

**LANSDOWN TENNIS, SQUASH AND CROQUET CLUB LTD**  
**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON**  
**THURSDAY, 29<sup>th</sup> APRIL 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
Rupert Larkin (RL)	Tennis Secretary
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**

There were no apologies to report.

**2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting dated the 11<sup>th</sup> March were not available due to a lack of administration time.

**3. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS**

AE reported that there was no update from England Squash on what was happening from the 17th May. Jo has responsibility for re-opening of the bar and he has been impressed with how she is being cautious on the approach to re-open. There is a plan to bring food back from the 17th May, a menu has been produced and will see how it goes. This should tie in with squash coming back in bubbles and the courts being open later in the evenings.

MG asked about the opening of the changing rooms. Guidance suggested not to, however there is nothing legally stopping us from opening. MG advised that some people are changing in the toilets so it is not ideal. It was agreed that this would be taken up by the Covid committee.

#### **4. MEMBER RENEWALS**

JS reported that he and PT had streamlined the process this year. So far, 380 SR have renewed with 20 not renewing. Less than 150 members have not renewed as yet. Members will be given one week's grace to ensure that they don't miss out on the discount.

AE mentioned that with DD payments, we will assume that they want the maximum rebate if we don't hear from them. Overall situation so far is as follows:

- 180 taken the reduction
- 227 taken credit on Clubcard
- 20-30 have waived Clubcard voucher
- 10 waived everything and paying for the extra month's play.

AE confirmed that some people have thanked us for the work that had been done but approximately 12 members have made further complaints. Most understood the challenge that we have.

Various points were made including:

Some members have said that their golf clubs had done nothing about rebates. Redland Club had allowed members to stop their DD's and would not charge a re-joining fee if they came back.

JG: Even though we are a 'rackets club' some people are solely squash members and there were a number of months when they had no sport to play. Why could we not have people applying for a rebate which we could apply as a discount on next year's membership? Application could be considered by a group of people as part of the committee. He felt that we are a fair club and should try and overcome this rather than say that we are unable to do anything.

A discussion took place regarding the situation with several examples of who could qualify and MG thought it was a good idea to look at this.

It was agreed that JG would go away and bring a proposal back to the committee if he could find a proposal he was happy with, noting JL's caution to consider the long view.

#### **5. ACCOUNTS**

MG updated everyone on the cash position of the Club.

#### **6. SQUASH UPDATE**

MR advised that he had spoken to a few squash members who had thought that it wasn't enough to just get 'goody bags'. Definitely worth looking at a further rebate scheme.

There was not much to report, he hoped that the 17th May would bring the reopening of the courts for bubbles. There had been a good uptake on the lesson discounts within the welcome back pack.

AE advised that Elite had been very positive about this scheme and they see it as a great opportunity and a success.

## **7. TENNIS UPDATE**

The tennis courts have been open and busy, running sessions that are permitted and some matches are being played.

The resurfacing of tennis courts 1 – 3 was going very well and the contractors have been outstanding. The cost will be lower than budgeted. The work will be completed tomorrow or Saturday and the consultant will then come in and sign off. Should be re-opening next week. MG said that the courts look fantastic so well done.

JS asked about the opening times of the courts, possibly starting earlier than 8.00 am. He asked if anyone knew why the 8.00 am rule was in place? DB advised that it was purely to accommodate neighbours.

It was commented that TT Tennis are promoting to the wider public. It was asked what was in place to stop random people playing at the Club? RL said there was no cause for concern.

CA expressed concern at the delays that are occurring regarding the booking of lessons. RL agreed to investigate.

AE reminded everyone that the tennis and squash contracts are up for renewal at the end of January 2022. Now is the time to start discussions to get things agreed. RL has had discussions with Tom regarding the changes that need to take place but covid hasn't helped with this.

JG said that we should say to the TSC, the tennis contract expires on January 28th 2022 and they should look at this and produce a timeline for an extension.

AE reminded everyone about the logistics of what has happened in the past and RL said that it was a challenge negotiating with Tom whilst the day-to-day functions take place.

AE and JG suggested that the club should put out a request for proposal (RFP) for 3rd parties to tender for the contract which would hopefully include Elite and TT Tennis. As part of the clubs core values we should seek multiple tenders to consider as we would with any third party suppliers. This should be started as quickly as possible as we are only 9 months away from the end of the contract term. RL to give this some thought.

AE and JG to work with RL and MR on initial paperwork for both Squash and Tennis contracts.

Floodlights Planning Permission: JF advised that it was massively in the balance whether we will get it or not. Some concerns about the bats. Ecologist thinks we have a good case. Recommendation is that we provide information in a report to fight our case. This will cost £750.00 plus vat and hopefully this will give

the planning officer no ammunition to refuse. JS reminded everyone that it will make a huge impact on improving the Club. It was agreed that we should go ahead and spend £750.00 plus vat on the report.

Padel - it was agreed that we should let the dust settle on renewals before we start thinking of the Padel court.

#### **10. CROQUET**

HG advised that the lawn is in good condition. AE asked about the 'substandard repair' and asked if it had destroyed the patch of turf. HG said that the weather is dry and the patch hasn't grown as well as it might but hopefully with some rain and some cuts, it should improve.

#### **11. SAFEGUARDING**

There was one minor issue which was being dealt with.

#### **12. AOB**

JF asked if the Table Tennis could be added to the booking system. AE advised the committee that it is not a quick fix and it is quite a difficult job. JS and AE to take it away and give it consideration.

DB suggested that we install radiant heaters on the patio to keep people warm as it might encourage people to stay. This would be given some thought.

#### **13. NEXT MEETING**

This would take place on Thursday, 17 June 2021 at 7.00 pm There being no further business, the meeting ended at 20.35