

## Steep Lawn Tennis Club

### Minutes of the Committee meeting held on Wednesday 3 March 2021 at 7.00pm by Skype

Item	Present	Action
	Matt Trench (MT) Carol Norris (CN) Michele Mangham (MM) Christine Lally (CL) Christine Musker (CM) Jennie Azevedo Lesley Whyte (LW)  Dave Gaterell (DG)	Chair Club Secretary Membership Secretary Treasurer Joint Welfare Officer Joint Social Secretary Joint Social Secretary and Joint Welfare Officer Club Coach
<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies for absence</b>	
	Apologies for absence were received from David Panton (DP).	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of Committee meeting of 12 January 2021</b>	
	The minutes of the Committee meeting of 12 January 2021 were approved having previously been circulated by email. To be signed at a later date	CN/MT
<b>3.</b>	<b>Matters arising</b>	
	Actions completed since the previous meeting are noted on the addendum to these minutes. Urgent outstanding actions are addressed as agenda items in these minutes.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Membership renewal and subscriptions for 2021</b>	
	<p>Those present considered whether to make any further adjustment to the proposed subscription for the coming year. It was recognised that the Club will have been closed for nearly 6 months of the current Club year by the time lockdown ends on 29<sup>th</sup> March and members have not had use of the Club for that time.</p> <p>CL said that she had reviewed the Club's expenses since 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 and compared them to the previous year and these were almost identical.</p> <p>MM said that she estimated that the cost of the already promised rebate would be £5,000.</p> <p>It was agreed not to give any further rebate on the grounds that:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the running costs of the Club are the same whether closed or not;</li> <li>there is a planned programme of improvements to the Club which will benefit members in the future, and a reduction in subscriptions would adversely affect our ability to see these through.</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that this would be communicated in the Membership renewal request.</p> <p>It was agreed to give a deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> April for payment after which date a late payment fee of £30 would apply.</p> <p>MM said that she planned to start the Membership renewal process soon with the aim of sending the email by mid March.</p> <p>It was noted that the code for the clubhouse and courts would be changed after 15<sup>th</sup> April.</p>	MM MM
<b>5.</b>	<b>2020 AGM</b>	
	The email sent to members on 14 February 2021 deferring the AGM until further notice was noted. No feedback from members was reported.	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Court maintenance and lighting</b>	
	<p><b>Sub committee on maintenance</b> MT said that he would like to meet with DP at the Club to discuss the way forward on a number of matters including; the soakaway, access and gate to courts 7&amp;8, the kerb and slope by court 3, car park gravel and ambient lighting. It was agreed to convene a sub committee of MT, DP, DG and CN to meet as soon as possible. CN agreed to arrange the meeting.</p> <p>MT offered to donate the materials necessary for the soakaway.</p> <p><b>Lighting on 7&amp;8</b> MT advised that the lighting assessment is complete and will be circulated to the Committee. MT said that the assessment shows that the extra lighting will not adversely affect the overall light spill from the Club.</p> <p>MT said that the application is ready to be submitted once the lighting consultant has received a written statement from the Club justifying the application. MT agreed to draft this. In support of the statement MM agreed to provide membership numbers and LW details of social mix in numbers (from the track and trace register) over the last year.</p> <p>It was agreed to target submission to the planning department by 10<sup>th</sup> March.</p> <p>MM said that a member who lives close by has offered to write a letter of support when it is submitted. MM agreed to notify the member when the application is made.</p>	CN MT MT MM/ LW MT MM

	<p><b>Court painting</b> With reference to DP's email of 23 February 2021 giving options for the colour scheme for courts 1&amp;2 and 7&amp;8; it was agreed to stick to the green on green scheme already used on the hard courts. CN to report to DP and ask that MM is informed when Housdens are booked in for the repainting.</p>	CN/DP
<b>7.</b>	<b>Club re-opening</b>	
	<p>The government's announcement of 22 February 2021 permitting outdoor tennis to resume from 29 March 2021 and the latest LTA advice dated 2 March, outlining permitted activity were noted.</p> <p>The restriction on social tennis to groups of 6, unless formal organised play, was discussed. It was agreed that, in line with the decision made following the November lockdown, mix- in would be delayed until 17<sup>th</sup> May when it is expected that restrictions will ease further. Organised match practice can resume provided team captains take responsibility for ensuring the rule of 6 is observed.</p> <p>It was noted that competitions are permitted and CN agreed to contact Matt Fernandez to see if he is still willing to run the Club tournament.</p> <p>It was noted that use of toilets is still subject to confirmation; DG said that he is running camps at Easter on the basis that they may be closed.</p> <p>CN agreed to draft a welcome back email. It was agreed not to mention no show court bookings at present.</p> <p>LW and JA agreed to consider a programme of possible social events for when lockdown eases, it was agreed that club teas would be able to restart from Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.</p>	<p>CN</p> <p>CN</p> <p>LW/JA</p>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Review of court usage (standing item)</b>	
	No action as the club has been closed since the last meeting.	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Officers' reports</b>	
	<p>Updates from the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership, Social, Tournaments, Grounds, Fixtures, Welfare and Website Officers and the Club Coach were received on items not already covered.</p> <p><b>Chairman:</b> nothing further to report.</p> <p><b>Secretary:</b> nothing further to report.</p> <p><b>Treasurer:</b> nothing further to report.</p> <p><b>Membership:</b> MM reported that she has had two enquiries.</p> <p><b>Social:</b> nothing further to report</p>	

