

The Parklangley Club: Tennis Committee

Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday 26 October 2022

Present

Alan Lynch, Matt Dagwell, Sue Slaney, Dave Cooke, Sandra Webster, Christine Harris, Jeremy Tagg, Nick Nichol and Julie Fox.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Jan Moncrieff; Dave Ash and Susie Reeves.

2. Minutes of last Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 8 August 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Tennis Teams - match courts

Discussions were still ongoing regarding whether matches should be played on courts A&B or G&H. One captain had stated that their team wanted to play on G&H and it had been agreed that if matches could not be accommodated then it would be a democratic vote. The new arrangements would be introduced from the winter season 2023 and it was agreed that the first team would play on G&H and all other teams on A&B. Sandra Webster agreed to liaise with Glenda to progress these arrangements.

5. Club and Grounds

Dave Cooke reported that the club affiliation had been completed. He also confirmed that planning permission had at last been granted to convert the floodlights to LED and this would now be progressed. He advised that there was a new member of staff in the office who would be responsible for marketing going forward. Sandra Webster raised the issue of the problems with the trees on clay court E and Dave Cooke confirmed that this was being looked into. It was noted that the e-mail regarding the sweeping of courts had produced some positive results although the situation was still not ideal. Despite a reminder, glass continued to be issue on the courts together with rubbish and litter and Dave Cooke agreed to send out another e-mail to members.

It was noted that, at the moment, approximately 10-20% of the courts were not being used and court cancellations and no shows continued to be an issue. The Committee discussed the introduction of cancellation/no show fees once a system to record a visit to play and checked in had been found. It was suggested a possible 'no show fee' of £5 be introduced, but that there be no charge for last minute cancellations. This would need to be a Club decision.

Sandra Webster raised the matter again of wind breaks at Old Dunstonians and the lack of containers for tennis balls etc on the courts. Dave Cooke agreed to follow up the provision of the wind breaks and the purchase of a hopper on the courts.

6. Indoor Courts - Block bookings

The Chairman had circulated a draft e-mail to be sent out to all tennis members, together with a short survey, regarding the block booking of indoor courts. It was suggested that a free format space be provided on the questionnaire to allow for any additional comments and that members be given the option to tick more than one option in question 6. It was agreed that the matter would need to be raised and agreed at the AGM and an analysis of the responses presented to the meeting.

7. Improvers

Jeremy Tagg reported that he had played up and would no longer be the Improvers representative and sadly no-one was keen to volunteer. He agreed to continue seeking a possible representative. It was noted that if Greg was not available to provide the coaching it was difficult for other coaches to deputise. Dave Cooke agreed to look into the matter.

8. Club Juniors

Matt Dagwell reported that the juniors had found the training provided on the grass courts to be very helpful and, in consultation with Mick Profitt, it was agreed that the current system would continue. A policy, detailed guidance and a consent form had been provided to support juniors playing in adult teams which would be introduced across all sports. Any complaint would be made directly to the LTA for investigation. He reported that an e-mail had been sent out regarding both an Adult and Junior and a mixed club session, but the response had been poor. He was keen to try and integrate good juniors into Club sessions and would continue to pursue these initiatives. He was also looking into the possibility of an event in spring/summer with development juniors versus club players.

9. Club Sessions

Sue Slaney reported that a few new members had attended recent Club Sessions which was excellent. Unfortunately there had not been a good take up of the Friday Club Session on the indoor courts. It had been agreed that one court would be retained for the rest of the year and the arrangement would then be reviewed.

10. Social Events

Jan Moncrieff had confirmed to the Chairman that the Christmas tennis dinner scheduled 10 December was going ahead. In addition consideration was being given to the possibility of holding a treasure hunt in the spring/summer and an Easter egg hunt.

11. Tennis Section AGM

The Chairman reported that the AGM was planned for either Saturday 22nd April or Saturday 29th April and it would be confirmed in due course.

12. Management Committee

The Committee noted that the Management Committee had approved a Code of Conduct for members and users. It was also noted that two tennis members had been subject to disciplinary action and had been suspended for two months.

13. Any Other Business

It was noted that the times for coaches coaching at Old Dunstonians had not been included in the court allocation schedule. Although individual coaching had not been covered it was agreed that for completeness and transparency it should be added going forward.

There had been a number of complaints about the quality of the food provided for matches which it was felt should be better. Dave Cooke reported that a meeting had been arranged to discuss the matter and he agreed to report back to the Committee.

Following the sad passing of Peter Stotesbury, it had been proposed that a tournament be held in his name at the opening of the grass court season.

14. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that Julie Fox canvass a date for a meeting and Christmas meal.