

Approved Minutes of meeting of committee, 7.30pm, Monday 10 May 2021 (via Zoom)

1. **Apologies:** none - all officers present

2. **Minutes of previous committee meeting of 6 April.** Approved.

3: **Property and maintenance issues update from Malcolm Dunk (attending first part of meeting by special invitation of the Chair)**

a) *Shed*

Malcolm has previously circulated information relating to shed purchase options. which prompted discussion and questions to Malcolm. By way of summary, there is a 4-6 week supply delay from placing order. The following was agreed (all prices ex VAT):

- i) The shed would be a 10ft container, second hand, costing approximately £1,550 from Adaptainer;
- ii) Malcolm would order it and Chris will arrange payment;
- iii) Colour is likely to be green to align with Estate requirements and with Allotments shed colour;
- iv) We want it watertight lined to stop damp (approx. cost £896);
- v) Malcolm meeting Allotments on Tuesday 11 May to establish scheme of works;
- vi) Dates to avoid for works for Camber for prep or installation work are finals day in June;
- vii) Any groundwork needs to ensure the shed is high enough to allow door to open;
- viii) Any delivery options must ensure the delivery vehicle can fit down our drive;
- ix) We will work out how to fill the shed, and storage within it, once it is installed.

b) *Fence*

There was detailed discussion about relative merits of acoustic fencing and timber fencing. There were potential durability and maintenance concerns about timber fencing; aesthetic concerns were raised about acoustic fencing. Electric fencing was not considered.

Special acoustic fencing likely to be £5,400 (+VAT, inc labour) for 2m high fence with 2.5m recess at either end and there were some doubts about the effectiveness of sound blocking up against the South Circular traffic. It was agreed that the current situation is not good and to all intents and purposes we do not have a

functioning fence. MD will get quotes on timber options and report back for committee to consider further.

c) *Drainage inspection covers:*

Committee agreed that this is now an urgent matter given the impact that two large faulty covers could have on those using the car park. Warning signs and obstructions are now erected. It was agreed that MD will get three quotes and decide on email with committee how to effect speedy repair.

d) *Floodlight controllers*

MD research is that cashless payment card system on each floodlight unit would be £810 + VAT plus usage fees. Agreed too expensive. However, useful information to know in terms of anticipated review of cashless systems for the Club as a whole which will be undertaken in the coming months.

e) *Boiler*

MD has got this working after concerns in recent weeks, but there is still unpredictability in heating and water temperature. It was generally agreed that the heating control system was a bit too complicated for general club use. John S, as if suddenly awoken from a dream, animatedly described the system's workings as 'like the Schleswig Holstein question'. All nodded sympathetically and agreed with him that the Club needs a system that is easy to use, and effectively operated like a thermostat. MD said he would look into it, and in the meantime, MC said a notice should be put up that says something to the effect of: "please don't tamper with these controls, but if you are going to, please do this".

f) *Loo update*

MD was warmly congratulated on his work fixing the soap dispensers.

4. Other clubhouse issues

a) *TV*

MC has purchased an aerial, but there is some confusion about how to make that effective. It was agreed that a callout would be sent to members (by SMcK and MC) to see if they can assist, perhaps with the updating of a newer Smart TV. If that doesn't work, we would intend to get a professional in to fix.

It was agreed that having a TV facility is a good thing that members would want and we will need to decide in due course in particular whether a Smart TV might cater for the free-to-air and some paywall broadcast sports events that members like to watch at the Club.

b) Fire extinguishers

Agreed that it would be sensible to have these checked, and SMcK will look for a company which offers that service. The expectation is it would cost around £200.

c) Kitchen Mega pots:

It was agreed they should be put to a use alternative to their originally intended one. It looks like this will be as planters. For flower plants.

d) Annual Dinner

While we don't know yet whether this will be permitted to take place, SMcK has reserved our usual caterers for a couple of the late November Saturday nights, which all agreed was a very good idea.

e) Floodlights payments

JS raised an issue that particularly at clubplay on Thursdays, attendees tend not to have cash on them, so it is difficult to get lights money from them. Card payments are possible, but it does require someone to collect it. This has been exacerbated by the pandemic restrictions and is heavily reliant on a committee member or team captains being present. There was general discussion about whether club play sessions should charge for lights at all, and a range of views was expressed. There was a general agreement that this will become less of a problem in the coming weeks as pandemic restrictions are loosened and the long summer evenings draw out. But it was agreed there is a conversation to be had, perhaps in tandem with the cashless systems ideas, which would deal in part with this issue.

