

MINUTES OF CAMBER TENNIS CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 21 MARCH 2021

Attendees:

Rebecca Smith, Lena Grannell, Mel Carew, Laurent Compagnon, Stephanie Mackay, John Stephens, Chris Smith, Stephen Sin, Jo Penny, Pete Coleman, Maz Turner, John Turner, Nino Bell, Helen Stephen, Noel Nallen, Finian Davern, Helen Noakes, Jill Purkis, Giulia Puccini, Sami Mahmood, Tony Foreman, Peter Kiss, Ellen Holyhead, Kourosh Amini, Louise Martin, Louisa Papachristou, Katy Higginson, Tamsin Jones, George Sin, Alex Lucas, Adam Farley, Mark Challen, Fernanado Chehtman, Midge Beauchamp, Marion Dewar, Malcolm Dunk, Herve Goffings, Zoe Ware, Charlie Carew, Nick Hellyer, Colin Mackay, Sandra Mackay, Gianluca Santoro.

Apologies: Neil McLeman

1. Election of Chair  
Mel appointed as chair - John proposed, Chris Smith seconded
2. Minutes of last AGM – approved as an accurate record and no matters arising from the minutes. Therefore, minutes to be added to the website as approved minutes.
3. Reports from Officers:

3.1 Report from the Chair: Chris Smith (1 April to early December 2020)

Overview of the year in response to Covid-19:

- reduced costs where possible e.g. utilities
- postponed planned spending e.g. repairing front fence
- offered 1 month discount on 2020 subs renewals although approximately two thirds of the membership voluntarily paid full subs
- successfully applied for government grants
- some financial support to coaches offered
- opened up in line with requirements eg risk assessment, introduced sign up system for clubplay
- from August 2020 offered only midweek
- currently 130 members on the waiting list

Challenges going forward:

- integrating new members
- maintaining the small club ethos,
- managing waiting list and court use.
- managing the increased proportion of membership at or beginning of their tennis journey

On the plus side:

- wider range of members to call on for teams etc.
- solid balance sheet with potential to finance future projects

There is a need for a complete review of club strategy over the next few years - any suggestions the membership has, to be forwarded to the committee

Question raised about possibility of refurbishing court backing on to Camber property. Committee can look at this again in discussions of club strategy.

Question raised about height of fences. There is a difficulty to retrofit fences higher and very expensive, but committee can check with the contractors.

### 3.2 Report from Club Captains: Laurent Compagnon

No report on teams as all competitions cancelled  
 Handicap tournament took place over the summer with 45 members participating. Winners to receive trophies at the next annual dinner.  
 Wheel chair tennis has been able to continue during the latest lock down

Provisional dates for starting competitive tennis (all dates tbc):  
 Box league due to resume 29<sup>th</sup> March, Team Tennis in May: Summer Surrey and National leagues due to start May 23<sup>rd</sup>, other tournaments tbc. Any members interested in joining teams to email Laurent or Rebecca

Both coaches commended for renewing accreditation during lockdown

No club ballot for Wimbledon this year - all tickets need to be purchase online

Question raised about possibility of further teams given larger membership –availability of courts at the weekend is an issue but committee to review this.

### 3.3 Report from Bar Secretary: John Stephens

Provisional dates for reopening:  
 12<sup>th</sup> April people can sit outside at tables of no more than 6  
 17<sup>th</sup> May, people can sit inside at tables of no more than 6  
 21<sup>st</sup> June we can operate as normal  
 John will restock bar in preparation for reopening but there will be no barrel beer.

A request was made for low alcohol beer.

Question raised whether we have enough people to man the bar between April and June. Arrangements for staffing the bar will be discussed by the committee before 12 April and membership informed if volunteers needed

Question raised about possibility of having a vending machine – this will be put on the committee agenda for discussion

Committee instructed to investigate new tv provider / subscription

### 3.4 Report from Treasurer: Neil McLeman

Treasure unable to attend today's AGM and his report will be deferred to later in the meeting when accounts are discussed

Thanks extended to Neil for his work as treasurer over the last 5 years and to Chris for obtaining grants from Southwark council

### 3.5 Report from Property Manager: Malcolm Dunk

Some maintenance work completed but quite a few jobs still outstanding.

