

Steep Lawn Tennis Club

**Minutes of the Committee meeting held on
Wednesday 26 January 2022 at 7.00pm
by Skype**

item	Present	Action
	Matt Trench (MT) Carol Norris (CN) Michele Mangham (MM) Christine Lally (CL) Lesley Whyte (LW) Jennie Azevedo (JA)	Chair Club Secretary Membership Secretary Treasurer Joint Welfare Officer and joint Social Secretary Joint Social Secretary (Item 9 onwards)
1.	Apologies for absence	
	Apologies for absence were received from David Panton (DP), Christine Musker (CM) and Dave Gaterell (DG). CN noted that the meeting was not quorate until JA joined the meeting.	
2.	Minutes of Committee meeting of 16 November 2021 and AGM of 25 November 2021	
	The minutes of the Committee meeting of 16 November 2021 and AGM of 25 November 2021 were approved having previously been circulated by email. To be signed at the next meeting.	CN/MT
3.	Matters arising	
	To note the updated action list circulated on 11 January 2022 was noted. CN agreed to chase outstanding actions with each individual.	CN
4.	Court lighting and maintenance	
	<p>Court lighting</p> <p>MT gave an update on the planning application for lighting on courts 7 & 8. He said that he has had no response to emails since November and will now phone the planning department with a view to getting a response within the next couple of weeks.</p> <p>It was agreed that no action would be taken on replacement lighting on courts 1&2 until the planning issue is resolved for 7&8.</p> <p>MT said that he has had one quote for the new and replacement lighting but given</p>	MT

	<p>the sums involved would like to get at least two other comparative quotes. MT to speak to DP to see if he has received a formal quote. (Post meeting CN forwarded DP's email of 25th October 2021 to MT.)</p> <p>Path lighting It was noted that the path lights are not working at the moment. MT said that this might be due to a failed sensor or fuse. MT agreed to get his electrician to look at this in the next two weeks and liaise with DP.</p> <p>Flaunching between courts 2 and 3 It was noted that the repair done by the groundsman appears to be holding up well and agreed that no further action is needed at the moment.</p> <p>Sinkhole by court 7 MT agreed to get his team to look at this within the next week.</p> <p>Leaves on courts DP to ask the groundsman to use the leaf blower to clear the courts.</p> <p>Groundsman's rate CL put forward a request that the club increases the groundsman's rate of pay to £20 per hour. CL confirmed that this is comparable to the rate paid to Charles TS and included petrol and supply of equipment. All agreed that the grounds are being well cared for and agreed to the increase.</p>	<p>MT</p> <p>MT</p> <p>MT</p> <p>DP</p>
5.	Membership renewal	
	MM confirmed that she will send renewal letter at least two weeks in advance of the renewal date of 1 st April. It was agreed to give a two week period of grace until 15 th April. Any renewal payments received after this date will be considered late.	MM
6.	EGM	
	<p>Arrangements for the EGM which was announced at the AGM were discussed.</p> <p>CN said that there are a number of inconsistencies in the Club's Constitution which it would be useful to address in addition to the voting arrangements. It was agreed to form a sub committee to review the Constitution and identify all changes which the Committee wish to put forward. CN, CL and MM agreed to sit on the sub committee.</p> <p>It was also agreed that, given the current situation, there was no point in holding the EGM until the summer.</p>	CN/CL/ MM
7.	Additional co-opted Committee Members	
	<p>There was a discussion about the remit of the proposed two additional Committee Members; whether to allocate specific roles or simply to appoint two more Members to serve on the Committee.</p> <p>CN said that in either case it would be useful to encourage Members who had never served before to apply, particularly younger and newer members, to gain experience</p>	

