

CAMBER LTC

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING, MONDAY 24 OCTOBER 2022, 7.30PM

(HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE)

(Glossary)

- **CLTCMWLM** – *Camber Lawn Tennis Club Membership Waiting List Mountain*
- **ILWTCOARCTS** – *In Line With the Club's Ongoing And Renewed Commitment to Sustainability*
- **ODNITA** – *Our Dear Neighbours In The Allotments*
- **A Good DJ** – *Someone Who Plays The Tracks That Mel Likes When She Wants To Hear Them*

Meeting started 7.46pm

1. Attendance: Mel (Chair), Jill, Steph, John, Laurent, Chris & Fin attending; Apologies from Rebecca

2. Matters Arising:

- (a) *Electricity:* Mel has *ILWTCOARCTS* consulted with members of the club's Sustainability Committee on the issue of what we should do about our electricity supplier. The conclusions of the consultation were that it was agreed we:
- i)* need an electricity supply;
 - ii)* have an electricity supplier;
 - iii)* should continue to have an electricity supply; and
 - iv)* should continue with our current supplier, until about March next year at least.
- (b) *Richard Sounds:* This gentleman has visited and delivered all the presents for our new sound and tellybox systems. Chris has kindly volunteered to install and find the batteries etc., and should all be done and dusted before Christmas (as these things so often are) and maybe even for the annual dinner jamboree (as well as for viewing the forthcoming association football world cup which includes some of the world's best national teams and England).
- (c) *The club's emergency back door:* Concerns expressed about the inoperability of the emergency back door opening push-bar mechanism which is a concern if members ever had to exit the clubhouse in a hurry in case of emergency / heated argument. Agreed we might want to consider replacing the mechanism. Steph to consult with Fernando on the action points here.
- (d) *Emergency Access to clubhouse:* Ongoing concerns about access the clubhouse when the power cuts hit. Mel has procured a chitty-chitty-bang-bang-car-winder-up-style-hook-thingy which will enable us to wind up the shutters if ever needed.
- (e) *Heating system controls:* Colin and Stephen's colloquy series continues on this. Colin has installed new batteries. More thought will be given to a handy sheet of thermostat instructions for members. John's going to have a chat with Colin too on reprogramming. Bigger problem seems to be that the main sliding back doors are always left open because the emergency back door isn't working (on which see (c) above), so these things are all

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linked and need to be dealt with holistically (and, naturally, *ILWTCOARCTS*). Although of course any major expenditure would be referred to the AGM for prior approval.

(f) *LTA Registration*: this is all in hand, ongoing, and the LTA have confirmed that we are on track with all parts of the registration.

3. Minutes of previous meeting (26 September) – Approved, eventually, with particular thanks to Steph for the **timely, succinct, helpful, useful and informative** bits she did.

4. Regular Site Inspection: Mel confirmed she had undertaken this regular task, and that everything was *“more than tickety boo – and you can quote me on that”*.

5. Finances (CS):

Finance report:

Balance 23 October 2022	£90,242*
Balance at last committee meeting (23 September 2022)	£90,533
Balance one year ago	£66,266*

*Both balances adjusted to remove annual dinner payments as these will go back out again at some point

Notable transactions since last committee meeting:

Outflows

- Balls £863
- new amplifier £869
- quarterly rent £869 (a slightly weird coincidence)

Inflows

- Nothing unusual.

Two large socials since the last report (finals day – bar takings over £1,100) and the recent 18th birthday (£700). These have meant our balance has not changed much despite £2,600 of notable outgoings. Ball costs are now much higher than in previous years and we have increased prices accordingly. The rent payment reflects the automatic rent increase implemented at the 10-year anniversary of the lease (was previously £700 per quarter)

Chris provided a further long-term strategic forecast for the use of our now substantial club funds, which he would envisage being used as follows:

- £36k imminently on floodlight replacements on courts 1 & 2; and
- Relaying the courts in 2 to 3 years, which is anticipated to cost in the region of £100k; at current levels of income, we should have a surplus of approx. £24k for each of the next 2 years to bring our funds to a level to be able to fund that renewal.

Also **very significantly**, Thames Water has now installed a new meter and we are restarting from a blank slate in our account with them. We will review the level of water use, but it does not appear at this stage that we are using significant amounts over what we would expect, which is an indication we are not paying for any leaks on the water supply.

