

Minutes of RLTSK General Committee meeting No. 315, held on 19th October 2017 at RLTSK.

Present: Simon Spalter (SS) Chair, Mike Jaffa (MJ) Tennis, Kyri Costi (KC) Squash, Nyall Jacobs (NJ) Communication, Suzi Lynch (SL) Bar, Dermot Wickham (DW) Hon Sec, Simon Hancock (SH) Treasurer, Jordan Miles (JM) Head Coach.

1. Apologies: Stephen Middleton (SM) Grounds.

2. Conflicts of interest: None declared.

3. Matters arising: Brian Hardy (BH) had been invited to present the prizes at the junior squash tournament, but had declined. SS will speak to BH about his ongoing role at RLTSK and his role as Chair of Radlett Village Institute. **Action:SS**

SS had contacted Aldenham Parish Council about our aspirations.

Laura Collins – the relevant inbox is monitored by JET & emails are forwarded to her personal address.

Membership – Masood Moghul has resigned & the membership figures have been circulated. No-one seems willing to take on his role.

Table tennis tables – JET has contacted Alex Agran again & the tables should be removed in the next week.

Coffee machine – SL has been liaising with JET about a coin or card operated machine.

Floodlights upgrade – dealt with as part of the courts & planning item.

Fire extinguisher – not yet re-sited. **Action:SM**

Sunday night rota – more volunteers to be requested in the newsletter. **Action:NJ**

Drive improvements – awaiting news. **Action:SM**

Ian Pinkus – will clear his debts to the club by December. Another member has run up fairly large debts & SH stressed that credit control has been improved.

Table tennis bats & balls – now available from behind the bar.

Cameras for squash – 80% done.

Bar furniture – replaced.

Bar levy – the cost of installing a system would be prohibitive & a bar levy would be unfair on members who use the club when the bar is closed.

Bar surface – estimates have been circulated.

Telecom mast – the Committee felt this one should be moved forward.

Action:SM

Cycle rack – awaiting news. **Action:SM**

Tennis court lights & booking – dealt with by KC

4. Courts & Planning: SS welcomed Richard Glass (RG) to the meeting as he had been assisting him with this process. Providing a “performance surface” on courts 7-9 would cost around £140k (excluding lighting). A tarmac surface would cost about £80k, including necessary substrates. Our planning application for floodlights for 3 courts had been denied on the basis that one court was too near the river & an application has been re-submitted. We have £60k funded by John Apthorp; SH was congratulated for securing a potential further £25k from Sport England, although this is conditional on making the area also available for multi sports usage. SS & RG have been engaging with the LTA over a further potential £75k, although this may be partly in the form of a loan & will also come with conditions. Floodlighting is expensive & ultimately we would also like to develop the facility as covered, although a “bubble” is not a realistic option. SS stressed we would need to engage with an outside professional to take this project forward, although it would be unlikely to commence before Autumn 2018.

5. Club Manager: The club is nearing a crossroads in terms of the amount of time & energy that is required from volunteers as it appears that a younger generation of helpers is not forthcoming. Equally, an increasing number of members use RLTS as a place to play or learn tennis, rather than wishing to participate in a club. While we have got more out of existing Office resources, they are largely providing administration rather than management, while JM has helped out by organising tournaments etc. However, given the decline in the number of full paying members, we do not appear to have the income to support a meaningful increase in the existing budget of around £30k. SS is to employ a person to work on marketing & membership, doing 5 hours a week at £12-15/hour as an attempt to grow membership.

6. Club access: some swipe cards appear not to be working: Melissa to be asked to investigate. **Action:SS**

7. Open days etc: Next year's Open Weekend could be aligned with a LTA promotion on 12-13 May. The Squash tournament date will be advised by KC & the Tennis tournament by MJ. **Action:KC MJ** The AGM may be held on Wednesday 21st March, so as to avoid Easter week. Wimbledon Ballot – **JET** to advise as to when we should get our allocation. JET has had the option to buy 2 tickets each year as Club Administrator; **SS** will discuss the workings of this offer if it is made in 2018. The Office failed to process the application for finals day Court 1 tickets that were offered to the club which should have been available for juniors.

8. Tennis: the main debate was on the suggestion that non-members should be allowed to play for the Men's & Ladies' 1 teams in the /herts League. The Committee appeared divided on this issue & MJ will hold an open forum to seek the views of the Tennis members & report back to the Committee. The future of club competitive/social tennis will also be discussed. **Action:MJ**

9. Bar & Social: SL stressed that we needed more bar staff, especially during university term time & would welcome recommendations. The Halloween function, costing only £5, has been cancelled as members seem unwilling to support running the event. It was questioned why we were

opening the bar at 6:30pm as we would be unlikely to cover staff costs for the first hour. SL also committed to increasing prices, in order to boost the low 30% gross margin. **Action:SL** The kitchen crockery & equipment was discussed & a clearance will be organised with JET. **Action:SS** The provision of food at club matches was discussed & DW will provide details of an external caterer, Louise Cakes. **Action:DW**

10. Finance: The number of full paying members seems in steady decline, which is a problem. We need to start setting a password for the club wifi, which has also been erratic.

11. Communications: NJ reiterated his request for more content to be sent to him, so that the newsletter can be more interesting.

12. Squash: The recent Herts Closed Championship could have been better publicised. The courts have sometimes been dirty & it is suspected that this has resulted of misuse of the courts by juniors. The quote from Fulcher Edwards for upgrading the booking & lighting system was agreed.

13. Grounds: Not discussed in detail as SM was absent.

14. LTA Risk Assessment: DW invited any comments on this document, which he had circulated.

15. AOB: Next meeting is likely to be in early 2018.