

LANSDOWN TENNIS, SQUASH AND CROQUET CLUB LTD
MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY, 18th JUNE 2020 via ZOOM
Start Time: 7.00 pm

Present:

Andy Ewings (AE)	Chairman
James Scully (JS)	Deputy Chairman
Jeremy Goulding (JG)	President
David Barnes (DB)	Fabric Manager
Julian Moore (JM)	Squash Secretary
Howard Grove (HG)	Croquet Secretary
Mark Groves (MG)	Treasurer
Rupert Larkin (RL)	Committee Member
Claire Ackerman (CA)	Committee Member
Jeremy Labram (JL)	Committee Member
Jean Wilson (JW)	Committee Member
Philip Torjussen (PT)	General Manager

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Jill Kingaby. This was accepted.

2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting dated 7th May were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

Various emails have been sent out since the last meeting with regards to the gradual opening of tennis activity. The next step is for us to look at a plan to reopen the clubhouse early in July subject to government advice. This is being done by PT. It is looking likely that squash too will be opening early in July but no details of how this will look like have been publicised. JL said that it is important that we need to think about squash and the clubroom opening at the same time.

PT will share thoughts with the Covid group.

The catering staff are still furloughed and the 'Furlough Group' consisting of AE, JG and MG have agreed to top up some staff members' salaries by a further 20% until the end of July. Staff have been advised that they will need to use up their annual leave that will have been accrued during the lockdown by the

end of June, and the further accrued annual leave for July used by the end of that month too. The furlough group committed to advise staff about furlough arrangements for August by the middle of July. It is expected that staff will be unfurloughed as and when they are required to work in accordance with government allowances.

Membership numbers are looking really good at the moment. With adult members, we are about 6 or 7 members more than this time last year. There are fewer children that are members but they do not have a dramatic impact on income.

AE agreed to send PT details of the policy on guests during this period so that it can be sent out to members.

5. ACCOUNTS

MG advised that there were no club accounts to look at currently. PT advised that clubroom accounts were available from today and they showed no income apart from the rebates that were due as a result of the Furlough payments and some expenditure that had been incurred.

6. SOCIAL AND CLUBROOM

CA gave an update on the refurbishment of the ladies changing rooms. There would be some money left over from the work on the ladies and if we installed new lights, refurbish the seating and coat hooks with some new radiators and lockers in the mens changing rooms, it would cost approximately £6,500 more.

CA went through the next phase of development which had been discussed with the architects and the main contractor. Did we want to take advantage of the club closure and carry out this next phase of development which would include additional toilets, new showers and the correct form of access to both changing rooms. The cost was in the region of £50,000 to £60,000.

JW thought it would be a good idea to get this done now while the area was not in use.

AE said that we could depreciate it over a number of years. From a member's perspective, it would be a fresh and positive start. They may take the work on the car park and boilers for granted and this would be an opportune moment to impress.

DB reminded everyone that we were aiming to possibly reopen the clubroom at the beginning of July.

JL suggested that we would possibly have nothing but chaos on re-opening.

JG said that we were perhaps rushing into this as opposed to planning it. His view that a man coming to the club is not going to be turned off because the men's changing rooms needed updating, and we had addressed the situation for the ladies changing rooms.

After discussion, it was unanimously agreed to approve to spend the £6,500 to give the mens changing room a refresh, but not go for the second phase of development.

7. SQUASH UPDATE

JM advised that England Squash were recommending that squash would start again in early July. It would

consist of solo playing with some coaching but we will see. He had put forward a plan but hadn't heard back with regards to any further action. AE advised that he felt the Covid group was a 'Lansdown' group as opposed to a 'Tennis Covid' group. Rupert and Tom's opinion was also valued. When the possibility of opening on our own initiative was raised, JG reminded everyone that we are affiliated to ES - and they say that we should not be opening until they say so.

AE reiterated that he would like the Covid group to drive the opening of the clubroom and the squash courts.

JL reminded all that whilst tennis was up and running in various ways, its introduction hadn't finished. There were a few issues that are being monitored. It isn't a case of those concerned with tennis dipping out and those with squash dipping in to the Covid group – it's just getting more appropriate people involved from a whole club perspective as we ease out of lockdown. He also said that social distancing requirements should be carefully considered with regards to access to the toilets and squash.

PT reminded all that we would likely be opening without access to the changing facilities. JG said that it was probable that the first phase from ES was that there will be no access to changing rooms. However, this was a Covid group discussion and would continue.

8. TENNIS UPDATE

RL reported that the opening of the tennis activity was well within LTA guidance. A lot of thought had gone into the demographic and been carefully done. The feedback has been very good.

There was a possibility of some matches with an Avon Lockdown League which would see some competitive tennis back at the Club during off peak times.

He confirmed that there was a massive potential of the new tennis programme but they were back to the drawing board because of the situation we are in with Corona Virus.

A discussion took place regarding TT Tennis and the services that they should be providing. RL would give priority to talk to TT and get this resolved.

Box leagues had started again with a lot of players taking part and he confirmed that the proposed league matches would consist of home and away games.

9. CROQUET

HG reported that the creation of the new entry and exit from Richmond Road had encouraged quite a few players to take part via a booking system in operation through Howard. All working very well. There were no inter club competitions.

HG asked if an extra hose could be obtained for their section so that in times of hot weather that they could use a sprinkler. It was agreed that PT would get a new hose.

10. SAFEGUARDING

AE reported that the safeguarding team has been looking into a potential issue surrounding coaching between a parent and child. A recommendation from the safeguarding team is that a policy is produced that clearly defines what the club deems as acceptable and unacceptable coaching methods regardless of whether there are any safeguarding concerns in this instance. After debate, it was agreed that RL would discuss this with the TSC to produce a set of rules. Liaison would take place between RL and AE who will report back to the safeguarding team.

11. AGM

It was agreed that an item would be included within the newsletter for when PT returned from leave. It was also agreed that we would advise that the existing committee would continue to stand until such time as an AGM was held. Anyone else who wanted to be a committee member could be included as ex-officio members. CA asked if we were introducing new guidance on the election of new members and this would be done by JG as soon as an AGM was to be arranged.

12 AOB

CA confirmed that the marketing team had authorised for some Facebook advertising which was to be reviewed at the end of June

PT advised that there had been some issues with the amount of sand on the courts. This was to be brought up separately with members of the TSC.

JG expressed thanks to the Covid team who had handled the situation very well. Congratulations to JL for his efforts and attention to detail.

DB said that the resurfacing of the car park had been done well.

MG advised that there were to be some new bank accounts created and that PT was on the case.

JS advised that the new menu had been designed and drafted and will come into action as soon as we are reopened properly.

JL reported that the closure of the Richmond Road entrance had gone well although there were issues with the collection of tennis balls that had gone over the wall.

13. NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting would be Thursday, the 16th July at 7.00 pm via the zoom link again. There being no further business the meeting finished at 21.00 hours.

Signed _____

Andy Ewings, Chairman