**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING, MONDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2022, 7.30PM**



***(HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE)***

*Meeting started 7.37pm*

1. **Attendance:** Mel (Chair), Steph, John & Fin attending;

Apologies from Jill and Chris (but thanks for their pre-meeting written updates on membership, finances and other matters arising).

Captain Laurent unavailable as on a vital border scouting mission to recruit a new player for his Men’s thirds team – evidence below.

**A group of men taking a selfie

Description automatically generated**

Major thanks to Steph for her demonstration of how meeting minutes ought to be prepared and circulated promptly, with her next-day action points as follows:

*Hey hey!*

*Just a round up of some of the decisions/actions from yesterday as we had people missing - which I know you will read in Fins fantastic minutes anyway, but just wanted to make sure a few points were not missed. Sorry if a  massive duplicate*

*1)*[***@laurent compagnon***](mailto:laurentcompagnon@hotmail.com)***Broadband****- sorry Laurent, I missed clicking the links! I think we need to go with something that will support us streaming on Iplayer/Prime for sports/cinema night etc. I am not sure how much we need for things like that. The Essential'' possibly fine? That was all I was thinking/why I asked.*

*2)*[*@Chris Smith*](mailto:london.smithy2@googlemail.com)

* ***Gas****- happy to go with your suggestion and leave it as is*
* ***Electricity****- Mel is going to contact Randy to look at the most value for money renewable energy options. Chris, if you can look into 'normal' options as comparisons?*
* ***Media:****Great news on the feedback from Richard Sounds. I think John has an enquiry for a party on the 14th Oct that it would be great to have it all working for (Ellen was at the club yesterday and I think John also mentioned this to her)*

*3)****Issues with doors / Access***

***Doors****- I messaged Fernando about the issue with the fire door not opening, and the handle on the main door. He said he will take a look on Weds, but think it will need specific people to sort and will be 'a real hassle'. The news we were all hoping for! Will see what he comes back with (Laurent/Chris, if you play on Weds, can you remind him if he forgets?)*

***Emergency access to club in power cut:***

* *We need to find the manual shutter winder and store in the shed (Mel going to look for winder as no one was 100% where it was)*
* *2 shed keys were in the office. Mel has taken one home for safe keeping/emergencies*

*4)*[*@Chris Smith*](mailto:london.smithy2@googlemail.com)***- Second card reader***

*We discussed previously the option of a second card reader, but think we ruled it out because everything still needs to go through the till of which there is still only one, so would not massively speed up bar service.*

*After the very large finals day, and even though pretty much all apart from possibly a few paid, I/we thought a second card reader would be helpful to be able to go round and take payments at larger events/socials - It will help replicate the old days of going round with a jar for cash collection. Appreciate this doesn't happen loads, but defo feels like it will be helpful even at small events too.*

*Chris - from memory, you said there wasn't an additional charge for another one? We'd just need to sort another phone (I've dug out my old one, will see if it works)*

*If anyone has any other comments on this, do shout? or ways of taking/tracking payments at big events to make it easier for everyone?*

***5) Annual dinner -****the 2 runners that normally do the bar (for free, but have their food paid for) cannot do this year. They (and other runner members) are going to a 60th birthday of one of the runners*

*John is going to see if his daughter Ruby and her friend would be keen to do it, but would need to agree payment rates.*

*If anyone has any other suggestions, please do shout? If we had to look at using the caterers staff (if they would be happy to do the bar), they charge £13 per hour*

*FYI - Annual dinner cost per head to us is going up from £23pp to £24pp*

***6) Skateboarders -****I raised that a few people have expressed to me they are not overly happy with the skateboarders' use of our water for free. I think this is more so since people had seen them take large buckets of water for the allotment, rather than just drinking water. Mel advised they now have their own water butts, and shouldn't be taking large amounts of water now*

*We agreed it was the right thing to bring it up at the AGM on why the club supports the skateboard community project, so that we are being open with members.*

Further major thanks to Chris for his addendum to Steph’s minutes as follows:

*On card machine, there is a one-off charge for a new reader (and we'd need a separate phone to pair with it as you say) but no extra ongoing charge. I think the charge was £59 but hopefully it's in a previous minutes* [Secretary’s note: it isn’t, but that’s ok, because at least someone was paying attention and it is now]*. The objections at the time were partly cost, partly "another 2 things to keep charged" and partly the till bottleneck - and would it be confusing if more than one person was trying to go round the room at a time? How many times does this come up as an issue? I'm still a little sceptical but if it was agreed at the meeting, happy to order.*

*On annual dinner, Ruby/friend would be great and I don't think we'd pay any less than £13 an hour - must be London living wage, especially for anti-social hours. So happy with that or caterer option.*

**And on other matters that arose:**

1. **Minutes of previous meeting (30 August) –** Approved
2. **Matters Arising:**
3. *Court bookings:* Still ongoing concerns about courts being booked, but members not turning up to them. This is being closely monitored and Club Sec is writing to those involved when it is reported to him’
4. *Club heating system:* Colin and Stephen S are looking into the operation of this together with a view to creating an easy-to-follow crib sheet for members to follow so we can avoid wasting energy, but still make the clubhouse nice and warm and cosy when we need to.
5. *LTA:* Mel is all over the club’s LTA venue registration process and ensuring all regulatory / LTA requirements are met.
6. **Regular site inspection:** Mel reported that everything is ‘fine’.
7. **Membership update:**
8. Jill had reported prior to the meeting that all membership numbers, etc. were stable.
9. There has been an agreement with our neighbouring allotment holders in recent weeks that their members would be permitted to join as social members at Camber. In return for spending just 2,000 (two thousand) pennies by way of membership fee \*, they will be able to avail of the facilities in the clubhouse. whenever the clubhouse is open and occupied by a full club member. We do not, however, anticipate that we will be flooded with allotment holders coming into use the toilet (*for the* *avoidance of any doubt, that last bit was John’s pun)*

