***Draft* MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING,**

**MONDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2022, 7.30PM**

***(HELD IN THE CLUBHOUSE)***

1. **Apologies:** Rebecca unable to attend in person, but deputed Laurent to make captains’ report
2. **Matters Arising** – Mel pointed out these are in the wrong place on the agenda as usual and therefore deferred
3. **Minutes of previous committee meeting (***11.i.22***)** Approved wholeheartedly after discussion of :
4. innovative eco-friendly runway lights along the side of the access drive, which all agreed are good as far as they go and now that the north pole is re-tilting towards the sun for the next few months, we don’t have to worry about it so much, so we won’t buy any more.
5. Correction by Mel to previous minutes in that the country’s second strongest man actually, in fact, removed the *rubbish, not the compost*, but otherwise all grand.
6. **Matters re-arising:** now we could say there was, or had been, none.

**Perennials:** *fire extinguishers, Fernando’s BBQ, Regular Site Inspection*Mel confirmed she had undertaken the monthly site inspection, and all was well.

Mel is also in the process of contacting the LFB on the fire extinguishers.

It was agreed that Fernando’s BBQ is fine where and as it is and should be removed as a perennial item on the agenda and made an annual agenda item instead (so whoever is secretary for the February 2023 meeting had better put it on the agenda for that one).

1. **Finances: Treasurers’ update** *(CS)*

Chris provided the following detailed update:

*Not a huge amount of activity but we have managed to more than cover quarterly rent and misc other expenses not listed (utilities etc) with bar profits and a smattering of small subs, balls, lights payments etc.*

*One piece of decidedly bad news though. As part of the review of the floodlight situation (more to follow on this), I asked our court contractor to quote for the approximate price of replacing the surface on courts 1 and 2 at the end of their expected life (likely in the next 2-5 years). This is to check that our cashflow forecasts are reasonable. I've always assumed the cost was around £40k because this is roughly the price of the "surface" component of the previous installation, uprated for inflation etc. However, this proves not to be the case. Apparently they can't just take up the old surface and put a new one down, but have to install a new asphalt surface on top of the existing courts, followed by the new top surface. They have said the approximate price of this is likely to be between £75,000 and £81,000, depending on the surface chosen. We could obviously discuss/negotiate this, get other quotes, and we'd want to know what it means for wheelchair access, but at any rate my existing assumptions look wildly optimistic.*

*This is not a disaster, as we should still make £25k profit per year and still comfortably be able to replace the courts without any particular belt-tightening elsewhere. But it might mean that we should proceed more cautiously with other major projects, eg the lights.*

*One other thing to note is that we are likely owed around £600 by the Christmas tree people for use of our electricity. This arrangement has always gone very smoothly in the past, with them voluntarily providing meter readings and no delays in payment. This year I've had to chase them repeatedly and we still haven't received it, so possibly next year we go with a deposit+ refund approach rather than a payment after the event approach. Anyway, to note for now that this is owed.*

*Balance 7 February 2022                                                                            £63,042*

*Balance at last committee meeting (10 January 2022)                         £63,373*

*Balance one year ago                                                                                  £41,381*

*(about £10,300 of the difference between a year ago and today is government Covid grants).*

*Notable transactions since last committee meeting:*

*Outflows*

*Quarterly rent                                                                £700*

It was discussed that we had envisaged putting a proposal for approval by the AGM re lights refurbishment and updating. However, in view of the Treasurer’s update, it was agreed that may not be feasible at this time, but Chris has suggested he will report by way of a paper on this important issue to the AGM.

On the issue of lights payments, it is inevitably the case that we will continue to take cash for these on a meter basis. John confirmed he had emptied the boxes recently and put significant numbers of shillings in the safe as a result, so it is certainly the case that members are using and paying for the lights and we will continue to keep an eye on that.

1. **Membership update** (*JP)*

Jill reported that we continue to have 175 members who use our courts, mainly for tennis. And chatting, The coaches continue to update the coaching membership lists. The Camber LTC Membership Waiting List Mountain (hereafter ‘CLTCMWLM’) remains at approximately the same height as the previous month at about 270 souls.

There was some discussion about filleting the membership email list, but it was agreed it was a good medium through which to keep former and remoter members up to date about the Club.

We will be amending the new adult membership form for the next batch of members, potentially to include contact numbers, and a statement being requested by members about physical health conditions not being affected by playing tennis. We are also, importantly, mindful of our wish to recognise and promote diversity among our members, and we will add a question to the form which reads: ‘*What gender do you identify as?’*

There was also agreement that committee members in particular, and any other members who feel comfortable doing it, should remind members as and when appropriate about guest fees being payable.

1. **Club administration** *(MC)*

The Safeguarding policy had been reviewed and was approved unanimously, with thanks to Mel for co-ordinating it, and to Charlie for continuing to be our welfare officer.

* AGM Preparation: we have set 20 March, 5pm, in person at the clubhouse as the date and venue for the AGM (*more exciting news on this later).* Notices to the membership will be sent by the end of February.
* There was detailed discussion of a range of particular issues that have arisen during the year that the Committee might want or need to put to the membership for approval. It was agreed that an agenda will be finalised at the next committee monthly meeting (7 March), but that as matters stand, there is no specific motion to be put forward by the committee to the AGM. If that changes, committee peeps are to email the Secretary by no later than 27 February so he can try to get something on paper in good time for the notice to members.

