

CAMBER LTC

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING, TUESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2021, 7.30PM

(HELD OUTSIDE CLUBHOUSE)

Meeting start: Sunset

1. Apologies

Laurent. All other officers present, together with even more mosquitoes than usual.

2. Minutes of previous committee meeting (13.vii.21) – Approved (eventually), after mooted motion of censure and/or removal of committee secretary for dilatory delivery of draft minutes of previous meeting. Said secretary offered to second any such motion put forward, though offer not taken up. Yet.

3. Matters Arising:

- a) Further censure of committee secretary for ridiculously listing matters arising for discussion before the approval of the dilatorily delivered draft minutes of previous meeting. Said secretary offered to second any further motion of removal of committee secretary (though offer not taken up. Yet).
- b) *South-Circular fence:* Mel will be talking to Malcolm in the coming weeks to arrange the ordering and construction / installation of the fences, as set out in the Garden Fencing London quotation previously discussed. Mel explained that she would have spoken to Malcolm earlier, but someone had forgotten to circulate the draft minutes for approval of the previous committee meeting, which had her to-do list on.
- c) *Membership waiting list* – Chris said he was having some difficulty reviewing the documents for the meeting as they had not been satisfactorily paginated, but noted that he had meant to send an email to the waiting list people to explain that the membership list is closed for this year (to all intents and purposes as previously discussed). He would now do so (and would have done so earlier if someone had not forgotten to circulate the draft minutes for approval of the previous committee meeting, which had his to-do list on.)
- d) *Telly!:* great excitement and approval at committee of yet another appearance for Camber on the locally available public service broadcasting terrestrial television channels – this time involving our wheelchair players on an edition of Channel 4's *Last Leg* Paralympics coverage. None of us had seen it, but efforts are to be made to locate footage and circulate among members. It was noted that Camber is becoming an increasingly popular and accessible venue for photoshoots and film / video recording in a variety of broadcasting genres.

4. Finances: Treasurers' update (CS)

The monthly summary position was as follows:

Balance 7 September 2021	£67,040
Balance at last committee meeting (13 July 2021)	£68,548
Balance 1 year ago	£34,472

CAMBER LTC

Main transactions since last committee meeting:

Outflows

Tree cutting	£1,200
Quarterly rent and annual buildings insurance	£2,019
Outside Aerial for TV	£200
Court 3 regular maintenance	£966

Inflows

Wheelchair grant (the second half of a grant to support the wheelchair sessions, originally awarded pre-pandemic)	£750
---	------

On a longer-term view, Chris has prepared some cashflow projections through to 2024. Evidently these are forecasts based on a series of carefully calibrated realistic assumptions. **HE EMPHASISED THESE ARE DEFINITELY NOT PREDICTIONS.**

He added that by looking into his crystal ball, Camber is going to make a tax-free annual profit of £25,000 ~~between now and the next election~~. Which means we could start thinking more imaginatively about our spending priorities and club infrastructure, ~~and possibly even slashing taxes~~ and/or lowering subscriptions and bar prices. We would be having a brainstorm about all of that a bit later in the meeting. All present were very grateful to Chris for his work

5. Update from Membership Secretary (JP)

Jill provided her monthly update as follows:

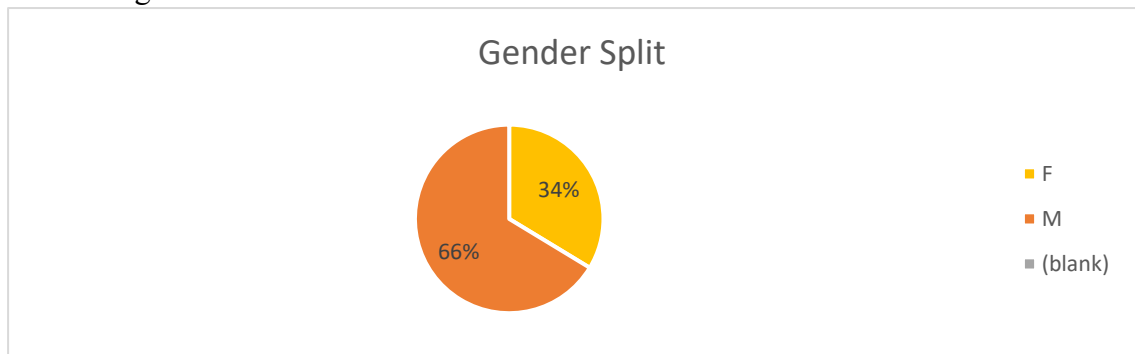
We have to date:

