**Minutes of meeting of committee, 8pm, Tuesday 6 April 2021 (via Zoom)**

1. **Apologies:** none - all officers present

**2. Minutes of previous committee meeting of 17th March.** Approved.

**3: Draft minutes of AGM of 21st March 2021**.

Mel previously circulated these and now has a slightly amended version following comments from some committee members related to previous draft. No further comments. We are now confident minutes are in an approved draft form for posting on the website and for seeking approval at the next AGM.

**4. Finances - Treasurer's update.**

Chris said he would be able to provide a more comprehensive report next time as he had got hold of the bank account details only today and have not yet been through them in detail but he could safely report today that we are in a healthy financial position.

**5. Membership issues**

**a)** **Jill reported on renewals to date.** She has with Chris’s assistance been reviewing the data that we have, and in summary the figures are as follows:

- 177 Full and Midweek Members

- The members Excel spreadsheet did at time of reviewing say there were 177 Full and Midweek Members

There were an additional 12 referred to as midweek coaching, wheelchair and student members.

**b)** **The waiting list.** It is currently held in enquiry date order and the question for the committee to decide was whether to start inviting people off the waiting list now or to wait until the 30th April deadline for subs renewals. It was agreed that the membership limit will be 180. The current membership is a slightly more than that. Court usage is quite heavy and on that basis that limit will stay.

Chris raised whether we should start prioritising certain categories from the waiting list based on playing ability(for example if they were potential first team men players or good team women or mixed team players) and/ or are related to existing family members.

There was a range of opinions on the matter. It was thought that it is likely that somewhere between 20 and 40 of the previous year's membership will not in any event renew. Therefore in terms of good players for teams then we would agree that Laurent, Rebecca and Chris can liaise as to inviting such players to trial sessions and if of sufficient standard, and if numbers allow, to then invite them to become members in priority to others on the waiting list on the basis that:

1. they are potential good team players;
2. they agree to play in teams; and
3. they will join for the year as full members.

The trials would be held before the 30 April but no decisions or invites will be sent until after that date and exact numbers of renewals are known.

In terms of the decision on whether to allow relatives of existing members priority, there was a range of views on this also and it was felt that if numbers permit that could be a second priority category for those on the waiting list.

The midweek members from the last year will be elevated to full membership if they so wish and if numbers allow it.

There would be no closure of the waiting list to date. It is however difficult to administer, and there is an estimated two-year wait.

c) **In terms of communication re members**’ **enquiries**. Mel said a she would welcome a combination of her, Chris and Jill to take turns weekly to deal with membership enquiries and it was also agreed that we should not feel pressured to give 24-hour turnaround responses given in particular the volunteer nature of the role. Nevertheless responses would be given in good time.

**6. Coaches’ court time.** Rebecca and Laurent reported that there is now lots of free time in the day and to their knowledge as of the timing of their report to the committee, there have been no complaints or comments from members about coaches using excessive time. Agreed among committee members that the 6 hour limit on coaching hours per day has not really operated in practice and therefore it is agreed that the limit would be removed.

**7. Maintenance:**

**a) Back fence:** Agreed in principle that a professional fence should be erected for aesthetic and soundproofing reasons by the South Circular boundary. There is a range of prices for erecting a fence professionally including the possibility of a more expensive soundproof fence. There is no expert knowledge on the committee as to the effectiveness of soundproofing but it was agreed that the matter would come back to the committee after Mel liaises with Malcolm to establish a range of costs for professional ordinary fencing and sound proof fencing.

**b)** **Tree cutting** has been undertaken and while there were some disruption to the courts the main issue seems to have been that it was not done as we had hoped it would be, in particular in relation to the hedge bordering the allotment on our side. Giulia and Chris will be discussing the matter with the tree surgeons. It was also agreed that in future some prior notification would go out to the as to tree cutting operations.

**c) Greenery:** the (still grass) lawn has been trimmed kindly by Mel on bank holiday Monday; as to the trimming of the embankment it was agreed that we would discuss the matter with Andy Lyon with John liaising to ask him if he'll do it again like last year and give him an ‘honorarium’ of approximately £100. If it's over that, John will come back to the committee for permission.

**d) Vandalism and damage to and around the club house during the recent lockdown** It was agreed that we would consider looking at increased security options and signage and discuss at a later meeting.

**e) Court maintenance**. It was agreed we could pressure wash the back of court 2 where there is lots of slippery bird faeces as a result of previously overhanging branches. Fin and Chris to liaise.

**f) Nets**

Net Winders are scarce (only one left). Laurent is to try to source more / consult with club’s net oracle, Reg Murphy

There has been a request from one member for additional singles net poles to be purchased (at approx. £50 a poll) to enable the enhancement of the net for singles play on a bespoke basis. It was agreed that at the moment the committee would not intend to progress this request but may in due course revisit the issue for consideration if it becomes a pressing issues for members.

**8. The shed.**

Fin updated the committee as to the position with the land registry and the potential for any decision from the land registry to be delayed until November 2021 on our latest application to register the new deeds. Fin said in that context, and because this had now been going on for so long, he would like the committee to consider whether it would approve him talking to the committee of the neighbouring allotments in order to discuss whether we could continue with scheduling the Shed Works as previously envisaged with the allotment. They would no doubt need to have their committee approval also.

In response to questions, Fin said that the risk was to his mind a small one in that the land registry may say there's a problem with a right of way and that we are impeding it. In that event, we would contest that and say we have made alternative arrangements for it (if, that is, the right of way exists). Also, the estate (landlord) may also say that they do not want the Works to go ahead until the matter is registered with the land registry. We have undertaken to register the deeds so as soon as possible although has not proved possible yet for a variety of reasons. There is also an impending problem with the allotments’ registration (which is not strictly speaking a problem for us).

