. SQUASH

The Club had recently the County Closed which was very successful. Income in the bar over the two days was over £2000.00. In the racketball national championships - we lost in the quarter finals
John is looking to start coach led club play. The difficulty is that the current scheme can be very clique and intimidating for younger female members.

9. TENNIS

JS asked about team members playing for the club - but not to have them as full playing members. It was agreed that we could do that in order to boost the team's performances which would reflect well on the Club. JL said that he was not quite sure that it was a good reflection of the club - and is unsure about it. It never happened in his previous club. RL confirmed that the captains were looking at availability now so they will know whether it is required or not.

RL confirmed that they had been looking at resurfacing courts 1, 2 and 3 in the autumn with possibly Tiger Turf but will wait and see what happens with 8, 9 and 10 with the planning permission. If we didn't get the lights, the case for clay is good for courts 1 - 3.

Tennis contract – this has been going on over the last few months. Currently in a position where we were paying a retainer but didn't know what we were getting. They now have a proposal that is below the maximum budget, fully costed and targeting the areas that need to be improved. They don't currently have a full agreement but very close. Much better than where we were. Also looking at measurable targets. Once we have agreement from all the stakeholders then we will go ahead. Less than 10% is what we are haggling over at the moment.

JG expressed concern with the amount of expenditure that is going on bearing in mind what has been going on over the last month or so with Coronavirus. Further discussions took place about whether or not it should be going ahead. A wider concern is that Elite Squash are looking at doing a similar thing and the coaching cost is a lot less than the fees that Tom is charging. RL felt that it was perhaps easier to arrange for Squash as opposed to Tennis?

JS feels that the program will be very good for tennis and we are only arguing now about £1000. It would be a case of PAYG and if we want to suspend it, we could. JL confirmed that it would be reviewed in September. It was an agreed plan of activities, with various objectives and will involve weekly activities. There is no formal agreement - but we will also have to write this within the schedule and it signed and agreed.

PT agreed to send to JL and RL a list of the current schedules. AE to write an amendment to the contract. TSC to present the schedule. AE and JG will then review it.

10. CROQUET UPDATE

The lawn was currently out of use for treatment

11. SAFEGUARDING

There were no safeguarding issues to report.

12. AOB

There were no other items to discuss.

13. NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting would be Thursday, the 7th May at 7.00 pm

There being no further business the meeting finished at 21.42 hours.

Signed _____

Andy Ewings, Chairman