5. Outdoor issues:

a) Trees and hedges:

Some significant cutting back of the trees has happened over recent months. There is also concern about the hedges. After some detailed discussion, it was agreed that the hedge trimming along the side of courts 1 and 2 is a significant job at present, and it is reasonable and sensible to get a professional to do this, and in particular the high parts of the hedge, and that thereafter we would aim to maintain the position ourselves on a quarterly basis.

b) Grass banks:

JS updated committee from the last meeting that the banks did not require trimming a few weeks ago after consultation with Andy Lyon, but agreed that they do now and he will talk to AL about doing that in the coming weeks so all is in good order for the planned finals day in June.

c) Spare net winders and hooks:

LC has bought the netwinders, which are kept off court currently in line with LTA guidance, and are in the key safe. The hooks are up on Court 3.

d) Extension cables:

SMcK is going to get these to allow full access to the far end of the club on Court 2, particularly for hedge trimming and pressure washing of courts.

e) Water pools by utilities infrastructure

There is some confusion about whether this is new or old water pooling, but it was agreed it would be sensible to check it out and MC will ask MD to have a look at it.

6. Finances - Treasurer's update.

Chris said that we are in a healthy financial position. The balances are as follows:

Current cash: £74.7k

A month ago: £53.8k

A year ago: £33.5k (approx comparison)

Main income since last meeting:

- Lots of subscriptions

- £8,000 government grant

Main spending since last meeting:

- £170 floodlight repair

- £277 bar stock

- £700 rent

He would intend from now on to base report figures on the global figures in accounts, without carving out a £6k 'emergency reserve'.

MC commented that she thought she spoke for everyone when she said she was glad to see the finances were in such good shape, and that the funds are being put to good long-term use in the proposals for the shed and fence and other club infrastructure. She noted that we had received a further £8,000 grant from the council, and it was everyone's intention once the pandemic was over to ensure that the Club was able to find ways to give back to the community in the coming years.

5. Membership issues

a) Jill reported on renewals to date. She has with Chris's assistance been reviewing the data that we have, and in summary the figures are as follows:

Current Camber membership figures:

Full members: 116 [includes 1 new upgrade and 2 new members]

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Full 7+miles : 8 [includes 1 new , Lena's mother]
Over 65 : 7
Student : 3 [includes 1 new]
Midweek : 24 [includes 1 upgrade]
Total : **158**

Midweek Coaching: 2
Wheelchair tennis: 4
Runners : 5
Social : 7

Juniors' membership information is still to be finalized. Jill is liaising with the coaches, and her suggestion of 'flyering' the coached juniors with the coaches to ensure parents had information on membership was approved as a good idea. To date her figures are that there are 32 junior members and 31 who haven't renewed from last year.

All recognized there is a lot of work involved in this role, and Chris and Sarah Griffin have been very helpful of ascertaining the current position.

It is still the committee's intention to increase the playing adult membership to 180, and there would appear to be 22 places available to offer to the waiting list. It is agreed already that midweek members do not have priority on that waiting list. JP will approach those on the waiting list in groups of up to five or so in each of the coming weeks so there is an incremental membership increase up to the limit and she will in any event report back at the next committee meeting.

The waiting list is still growing, and so it was agreed that while we might not want to close that waiting list, the messaging to enquirers, and particular on the website, should be altered to be open in saying that it is going to take a long time on the waiting list before being invited to take up membership.

The issue of instalment payments and part-year payments for certain individual members arose. There are 4 members to whom this applies currently, so while in due course we might want to consider how we deal with these, the numbers are manageable.

The committee also agreed that payment for one particular member's subs will be paid by the committee and/or former committee members by prior agreement.

