

## **The Parklangley Club: Tennis Committee**

### **Unadopted Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September**

#### Present

Nick Nicol, Sue Marais, Susie Reeves, Sue Slaney, Jeremy Tagg, Sandra Webster, Matt Dagwell, Christine Harris, Julie Fox and Dave Cooke.

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

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#### 2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair. It was agreed that the unadopted minutes would be approved by the Chair and uploaded onto the website prior to approval and signing at the next meeting.

#### 3. Matters Arising

It was noted that the upgrade to the fencing skirt was outstanding and had still to be addressed. Once the works to the courts had been completed a meeting to identify and address any outstanding site issues had been planned.

The issue of inappropriate behaviour was being tackled and changes to party policies to reduce the numbers on site had been introduced. Work was in hand to recruit a warden on a zero hours contract to work primarily on Thursdays, Fridays and some weekends but no suitable candidates that met the person specification had been identified. Some complaints had been received about the policy apparently only applying to non-members associated with the Friday dance class which was not the case. Only members and their guests could now purchase alcohol in the bar with other users able to buy soft drinks, food etc. The use of the balcony was raised and Dave Cooke confirmed that its use by members and guests was not a fire risk. He agreed to remove the reference to the balcony as a feature on party literature but it was inevitable that it would be used to observe play on courts G&H.

Concern was expressed about children misbehaving particularly over weekends with significant noise levels associated with party bookings. It was important that the use of the Club's facilities were effectively managed to ensure they were available to all users. It was agreed that the Chair would work with Dave Cooke to produce appropriately sized signage on A boards together with investigating the possibility of introducing digital signage.

#### 4. Advanced Doubles Club Session

Following recent discussions, it was proposed that an Advanced Doubles Club Session be trialed at Old Dunstonians on a Sunday morning during the autumn and spring season which was agreed. It was noted that there were a number of Club matches at this time which would potentially affect attendance and the Chair agreed to report back on its operation. The site was in a poor state and Dave Cooke agreed to look into improving the seating and parking arrangements and generally improve the overall tidiness.

#### 5. Proposed National League Seniors Team for 2024

It was proposed that the Club consider entering one or two teams in the National League Seniors tournament in 2024. This was a Grade 4 tournament open to vets only running from April to November. It was a knock-out tournament played home or away with the Club providing two courts for a home fixture. The demand for court space was unlikely to be heavy during the busy summer period as the teams could be drawn to play away. It represented a great opportunity for vets to test themselves against other clubs with the teams comprising county and nationally ranked players. The tournament winner was then selected to play in the European Inter-

Club Championships. It was agreed that the Club enter a Senior Mixed team and a Women's Doubles W50 team and Members be invited to put themselves forward to play in the teams.

#### 6. Club of the Year nomination

The Club had been contacted by the North Kent Lawn Tennis Association regarding submitting a nomination for the award of Club of the Year. Historically the process had been mainly administrative but, going forward, clubs would be invited to submit their responses to five questions concerning club status, development and compliance in line with the published L.T.A. guidelines. The responses would be assessed by a sub-committee of North Kent Council members, and the result announced at the North Kent Annual Presentation Evening. It was agreed that it needed to be a whole Club effort and a small sub-committee comprising Dave Cooke, Matt Dagwell, Christine Harris and Susie Reeves would work on the submission.

#### 7. Club and Grounds Updates

Dave Cooke confirmed that the carpet for courts G&H had been delivered earlier in the day and would be rolled out tomorrow. Although work had been delayed by a week it had progressed well and it was hoped that they would be open by the weekend. No extra drainage had been required and, as the carpet was 17 years old, it was agreed it had performed well. The current court sweepers were very heavy and were pulling the clay off the court surface and Dave Cooke agreed to look into providing alternative sweepers. It was proposed to install Wingfield, which was already used on the indoor courts, on court G with a further training session and information being offered for Members on its use. It was noted that some play on the adjacent court might be observed and it was agreed that Members needed to be advised that there was some filming on site.

Dave Cooke reported that there had been significant works in the office which had caused some disruption. Work to the squash courts would be started later in the week and when work was undertaken on court 4 there would be some disruption to the indoor courts. It was also hoped that it would be possible to dampen some of the noise. A new, purpose built strength and conditioning area was being created at the rear of the gym and Dave Cooke agreed to investigate access.

#### 8. Club Teams

It was noted that the teams had performed well and all the captains had agreed to continue for the winter season. The Safeguarding Policy had been progressed and currently there was no reference to safeguarding in the regulations and it was agreed that it needed to be included. It was reported that the Kent Rules stated that if floodlights were available to enable teams to complete matches and they were not used, the team would forfeit the match. Dave Cooke agreed to look into allowing teams to complete their matches on clay with floodlights at no cost to the players.

#### 9. Court Allocation

It was noted that all major decisions relating to court allocation were dealt with by the Committee and then discussed. The role was very small and it was agreed that it would not be a position going forward.

#### 10. Club Sessions

Sue Slaney confirmed that, having reviewed the sheets recording attendance at Club sessions, numbers had improved and it was thought that this might be partly due to the better weather. She also proposed that the marshal role be reviewed going forward. It was noted that from the following week Club sessions would begin at 1pm.

#### 11. Improvers

Sue Marais reported that the recent tournament had been successful with approximately 20 attending and she was considering running another one, possibly over half term. There had however been a number of complaints about paying for the event and Dave Cooke suggested that he would investigate offering a special meal deal for those attending. The Committee also discussed the Sunday afternoon sessions for improvers

and club players that had previously been run indoors. It had been very popular and might encourage those who had recently played up to attend. The catering at the Club had been suffering recently and it was hoped that Members might support it whenever possible.

#### 12. Juniors

Matt Dagwell provided a brief update on the continued excellent performance of the Club's Juniors. He confirmed that there had been some delay in introducing Tsonga, but it was being progressed. He was planning to introduce a Sunday social for junior members and was also arranging to survey the parents of players to see if there was an appetite to arrange a session on courts A&B.

#### 13. Communications

Jeremy Tagg reported that it was proposed to produce an on line newsletter three times a year containing details of the juniors, notices, team achievements etc together with a small number of hard copies. Dave Cooke confirmed that, in the light of Emily's departure, a review of communications and marketing was being undertaken including the website. Members' questions, requests and complaints were being regularly monitored and answers provided and issues addressed.

#### 14. Tennis Christmas Event

It was noted that the Christmas Event would be held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December which Jan Moncrieff and Ashley had agreed to organise.

#### 15. Any Other Business

It was recommended that safeguarding be included as a standing agenda item for every meeting. Dave Cooke stated that the Club currently had three welfare officers and he would be contacting Members to see if anyone might be keen to join the team. Every effort was being made to try and make the Club greener and with regard to the use of the floodlights it was recommended that the last person off the court advise reception and the duty managers would also check the courts.

The issue of ongoing antisocial behavior at Old Dunstonians was raised and everyone was requested to advise the police and the Club office if it was witnessed. To address these problems Old Dunstonians were looking at the possibility of installing CCTV cameras, but it was agreed that occupancy was the most effective deterrent.

Matt Dagwell stated that the Club was looking at the possibility of re-instating the tennis tournament next year with Bromley's twin town in Germany – Neuwied and the Club would travel out to play in Germany. He had agreed to organise the event and asked for expressions of interest.

#### 16. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December together with a Christmas meal.