However, on the basis that the risk was relatively small that we would be made to remove any sheds erected, the committee agreed that it would be preferable to try and get the allotments’ agreement to the Works being undertaken in concert in the coming season. If they agree, we will then liaise, via Malcolm, if possible, on the Works themselves.

**10. Tennis:**

a) Rebecca reported there are issues with the **beginners and improvers session on Wednesday evenings** because of low numbers etc. It was agreed that since they have been going on only since October 2020 and they have been four months of lockdown in the intervening period, that perhaps we should see how the sessions beds in over the next few months. Also it may be worth extending the mailing list and booking system to more people in order to get a full house of 6 for Peter's lessons.

**b) Club tournaments:** it was agreed that Laurent and Rebecca should as Club captains go ahead and try and make arrangements for a club tournament - probably a handicap tournament - and then report back on prospective final days options but with dates to be confirmed. It was agreed it would be helpful to nominate now a scheduled date for the main club tournament (possibly in the autumn)

**11. Floodlights:**

*Cashless systems.* It was agreed that further research was needed on options and Steph and Rebecca would looking into that and report at a later date.

Laurent mentioned difficulties with quality of lighting on Court 1, which he and Chris will investigate further.

**12.** **Re-opening the Club Bar**

It was agreed that the Club is unlikely to be able to hold events before the 17 May because of Covid restrictions, but we will review that nearer the time.

In the meantime, John raised concerns surrounding the re-opening the bar. It was agreed by all that government restrictions should be abided by of course which means that after 12 April only groups of six people at a time would be able to sit outside the club house together to have a drink and no one would be allowed to gather inside the clubhouse.

It was agreed that access to the bar to retrieve / serve drinks would need to be managed to ensure Covid security. It was therefore agreed after some discussion that the only people allowed behind the bar should be committee members and club team captains who have a bar key. If those people are getting drinks from the bar in the coming weeks it will therefore have to be done with a nominated committee or captain present to do the ferrying of drinks and nobody else is allowed inside the clubhouse, other than to operate the floodlights or access the loos. Only one person is allowed at any one time inside.

There is a need to communicate to members by this weekend what the arrangements will be. John said he will prepare the email, and send for circulation on WhatsApp / the website and email / newsletter.

It may well be that club play and team sessions will always have a committee member there to enable drinks service to happen. It needs to continue to be monitored and of course members would have to be advised that they would need to abide by covid-secure arrangements that are in place at the Club.

**13. AOB**

**a) Vending machines:** this was raised at the AGM and this will remain under further consideration by the committee whose members will continue to research the options as and when they become apparent, and in that event would then report back to the committee who would consider matters and/or act accordingly.

**b) The Club TV:** It is agreed that a TV in the clubhouse is a good thing for general use as well as a focus for specific social events and sporting events. We do therefore want the TV and the appropriate licences and arrangements in place. Mel is looking for an indoor aerial.

**c) Perspex notice board** by the front door is broken. Fin will try and arrange a replacement, perhaps in discussion with noticeboard guru Fernando

**d) Court booking limit.** It was agreed that after the initial post-lockdown rush, there is now some court availability particularly during the days as to court times. Therefore while we think the 4 hour limit per person per week worked very well, we think it is it appropriate to raise that limit now to 6 hours a week, which will be communicated to members in the usual way.

**e) Unused booked courts:** Committee members’ views are, anecdotally at least, that some members are booking courts, but not turning up to use them. It was agreed that we should monitor this closely, as whenever it occurs, it has a self-evident adverse effect members’ enjoyment of the club’s facilities. Individual committee members have therefore been mandated to raise any problems directly with offending members in the appropriate way if they come across it.

It was agreed additionally we would also keep a log of incidents in order to get a feel for the scale of the issue. Fin will keep a central log and is happy for others to pass on reports to keep on that log, and he will report back to the committee accordingly, at which point the committee can decide whether any further actions would be needed to improve the position.

**f) The Website:** Mel is concerned that updating the website may be too much work for one committee member. Steph, who is the updater in chief, said she's happy currently with the way things are operating albeit with some advice and assistance from Chris in the interim. Mel will send to Steph the club’s new changing room policy as well as the AGM draft minutes for posting .

**g) Team sessions are a concern to the club captains**. They want those turning up to them to be playing for a relevant club team. Committee agreed that the club captains don’t need committee review to deal with this type of issue, but, of course, if there are any issues that do need committee input, they should be raised.

**h) Junior memberships:** Jill said she would like to review how to monitor and collate the junior membership subs and will liaise with Peter Kiss on this and report back.

**j) Bar soft drinks fridge:** John says he will have to buy a new soft drink container fridge for the bar on the left-hand side as the fridge is simply not working. We didn’t purchase it so we can’t get any money back as it was a gift from the brewery. The cost is likely to be £400 to £450 and it's going to take some months to get the fridge because of international supply delays. It was agreed that he should sort that out when the possible in order to enhance the facilities in the bar. He will also liaise with Chris on cashflow arrangements for stocking the bar.

**k) Jill:** All committee members are very glad to see Jill had joined the committee for the first time, and welcomed her onto it and we all hoped she loves every minute of it even more than the rest of us already do.

**l) Mel** said she thought we had covered a lot of ground in tonight’s meeting, which was good, and she felt it was important moving forwards to try to keep meetings to a manageable length.

**DONM: Agreed for Monday 10th May 2021 at 8pm. Via zoom.**

*Meeting ended 10:20pm*

*Minutes approved by Committee 10.v.21*