	<p>of how the Committee works and what it does.</p> <p>It was agreed that specific roles would be preferable and all Committee members are to suggest roles for consideration at the next meeting.</p>	All
8.	Website and social media	
	<p>Website</p> <p>MM reported that she spoke to Graham Heath several months ago and as a result her access has now been upgraded to allow administration of the website. MM said that she is happy to continue to update.</p> <p>However it was recognised that we are not making full use of the website and that the Club would benefit from a dedicated website officer who would be able to maintain it on a regular basis, taking down out of date items and posting new ones.</p> <p>MT confirmed that his daughter (Maddy) has volunteered to take this on and that he is happy to assist her. The offer of help was welcomed by the Committee. MT and MM to liaise on getting access for MT and Maddy.</p> <p>It was agreed that any changes to the website will only come via the Committee, who will happily consider any suggestions from Maddy.</p> <p>Social media</p> <p>CN reported that she hadn't had much interaction with MH on the social media accounts. MT agreed to contact MH to discuss how we could get more items on the sites and wider coverage.</p> <p>It was noted that the agreed that the Committee members should remember to feed any items through to MH.</p>	<p>MT/MM</p> <p>All</p> <p>MT</p> <p>All</p>
9.	Membership survey	
	<p>With reference to the announcement at the AGM that a membership survey would be held in 2022, it was agreed that all Committee members would put forward suggestions for questions ahead of the next meeting.</p>	All
10.	Social events for 2022	
	<p>The programme of events for 2022 was considered and the following events were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Curry night at the Spice Lounge on Tuesday 29th March. LW to organise. • An old fashioned tennis afternoon with wooden rackets and tennis whites to be held at the Saturday mix in on on 25th June with a strawberry cream tea and G&T (a donations tin will be put out). • A pizza evening on Thursday 15th September • Club teas will start again on 30th April though to 27th August. LW and JA will 	<p>LW</p> <p>LW/JA</p> <p>LW/JA</p> <p>LW/JA</p>

	<p>organise initially, but this could possibly be an additional role.</p> <p>It was agreed to wait a few months before deciding whether to do a quiz night. (CN to note for future meetings).</p> <p>It was also recognised that many social events had been cancelled over the last two years, and agreed in principle to do a barbecue at some point during the Summer, the date to be confirmed.</p> <p>CN said JP has confirmed that she is happy to run the adult Club Tournament again this year and has proposed 17th September for Finals Day with the 24th as a back up in case of bad weather. This was agreed.</p> <p>(Post meeting it was noted that the Juniors Tournament will run on 11th September.)</p> <p>JP's proposal to run a number of one day tournaments was also agreed in principle, but noted that they couldn't be arranged until the dates for the Ladies' C team fixtures and DG's Team Tennis were known. CN to advise JP.</p>	<p>CN</p> <p>LW/JA</p> <p>JP</p> <p>CN</p>
11.	Court usage (standing item)	
	<p>It was noted that some members are booking courts for practice before matches but not turning up until the last half hour or so of the slot. It was noted that in the past there was an accepted rule that members who did not arrive within a specified time of the start of the booking forfeited their right to use the court. MM agreed to check whether the rules are on display. If not it was agreed to adopt a rule that courts will be forfeited in non arrival after 15 minutes of the start time. This is to encourage more considerate booking and help free up courts at busy times. MM and CN to draft an email to members.</p>	MM/CN
12.	Officers' reports	
	<p>The previously circulated updates from the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership, Social, Tournaments, Grounds, Fixtures, Welfare and the Club Coach were noted.</p> <p>Chairman: nothing to report.</p> <p>Secretary: nothing to report.</p> <p>Treasurer We currently have around £24.5K in the bank and £31K in the building society. I have made a donation to Homestart equivalent to the last two payments received from Recycaball (£57).</p> <p>Membership 12 new members joined since last meeting. 11 adults and 1 junior. 4 of the adults have been given their 3 months membership as a Christmas present. The total of members stands at 578 (363 Adults, 160 Juniors, 12 Social, 36 Students). The LTA registration has been done. The Wimbledon ballot: it will be done automatically by the LTA this year. The</p>	

allocation of tickets available to club members will again depend on how many members have joined the LTA and Opted-in.
Volunteers at clubs will also be entered in a separate ballot.
An email has been sent to our members explaining the process. LTA members would have received an email already.

Social: nothing further to report.

Tournaments: nothing further to report.

Fixtures

The summer fixtures have to be entered by 31st January.

A ladies C team has been added with the understanding that home matches would be played either on Friday evenings after 7pm or at weekends, that the squad should include a minimum of 8 players and that the captain should liaise with the coaches for Juniors and adults who could play.

