

The Parklangley Club: Tennis Committee

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 30th May 2022

Present

Alan Lynch, Matt Dagwell, Jamie Harper, Dave Cooke, Susie Reeves, Christine Harris, Sandra Webster and Nick Nichol.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Jeremy Tagg and Julie Fox.

2. Minutes of last Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 28th March 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising

It was noted that buddy hitting/coaching had been resumed by two players and this would now be progressed to disciplinary action.

4. Club and Grounds Update

Dave Cooke's report on off site courts was discussed.

On site, all the courts had now been de-compacted and the tennis nets and posts were being replaced. New drag nets had also been purchased, although a further one was needed, hooks had been installed and signs would be put up shortly. Dave Cooke agreed to send out a reminder email to members re dragging the courts after use, including a diagram together with the reason for sweeping in a circular/square pattern. The car park, bays had been remarked and numbered, which was required by the Council and so far there had been less stopping in cross hatched areas. Trevor May would also be adding a "skirt" to the bottom of the grass court fencing and it was noted that some of the fencing would need renewing very soon. The Club was still trying to secure planning permission to change the floodlights on the courts to LED. Courts G and H, the oldest, were showing signs of wear and would need to be replaced, but in the meantime Tim Freeman from Trevor May would review the lines to see if they could be improved. The shelter by courts C, D and E would also be replaced when a suitable alternative had been sourced. Members commented that only the green handled line cleaners maintained by Tony Reeve were effective. It was suggested that line brushes were tried instead and Dave Cooke agreed to source a couple to try on courts G and H. It was also noted that the new extension to the gym would only cover the footprint of marquee that was currently there.

Squash Courts and the Quiet Bar - these were under review, particularly the Quiet Bar which would adversely affect courts G and H during the building works and place the whole seating area into shade as it would overhang the pathway. Costs for the proposed works were awaited from the QS and the architects but even if these were approved by the Management Committee approval at either an EGM or an AGM would be needed, as the capital costs would require member approval.

5. Court allocation and usage

Nick Nicol expressed concern that there had been smashed glasses on the courts recently and he requested that an email be sent to offenders with repeat offences incurring penalties. Similarly with players failing to cancel courts, or booking both clay and grass courts and only releasing them at the time of play, thereby preventing other members from securing a court. It was acknowledged that this was very difficult to police.

6. Coaching

There was no report.

7. Improvers

Jeremy Tagg was not present at the meeting, but had emailed to confirm that all was going well and that there had been a good turnout of improvers for Ukraine tournament.

8. Club Juniors - adult/junior tournament

Matt Dagwell reported that the Junior Club run by Kai was going very well and the feedback had been positive. Susie Reeves suggested that one Sunday a month, the Junior Club start earlier and mix in with full club. This had been discussed with Kai who would be happy to run it. A junior would be paired with an adult to play a short set and then rotate and parents would need to be present. It was also agreed to let Bella Basson join club sessions on Sundays and Thursday evenings, together with any other juniors who played in the adult teams.

Allowing grass court coaching for the Frinton Tournament had been well received. Matt Dagwell requested permission for further coaching on Grade 3 events. There was one planned in August which was possible, but when more had been requested Sandra Webster pointed out that adults who entered tour events would also seek coaching on grass.

9. Club Sessions

It was noted that the indoor Club Sessions on Friday evenings had been cancelled until 2nd September and Susie Reeves had notified the WhatsApp group.

10. Teams

Sandra Webster reported that everything was going well.

11. Social Events

Dave Cooke reported that, going forward, all social events must go through staff members Emily and Ashleigh, who would be running all Club events, not just for the Tennis Section. An additional member of staff to undertake Graphic Design and Communication was being appointed. Christine Harris requested that the popular 'Day At Races' be re-instated, but Dave Cooke stated that this was really a private event and not a Club event. It was suggested that Christine Harris liaise with Dave re arrangements for next year.

12. Matters Arising from the Tennis AGM

Chris Mackenzie was still requesting a second Over 60's men's team and, after a lengthy debate, a vote was taken (4:3) and a one year trial for winter and a summer season was approved. They were required to use players not currently playing for the over 60's and the arrangements would be reviewed after a year.

The issue of proxy voting was discussed and, after a long debate, a vote was taken (2-5 against) so the status quo would prevail and there would be no proxy voting allowed.

It was agreed that, in an attempt to raise the visibility of the section and encourage engagement, every Wednesday a Committee Member would be in the bar. Alan Lynch offered to start the ball rolling and encouraged others to join a rota.

13. Any Other Business

The question of Neuwid was raised and it was agreed that it was probably too late for this year. Hopefully this would resume next year and Matt Dagwell agreed to speak to his German counterpart and to Dave Wrighton who was on the Twinning Committee and hopefully Parklanglely would send a team out next year.

A sub-committee consisting of Alan Lynch, Nick Nicol and Susie Reeves was set up to look into indoor court usage and block bookings and would report back to a future meeting of the Committee.

Sandra asked whether the Tennis Committee should have been consulted on giving a temporary free membership to the Ukrainian girl staying with a member. It was agreed that this was a management decision and not for the Committee.

Matt Dagwell raised the question of playing Tsonga on the grass courts again maintaining that it did not adversely impact on wear and tear. Previously it had been ruled out not only due to wear and tear, but also because of the impact on adjoining courts, together with the associated noise level. It was agreed that only four players should be allowed on grass courts and that Tsonga continue on clay courts G and H as previously agreed.

Juniors Playing in Teams. It was agreed that this should be encouraged more, particularly in the top teams, and it was suggested that they be included in the team training sessions.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Monday 8th August at 7.30pm at the Club.

Redacted Minute