Currently waiting for land registry approval for shed, however plans are there and hope to have a shed installed by next year's AGM

Thanks extended to Malcolm for his work on the committee all these years and agreeing to continue in this post next year as well

### 3.6 Report from Membership Secretary: Lena Grannell

Membership figures presented showing the increase in membership across all categories. Increase in midweek membership due to closure of full membership in August. About 90% of existing membership re-joined. As a result of lockdown and suspension of coaching, junior membership is considerably lower. This is expected to pick up once coaching resumes.

Thanks extended to Lena who is stepping down as membership secretary

### 3.7 Report from Social Secretaries: Steph Mackay

BBQ for the handicap tournament final in September was a success and the only event to take place this year.

Adam is stepping down as social secretary – Thanks extended to Adam for organising many successful social events over the last few years.

### 3.8 Annual Accounts (Ellen Holyhead)

#### 1) Results for the year (Profit and Loss)

Two main incomes: the bar takings are considerably down and bar costs are up as a lot of stock went out of date consequently a small bar loss, and approx. 50% increase on subscriptions

Grant from Southwark council – further grants received in 2021 do not feature in these accounts

Main costs is maintenance due to washing and repainting of courts & maintenance on court 3

Comes to a very small loss for the year – this is quite normal situation for a small tennis club

2) How the club stands (the balance sheet) -

So overall we have just about broken even

Cashflow – main points are: £11,000 cash profit made, £37,000 spent on court 3,

Committee will be looking at an amended strategy for managing the sizeable increase in budget and how this will be spent whilst continuing to ensure that the courts are properly maintained

Thanks extended to Ellen for doing the annual accounts

3.9 Auditor's report (Malcolm Dunk)

Malcolm confirmed his acceptance of the accounts.

Accounts approved unanimously by the meeting.

Thanks extended to Malcolm for auditing the accounts

4. 2021/21 Membership Subscriptions

Club rules do not ordinarily permit individual refunds of subscriptions, however they do permit a carry-over of part of the subs from last year to cover part of the subs for this year. Committee is therefore proposing that members can carry over 25% of the annual cost, which means paying 75% of their subs this year. This carry-over will be in recognition of the fact that the club has been closed for part of 20-21. This is a suggestion only and members are, of course, welcome to pay the full rate should they wish to do so.

An e-mail will be sent out to members with these subscription rates shortly and existing members will need to pay subs by 30<sup>th</sup> April. If people decide not to renew, people on the waiting list will then have an opportunity to join. Social membership to be added before the e-mail goes out.

Question raised about whether people need 5 weeks to make their payment given that there are so many on the waiting list. Chair pointed out that people will hopefully be informing us if they are not re-joining. The membership subscription rates for 20/21, the offer of a carry-over and the deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> April for renewal of subscriptions were all agreed

The committee was asked to consider whether we want to keep the membership at the current level ie one in one out.

5. Authorisation of refund requiring AGM approval

One new member requested a refund due to unforeseen covid-related circumstances - agreed

6. Proposed rule changes to constitution document

Two changes proposed:

1) Reduce the number of roles on the committee from nine to seven, with the option of co-opting two others if appropriate and the property manager is no longer a committee post - agreed

2) Proposing that membership players is limited to meet LTA guidance of 60 per court

Suggestion made that the second proposal should not include a set number for the maximum membership but instead state that the committee has discretion to limit the number in each category at any given time – agreed

Committee to write an amendment to reflect this suggestion and to put an updated version on the website.

7. Election of officers:

Chris Smith elected as Treasurer

Fin elected as Secretary

Laurent and Rebecca will continue in post as Club Captains

John Stephens will continue as Bar Secretary

Steph will continue as Social Secretary

Jill elected as Membership Secretary

Thanks extended to Mark, co-chair who is standing down, as well as to Neil, Lena and Adam for all their work over the years.

Malcolm reappointed as Property manager and Auditor, Sandra to continue as President, Midge to continue as vice-president

Judy is not currently a member so will be contacted to see if she would like to continue as vice-president

8. Any Other Business:

Adam suggested that the committee investigate cashless payments for lights and wider functionality of swipe cards including access into the building and to restricted areas (bar, office etc.) Malcolm to look into this.

Gianluca wanted to thank the committee and the membership for their support over the last year.

Meeting closed