

CAMBER LTC

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING, TUESDAY 12 OCTOBER 2021, 7.30PM

*(HELD INSIDE A NICELY VENTILATED CLUBHOUSE)*

Meeting start: 7.40PM

**1. Apologies**

All officers present, Chris on bar stool (inside laptop, from his seat in Parliament). No mosquitoes present.

**2. Minutes of previous committee meeting (7.ix.21)** – Approval delayed.

**3. Matters Arising:**

- a) *The membership waiting list:* Jill / Chris have emailed all 245 people on the waiting list to say it is likely to be a very, very, very long time before most applications are likely to be processed because the membership is full. 15 responses from hopefuls; only 3 have lost all hope and dropped off the waiting list. The other 227 applicants remain silently hopeful (we think).
- b) Mel said she is poised to search vigorously for the terrestrial television footage archive from *The Last Leg* broadcast from Camber.
- c) Project South Circular Fence has been vigorously pursued and achieved with thanks to everyone involved.
- d) Project Parking Bays: big thanks to Steph for conquering the elements and organising the completion of indelible new car-parking bays

**4. Minutes of previous committee meeting (7.ix.21)** – Approved, now that we had dealt with matters arising.

**5. Finances: Treasurers' update (CS)**

The monthly summary position was as follows:

Balance 11 October (payments)	£66,161 (excludes annual dinner)
Balance at last committee meeting (7 September 2021)	£67,040
Balance one year ago	£35,396

Notable transactions since last committee meeting:

Outflows

Maintenance (bank cutting, new taps)	£280
Front fence	£2,695
Balls	£496
Quarterly rent	£700

Inflows

Cash banking from 2020 to date	£2,670
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This month's figures include 3 large socials (Adam's quiz, the external wake and finals day). These have all been significantly profit-making (the flows from the Camber kitchen are not included in these figures) to the tune of about £500 to £600 on each night taking £1,000 turnover on the bar. Chris's view is that we are currently failing to spend all this money that we're getting in.

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Committee proceeded to the next chapter of the Brainstorm process. In general terms, it was agreed that the increased monies held by the club should be put to use by the club. Laurent was keen to stress that the money should all be spent before it disappears.

Many thanks expressed to Chris for having prepared a detailed spreadsheet based on the ~~latest available scientific quantification and financial modelling techniques~~ traditional Olympic ice-skating competition scoring system. Accordingly, 54 competing proposals were scored by the judges (each club officer) on 'technical merit' and 'required elements'. Only one proposal received a technically perfect '6.0' rating (Camber Van) from 1 judge; another judge conceded they had scored the proposals on a reverse scale. It was agreed these would be discounted as outlier results, and having parked those, we would focus on the proposals that received mean average aggregated scores of >4.0 as candidates for further approval either by the Committee, or if appropriate at an AGM..

It was agreed that any proposal that would cost >£2,001.00 would require approval by the AGM.

*Proposal 1: Abolishing Club Play lights money.* It was agreed that (most) members are not debt collectors and that we would abolish lights money with immediate effect on Thursdays and Sundays club play sessions.

Lights (and balls) charges would remain for all other 'team' sessions.

*Proposal 2: Abolishing match fees (currently charged to players for home matches):*

It was considered to abolish match fees for victorious teams only, but it was felt that would have a negligible effect in deploying club funds. It was therefore agreed that we would abolish home match fees with immediate effect. The players will have to pay for the food and drink afterwards, mind.

*Proposal 3: Reduction , or abolition, of floodlights charges*

The Club receives about £3,000 a year in floodlights charges. A reduction in the hourly charge from £4 to £3 would represent approximately £750 in income reduction. It was agreed that people should continue to play for the lights but any alteration to the lights charges could be dealt with as part of a bigger lights plan which may be built up in detail for approval / discussion at the next AGM (and may include card systems for the lights and the LED overhaul for the lights we currently have).