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6. Membership update:

Jill reported that our membership remains stable currently, in numerical terms at least. We have had one new full member join, but no new social members to add. There has been no flood of applicants for the latter category from the membership of ODNITA. The inflation of the CLTCMWLM continues apace, and currently stands at 310 souls.

Some members have raised the idea of introducing a 'weekend membership'. Committee rejected the idea – it would put too much pressure on courts at the weekend and reduce the incentive for people to join as full members.

Mel has circulated her draft guidance to the committee re dealing with subscription reduction requests from individual members and our feedback will be on the agenda for next month's meeting.

7. Floodlight installation

Chris reported the planning application was finally accepted on 23 Sept ([and can be found here](#)). The council says that the "determination deadline" is 17 November - hopefully that means the end of the whole process. Mel has submitted a really very powerful letter of support on behalf of the whole club. If people want to write individual letters of support that's good too, but hopefully this will go through without any issues. There are no other letters of objection or support on the application as yet. It was decided to wait for the formal approval by the council of the application before paying for the lights.

8. Social Update:

Steph reported that the Annual Dinner preparations are going excellently. The catering company will be on site from 7pm to 11pm on the night, and will cover the bar also during that time,. There are still 11 spaces up for grabs. There will, as ever, be a disco and Mel in particular agreed that she was looking forward to dancing to A Good DJ.

In the coming months; there's a poker night on the cards (*sorry – ed*) next week; Alex and Shaun are going to come up trumps (*ooof...*) with a Camber Kitchen in January. Our Scottish-ish contingent seem to have moved as far away from Scotland (and Camber) as possible this year, so a Burns Night shindig would probably be pointless, so that won't be happening.

9. Bar update

John expressed big thanks to those who had staffed the bar for the recent 18th birthday party. It was hard work but financially successful for the Club. Some of the young kids were very polite and friendly. There was quite a lot of cleaning up to do though, and on balance we probably won't accept bookings for 18th birthdays again.

John also reported that members have, again, been drinking a lot of beer, which is good, or embarrassing, depending on how you look at things. So, due to popular demand, John joyously confirmed that from now on the bar will be ordering a second barrel of beer in advance so that the beer taps shall never, ever again run dry at Camber. He'll also be getting in more spirits. So all in all, fantastic news.

We do appear to have misplaced the bar shutter key, but maybe we'll ask Fernando about that one. Not implying anything. We'll just ask him and are confident it will all be sorted soon enough.

10. Tennis

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- *Update from club captains (Laurent)*

Laurent reported that “tennis is all going well and everything is completely under control and going brilliantly”.

The summer leagues have ended. Laurent’s detailed performance report was as follows:

Some teams went up; some teams went down; some teams went neither up nor down and stayed where they were

All were grateful for the informative update.

Because the summer leagues have ended, the new winter leagues have started, and we’ve entered 4 women and 4 men’s teams in the Surrey leagues.

The over 55s men’s team has retired – the away matches were taking a very very long time to get to, and the journeys required an increasing number of, er, pit stops . They have however started playing in a local league. All those clubs have wonderful facilities and there is the added bonus that they can get to those matches with their free travel bus passes.

11. AOB

- (a) *Pines and Needles* – next door, the dead Norwegian trees sellers are setting up shop to attract and trade with those who start celebrating Christmas several weeks before it happens by purchasing dead Norwegian trees. We will continue with the arrangement from previous years where they plug into our mains to put on their lights etc., but pay us for their use. And we will probably get a free dead tree out of it as well.
- (b) *Member of the year* – a quick reminder that as a matter of convention, the committee **never** discusses this and the award is solely in the gift of the Chair. However, if anyone has any ideas, then by all means say it to Mel. Separately.
- (c) *Broadband* - the installation of the new BT Broadband set-up is imminent.
- (d) *Hedge-trimming*: We will be getting in contractors to trim the hedge, but we do need to make sure ODNITA are happy with our plans and that we are clear whether we are trimming horizontally or vertically. We are also going to keep a close eye on our neighbouring oak trees – they are not on our land, but some of them do look a bit on the less-than-lively side, so we should keep an eye.

11. DONM

Monday, 21 November 7.30pm, at the Clubhouse

Meeting ended 10.10pm

APPROVED 21.xi.22