Adults: 155 full members able to book courts anytime, plus 20 midweek members

Making 175 members in total able to book court time.

Other members [social, runners, wheelchair coaching and midweek coaching members] take our total up to 196 members

The average Camber member now looks like this:



- The Juniors lists are still in the process of being updated, and Jill continues to liaise with Peter and Gianluca on that. However, we know we have 65 paying juniors, and

CAMBER LTC

have a revamped junior membership application form. The coaches will continue to cc Jill on new junior membership emails. All agreed that the number of paying juniors is really impressive and a testament to the coaches' work, and Jill's in organising and supplementing the data and payments side.

- There was some discussion about the midweek coaching membership category, and noted that the coaches know that regular attendees at the Club should be signed up into this category. There was general contentment at the level of coaching hours currently occupying the courts, particularly during daytime weekday hours, and noted that there is no discernible adverse impact on access to courts for members. It was also agreed that membership enquirers could be referred to the coaches for coaching enquiries.

- The issue of guest fees was raised. It was agreed there was currently no limit on the number of times a person can visit as a guest (principally because we cannot incentivise guest to become members because of the closed membership). We would keep this under review, but currently there is no practical issue arising from members bringing guests and paying a fee for each time they come.

- It was agreed definitively and unequivocally and for the avoidance of all and any doubt (again) that the membership list is closed (unless Rebecca thinks a prospective new member would qualify to play for the women's first team), but that the waiting list remains open and anyone is entitled to join the queue if they should like to.

7. Maintenance & works:

- a) *South-circular fence update:* Mel promised she would pursue the fence vigorously in the coming week.

- b) *Project Shed:* Mel reported that we are not quite there yet, and over the summer we have potentially inched away from project completion as a result of a potential diplomatic incident with a particular allotments member. However, trench warfare was avoided thanks in the main to the conciliatory skills of our Malcolm, for which we are all grateful, and it looks as if the project is back on track. In principle.. There has been a slight further glitch with the Allotments' shed: someone, somewhere has, it would seem, taken the notion of panel beating a bit too literally and destroyed the allotments' shed container door. This will of course need to be replaced prior to installation, but because of global supply chain issues, and the apparent non-availability of reverse panel beaters after Brexit, there will be a further delay into late autumn or winter. But hopefully it will all be over by Christmas, as these things so often are.

- c) *Hedge-trimming update:* Huge thanks were expressed to Colin for his trimming of the hedge, in addition to the professional trimming job done by contractors. There is an issue over the height at which the hedge can be trimmed (not helped by someone having omitted to deal with those aspects in a written agreement with the Allotments on the issue), and over whether all the vegetation within the area of the hedge is, in fact, hedge or some other non-hedge natural material. Mel suggested that we should probably try to put Project Shed

CAMBER LTC

to bed first before getting involved with the allotments on this issue, and everyone agreed. We will however keep the hedge trimmed back on or side so we can get onto Court 2.

