

LANSDOWN TENNIS, SQUASH AND CROQUET CLUB LTD
MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY, 20th AUGUST 2020
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
Rupert Larkin (RL)	Committee Member
Claire Ackerman (CA)	Committee Member
Jean Wilson (JW)	Committee Member
Jill Kingaby (JK)	Committee Member
Philip Torjussen (PT)	General Manager

1. APOLOGIES

Mark Groves advised that he would be 15 minutes late. This was accepted.

2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting dated on the 16th July were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

AE confirmed that Tennis has continued to open well with activity increasing. Squash has recently opened back up with restrictions but it does allow some usage of the courts.

The bar has been open now for about three weeks. The rota has not changed since it started with one member of staff working throughout the day. After making a loss for the first week, things have turned around and profit is increasing slowly. The provision of food started again last Friday with a special meal being offered for £10.00 which included a drink. This will be running again this Friday. There will also be a special 'one-off' throughout next Wednesday taking advantage of the 'Eat out to help out' scheme. Jo will be running a mini menu all day. Hopefully this will bring in some funds and also re-ignite the eating of food in the clubhouse.

Jo has been looking at trialing some of the pre-prepared food which the person who is working on the day can serve with relative ease. This might include paninis, etc. If this proves to be successful then we will increase the rota to ramp up the service and let the membership drive the type of food that they want.

We will hopefully get back to a degree of normality soon.

STAFFING UPDATE

All staff were pleased to be back.

PT confirmed that the staff were pleased to be back and that Jo is keen to come back as quickly as possible. AE confirmed that he hoped all the staff will be back by the end of October.

MEMBERSHIP

AE confirmed that the membership is 10 more full paying adults than we were at this time last year. He is hoping that churn will be less than normal in March 2021 given that renewal fees for members who have paid in full this year will be discounted next year.

5. ACCOUNTS

MG confirmed that for the first 6 months of 2020 we had a surplus of some £18,000 which was a £5,000 difference from last year. This is based upon all subscription income received being included, without any accrual of membership fees that we expect to credit back to members as part of their renewal in 2021 for the shutdown period. He will take advice from the accountant how this should be accounted for – it may be an accrual and adjustment at the end of the financial year.

There was a discussion regarding the size of the potential loss for next year when we give members back some credit for the missed playing time from this year. This will be agreed towards the end of the year when the budget for 2021 is discussed.

PT confirmed that he had received all rental due for the period that the Bath Physiotherapy had been absent. This amounted to £2,400.

6. LADIES AND GENTS CHANGING ROOMS

AE confirmed that a significant upgrading of the changing room was slowly nearing completion. Richard Smith was singled out for his generous support as he has been doing a lot of work to make the changing rooms even better. It will look very smart indeed. The planned completion date was on or around the 10th September.

Quotes had also been obtained for some smart graphics at the entrance which will give the club a contemporary look and the sign outside of the club is also to be renewed.

Some concern was expressed whether Martin Ramsey would be able to complete the plumbing work due

to self-isolation. PT to message him as phone calls had proved unsuccessful.

ACTION: PT

7. SQUASH UPDATE

JM confirmed that there had been very favourable reports from members and they are very very happy to be back. It's really good and all very positive.

Concerns had been expressed regarding the number of weeks credit the squash members will get back next year. AE confirmed that we don't have a squash membership - only a rackets sports membership. It will be very difficult to know where to draw the line with those who only play squash, those who only play tennis or a mixture of both. To those who have paid in full, there will be a credit of some shape or form - but all to be agreed at some point in the future. This will be decided around Christmas.

8. TENNIS

RL confirmed that everything had been going well in the last month or so. There were several new activities apart from private play and this was all part of the Tennis Improvement Plan:

Club Mixer - running once a week on a Saturday afternoon. People sign up on a first come first served basis. Regular rotation so that you meet a lot of different players. Access has been full on the courts allocated. People were generally staying behind to have a drink too.

