

**LANSDOWN TENNIS, SQUASH AND CROQUET CLUB LTD**  
**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON**  
**THURSDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021, VIA ZOOM LINK**  
**Start Time: 19.00 hrs**

**Present:**

Andy Ewings (AE)	Chairman
James Scully (JS)	Deputy Chairman
Jeremy Goulding (JG)	President
David Barnes (DB)	Fabric Manager
Mark Groves (MG)	Treasurer
Mark Radley (MR)	Squash Secretary
Howard Grove (HG)	Croquet Secretary
Claire Ackerman (CA)	Committee Member
Jean Wilson (JW)	Committee Member
Jeremy Labram (JL)	Committee Member
Jon Foulds (JF)	Committee Member
Philip Torjussen (PT)	General Manager

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Rupert Larkin which were accepted.

**2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting dated the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

**4. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS**

An email had shared details of the rebates that were to be offered to all members. Many members had contacted us thanking the committee for our efforts, and there were four complaints. Two were from tennis members and two from squash. One member had asked for 50% of the fee rebate, mainly due to lack of tennis involvement and for 20% of reduction of coaching as opposed to money on the Clubcard. This has been discussed with RL who was going to talk to Tom Therrien. MR will also discuss with John Welton. In the main, the members have appeared to be quite happy that the club has done its best to look out for their interests as best as possible in the circumstances.

There had been no firm guidance from the LTA or ES but Covid group will be meeting as and when required.

## **5. ACCOUNTS**

MG had circulated a memo regarding the accounts which follows these minutes. There were some questions from several members of the committee.

He confirmed that there were £400,000 cash reserves at the moment and sufficient funds available for the resurfacing of the tennis courts 1 - 3.

JL asked why our cash is so good despite the refund that has been given. MG explained that our P & L before depreciation showed a loss of £41K. Our subscription level is quite high and the refund is showing on our accounts for last year and not in terms of cash. We have done well to manage the accounts as they are at the moment.

AE added that some members may well wonder why we have so much and ask for more rebate.

JG confirmed that as a member's club, we are managing the funds so that we have the money available for future projects. The accounts are in good shape.

## **6. 2021 RENEWAL FEE AND REBATE**

AE advised that for the last year where people had paid in full, we were fully closed for 19 weeks. We have rebated this by providing two months free membership and 20% of the current fee to be loaded onto their Clubcard. The renewal is now on the 1st May so members are essentially in last year's membership. As we are now in March, he suggested that we ask them to renew on the 1st of June (an extra free month) or something else?

JG said that we should send a message out soon, as our original offer was in February. We can give something back but we can only confirm this when we know for sure that we will be open.

JL said that the renewal on 1st June would be too late as the summer season will be upon us.

AE confirmed that he had a preference to stick with May and increase loading on bar card.

JW suggested that we stick to the 1st May and ask for less money for subs.

JF said that to put more money on the Clubcard would be a 'bridge too far'. Why not renew for 11 months membership for next year?

AE agreed to draft an email that will go out soon. There were no objections to this from the Committee.

JS advised that he and PT were working on a renewal plan. They were trying to reduce administration and encouraging members to renew by Bacs or paying by debit card on line.

## **7. FABRIC UPDATE**

DB advised that he is collating the information relating to the car park barrier system and access control. AE reminded DB that the remit was not for a system that we had before as we did not want heavy maintenance. DB advised that the previous system was not maintained. We may always have a situation where someone could damage it deliberately. HG confirmed that the new system was fundamentally like for like, but the product is not the same and will be far more robust. There are strong guidelines on quality so we will inherently have a much better system. DB also confirmed that we will also be providing a proper access path which will be much safer than the current arrangement.

DB confirmed that he has also sent through information on purchasing scaffolding for future club use.

## **8. SQUASH UPDATE**

MR was hoping that the 12th April will see the introduction of solo squash, household squash and single coaching. He was also hoping that a junior camp will be possible in April.

He asked if we could have guest fees free of charge for family members? All agreed that guests would have to sign in but not pay the fee.