Mens A: Jonathan Graham

Mens B: Mark Shapley

Mens C: Tom Hampshire

Ladies A: Sarah Biss

Ladies B: Christine Lally

Ladies C: Julie Hart

Mixed: Cath Lowe

Mixed Vets: Michele Mangham

Welfare: nothing to report

Grounds

- Hedges will be cut week starting 14th February.
- Hard courts have had the winter anti moss and algae treatment done before Christmas.
- New lock for 7/8 is imminent.
- New line rollers excellent in the dry, not so easy when damp.
- Possible new dragnets for the clay, CN agreed to follow up on potential replacements.
- Coat hooks need replacing? Any thoughts on design/sourcing?
- Benches will be done weather allowing.
- We have new sieves for the groundsman to get some of the dragnet offloaded clay back onto the court where it belongs.

Club Coach

DG reported as follows: there is little to report since our last meeting. It's been a slow start the year, but with the weather warming, this week has been busier. There is one more week for people to show interest for the singles league (and potentially doubles). Early Feb I will send an invite to all interested players, with a view to kicking off end of Feb, maybe sooner. The league will run for about 8 weeks.

I am about to enter the LTA Team Tennis event for this year. I think we will have 1 men's team, and 1 junior boys team. I will get home match dates to Michele as soon as I am told them. I have asked the LTA about Road to Wimbledon, since I haven't seen any info about it for this year. Watch this space. I will run some tennis camp in Feb half term, dates tbc, and will again get dates to Michele asap, probably by the end of this weekend. I will be away myself over the first weekend of half term - I will

	<p>playing over 40's Indoor Nationals in exotic Wrexham. Haven't played for a while, so no great expectations! And I am the old man of the age group now, new age group next year!</p> <p>Healthy numbers in squads and one to one demand - and I've also taken some more enquiries this week for players wishing to start in both, adults and juniors, so may see a few more asking to join soon. I'll do a sale at some point, early spring - but currently it is incredibly difficult to get hold of any tennis equipment of any kind. Rackets, shoes, etc - all delayed due to Covid/Brexit and some shipping issues (a container bound for Felixstowe full of all the new Head rackets went to the wrong country and is now 2 weeks delayed). Balls are completely missing from the UK, all brands. Head will have some mid Feb, and then more in March - Wilson and Babolat have no date set to deliver anything to the UK. Never seen anything like it. So I suggest that when balls become available, the club buy what they need asap - I am told the situation is not going to improve in 2022.</p> <p>As you know, Joe is leaving at around half term. He will be taking on a long lease at Kingsley. Joe will have been here for 3 years in March, and has been a coach here in the past as well. He has made a great contribution in that time, and we will miss him - and we wish him well on his next step. Regrettably, Joe has been unable to give much notice, and as such there is without doubt going to be some disruption to the weekly groups. I will be picking up as much as I can, but some sessions will have to be put on hold until a new coach can replace Joe. I have advertised on the LTA site, and am also having some conversations with coaches I already know. From the ad, one coach has already shown interest, and I expect more - so I hope there won't be too much delay in filling the position. Watch this space.</p>	CN
13.	Any other business	
	<p>CN said that there have been some occasions when the floodlights haven't been switched off in the club house and consequently have come on again in the morning.</p> <p>It was agreed to get V Signs to make a sign for each court to stress the need to turn lights off even when they have gone off automatically at 10.00pm.</p>	CN
14.	Date of next meeting: 8th March 2022	

Actions completed since the previous meetings

Action	Who	Status
flaunching at the top of the slope adjoining court 2:instruct the groundsman to relay the slab as a temporary fix.	DP	completed
buy two new brushes for the clay courts at a cost of £125 each.	DP	completed
Investigate chipping and uneven surface on court 7 – review by January with Housdens	DP	completed
start cleaning up the Clubspark data in readiness for any transition.	MM	completed

Do list of things that need changing/updating on website and send to MT	CN	In progress
explain the World Tennis Number system at the AGM.	DG	completed
ask MH to give an update at the AGM	CN	completed
recommend no change in membership fees at the AGM.	CL	completed
Get voting slips and accounts printed for AGM	CN	completed
put EGM discussion on the January agenda.	CN	completed
Put discussion of two new co-opted roles on Jan agenda	CN	completed
to send out an invitation to pub night on 7 December	LW/JA	completed
Source foot trays for clay courts.	DP	completed
update rolling action log for Committee appointments	CN	completed
CL to provide club account details to Ralph Lambert and CN to obtain Homstart details for CL.	CL/CN	completed
Add Membership survey to next agenda	CN	completed