

**The Parklangley Club: Tennis Committee**  
**Unadopted Minutes of meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Present

Nick Nicol, Susie Reeves, Jeremy Tagg, Sandra Webster, Matt Dagwell, Julie Fox and Dave Cooke.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Sue Marais, Sue Slaney and Christine Harris.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters Arising

Dave Cooke confirmed that approval had been given to allowing teams to complete their matches on clay with floodlights at no cost to the players and this had been introduced.

4. Club and Grounds Update

Dave Cooke reported that the trees had been pruned surrounding the clay courts and courts C, D and E had all been top dressed. The tarmac court had been treated for moss and new signs had been produced prompting players to drag clay courts after use. Signs were also being produced to remind hirers of the expected behavior when hosting/attending parties at the Club. Members were being encouraged not to put chairs on the courts, but this was largely due to the benches being broken. Dave Cooke confirmed that the provision of new furniture was being investigated together with the provision of new shelters.

5. Club Teams

Sandra Webster reported that it was mid-season and the focus was on trying to ensure all matches had been played. It was agreed that if it was not raining at the start of a match there was an expectation that the match would be played. Every effort had been made to be flexible to address any backlog of matches caused by inclement weather and all players were thanked for being accommodating.

6. Safeguarding

Matt Dagwell reported that there was nothing further to update. The parental consent form was in place and available on the website. Sandra Webster confirmed that parents seemed to be happy to take juniors to play in away matches and to be available at the Club for home fixtures.

7. Club Sessions – Review of Advanced Doubles Club Session

The Chair reported that the Advanced Doubles Club Sessions had not proved to be very successful and it was suggested that this might be due to it being the winter season. There had been a maximum of six players, often less, with no one attending the mid-morning session. It was noted that some people had been boycotting the session because they did not agree with it. The group was keen to play at Park Langley rather than at Old Dunstonians and, following discussion, it was agreed that they could move on a temporary basis to courts C&D on a Friday evening from 7pm until late until the end of March. It was agreed that the court bookings on a Sunday at Old Dunstonians be released immediately and the situation would be reviewed in March.

8. Improvers

It was noted that fewer than eight people were joining the Improvers' sessions on a Friday evening and Sue Marais had tried to contact all members to ascertain why this was the case. A number were not happy with fewer courts being allocated for play, which had been reduced due to numbers attending and the fact that the coach was no longer keen to work on a Friday evening. Dave Cooke had agreed to see if another coach might be happy to take on the coaching with a view to re-introducing it in the spring although numbers attending would need to increase to make it viable. A number of the members were unhappy and communications

continued to be an issue. Sue had agreed to take soundings from the improver members to identify what they wanted going forward.

#### 9. Juniors

Matt Dagwell confirmed that there was little to report on the juniors as the tournament season was slowing down. He advised that plans for the junior tsonga social session had still to be finalised which, due to his work pressures, had been delayed. It was hoped that it would begin in the New Year.

He reported that a communication would be sent out from the Club's new marketing office in the New Year regarding the proposed trip to TC Neuwied in September 2024. This trip traditionally had always been open to all playing members at the Club and it was intended that this would continue to be the case.

#### 10. Communications

Jeremy Tagg reported that the newsletter had been well received and he was thanked for producing it. It was proposed that a few copies be printed out and placed on reception. He confirmed that he would be working with Chloe in the spring on the next issue. Obtaining content was always an issue and members were encouraged to provide copy and photographs. There had been some issues with receipt of the newsletter by a few members which had been an ongoing problem with e-mail communications.

#### 11. Tennis AGM 2024

The Chair reported that the Tennis AGM would be held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 5pm.

#### 12. Any Other Business

It was noted that the numbers attending Club sessions were down and it was suggested that, in order to reduce wasted electricity, the number of courts be reduced. It was agreed that the four courts on a Tuesday evening Club session be reduced to three until March 2024. In addition some members were opting to play singles rather than join in Club sessions, but it was confirmed that the doubles sessions took priority. It was proposed that there be no Improvers Sessions on a Sunday night and the Chair agreed to discuss this with Sue Marais. Harry Bushnell had notified the Chair that the Mark Ruffles' coaching group on Tuesday from 11.30 to 1pm would be reduced to one court and any courts that were freed up by these arrangements would be available for members to book. Dave Cooke confirmed that monitoring of lights for all sessions had been introduced with inspections at 9pm and if courts were not in use the lights would be turned off.

Dave Cooke confirmed that, as in previous years, members booking indoor courts over the Christmas period would be offered a cheaper rate and an e-mail would be sent out to all members to advise them of the arrangements. It was noted that tinsel day had raised £1,700 for charity which was an excellent result and everyone was thanked for their support. He also confirmed that discussions with Old Dunstonians were progressing well and once any information was available it would be shared with the Committee.

#### 13. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Monday 4<sup>h</sup> March 2024 at 7:30pm.