

CAMBER LTC

Minutes of Camber Tennis Club Annual General Meeting, 3rd March 2024, 5pm (Held in the Clubhouse)

Meeting commenced at 17:08

1. Attendees

Chris Smith, Randy Brazier, Mel Carew, Lena Grannell, Chris Nunn, Giulia Puccini, Roya Shahilow, John Stephens, Mark Challen, Midge Beauchamp, Fernando Chehtman, Helen Noakes, Stephen Sin, Jill Purkis, Nikki Hutchins, Rebecca Smith, Ollie Morris, Justin Hunt, Adam Farley, Laurent Compagnon, Sarah Griffin, Callum Higgins, Daniela Sbrinsky, Jen Winterhalder.

Quorum of 19 easily reached, especially if we include Margot.

2. Apologies for absense

Marion Dewar, Fin Davern, Jen Mackay, Steph Mackay, Colin Mackay, Sandra Mackay, Peter Kiss

3. Approval of minutes of AGM held on 5 March 2023

No one wanted to challenge the minutes from the previous meeting so we can record they are approved with no amendments.

4. Matters arising from the 2023 AGM minutes

No matters arising from previous minutes. Mel tested everyone to see if they had read them by asking attendees what is in paragraph 8.

5. Committee Officer Reports - Questions from Members

Full details of the written officer reports can be found in the [2024 AGM Pack](#). Nikki commented that all the material was helpful and clearly written.

Mel gave a big thanks to everyone in keeping the tennis teams going including Laurent and Rebecca. Thanks again to George Sin for organizing the box league regardless of the fact that everyone ignores the deadline. Thanks to all the volunteers running the tennis events including the Fast 4s and handicap tournaments given it can be taxing.

Helen wanted to highlight that we took a similar amount in bar takings but less profits. Partly a result of it being too soon to see the benefits of

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the price increases. We only had one private event this year. This is probably an under utilized revenue stream. Thanks to Midge and Giulia with all the help getting things updated over the year with all the bar changes. If people have any suggestions for the bar please ask Helen instead of just moaning about it.

Helen is also keen to check who has a bar key, Helen will follow up and confirm this for security reasons and assess who should have access. Sarah commented she would like a drink sometimes but can't if no one has a key. Helen to investigate how to balance these competing priorities.

Question from Chris Nunn around the process for hiring people to run the bar during private events. Bar run by volunteers for these events. Surprised more members don't do it. Helen will look to advertise it more internally, at the moment this is just word of mouth. Nikki asked if we have a profit target that we want for the bar. Chris Smith explained this used to be our main profit source but not any more with the larger number of members. As long as we make a profit this is OK. Every little helps though. It is rare that we make a profit from the bar as a sports club.

Thanks so much to Jill for all her work as membership secretary!
Question from Chris Nunn on how many people are leaving each year. On average 20 or 30 people are dropping out each year. Given the size of the waiting list this is good for the stability of the club going forward. Just did an annual check of who is still interested in joining and we are now down from 380 to 200 on the waiting list.

Fernando mentioned he thinks he has a good quality key for cutting new ones if needed going forward. Question from Ollie on handing back keys and whether we get members to do this when they leave. Agreed we should try to do this going forward. There was some discussion on whether it would make sense for members to pay a deposit for their key to help encourage people to return their keys on leaving but it was decided that this would add admin that is likely not worth the effort.

The social sec Steph was off skiing. However, Mel commented that she had been a great member of the committee as you can see with the visuals included in her report. Anyone is free to organize and run events, please do come forward!

Mel wanted to thank all of the volunteer members not on the committee. Lots of things that are not seen which get done. Hope many more

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volunteers will come forward in the next year.

Mel mentioned that we will try to keep in touch with the membership more regularly going forward and will do a monthly newsletter including any volunteer opportunities, provide a monthly match report and will ask people if there is anything they can do for us as well. Lena asked how this newsletter will be delivered. Agreed we will put a copy of it on the noticeboard as well as sending around via email.

