

# The Parklangley Club: Tennis Committee

## Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022

### Present

Alan Lynch, Matt Dagwell, Jamie Harper, Susie Reeves, Christine Harris, Jeremy Tagg, Jan Moncrieff, Nick Nichol and Julie Fox.

Also Present Mick Profitt and Jackie Bance.

### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Sandra Webster; Dave Ash and Dave Cooke.

### 2. Minutes of last Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to a couple of minor typographical errors, minute 10 being amended to read:

### 3. Matters Arising

Approval of the Management Committee was still awaited for the upgrading of the floodlights and no further progress had been made with the squash courts or the quiet bar. The sub-group that had been set up to look at block bookings for the indoor courts had met and it had been agreed that the arrangements for the current year remained unchanged. If any slots became vacant bookings would be allowed. It had been recommended that the views of members be obtained and that this be done via Survey Monkey with a view to discussing the results at a future meeting.

### 4. Club and Grounds Update

Mick Profitt attended the meeting to discuss the grass courts and raise his concerns about their continued use warning that they would wear out if urgent action was not taken. The condition of the grass courts had been excellent during the summer, but after only two months, due to the excessive use, they had shown signs of wear with Courts 1 and 6 being the major problem. Pre-covid he had had total control over the use of the grass courts and, in consultation with Peter Stotesbury had been allowed to take out and rest courts. It was agreed that in order to ensure the quality of the grass courts going forward action was required. There had also been an increased number of teams playing matches on the grass courts and the booking system had led to more constant use. It was agreed that the booking of grass courts would be discontinued in 2023.

It was noted that a number of the men's teams had indicated that they would be happy, and prefer, to play their summer fixtures on clay and it was agreed that consideration be given to asking teams at the start of the season to indicate their preferred surface. Mick Profitt stated that if one day a week there was no play until mid-afternoon this would enable him to have a maintenance day and in the lead up to finals day he needed the ability to rest the show courts. He also proposed that the start time for play on the grass courts during the week be staggered through the summer – midday in May; 11am from June onwards and 11am at weekends. It was proposed that play ended on the grass courts at dusk, matches would begin at 11am and the grass court season would end on 18<sup>th</sup> September to allow maximum time for work over the winter. It was agreed that he liaise with Dave Cooke to see how his suggestions might be implemented for 2023. The Committee agreed that, once the revisions had been agreed, improved signage would be required to confirm exactly what was allowed. It was agreed that service practice on the courts also caused excessive wear and the Chairman agreed to discuss the matter with Dave Cooke.

### 5. Court allocation and usage

Matt Dagwell reported that the coaches were seeking extra time at Old Dunstonians which the Committee was not minded to support. The Committee agreed not to allow the coaching programme an additional court at Old Dunstonians on a Wednesday evening for the current performance squad to allow Members access to the one court. It was agreed that the situation regarding the lease on Old Dunstonians be clarified with Dave Cooke and

shared with the Committee. Men's coaching had requested an additional court for their sessions on a Tuesday evening. It was agreed that this be agreed and the team training moved from Park Langely to Old Dunstonians from 7:30 to 9pm. The adult coaching that was currently at Old Dunstonians would move to Courts A and B.

#### 6. Club Finals Day Review

The Chairman reported that overall the Club Finals Day had gone well and he thanked Susie Reeves and the team for all their efforts to make the event a success. There were some lessons to be learnt, particularly in relation to the Pimms tent, payment and food ordering, service and remaining open later into the evening and serving food for longer. It had the potential to be an excellent event and it was slowly developing.

#### 7. Coaching

There was no report.

#### 8. Improvers

Jeremy Tagg reported that all was going well with the improvers and that he was hoping to be played up shortly. Unfortunately no-one wanted to take over his role representing the group which was a pity.

#### 9. Club Juniors

Matt Dagwell reported that the proposed junior club sessions would be for juniors from age 13 and the top band of the coaching programme. He had produced a survey to gauge the interest and a targeted e-mail had been sent out and the response was awaited. The sessions would be held on the third Sunday of the month, starting at 3.30pm. He reported that there were currently six junior teams and they had all won their divisions which was an excellent result. He also hoped to restart a newsletter to promote the junior club and publicise their achievements. The trophies were currently in a box in the plant room, but it was agreed they needed to be displayed. Members were invited to come up with some ideas for consideration at the next meeting.

#### 10. Club Sessions

Jamie Harper reported that club sessions had been well attended with 36 people attending the session on Saturday. Despite repairing the nets on a regular basis, the foxes continued to make holes in them and it was an ongoing battle. It was agreed that Dave Cooke be reminded to look into providing netting around the grass courts at ground level to prevent the balls going into the hedges. Jamie Harper reported that he had been on the Committee for 21 years and he was standing down to allow others to come forward. He was thanked by the Chairman for all his work over the years and particularly in supporting him as Chairman. His contribution would be greatly missed and someone would need to take over his role.

#### 11. Teams

Sandra Webster had produced a report which Jacqui Bance presented. The summer season had almost finished and the Committee congratulated Gordon Hayward and his midweek over 70s team who had not only won their division but had done so with the loss of only one rubber. At the last meeting permission had been given for some performance juniors to receive coaching on the grass for the Frinton tournament and feedback was sought on how they had done and whether the experience of grass court coaching had helped them. Matt Dagwell was requested to follow this up.

Discussions had been held regarding the inclusion of juniors in the club teams, but it was important that a parental permission document was introduced to protect all those involved as currently captains played and transported juniors at their own risk. Julie Fox reported that they had a form that was used by her church that could be adapted and agreed to obtain a copy.

Following her family tragedy, Sandra had thanked everyone for their overwhelming support and the kindness that had been shown by so many members and the staff at the Club and from other clubs.

#### 12. Social Events

Jan Moncrieff reported that the Christmas Tennis event would be held on 10<sup>th</sup> December and she hoped it would be well supported. In future staff members Emily and Ashley would be responsible for all events at the Club.

### 13. Worsley Bridge Road

The Chairman reported that the Club had been approached regarding the possibility of taking over and running the courts that were planned in Worsley Bridge Road. It was noted that the planning application had been refused. *[Christine Harris declared an interest in the item and took no part in the discussions nor voted thereon.]*

### 14. Any Other Business

The provision of a bin on Court B was discussed and the Chairman agreed to raise this with Dave Cooke.

Concern was expressed at the number of people who were continuing to take glasses onto the courts. The Club was looking into the possibility of using alternatives to plastic cups and in the interim it was agreed that a reminder e-mail be sent out to all members.

The issue of a member wearing a vest when playing was discussed and it was agreed that although it was not ideal, he was not breaking any rules.

During Club sessions Members had been asked to move when there were multiple free courts available. It was agreed that Club sessions should have priority, but if people were asked to move it was important that this was handled politely and sensitively.

The Chairman said that he would approach a member to see if they would be happy to be co-opted onto the Committee with responsibility for Club Sessions.

It was reported that currently the three courts at Old Dunstonians were regularly booked on a Sunday morning between 7am and 10am with the individual concerned inviting his friends and family to play who were not members, thus preventing others from booking them. The Chairman agreed to raise the matter with Dave Cooke as it needed to be addressed. Nick Nichol agreed to go down to the courts on a Sunday to obtain the evidence that this was happening.

### 15. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm at the Club. *[Subsequently amended to Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October.]*