**Camber Committee Meeting Wednesday 17 February 2016, 19:30,TheClubhouse**

**Minutes**

*Attendance: Chris Smith (Chair), John Stephens, Alex Lucas, Deborah Cullinan, Julia Searle, Michael Qureshi (from item 4)*

1. Minutes of last meeting (18 January 2016), as attached, and matters arising not covered below
* Gas situation broadly unchanged: British Gas currently being obstinate about where they might move the meter too. On 8 Feb they finally agreed to provide two quotes – one for where we want the meter and one for where they do. This will take “a few weeks”. Depending on cost, which may be high, we may need to consider other options e.g. replacing some hobs with electric or using bottled gas on rings which are not able to be connected.
* No progress on permanent solution for Court 3 trench as far as anyone knew, but this may interact with moving the gas meter so hold fire on this for the time being.
* Meeting with allotments re the shed was very amicable and a way forward was agreed – Dulwich Estate has also been involved and agreed the possibility of some minor boundary and landscaping changes if put forward jointly between us. Need to do some work on what sort of shed we want which is with **Colin**.
* Fernando has bought and put up a shelving unit for the office – looks like an excellent solution and will help the storage issues considerably. Thanks to Fernando.
* Courts 1& 2 - pressure washed and bubble fixed by Trevor May. Some dispute as to whether drainage has improved – if so, not by much. **Chris** to report this to Trevor May and request next steps. Painting still scheduled to go ahead w/b 4 April.
* Court 3 – seems to be playing well since our work on it. Will get lots of use during AEGON season which will be a good test.
* Annual dinner refund – **Chris** still to arrange
* Website – Alex and Julia had had a look at different options – though most were fairly similar. **Alex** would produce a comparison table. Functions of LTA’s free option, Clubspark, not yet known so further research needed on that – possibly including what else was being introduced in the near future. **Alex** to contact them if necessary.
* Ball machine – **Chris** still to buy
* Bar licence course – John has booked for 11 March. Will cost £145.
* No word from cricket club on thoughts on putting up nets. **Chris** to chase.
* Noted that last barrel of cask ale was all sold, but this remains a bit unpredictable depending on who is around and how long the actual beer lasts.
* info@tennis-at-camber now working properly and we have had quite a few enquiries come through it which are being forwarded on to the relevant person.
* Ladies’ squads – Alex had a successful meeting with ladies’ captains – a few changes will be made made to the team structures for the summer season.
1. 2015 Accounts and finance update (Judy/Chris)

The draft accounts were circulated and discussed. A number of helpful presentational suggestions were made. A question was raised as to whether the floodlights made a profit: based on the wattage of the bulbs there certainly would be, but the costs also need to cover replacement bulbs (several hundred pounds each) and the cost of the lights themselves (floodlighting Court 3 cost approx. £15,000). It was also noted that there was a wide variety of costs in local clubs: Old College charge the same as us (£4 per hour) but Wigmore is £2 / hour and Grafton £5 for 45 minutes. It was agreed to leave them as is.

It was noted that the increase in rent was due to rent being suspended when there was no clubhouse – the figure for 2015 representing the part of the year for which it was open. On rates, the valuer had recently visited and that therefore this figure was likely to go up.

It was noted that spending on the clubhouse and surrounds had been treated as a fixed asset/leasehold improvement and was being depreciated over 20 years. Total spending here was £34,000. This was significantly above the figure agreed at the 2015 AGM. The Committee had taken decisions at each stage in light of the financial position at the time and agreed improvements to the spec where they were thought worthwhile – e.g. the ceiling in the main room, the Camber sign, audio-visual set-up, bar frontage etc, and the external works which were a large portion of the increase.

A question was raised about whether higher interest rates were available for the cash we had in the bank. In Judy’s absence Chris reported that she had opened a higher interest rate account a few years ago [and we have received c. £850 interest over the last three years], although the rate is now much lower [0.4%]. We were not aware of any better rates than we are currently getting if the money was kept under Camber’s name [Judy has since had another look around and confirmed this, at least within 0.1%]. We could put more funds in the account generating 0.4% though as this is better than effectively zero in the ‘current account’. Higher rates could be obtained by putting the funds in the name of an individual, but this was not considered acceptable. However, a new Treasurer might be asked to look at this question again.

The cost of balls was discussed and eventually agreed to remain to £5, at least until the outcome of the trial of the two new types of balls was known. **Julia** was aware of a reduced price offer on Wilson US Open balls from the LTA and would forward on the details to Chris.

The position of the Thames Water money was discussed. Alex’s professional contact had advised (albeit with some caveats) that the money would remain not ours until six years after the event, which would be 2018. It was agreed to leave as was (i.e. a reserve, outside the P&L) until then.

1. Committee recommendation for 2016/17 subscription rates and categories for the AGM. Note that the 2015/16 position was as follows:

The financial position was agreed to be acceptable. Given this, and following the 10% increase in subs in 2015 (greater for some categories of membership), it was unanimously agreed to recommend to the AGM leaving tennis subs as they are for 2016. One additional membership category was discussed and agreed to be recommended: this was a ‘Coaching Membership’, at £60 per annum pro-rata’d, which entitled the member only to individual coaching lessons and only on Mondays to Fridays prior to 4pm. As well as being useful for the coaches, this might generate more full members over time. **Chris** to have a discussion with Helen about runner subs [Helen has subsequently offered an increase from £33 to £49.50 which Chris has gratefully accepted, subject to AGM of course].

