

LANSDOWN TENNIS, SQUASH AND CROQUET CLUB LTD
MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY, 14th JANUARY 2021
Start Time: 7.00 pm

Present:

Andy Ewings (AE)	Chairman
James Scully (JS)	Deputy Chairman
Jeremy Goulding (JG)	President
Mark Groves (MG)	Treasurer
David Barnes (DB)	Fabric Manager
Mark Radley (MR)	Squash Secretary
Howard Grove (HG)	Croquet Secretary
Jeremy Labram (JL)	Committee Member
Claire Ackerman (CA)	Committee Member
Jean Wilson (JW)	Committee Member
Jon Foulds (JF)	Committee Member
Philip Torjussen (PT)	General Manager

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Rupert Larkin . These were accepted.

2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting dated the 26th November 2020 were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

AE confirmed that the Club was currently closed with no activity at all. It was likely to remain closed for a while and he was hopeful we would be able to re-open in mid february.

Membership: As at the end of December, we had 592 full adult paying members which was seven down on this time last year. The next challenge will be at renewal on the 1st March and it will be also interesting to see what happens with direct debit payments on the 1st February and whether anyone cancels due to the lockdown.

5. ACCOUNTS

MG had provided the meeting with some information on the finances.

JG thanked MG for the work done with the various assumptions that were well laid out. AE confirmed this and said that if we go ahead with the work on courts and the lighting, then we will still have £100K as a buffer. JL asked if we were comfortable with a £100K buffer and whether we would feel exposed? MG suggested that if necessary, the lighting project could be reviewed but it was unlikely that we would go ahead with this in the next 6 months so if the situation did not improve then it could be temporarily shelved.

JG reiterated that the point of a buffer is for capital expenditure without going back to the membership for additional funds.

JS confirmed that the resurfacing of the courts 1 - 3 should come under budget. PT suggested that we could ask for assistance from the LTA with an interest free loan but JS thought it unlikely for the resurfacing of courts 1 - 3 as loans were being offered only for new or improved facilities, not for replacements.

JL asked what has Covid cost us so far? AE confirmed that the loss will depend upon the rebate and discount that may be offered to members.

MG confirmed that he had modelled the budget on a 2% increase and JG and DB agreed with this.

There were no other comments. It was agreed that we would increase the membership fees by 2% from 1st March 2021.

6. REBATE

AE advised that he had heard from a member, Eleanor Bird, who had suggested that if we are considering giving some credit to the membership that we revisit John Morgan's proposal of changing the renewal date to the 1st May.

With this in mind, he had thought of the following categories:

1st Category - Those members who had paid in full, and are still members

2nd Category - Those members who joined after May 2020 and would not have lost out in the first lockdown

3rd - Category - Those Members who have cancelled their membership

On the assumption that the club is expected/hoped to be open again from February 15th, AE proposed that we should give two free months' membership on the 1st March. There would be no renewals in March. We would invite the membership to renew in time for the 1st May. By then it will be warmer and

it is felt that there would be a greater number of people who would be feeling good and would renew. At this point, they would be given an incentive of a 20% discount and this would be put on their club card. MR pointed out that this was a large amount (£88?) and a discussion ensued about the possibility of 20% on the card or a lesser amount, say 10%, as a cash reduction/rebate. All thought this was a good option.

MR said that the Squash side has been closed more. If the rebate was for March and April - the squash courts may still be closed? AE advised that we were a Rackets Club. Some squash players have started playing tennis. Some squash players haven't played at all. Very difficult to work out a rebate on an individual basis. MR understood this and agreed with the proposal.

JF suggested that with squash, the Club could possibly pay a percentage of coaching? JG suggested 50% of lessons up to an agreed contribution by the club, say £20 or £30? Or perhaps the member could bring a guest to pay squash without charge? It was agreed that MR would suggest some incentive proposals for the squash members.

JF advised that it was important to get the delivery message to members correct and to remind everyone that we are a Members club and we are all in this together etc. He felt sure that a lot of people would be quite happy to continue paying their membership without discount. AE agreed that this would be done. 20% rebate would only be given if they pay in full to renew.

It would be suggested that the member had a choice of not putting the rebate on the Clubcard, i.e. in effect to "donate" that to the club.

JW suggested that we should offer members the opportunity to pay the full amount i.e. 14 months from the 1st March, DB and others agreed with this suggestion.

Some discussion took place regarding the proposal. It was unanimously agreed to extend the renewal date to the 1st May and two months membership would be offered free. A 20% further discount would be offered on the renewal fee from the 1st May but this would not have to be accepted. JG and AE would work on an email explaining the assumptions and the financial offer, but also "selling" the idea of our members club and potential for people to decline to take the reductions, such email to be sent before the end of January.

It was agreed that AE should contact JM and advise him about the change of renewal date.

ACTION: AE

7. SQUASH UPDATE

MR advised that with the squash courts shut, no play was currently being undertaken. Prior to lockdown, in the first few days of restrictions there were reports of some members who were not following the rules, but thereafter no incidents were reported. However, we should keep an eye on this when we re-open.

Squash Heaters: DB advised that we had received two quotes and a firm date for installation was

imminent.

8. TENNIS

JS advised that all the floodlights had been repaired. The tennis coaching programmes will get going as soon as we can. With the resurfacing of courts 1 - 3, TSC is trying to get the work done asap but they had been held up by the LTA consultant. However, we are very close to getting tender documents out to three companies we have shortlisted.

ACTION: JS & RL

JF advised that with the proposed Padel courts, the pre-app had been done today with BANES and he was hopeful of a positive result from this. With the lighting of courts 8-10, the planning officer was trying to encourage us to withdraw and reapply. However, we will be putting forward a comprehensive application.

ACTION: JF

JG suggested that we should try and gauge members for the idea of Padel if finance allows. It was agreed that we would wait for the pre app response and then obtain member agreement before we formally apply for planning permission. It was also agreed that PT would approach the LTA once we get the pre-app to discuss the possibility of finance.

ACTION: PT

9. CROQUET

The majority of members are following the Covid advice and staying at home. There was currently no playing at all.

10. SAFEGUARDING

There was nothing to report.

11. AOB

AE and PT advised the committee on the recent incident in the car park where the gates entrance was damaged. PT was currently liaising with insurers, police and contractors and would keep the committee informed.

ACTION: PT

JF reminded the committee there was a table tennis facility but that members were not all aware of it. He suggested that a folding table be purchased and should be permanently and easily available and we should then be able to promote it. JF to come up with a good plan for the proposal including what costs would be involved.

ACTION: JF

AE and JS agreed to look at the possibility of incorporating it within the booking app.

ACTION: AE & JS

PT agreed to speak with Richard Brown so that a new table could be stored outside of the physio office.

ACTION: PT

CA suggested that we have a 'restart party' when we come out of Covid-19. This was considered to be a good idea. Everyone to think of how this could be achieved.

ACTION: ALL

12. NEXT MEETING

This would take place on - 11th March 2021 at 7.00 pm via zoom.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 20.47 hours

Signed _____

Andy Ewings, Chairman