6. Acceptance of Annual Accounts with Auditor's report

Chris Smith summarized the accounts (full details available in the [2024 AGM Pack](#)). Everything is looking healthy.

Replacing courts 1 and 2 is the next big expenditure. Question from Laurent on the cost for this, likely around £100k. Question from Chris Nunn on how old the current courts are. 9 years at the moment, with the assumption they would be replaced after 10 years. Open question around what court surface we replace them with. We will consult the membership on what we should do going forward before we do anything. Question from Chris Nunn how long will it take. Last time this took 3 months but hopefully will not take as long this time round.

Great job pressure washing the courts everyone as they are transformed. Thanks to all the volunteers who worked on this as it saved a lot of money. Adam mentioned they missed a bit. Apparently Colin was having a bad day.

Question from Randy about the cost of utilities tripling, is this down to price increases or usage? Chris Smith commented that this is just due to price increases as we came off a long term fix, not really a change in usage.

Fernando had a question on what the TV line item is for. This is just the TV license, do you not pay yours Fernando? Also a question on the cost of the wheelchair program at £900 after this had been £0 in previous years. This is as a result of Chris Smith recording this in the accounts properly now. Previously Peter did not pay us for his court fees as these were roughly equivalent to what we paid him for the wheelchair programme. Therefore the cost of the wheelchair programme is roughly balanced out by the increased coaches' court fees in the 2023 accounts.

Adam questioned how much we are charging for courts to coaches as this hasn't gone up for many years from £1 while their coaching fees

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have. Nikki commented saying they bring a lot of value to the club. Other members have an opposing view that they occupy court space. Membership asked whether they were open to the committee exploring increasing coaches' court fees. About 50% were open to a discussion on raising prices. However, it was noted that several people did object: Sarah, Chris and Nikki were of the opinion that it is not worth it. Sarah commented that they have difficulty getting coaches at other clubs. The committee will discuss further at future committee meetings and report back to the membership.

There was a question from Nikki about the use of new balls during clubplay. Mel mentioned that the policy is new balls should not be used for clubplay except in exceptional circumstances where no old balls are playable in line with the club's sustainability policy. Chris said income from balls versus the costs for them over the year looks OK given the amount of league matches.

In terms of the auditors report Malcolm has gone through the accounts and has signed off on these. Accordingly the members formally approved the accounts.

7. Determination of 2024/25 classes of membership and subscriptions

The committee proposed the following changes to the classes of membership:

- To remove the 3-year cap on the length of student membership
- To change the over 7 miles membership to "outside the M25"

The committee also recommended that the annual subscription levels for the year from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 remain the same.

Randy noted that these proposals sound sensible. Everyone was in agreement, with no comments or amendments suggested. As such these proposals were approved by the meeting.

8. Members' Resolutions put to the AGM

- a. Introduce an under 30s membership category

Comment that other clubs do have this but they are more expensive. Adam commented we do not need this because we're not struggling for members or money. Only 10-12 current members are under 30. Stephen commented that it shouldn't be based on age, rather income. However, John said

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it can't possibly be means tested.

Rebecca mentioned that a goal of the proposal is to attract younger people to the club. However, it was mentioned that we are already one of the cheapest clubs in Dulwich. Lena commented that it is a long waiting list anyway.

Vote called on whether the membership would like to introduce this membership category. 6 were for a category based on youth and there were 3 abstentions but a clear majority were opposed and so the proposal was rejected.

However, it is noted that anyone who is having financial difficulty in paying for their membership should reach out to the committee who may be able to assist on a case by case basis.

b. Paint the clubhouse wall to the right of the sliding doors

Complaints from several members who find that on sunny winter afternoons the sun reflects off the silvery surface of this wall making it difficult to see with Colin making a proposal that the wall be painted to rectify this.

Fernando suggested a preferable solution would be to install artificial greenery or longer term to plant a climber to go up the wall.