*Proposal 4: Reduced price of annual dinner*

It was agreed to review this for next year although this year's is still going to be £40.

*Proposal 5: Update the facilities in the clubhouse*

There was lots of discussion about bins with lids, bins without lids, recycling bins (with and/or without lids), and outdoor bins (no lids). It was decided not to have outdoor bins, because they seem to attract rubbish. It was also decided that we don't need new indoor bins because the design of the current ones works just fine; it's just that members need to know how to keep a lid on it.

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### *Emergency Proposal 5A: update the internet*

A sudden and unexpected internet crash which bounced Chris out of the meeting reminded everyone that our internet isn't very good, and we should have listened to the bar secretary all these years when he kept telling us it wasn't working properly for what we need it for – e.g., bar card payments and watching sport (such as international association football tournaments containing good teams and England) on the big screen. Laurent said he is going to fix it and will report back at the next meeting.

### *Proposal 6: Court expansion*

- a) *The Grove House Court.* We all agreed that it would be a 110% the best thing that could ever happen to the club if we could buy this extra adjacent and currently derelict court. We agreed we would send a high-level team of diplomatic emissaries (Mel and Reg) to charm and beseech the owners on the topic. We have no expectation that the owners of the court have any incentive to lease or sell the land to us or allow us to use that court full stop. But as it's the first thing anyone mentions when you ask them how would they like the Club to develop, and as we have too many members for our courts potentially including the waiting list, that we (i.e., Mel & Reg) should definitely give it a go.
- b) An alternative may be to open discussions or explore with the Dulwich Estate whether there is any leasable land for the purposes of extra courts nearby. Evidently we would need to construct the tennis courts and it would be expensive. However leasing spare land in the vicinity for a sports club may not be a huge capital cost so we should at least make the enquiries with them. Fin will do that.

### *Proposal 7: Charity donations*

The rules and articles in the club do not allow us to give club income to anything else that isn't tennis related. Therefore if we want to give something to, or support financially, causes which are not tennis related, we can either do it on an events basis and provide the facilities, or potentially have Charities of the Year put to the AGM to support. Fin will look at ways of proposing an amendment to the articles at the AGM to allow us to do this and John will look at the feasibility of how the charity donations and shortlisting would work and be voted upon. The motion would be to run certain events as well as having collection boxes etc and to permit the profits from the night to go to charity.

### *Proposal 8: employing contractors to administer / maintain the club*

We agreed that we should continue to pay for specific professional tasks which require that level of input but works should be primarily member-led on a volunteer basis.

### *Proposal 9: Paying more for greener energy*

There was a discussion of greener electricity suppliers. Evidently because of Brexit, global supply chain collapse, and general Armageddon, most energy companies seem to be going out of fashion or existence and it is hugely likely we will be paying more for our less green energy, never mind the more expensive greener stuff. In any event, we are contracted to our current energy supplier until 2023. We might in due course look at solar panels or a green or living roof and will keep it all under review and discussion in due course.

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### *Proposal 10: Bench on Court 3*

It was agreed we will get a nice bench for Ct 3, similar to the nice ones we have for the other courts. It will have a back on it and be nice to sit on.

### *Proposal 11: New chairs for the clubhouse*

It was recognised that for some years now since the clubhouse rebuild, there have been many occasions on which the soft chairs in the club house have been put to good use by many members and that these same chairs were lovingly and carefully selected and assembled by work parties of members. Having recognised all of the above, we are not sure they are that good, or that anyone likes them, so we are now wanting to replace them. **THEREFORE, EVERY COMMITTEE MEMBER IS GOING TO BRING FORWARD / NOMINATE A CHAIR DESIGN FOR REPLACEMENT DISCUSSIONS AT THE NEXT MEETING (MAX COST = £100 A CHAIR).**

### *Proposal 12: Replacing the lawn by Court 1*

The Committee unanimously (I think) agreed that the lawn looks really bad and we really ought to replace it – either with Astro Turf, or by employing a gardener to do the actual work twice a year properly which would be needed to maintain it as a lawn. This one would probably need to go to the AGM if we are going to change it.

