

LANSDOWN TENNIS, SQUASH AND CROQUET CLUB LTD
MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY, 17th JUNE 2021, VIA ZOOM LINK
Start Time: 19.00 hrs

Present:

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from David Barnes, Mark Groves, Rupert Larkin and Jeremy Labram

2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting dated the 29th April had only been distributed earlier in the day. We would now be back to normal where the minutes would be distributed within a week of the meeting taking place. There were no matters arising.

3. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

AE and JS reported that we were about the same as last year in terms of membership figures with approximately 550 full paying adult members.

There were currently three more Croquet members than last year.

AE advised that the Membership Figures document is publicly available and he suggested that this is put as an appendix on the minutes of each meeting. In addition, that there is a link on the website which will be updated on the first week of the month.

AE would also like a list of subcommittee members to appear with contact details. It was agreed that the squash and tennis sub committees would need agreement from its members before this happened.

ACTION: MR and JS/RL to check.

CA asked about the number of members who had renewed from those who had joined in the Autumn offer of 2019. PT advised that 20 members had renewed. PT and CA to liaise after the meeting to finalise.

ACTION: PT and CA

AE thanked JS and CA for their assistance in helping with the admin associated with the renewal process.

4. ACCOUNTS

AE reported that there were total cash reserves in the bank of £507,301.67,

PT advised that the funds were still being held by Barclays. A separate account had been opened with Cashplus but it had not been possible to transfer funds to this account. PT had spent some time investigating but during the lockdown, it had not been possible to speak with anyone at the bank when time was available. PT would pursue.

It had been the aim of opening additional accounts but in the past, banks were not willing to open new accounts for business due to them being too busy offering assistance to existing customers during the pandemic.

PT had made applications to HSBC, Metro Bank and Starling but at the time, it had not been possible to continue with the application on line as we did not meet the criteria required. PT had also not been able to confirm that we were willing to transfer all of the business to the new bank as this would defeat the reason for opening a new bank account. One application had been accepted by the TSB but then subsequently rejected and it had not been possible for PT or JG to find out the reasons why.

With restrictions easing, it was possible that Banks would be able to offer new accounts and PT would liaise with AE and make fresh applications.

ACTION: PT & AE

JS also asked if additional committee members could be given access to the bank accounts to ensure that we were covered in the event of staff sickness, to add to JG's access.

ACTION: PT

4. FABRIC UPDATE

IN DB's absence, AE reported that the insurance company had given authority for the barrier system to be replaced at a cost of approximately £6000.00 plus vat. The new barrier was a similar system to before but far more robust with newer technology. The entrance to the car park would also be re-tarmacked and he had given authority for this work to go ahead. This would provide a safe pathway for pedestrians.

5. SQUASH UPDATE

MR reported that Squash is now the most open it has been since the pandemic had started. It was hoped to restart the leagues on 7th July but the Avon Squash AGM was abandoned after 15 minutes as there was not a quorum in attendance.

Club Play had re-opened. MR was waiting for an RFP for the squash contract and AE confirmed this has been written but needed checking. This will be with both Squash and Tennis secretaries by the end of next week.

Heaters have been installed in courts 2 and 3 and would be tested by DB and PT.

6. TENNIS UPDATE

- New Astro courts have received very good feedback
- Maintenance plans being reviewed for both Astro and Clay, including potential rejuvenation for Clay and more sand going on courts this weekend hopefully
- Tennis programs all going well, e.g. Mixer, Team training, Improvers
- Championships (Tournament) now underway with sign up started.
- Floodlight issues have been sorted

JF reported that the planning permission for the additional flood lighting on courts 8, 9 and 10 was still in the balance. He had chased the planning officer who had apologised for being busy and had been waiting for Ecology reports. He would keep the committee informed on progress.

7. CROQUET UPDATE

HG reported that there were 3 new members. It was planned to lift the turf off in the starting corner in the autumn with a view for it to be repaired in time for next spring.

There was a competition starting in the first week of July for the new members.

8. AGM

It was agreed to hold the next AGM in October/November. It may then be possible to have an AGM in April and bring the possibility for Padel courts to members' attention.

A discussion took place regarding who could vote on a resolution? Only 'full' members can vote but it was agreed to get clarification on who were 'full members'.

ACTION: JG

12. AOB

CA reported that it was hoped to have a 'Welcome Back Party'. This had been pencilled in for the beginning of July but was now delayed because of the Covid restrictions. When it takes place, there will

be various tournaments with a beer/wine, burger with live music.

MR asked about the potential additional rebate for members who did not use the tennis facilities. JG confirmed that having taken an action last time, discussed with a number of members, he had not come up with a proposal that he felt would be acceptable to the membership and had therefore not yet completed that action.

It was suggested that we look at any other multi-user clubs to see what they did?

JF advised that we had to be fair to everyone that is affected. He suggested that for a period of time once restrictions were lifted, could a significant discount on food and drink be offered over the bar? This was debated, but the committee were reminded that we were, if possible, looking for a rebate for that sub-set of members who didn't make use of the tennis playing facilities.

The action to look for such a rebate remained open.

ACTION: JG

JF asked if there had been any progress on including table tennis in the booking system. AE confirmed that it could be part of the future development. JF wanted to promote the new facility and he would liaise with PT with regards to putting something in the newsletter. CA suggested that table tennis could be included in the social event.

PT brought up the matter of the Club Accountant. AE advised the committee that John Fuller was stepping down as he was retiring and that we need to look for another accountant. He would contact Mike Purcell to see if he was interested.

JF asked about the honorary membership discussed previously - JG confirmed that it had been positively received and reminded all that an honorary membership must be approved at an AGM.

13. NEXT MEETING

This would take place on Thursday, 19th August at 7.00 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.30 pm

Membership Figures