There was also a clarification of the position on pro-rata’ing if a member joined part-way through the year, where the position is not currently implemented consistently. It was agreed to recommend not pro-rata’ing for the summer period (i.e. anyone joining up to 1 September would pay a full year’s subs), while anyone joining after 1 January would be asked to pay for a full year plus the remainder of that year.

It was also clarified that the student membership was not designed to attract London-based students during term-time, but was intended to act as an incentive for ex-junior members to remain in touch with the club during holidays etc.

1. Any other items for AGM agenda, in addition to the standard items + a coaching introduction from Julia + a summary of the Business Plan from Chris

None. It was agreed that a reminder email should be sent about the AGM, the American tournament and the officer positions about a week before the meeting (**Chris**)

We should also highlight the new hire arrangements (see Item 7), the social programme including the French Open trip (Item 5), and the tournament dates, including court requirements for the Dulwich Open (Item 9).

1. Social programme
* Film night 26/2 (Midge)
* Adam’s quiz 5/3 (Adam)
* St Patrick’s night themed clubplay 17/3
* Poker night 9/4, (Chris/Matt)
* Greyhound racing 23/4 (John)
* Handicap tournament finals’ day 21/5 (Alex)
* French Open trip (w/b 23/5) (Debs, also Laurent and **Julia** to provide her contact to Debs)
* Wine tasting sometime in June (Chris)
1. New members (Sarah)
* Boris Sabatier – bought as a birthday present by his husband so not even sure he knows about it yet!
* Zoe Ware – Adam’s friend
1. Venue hire (John)

John tabled a paper and there was some discussion. Eventually agreed that:

* No hire fee but instead a minimum spend of £300 (deposit to be provided in advance)
* Hire only available to members but social membership available
* Kid’s parties only for children of members – hire fee £50
* £40 charge for the use of kitchen
* Free drinks for bar servers
* Differential pricing should apply unless the event includes an open invitation to all club members
1. Coaching update (Alex/Julia/Michael)

Surrey league teams being entered this weekend. Summer vets daytime team also to be entered.

Davis Cup Legacy bid submitted by the deadline – not heard back yet.

Julia noted that 6 juniors from Camber were playing in external tournaments over half term. She suggested that would be good for them to have Camber t-shirts – **Alex** to chat to Ellen to see what stocks we have or what we could get done.

LTA have proposed a Quorn Family Mini-Tennis Cup – a child under 10 plays with an adult from the same family. Runs over two hours, club members only. Winners progress to a regional stage. Club agreed to this and prepared to set aside one or two courts for two hours one Saturday afternoon – **Alex and Julia** to arrange [subsequently agreed for Sat 16 April, 10.30am]

Julia would also like to arrange a junior event midweek daytime w/b 11 April – this was agreed to be fine.

Next coaching meeting between now and the AGM.

**Chris** would forward details to Julia from a recent marketing workshop about the different motivations for boys and girls when taking part in sport.

1. Proposal to change handicap tournament dates

Agreed to change Handicap tournament to 10/4 deadline for entries, 16/4 start with finals day on 21/5.

Open tournament finals day 9 July but to be changed in format – main emphasis for open singles to be put on the Dulwich Open which Julia will push hard. For the Dulwich Open, agreed that all 3 courts could be set aside all day Mon-Sat, excluding only Thurs evening clubplay, as well as Sunday morning as a contingency. **Alex/Julia** to block out the courts on the website.

**Alex** to work on the replacement for the Open.

Club tournament finals day 10 September.

1. Maintenance issues

In addition to those highlighted in Item 1, noted that the net on Court 3 is not winding properly – something to do with the winder – and the things that secure the nets to the ground on Courts 1 and 3 are both broken. **Chris** to speak to Reg and Colin about these.

Otherwise outstanding issues are: Railing in disabled loo, TV cabinet, bike racks, smoothing out step by Ct 2 door, car park marking, annual trees check

1. Table tennis ladder or other competition

**Chris** to forward names of interested people from the events email box to **Michael** who will come up with a proposed format and rules.

1. Business Plan (Chris).

Brief discussion of possible long-term targets. The following were suggested:

* Arrange capacity for social play and matches at the same time (i.e. by securing use of another court or courts).
* Be able to replace Court 3 from our own resources at the end of its life.
* Be at a point where a capacity for membership can be defined (and reached)
* Have equal membership between men/women, and between boys/girls
* Have the majority of juniors playing outside as well as inside the coaching programme
* Produce a junior who went on to reach the top ten in the County

There did not seem to be a major appetite for a section on this but the above ideas would be included for the consideration of the new Committee.

1. Fire Risk Assessment (Chris)

We need to have one under the terms of the licence. Helpfully a chap from the Fire Brigade visited recently and pointed out the main risks as he saw them. Also Debs is familiar with FRAs from her professional role. Therefore **Chris** to forward on the comments from the Fire Brigade to **Debs** who would come up with a first draft.

1. AOB

**Alex** had received a proposal of a doubles ladder (mixed format so any men’s/ladies/mixed pairs could all enter the same competition). He would ask around about interest and set up if appropriate.

1. Date of next meeting

Post-AGM, to be determined by new Committee