### *Proposal 13: Abolishing Coaches' court fees*

It was agreed to maintain the £1 hourly charge the coaches pay for using the courts for lessons.

### *Proposal 14: Chris to leave meeting and go back to work*

Unilaterally adopted. By Chris.

## **6. Update from Membership Secretary (JP)**

Jill reported that we have 12 new junior members and the new payment scheme seems to be working. A reminder has been put on the new junior membership flyer that they will need to pay again in April for the new subscription year.

## **7. Maintenance issues**

*Project Shed:* We are still waiting for the allotments to come up with their end of the deal however Malcolm has laid our foundations so all is on track and this should be all over by Christmas. As these things so often are.

*Weeds:* There is an issue with some potentially invasive species of weed encroaching on the banks near us. This does appear to be coming from the cricket club so Mel is going to become a high-level team of diplomatic emissaries to charm and beseech the cricket club on the topic and would hope to develop a joint approach in dealing with it.

*Maintenance day:* There is a maintenance date fixed for the 7th of November at 10:30am. Steph has promised to coagulate a list of tasks. There will be lunch provided.

## **8. Tennis**

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*Finals Day:* was a huge success and big thanks to Rebecca and Laurent and everyone who played in it. There was lots of encouraging many people to play the games. Huge thanks to Fernando for the barbecue.

Laurent and Rebecca are sorting out the trophies for the annual dinner. It was agreed former Players of the Year would have their names added to a trophy this year, if, for any reason, their name didn't make it onto the trophy previously.

L&R are also having meetings with all the team captains because we have got more players than we can handle and L&R therefore gave an undertaking that they would ensure that all Camber teams will, without fail, win every match they are going to play in the Winter Leagues.

### **9. Annual Dinner**

All is on track. 51 people signed up and the max attendance is 64. There will be the traditional taster menu on the 30th of October for the discerning taste setters and bon vivants among the membership to ensure the food is up to scratch for Camber's premier event of the year. At the next committee meeting in November, we will sort out the pre-order of food, and the organising of the cheese, cafetieres, Prosecco and getting all the stuff together.

A speech was discussed and we all agreed that nothing could ever surpass John's paean to the sheep of the West Country.

### **10. Bar report.**

John said it had been a very busy time for the bar. Shepherd Neame are no longer providing us with beer so we're going for the Brockley Brewery IPA which is a) right tasty; and b) 4.5% alcohol by volume. It comes at a similar price - £97 per barrel. John did have a look at other breweries but the Brockley man comes around on his bicycle and barrel trailer and it all seems very eco-friendly so we'll go with that for a bit and save the planet at the same time. John is going to get loads of booze in for the annual dinner. There are many more events coming up: Camber kitchen and the cooking classes and a poker night, so the bar will be well stocked and used.

### **11. AOB:**

*Camber Springs:* There has been a deluge of emails on this issue and Malcolm is dealing with them all as we meet and he will continue to deal with it in the coming months. There is a possibility it may not actually be a natural spring water source under the courts / driveway but we are awaiting further reports and keeping a close eye on matters.

*Keys:* We are getting more keys cut.

*LTA:* Mel is happy to look after the LTA venue registration in the coming weeks, but if anyone else fancies doing it, then they should please shout.

### **12. DONMs**

Next Meeting agreed for 15th November which is a Monday.

We also provisionally booked 8th of December for the following month which traditionally is going to be at an outside venue, which mainly involves eating. John has kindly said he will scout for a suitable

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venue and report and consult in the coming weeks, and we would hope to ask recent former members of the committee to join the event.

Mel said she recognised a lot of work has been done particularly on the financial projections so big thanks to Chris. Laurent echoed those sentiments almost entirely and enhanced them with an express wish that there be a better layout of the prepared spreadsheet next time.

*Meeting ended 9.48pm*

*vFD 31.x.21*