It was agreed also that all current committee members (apart from the Secretary, who has nothing interesting to say) will report to the AGM. Steph kindly offered to be on hand to co-ordinate and assist with presentations on the Power Point software application thing. Nomination forms for any members wanting to stand for office will be (and already are) posted on the Club noticeboard.

1. **Neighbours**

*Skatepark water (JP):* Jill reported that her contacts with the Dulwich yoof skateboarders had confirmed that they are working on a “collective gardening activity” [*Ed: am I reading my handwriting correctly here?]*. This will mean they will be using up a bit more water than they had previously from our taps. The impact of the excess water usage for such a community irrigation system would, it was agreed, be a drop in the ocean for the club [*Ed: that wasn’t me – that was definitely John wot said that].* However, the yoofboarders emphasised that they will go to great lengths to avoid having any interaction, however fleeting, with any tennis club member if they could possibly help it while sourcing the water . All agreed that was very wise.

1. **Maintenance & works** *(MC)***:**

All is well, after a year’s hard work, for which the committee in particular, and members generally , are eternally grateful to our MOTY 2021 champ, Malcolm.

The dispute with the water surveyor contractors has been settled and Malcolm will think more over coming weeks about how we might deal with the muddle from the puddle on the driveway.

1. **The Clubhouse:**
* *DARTS: a proposal (CS/FD)*

This was unanimously agreed after an RICS level measuring up sesh for the board and foot fault line. Crucially / Curiously, Fernando has agreed to it being a good idea. Mel (former champion darts player) is all for it too. It’s going to go near the sticky back door, at 180 [*geddit?]*  degrees to the back of the Court 1 fence. Spectators on the soon to be Astro-turfed lawn will therefore be able to watch, with just a slight head swivel, the tennis on court 1, and the exciting darts through the window in the club house. Fin to discuss the particulars with the kind darts set donor (and to find someone who knows how to do things to help us put it up safely) .

* *Ensuring Clubhouse Security (SMcK / All)* - There have been some worrying incidents recently with the clubhouse being left unsecured. Agreed we will send a reminder to members that it’s their responsibility to make sure the place is locked up and secure if they are the last ones here. It will be worth mentioning at the AGM.
* *Defibrillator :*  this is up an running inside the clubhouse. Jill and Malcolm will report back in due course about possibility of having an additional one outside the clubhouse.
* *Pilates classes:*  We are genuinely delighted these are happening at the club. The Wednesday night sesh has been moved to Tuesdays. A request has been received for a non-member friend of a members to be allowed to join the classes. This was generally agreed not to be too much of a stretch and approved accordingly.
1. **Social update *(****SMcK****)***

A Poker night is scheduled for 5 March; A Pasta night is scheduled for 19 March. Fern and Midge are chatting about the prospect of a Friday film night resurrection. Hervé , Catherine and Laurent are, we are told (although not by Laurent), discussing a Camber Kitchen night plan for the next few months.

1. **Bar report** *(JS)*

John said he did not have a great deal to report [*Ed:* *sorry, that’s all I wrote down*].

1. **Tennis**
* *Finals days dates*

These are confirmed as scheduled as follows for 2022:

11 June: Handicap finals day

2 July: Fast Fours competition (Fox Trophy, Foreman Cup and Dav’e Cup) – with thanks to Sami and Tamsin for stepping in to organise

24 September: Club Finals Day

* *Match food*

Everyone agreed the main reason to play a club team league fixture is for the food afters. We want our teams to offer food to the oppo for 2 reasons:

1. To make us feel better, or at least less hangry, after we lose; and
2. Because we want them to make us food when we play at theirs (even if it’s just burnt pizza and a custard cream).

This is a vital part of the Camber understanding of the intersubjective reality that is the social contract underlying the conventions of the biannual Surrey LTA tennis minor leagues (East Division) competitions. John, however, did want it noted that he was obliged to “bring my *own sandwiches”* to his latest LTA Surrey county league fixture against Ashford (that’s the one in Middlesex, not Kent). In this regard, it was noted in particular with sincere nodding approvals, that our friendly local rivals, North Dulwich LTC ‘always put on a good spread’.

1. **AOB**

*Tennis balls:* Tennis balls have the potential to cause real damage to the environment, particularly in the way they are used at Camber. Mel is going to trial some Eco balls, which don’t cost the earth, but are a bit pricey (£11.98 a tube). They are, however, meant to last a bit longer before becoming useless. Some members at the club are also using test tube pressure ball recycling pump apparatus to see is that can prolong the life of balls. Mel, and other relevant members, will report back.

*Courts renewal:* Chris has procured quotes for the courts renewals which will be needed in the next 3 or so years. He will report to the AGM on the impact those quotes have on our financial planning.

*Wheelchair tennis –* Chris has procured through a charity event two new wheelchairs, which will help youth players. We have an enquiry from a local teenager who as part of an award scheme is looking to learn wheelchair tennis, and this will assist greatly with that. The committee is genuinely delighted by that.

*Maintenance day –* Next one prospectively scheduled for Sunday 3 April , so as not clash with various holy days.

*Broadband and TV –* It was agreed that we could do a little better on these facilities, and maybe we could get a smarter telly. Laurent’s going to sort this out and report back to us all.

1. **DONM** *(Monday 7 March, 7.30pm, clubhouse)*

*Meeting ends: 10.15pm*

*23.ii.21, vfd*