- d) *Padlock-gate*: Great agenda item title; great work by Reg in sorting out the new padlocks.
- e) *Camber Spa Springs*: there is general bemusement about the continuing appearance of ground water around Court 3 and on the drive. Thames Water have investigated and said they were none the wiser about its cause, but that it had in any event “absolutely nothing” to do with them. As a result, there is a feeling that there may be some naturally occurring ground water. The Camber Centenary historian’s records do indicate that the Harvester skatepark opposite us was once a desirable spa and wellbeing destination, so it was wondered if there might be some scope for finding out whether we can investigate that aspect. Fin will talk to geologist members for some guidance and report back on water prospecting options. Much excitement at the commercial prospects of Camber’s very own proprietary water source.
- f) *Maintenance morning*: This was a great success and the work party’s resources were efficiently allocated to tasks including clearing the gully and oiling wooden furniture. Great thanks to all those who turned up to help, and kindest regards expressed to those who went *en masse* to play golf instead.
- g) *Autumn works*: There will be much maintenance work as we head into the cold, wet, messy darkness of autumn. We do have a strimmer and leaf blower, and now even have the right fuel for them, together with instructions for the leaf blower – which will be circulated to captains for use before matches. So that should help if used regularly and appropriately. We will get the grass banks done for Finals Day (John will liaise with Andy L on that on a contractor basis)
- h) *Maintenance morning*: Set for the first Sunday morning in November: 7 November at 10.30am. Courts will be block booked out by Rebecca to stop any clashes with matches

8. Tennis:

There was a little bit of chat about tennis. Congratulations and thanks again to Rebecca and Laurent for running the record-entry club tournament which is rubbing along nicely.

a) Update on Wednesday beginners’ sessions

There was a range of views expressed about the Wednesday night beginner sessions. It was decided to communicate the following to the relevant members: the club is not going to run the sessions any longer as a club thing. However, those members are welcome to book courts and come to club play and can book sessions jointly / together with Peter if they can arrange that with Peter, and we would facilitate the Court time for an hour a week for them to do that.

b) Sign-up sheets for club play sessions

There was a review of the LTA guidance and the current position. In practice, hardly anyone is using these sign-up sheets any more. They worked well during the restrictions, because it gave everyone some certainty, and enabled the sessions to go ahead, so big thanks to those that organised the sheets. But if people have stopped using it, we probably don’t need them, and the LTA doesn’t seem to say we need them either. So now that the whole country is acting like

CAMBER LTC

everything is normal, so should we (subject, of course, to following appropriate guidance and being sensible).

9. Social update

Now that the whole country is acting like everything is normal, and so are we (subject, of course, to following appropriate guidance and being sensible), the social side is going great guns. 35 people have signed up already for the Annual Dinner, and details of the tasting night will be circulated to committee; the Cooking class night in October (Tu Sen) already has a reserve list. There is a poker night coming up (Jude). For those who like to celebrate Christmas (or, at least, cannot avoid it), there'll be some events around then. Burns night 22 will happen as well. Fernando is going to do a right proper Fernando's Famous Barbeque Feast for Finals Day.

10. Bar report

John reported that this is also all going marvellously – and we will have 4 Saturday evenings running over the next month with big doos and lots of booze being sold. That will mean lots of bar stocking over the next few weeks. John made a binding promise to Laurent (in Laurent's absence) that there will be Pimms and Aperol available for Finals day.

11. AOB

(a) *Parking bays*: Steph is organising these to be done professionally over the next couple of weeks. Members will be informed and banned utterly from using car park for the duration of the works on the appointed day.

(b) *Charity fundraiser*: Members of the committee agreed that the Charity Quiz night in aid of Cornwall Air Ambulance was a great night and a worthy cause which members and guests had contributed to. Fin and Chris will look into the options for the Club to assist with the fundraiser's costs of running of the night at our venue up to a total Committee-approved value of £150

(c) *The Camber Committee brainstorm*: Each member present had the floor for two minutes to suggest great ideas to consider for the use of anticipated surplus funds. Buying a Camber Van was definitely top of the wish list. There are however another 52 ideas put forward. Chris has kindly suggested he will collate and categorise them all on a spreadsheet for committee members to review and rate on affordability and preference bases, and then we will discuss again at the next meeting, which is....

12. DONM

Fixed for Tuesday 12 October 2021 at 7.30pm. Inside the Clubhouse. Away from the mosquitoes.

Mel as chair congratulated everyone, and everyone congratulated Mel as chair, for completing the ~~marathon~~ meeting in significantly under 2 hours.

Meeting ends 9.33

11.x.21, Camber LTC