*\* Terms and conditions apply. The value of the investment may go down as well as up (unless they pay in US dollars, which, tbh, we would probably accept); The club will under no circumstance accept bartered fruit and/or vegetables as good consideration for the membership fee.*

1. It was not thought practical to extend this membership and facilities offer to our neighbours in the Skateboard park, who do of course have their own portable toilet. There was some concern expressed as to how anyone could possibly tell the difference between a skateboarder and an allotment holder. Answers on a postcard please.
2. The Chair’s draft guidance on the committee’s envisaged guidelines for dealing with subscription rebate requests from members is now out to consultation with the committee members for future discussion.
3. **Finances: Treasurers’ update** *(CS)*

Latest finances report below:

“all seems fine”, reported Chris.

**Balance 23 September 2022**                                                                     £90,533

Balance at last committee meeting (30 August 2022)                           £91,020

Balance one year ago                                                                                  £69,088

Notable transactions since last committee meeting:

**Outflows**

                               - LTA team entries £260

**Inflows**

                               - Nothing unusual.

**On the gas contract, Chris had reported:**

*.****Gas/electric****- we are currently on fixed price deals that expire in February 2023 (electricity) and March 2023 (gas). This is great for the time being, as it means we are not affected by the massive price increases currently in place. It also means we won't avail ourselves of (much of) the government's energy support for businesses, which is currently due to run up to the end of March 2023 - although a fair chance it will be extended. However, at some point we need to agree new deals for the electric and gas. At the moment, all we have is a gas quote which looks like this:*

*- current rate under our fixed deal - 24p a day standing charge, 4.31p per kilowatt hour (kWh). This gives rise to an annual cost of about £650-700*

*- latest best quote (1 year deal from March 2023) - 25p a day standing charge, 25p per kWh. This would make the annual bill (assuming similar usage) about £3,600*

*We can either accept this deal now or leave it for a while and see if quotes get better (but equally they may get worse). I think my inclination is to leave it, partly because I believe the current supplier will not quote until 3 months before the end of the contract. But whatever happens, it is going to be ugly (unless there is further government intervention which is, as I say, quite likely). Would the committee like to accept the current quote? (as I say, I think my recommendation is no).*



1. **Inside the Clubhouse**

In addition to matters covers by Steph’s minutes (in red italics above), committee:

1. Decided to go the BT Broadband essentials deal on wifi;
2. Discussed (but deferred any decision on) whether and if so how to paint the now barren club office
3. **Outside the clubhouse**

* *Floodlights*– Chris had reported as follows:

*This has not been great so far. The council has been slow and pedantic about what it has been asking to process the planning application, and the contracted company has been extremely slow about responding to them. I had a long 'chat' to them this week and as a result they have sent a lot of information to the council today - hopefully this will get things moving. Hopefully I am also now being copied in on everything in both directions so I can keep track what is (or is not) happening. I should think we are looking at late November as a best case installation date at the moment.*

* *Cutting of the hedge –* With thanks to members for interim maintenance efforts, we will be getting some professionals to do the tricky parts of it, and especially the high up bits.

1. **Social Update:**

Club tournament Finals Day was a screaming success. About 80 people here; a barrel and a third of beer sold; great bar takings. The BBQ was monstrously good and popular. So huge thanks to everyone involved, on the day and in organising the tournament. Special mentions to Fernando, Rebecca and Laurent.

1. **Bar update**

John reported that Members have been drinking a lot of beer, which is good, or embarrassing, depending on how you look at things. John will have to go yet again to the giants’ booze store cash and carry and plans also to purchase, among other goodies, more cans of Red Stripe lager into stock for the younger lager drinkers among the membership. There’s also a private function on 14 October in the bar which we anticipate will go well.



1. **Tennis**

* *Update from club captains (Laurent)*

Laurent had reported that “tennis is all going well and everything is completely under control and going brilliantly”. Everyone agreed that the Club tournament had been a great success. Particular delight, admiration and regard for Claire R as this year’s *victrix ludorum* in both the doubles, and a recognition also that it was really good to see so many first-time tournament finalists and winners competing on finals day.

1. **Benches on the courts**

It was agreed that the new wooden bench on court 3 is a brilliant and welcome addition to our club’s player facilities.

It was further agreed that:

1. The size of our membership is growing;
2. Our membership is, unavoidably, ageing;
3. Tennis is a very tiring sport;
4. Sitting down between games (and maybe sometimes between rallies) is a sensible thing to do;
5. The committee would like to agree to measures that provide maximum support to our members;

And therefore, the addition of a further (and perhaps wider) court 3 bench similar to the brilliant and welcome (albeit narrowish) new bench on Court 3 is definitely now on the agenda.

1. **AOB – Deferred / None**
2. **DONM**

Monday 24 October, 7.30pm, at the Clubhouse

*Meeting ended 9.11pm*

*Approved 24.x.22*