10. Tennis:

a) Club play issues:

It was agreed that we need to manage the difficulties with Club play for a few more weeks until restrictions are loosened, and MC is happy to check the attendance sheet.

b) Court booking app:

The Lta has rolled this back for the time being

c) Captain's update:

Congratulations to the captains for organizing the first tournament of the year. Congratulations also to Sami Mahmood also for becoming MIV captain. Finals day prep will be finalized at the next committee meeting, but intention is to ask 'someone' to help with a BBQ.

d) Monitoring booked but unused courts:

We are going to continue to keep a log of when this is happening if reported (FD) although in the past month, there have been no reported instances of it.

12. Bar & Social

SMcK suggested it might be worth having a celebratory Champagne Shuffle after 21 June, although finals day and fast fours scheduled tournaments might be an alternative.

It was agreed that an update to members ought to be sent out this week ahead of anticipated 17 May loosening of restrictions. Full details are tbc as at date of meeting, but effectively we think that means what was allowed outdoors in terms of bar is now allowed indoors; changing rooms and showers can be used; limits increased to 30 people (although agreed we would keep limit of 24 for club play for logistical reasons, and to allow 6 runners to attend their night) for gatherings. Committee will review detailed guidance and update membership. Track and Trace will still be required.

CS mentioned that he was hoping he would get approval for the Wine Trade Sports Club social tennis night to be held at Camber on a Tuesday or Wednesday eve in late September. This longstanding annual event makes the club about £300. It was agreed that could happen again this year and the committee wished Chris good luck with it.

13. Company admin

Congrats to MC and SMcK as new company directors, with sincere and full thanks to the previous directors who had left the committee in March (Neil McLeman and Mark Challen) for all their work in previous years.

Amended Club rules from AGM have also been filed.

As new directors have been appointed, it was an appropriate moment to raise the issue of directors' conflicts of interest and the way which the club can deal with those in the event that there is found, or believed, to be one. FD suggested that as this was the first quorate

directors' meeting since the AGM, if there were any directors who felt that they had any conflicts, or that it was thought they had any potential conflicts, this would be a good time to raise them. CS stated that, as was known to the Committee previously, he had some time ago entered into an arrangement with a club member which would mean the club member had a liability towards him. It had been suggested to him that in his (new) role of treasurer on the committee, that should be declared a conflict of interest. Accordingly, he wanted to make the committee aware of the position.

The committee discussed matters, including the fact that each of them was aware of the background to the matter. Each of them unanimously said they were comfortable in their assessment that there was no conflict of interest arising on those facts, but alternatively, that even if there were such a conflict, they unanimously authorized the conflict in accordance with the Club's articles. They thanked CS for raising the issue openly at committee in response to the genuinely held concerns of another member.

AOB

a) Maintenance Day:

MC proposed that a maintenance day be arranged as soon as possible after 21 June when restrictions are expected to be ended. This was agreed, although a suggestion was made that a pre-finals day 'tidy up' be organized for 20 June.

b) Tournament booking priorities on weekday evenings:

There was detailed discussion about a request from one member for squad training nights to be limited and/ or amalgamated for the duration of the handicap tournament to allow for greater flexibility in booking tournament matches on weekday evenings.

General discussion on the point covered the following aspects:

- There is wide availability currently at the weekends and Friday evenings.
- There is flexibility in the training/ group sessions when it comes to tournament time, particularly near the end of the tournament;
- The play-by deadlines on the tournament are generous;
- Alternative systems to 'crunching' team sessions may be difficult to administer; and
- There have not been any other complaints about the issue to the club captains.

All agreed it was a difficult perennial issue, and it was agreed that the solution to the problem wasn't immediately obvious but the tournament organisers would work together with the team session organisers and the tournament players to work out a way to get the tournament completed, perhaps by arranging an extended booking 3-week window on the booking system for this tournament's matches.

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It did also raise a wider issue of court usage and how and when the courts are being used, and by whom, so this is something the club captains and chair will monitor this month, as will MC.

c) Membership lists:

JP suggested it would be helpful to distribute the membership list to all of the Committee, and that was agreed as a sensible thing to do.

d) Keys:

CS raised the issue of wonky keys: it was noted that no one knows where the original club entrance key is, and the cuts we get of copies are of variable quality. It was agreed that various people would try to use their local key cutters to create some new brass copy keys from those they each hold.

DONM: Agreed for Tuesday 15 June 2021 at 7.30pm

Venue: Clubhouse

Meeting ended 10:28pm

Camber Committee 15.vi.21