Team Practise had started too on a Thursday, not mixing courts, Seth and Eleanor are co-ordinating. Not designed to any minimum criteria apart from wanting to play team tennis.

There were matches being played each week in the lockdown league.

AE asked if there was any appetite (no pun intended) for having something to eat after the team tennis event on a Thursday? RL felt they would be interested as they are generally coming to the club straight after work. RL to check with Seth.

ACTION: RL

A lot of people have been asking for relaxing the rules on the mixing of play. Some discussion took place regarding this. RL felt sure that we can do it and he will be introducing this possibly next week.

RL and TT have agreed not to enter into the Junior Leagues this year as take up is likely to be very low.

AE asked where we were with the contract with TT and the schedule of services? RL confirmed that it needs to be looked at and now that the activities are being organised, there is scope to start the improvement plan. AE mentioned that we can drive the agenda. RL agreed and will discuss further with TT.

ACTION: RL

9. CROQUET

HG confirmed that they had successfully got the water system working on the lawn

A discussion took place regarding the work to replace the paving near the croquet hut. It was agreed that this could be done during the October recess. PT agreed to arrange this with Rob.

ACTION: PT

AE asked PT to advise on outstanding jobs for Rob and any dates that had been agreed.

ACTION: PT

10. SAFEGUARDING

There were no issues to be discussed.

11. AGM

PT gave a brief explanation of the situation regarding the AGM. One further report was required and then the relevant documentation could be made ready to send out. This was to be done by the 26th August.

JG confirmed that a zoom meeting would be a good idea.

DB confirmed that he would not be keen for it to be held in a packed clubroom.

It was confirmed that Companies House rules insisted that we should have the AGM by the end of September. A discussion took place where the benefits and disadvantages took place.

CA confirmed that via zoom there could be a quiz master to ease confusion.

JK advised that it would ensure that people would need to put in writing if they wanted to mention anything or ask questions.

JS advised that there was no need to hold the meeting at the Club. Bearing in mind the caution about playing on the squash courts, we should not have a significant number of people attending on the premises.

It was agreed that the AGM would be held by Zoom. AE mentioned that we could also record the meeting over zoom for those who could not attend. This would be an advantage.

JM and JK confirmed that they would not be standing again for the Committee.

CA asked if there had been a decision on the roles of the members of the Committee.

JG advised that he would suggest that for those who are elected without portfolio then we will be asking for them to help on different areas. We were unable to change the rules that we have so we do need to elect four without portfolio. JG will include an explanation of this in the pack that will go out with the AGM invitation.

12. AOB

JW asked for clarity on who could use the side gate to Richmond Road.

PT confirmed that he was aware some members had been using the gate and had distributed the code. After some discussion, it was agreed that because of the Covid19 guidelines, the code should be changed and only PT and JL should know the new code.

PT to:

- Change the code for the lock asap.
- Put up a sign saying do not use the entrance and not to climb over the gate.

ACTION: PT

PT confirmed that he had also received a quotation to repair the gate for future use.

JM had noticed that PT should not be using his personal mobile phone for business. AE suggested that if a mobile phone was to be supplied for PT then it may be considered okay to call him outside of normal hours, which is not what is intended. It was agreed that PT should not be answering calls outside of office hours but this was considered difficult because one didn't know what calls would be urgent. No further action was necessary at the moment but PT should advise if members were abusing the facility.

DB confirmed that new fans would be put in tomorrow in squash courts 1 and 4. This would ensure that there would be a change in air flow every 10 minutes. AE queried this suggesting that the fans were not installed in 1 and 4 because of the heaters. He asked if this meant that we could put heaters on 2 and 3 and DB confirmed that we could. The cost would be around £1500.00. It was agreed that DB would get quotes.

ACTION: DB

13. NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting would be Monday, September 21st at 7.00 pm via the zoom link.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 20.40 hours.

Signed _____

Andy Ewings, Chairman