It was noted that there are at least 4 members who are keen to have this addressed. However, surveying the meeting only 3 people agreed this was an issue, with the vast majority (18) suggesting this is not a problem and as such it was agreed we will leave the wall as is.

c. Hold the club tournament in June and July

Rebecca is not necessarily against this. However, holding the tournament later makes it easier to play matches for the national league. There may be the option to switch it with the handicap tournament but typically less matches need to be played for that. No-one had a strong opinion that there should be a change and for this year it is too late anyway as the dates are already fixed. However it was agreed it was worth thinking more about going forward and for next year the club captains will review their positions on this to see if it might be worth trying in future.

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- d. Add seating to the grass bank to the side of the courts

Chris Smith mentioned that previously they had cut the Smith Erasmus terrace alongside Court 2 but this has since become overgrown. However, we could do something similar again. While technically the land belongs to the cricket club we largely have liberty to do what we want with it. Spectating was easier and more comfortable when this was in place and Andy came and did it in the past but it would need to be maintained more regularly. Fernando suggested we could install suspended sleepers to make this more permanent. It was agreed that Chris Nunn, Colin Mackay and Stephen Sin will come back with a proposal on this for the committee to explore further.

- e. Install a practice wall

Nick was asked if he had a view on what this should look like. He suggested something similar to what was on the old Court 3. However, Chris Smith suggested something like this would be £10-12K to properly install and while it would be nice to have it is not in the budget right now. Adam commented that we should be prioritizing new courts instead. It was also commented that having a court used by one person is not the most efficient use of limited court resources. Agreed that a budget alternative might be an option if Nick wants to come back with a proposal for that.

- f. Pressurized ball container

Mel commented that she had used one previously and they didn't really work that well. Getting the right pressure is difficult. The committee will continue to investigate ways of making the balls last longer.

- g. Clubplay WhatsApp group

Reluctance to have yet another WhatsApp group. For now John to add Nick to the midweek WhatsApp which can be used to assess who will be at clubplay also. Callum to investigate having Camber being a community on WhatsApp to streamline communications.

9. Election of Committee Members/Officers

Mel wanted to thank Jill and Steph for doing a great job in their roles as membership secretary and social secretary respectively, both of

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whom are stepping down this year.

The remainder of the committee (Mel Carew, Chris Smith, Helen Noakes, Callum Higgins, Laurent Compagnon and Rebecca Smith) all indicated their willingness to serve another year in the committee in their current posts. In the absence of any other members expressing an interest in taking on those roles, Mel asked for the meeting to approve their re-election. All of them were re-elected unanimously.

Adam Farley is standing for the post of social secretary and is proposed by Steph Mackay and seconded by Chris Smith. Ollie Morris is standing for the role of membership secretary. He was proposed by Callum Higgins and seconded by Jill Purkis. Both were elected unanimously

10. Election of Auditor

Ellen Holyhead has volunteered to take on the role of auditor this year. She was proposed by Chris Smith and seconded by Mel Carew. Ellen was elected unanimously.

11. Election of President and Vice-Presidents

Our current President (Sandra Mackay) and Vice President (Midge Beauchamp) have indicated their willingness to serve another year in their posts. They were both re-appointed unanimously. We owe Midge quite a lot for making sure no one starves with generous supplies of cake provided following clubplay.

12. Any other business

a. Ball Machine

Chris thinks it's a decent machine. However, Sarah bought one more recently and commented it is now a bit dated with more mobile models not reliant on a cable now available. It was noted that on Court 3 it fills up with grit. Have to trail a cable out in order to use it, limiting usage to court 1. Agreed that people should try using it a bit and provide feedback to the committee who can discuss next steps to take based on this.

b. Light above darts board

Stephen Sin would like to see a light above the dart board installed. Fernando to discuss with Stephen whether this may be possible.

Meeting concluded at 19:12

3.iii.24