The squash subcommittee have also been looking at providing a 'goody bag' for members as a way of thanking members for their loyalty. The cost to the club would be between £20 and £30. It would be squash specific equipment and part would be a discount for squash coaching. The third part would be additional squash vouchers redeemable perhaps at John Moore Sports? JF suggested that we use TT for the goods and service. This was agreed.

Overall, this could cost the club around £2500 - £3000. It was available to everyone but very squash focused. AE advised that we cannot deny any rackets member access to this and JS said that quite a few rackets sports members would be interested. MG suggested that we cannot commit to anything yet as we don't know what the total cost will be? AE said that we don't know how many will actually take the bag and take advantage of everything within the bag.

JW suggested that perhaps it was best not to refer to it as a goody bag, but a 'Welcome Back Bag'.

MR would like this to happen by the 12th April and this was agreed.

JF asked how we would work out how many we would need to buy? AE didn't think it was a problem as balls wouldn't 'go off' and items could always be used afterwards. JS suggested that members access this by registering for it, then we will know the numbers.

MR to send financial information out based on his thoughts so far via AE.

CA thought we should have an active squash subcommittee and she will be trying to get some volunteers.

DB advised that the remaining radiant heaters would be installed soon.

## **9. TENNIS**

JS advised that there were three companies who had sent through quotes for the replacement of the surface on tennis courts 1 – 3. One was too expensive and they will be deciding soon and when the contract will start.

On the 29th March, there is a new tennis coaching programme so the courts will be very busy. MG suggested delaying the work until later in the summer? JS said that the courts will be much better to play on and will be a positive action for the members if it goes ahead as soon as possible.

## **10. CROQUET**

HG confirmed that he is assuming that the CA will suggest that croquet starts again on the 29th March. The lawn looks good apart from where a bottle of vodka was possibly thrown.

## **11. SAFEGUARDING**

There were no issues to be discussed.

## **12. AOB**

JF mentioned that he had sent an email to everyone re table tennis. This email follows at the end of the minutes. He asked if we could purchase the one as recommended? This was agreed. He confirmed that the old table will be discussed with JKB.

The planning permission for the lights on tennis courts 8 – 10 was still in debate with BANES. Es Murray has done some great work on the drawings. JF asked if he should be recognised as an honorary member? JG said it would be a wonderful gesture on the club's part as Es has worked tirelessly for the club for many years. The whole committee agreed, and that JG would contact him with a view to proposing that it be agreed at the next AGM.

DB confirmed that he would be discussing the excess storage in the shed JS and PT

## **13. NEXT MEETING**

This would take place on Thursday, 29th April 2021 at 7.00 pm

Appendices:

### **Notes from Mark Groves, Treasurer, regarding 2020 accounts:**

- A loss of £42k before VAT and depreciation and loss of £91k after non-recoverable VAT and depreciation, so after many years of profitable trading we were hammered by COVID

- We took a charge in 2020 of £87k due to lost subscription income, this represents 2 months free subs and the 20 % rebate on the card
- In total our subscription income was down by £105k
- The bar lost £22k, compared to a loss of £9k in 2019, this was allowing for the furlough payments.
- We spent more than £59k extra on our facilities compared to 2019 and this was all down to the changing rooms upgrade.
- We managed to reduce our admin staff costs by £77k and our other overhead costs by £16k
- We ended the year with a bank balance of £395k

#### **Email from Jon Foulds re Table Tennis:**

In preparation for tonight's meeting, please find attached my recommendation for a new table tennis table. I met with Philip at the club earlier, where we assessed the current table and looked at the potential storage location for the new table. We took some key dimensions and checked the new table would fit as planned.

The key drivers for the proposed choice of table, in order of importance are: ease of use(foldability), size when stored, cost and suitability for the level of play.

The '**Butterfly Spirit 19 Indoor Rollaway**' meets this criteria and although it is not suitable for league table tennis, in my opinion will be suitable for Lansdown. The cost is **£399.00** and includes net, two bats and some balls. Should the introduction of the new table lead to a significant uptake in table tennis at the club, we could look to upgrade in the future.

For information, the next level up, meeting the key criteria of ease of use (foldability), but suitable for league and competition is the '**Butterfly Space Saver 25 Rollaway**' see attached. As you can see this is significantly more money at **£1049.00** and therefore, I've not recommended at this stage.