<p><b>Grounds:</b> CN on behalf of DP reported that bulbs have now been replaced on 4 courts. However the electrician had advised that the lights are becoming obsolete and parts are becoming harder to source. He suggested that the Club plan for a gradual replacement. It was agreed that this should be on the agenda for the next meeting. MT said that he had a list of potential contractors for 7&amp;8 and he would ask for a price for all courts.</p> <p><b>Fixtures:</b> MM advised that the summer league should start mid- April - DM is waiting for dates for the matches. The teams will be in the same position as last year.</p> <p><b>Welfare:</b> nothing to report.</p> <p><b>Website:</b> Noted that the request for a social media secretary hasn't raised any response. CN and MT to try possible candidates</p> <p><b>Club Coach:</b> DG reported as follows:</p> <p>Term time groups to resume after Easter. Government limits on group sizes won't affect us, as we have a lower limit for quality anyway. All players have been contacted, and the majority have responded in the positive.</p> <p>Private lessons available from March 29th - I anticipate good demand again once we resume.</p> <p>Easter camps are nearly fully booked. The number limits do restrict us slightly.</p> <p>LTA Team Tennis has been entered. The commitment from players has been less than usual for obvious reasons. However I have entered 2 men's teams again. Even if we end up failing to field a team at some point, I want as many of the players of the right level to be able to have the opportunity to play. A few of our juniors are eligible and strong enough as well. I have also entered a 14/U boys team, that being the demographic that showed the greatest interest when asked.</p> <p>I will shortly enter the Road to Wimbledon event. The deadline is later this month. I'm waiting to see what interest there is beforehand, as that will determine how many certificates and freebies they organisers send me, and whether or not we can enter a girls event at all.</p> <p>The singles league has resumed, and all players have been contacted and informed of an extension until the end of May to complete their matches.</p> <p>I'll be taking the County 12/U boys team to the county cup qualifying event after Easter. Indoor competition should be allowed then. If we qualify, the main event is on a weekend in May.</p> <p>The County are hoping to stage county training at more varied locations in future, including outdoor venues. I agreed to ask the Steep committee if we could host some trainings, at days and times (like Sunday afternoons) that don't clash with</p>	<p>CN MT</p> <p>CN/MT</p>
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<p>events here, like team tennis/club tournaments. It would be a good opportunity to forge a better relationship with Hampshire Tennis (which is a separate entity from the LTA itself), as well as an opportunity for our young juniors to observe county level training. Having the two clay courts also makes us a desirable location.</p> <p>I propose to the committee, that we offer 2-4 courts, free of charge for a few hours on a Sunday afternoon, 2-3 times during the warmer months on appropriate dates for this purpose. Potential income from charging for court time is peanuts, but fostering the goodwill and improving the club's profile within the county in general can only be a good thing.</p> <p>It's also likely I would be running some of these sessions myself anyway, depending on the age group.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to consider this request.</p> <p>Finally, I'm looking at ways to provide a transparent, logical pathway for our members to get involved in our club teams, including some coach-led team practices. At the moment, I feel it is a mess, with teams consisting of friends, practices 'coached' by other team players, and no clear hierarchy for captains to use to pick teams (the upcoming launch of the ITF World Tennis Number should help with that, which includes doubles matches - you may recall I sent you all some info and a link about the WTN a while ago).</p> <p>Some team players and captains have historically, and presently, been reluctant to involve the coaching team. On the other hand, I've also had frustrated requests from some players to step in and run some practices, even if it's just those few that want it. This is a poor idea, as teams, by definition, need to work together.</p> <p>With so many teams, it is also impossible to provide regular team practices for all involved fairly.</p> <p>Initially, I propose that the club pay for some coach led team sessions, to run through the British Doubles System basics, so that any player can confidently partner any other player in their team, and to ensure that all players are on the same page regarding their role. It's quite simple stuff, that should help with the main issues.</p> <p>I can arrange appropriate times with captains, and I suggest that each team have a training session twice a year (once each season). I will simply charge the club my hourly private lesson fee (significantly less than a team-sized group would generate). This keeps the cost down for the club, makes it worthwhile for myself/ Joe, and eliminates the reluctance of some many of our team players who don't think they should have to pay for anything. If any team desires more than that, it can be arranged, at a cost to the players. 2 sessions per year, per team, paid for by the club is adequate support in my view.</p> <p>The junior teams are made up of players who attend coaching anyway, and so they are well versed and practise regularly with each other and with the coaching</p>	<p>All</p>
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	staff - so there is currently no need for additional junior team practices.  The Committee asked DG to submit a separate proposal so that they could consider further.	DG
<b>10.</b>	<b>Date of next meeting: 18 May 2021</b>	
<b>11.</b>	<b>Any other business:</b> none declared	

#### **Actions completed since the last meeting**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Status</b>
AGM: draft joint statement from the committee including proposed improvements	CN	Completed
notify the auditor that the Accounts have been approved and can be finalised.	CL	completed
chase up lighting consultant for final application	MT	chased
Instagram account to promote communications. has been set up and is ready for release. It was agreed to hold release until the Club re-opens and we can start with positive news.	MT	Request has gone out for a social media secretary 22/1/21
Defer start date for new members who joined at the beginning of January until the club re-opens.	MM	completed
Hedge cutting	DP	completed