**Camber Committee Meeting Monday 18 January 2016, 19:45,The Clubhouse**

**Minutes**

**Attendance; Chris Smith (Chair), John Stephens, Alex Lucas, Judith Wright, Deborah Cullinan, Justin Hunt, Michael Qureshi (to Item 4), Julia Searle, Michael Davis-Higuera**

1. **Minutes of last meeting (18 November 2015), as attached, and matters arising not covered below**

Open points from last meeting:

Gas situation: There is not enough gas to run the heating, boiler and cooker. We are currently liaising with BG, the situation is ongoing

Main door not closing: The issue is resolved now

Maintenance morning: Was entirely devoted to digging a trench around Court 3. This is a good temporary fix but we need a permanent solution. **Colin** has been asked to speak to Justin, Nick and Chris Whitehouse to come up with a plan and suggest what the next steps to be taken should be, coming back to Committee when cash is needed.

Shed: There is a meeting between Camber (Chris/Colin) and allotments on 24/1 to work out what to do with the shed area. There has been some dispute in the past about whose land our shed is own but relations are currently amicable so hopefully this can be resolved without too much difficulty.

Outstanding jobs as per last meeting’s minutes:

Main shutter – is now fixed

Christmas Tree lights – ask Colin to chase the Xmas Tree people for meter reading [now sorted out].

Check with Colin where the floodlight meter keys are and get some spare keys cut, including one for each of the coaches.

Furniture for the office: Justin and Fernando to agree between each other

Courts 1 and 2: Repainting will now take place during the week commencing 4th of April (reserve week of 30 May if weather is unsuitable). In addition, pressure washing of the courts will be carried out to attempt to improve porosity (first wash was today).

Floodlights: proved extremely expensive to fix, about £600 in all. Meeting considered whether to buy some bulbs to have in stock but as very little saving in time or £ and with risks of breakage at the club it was decided just to buy on an “as needed” basis.

Purchases where money from the till is being used: **all to note** that for any purchase over £50, we should notify Judy of it by email.

Annual Dinner Refund: **Chris** will send out an email to everyone who attended offering a £10 refund as soon as the refund from the caterers actually hits our account.

Ball machine: Still needs to be purchased (**Chris**)

November Meeting minutes to be put up on the Notice Board in the Club House (**Michael**)

**John**: Still needs to do the bar licence course

**Chris** to speak to Cricket club about putting up nets to stop cricket balls coming onto the courts. Chris has already spoken to the club and they will discuss it at their next meeting

1. **Finance update (Judy/Chris)**

Current cash position circulated showing just under £2,000 of ‘free cash’. Agreed to be OK but does not allow us to solve problems (e.g. court 3 surface, see below) via expensive options using external contractors – need to be careful with spending. However membership renewals season coming up soon which will improve matters.

**Alex** to check with professional colleagues on the position of the Thames Water reserve.

1. **Business Plan**

Preliminary draft discussed. Agreed that the final sign-off should be for the new Committee post-AGM.Following points to be incorporated into the next draft (action – **Chris**):

* Include some longer-term goals/aspirations
* Clarify that membership increase targets are net not gross
* Add target for % of members renewing
* Add a review mechanism – specifically, progress and targets to be reviewed twice-yearly at the July and January Committee meetings
* Produce a summary for members for the website and noticeboard
* Make the summary box easier to read!

Also **Chris** to present a summary of the plan to the AGM.

The state of the website was agreed to be a much higher priority than set out in the plan - Julia and Michael would like something in place to take payments prior to the summer term. They have some experience of selecting providers from other clubs. **Alex to meet Julia and Michael** to come up with a recommended approach here.

1. **State of the Courts**
   * Court 1 and 2 surface update – see item 1 above. However we also now have a new problem which is the surface bubbling up, especially on Court 1. This is a “known issue” according to Trevor May and can be sorted by an injection of glue. **Chris** to request such an injection. Also to float the idea of a complete relaying of the top surface.
   * Court 1 and 2 floodlight update – see item one above
   * Court 3 surface – sorted for the short term with big thanks to Colin, Justin, Alex and Chris for their work over the weekend. Will see how this goes but longer term options are hiring an air blaster ourselves to remove the surface and then relay it, or to get Euroclay back in for a £4,200 full maintenance.
2. **Coaching update**

6 weekly meetings taking place between Alex, Julia, Michael and Gianluca – most recently last week. Proving to be very useful for co-ordinating and discussing issues in the coaching area. These issues include:

* Methods to improve record keeping
* Agreeing a weekly coaching timetable (now on noticeboard)
* Agreeing consistent approach to pricing (shortly to be on noticeboard)
* How to promote junior tennis – especially for girls
* Running the Grade 4 Dulwich Open again – **Julia** will do this, may need to talk to Dave about the other venues. Julia will also push the laides’ singles side as turnout could be better than it was in 2015.
* Michael co-ordinating the Road to Wimbledon tournament
* Junior tournament to be reinstated in 2016 following a gap in 2016 – to be run over a single weekend except the finals, which will take place on the same day and at the same time as the club tournament finals.
* Junior social sessions on Fridays are doing well and at no cost to the club
* The sessions previously run as Tennis Tuesdays are continuing with a £2.50 per person per session levy so that the club benefits from this court time.

Julia also proposed applying to be part of the ‘Davis Cup Legacy’ offering from the LTA. Committee in favour. Michael keen – **Alex** to speak to Gianluca to see if he is also interested. NB deadline for applications of 5 February.

**Julia** to do an introduction to the new coaching team and their plans at the AGM.

1. **Venue hire**

Agreed that basic conditions would be £200 for non-members (who would also have to join as social members) and £100 for members. Several other options discussed, e.g. deposit, minimum spend, differential pricing, whether to have different terms for childrens’ parties than for adults’. **John** to come up with a full proposal for the next meeting.

1. **Risk Assessment for the LTA**

Considered and agreed as tabled.

1. **Maintenance issues**

Remaining issues: Railing in disabled loo, TV cabinet, bike racks, smoothing out step by Ct 2 door, car park marking, annual trees check

1. **Social programme**

Alex to do American tournament on 7 February

Adam to do quiz on 27 February. Subsequently some doubt about the date – **Debs** to contact Adam to confirm.

**Debs/Shaun** to agree a date for a supper club

St Patrick’s Day themed clubplay on 17 March (wear green!)

Chris/Matthew Cole to run a poker night on 9 April

John to organise a trip to Wimbledon dogs – **John to** advise date

**Debs** to speak to Laurent about a trip to the French Open (w/b 22 May) with an overnight stay.

Wine tasting later in the year.

Alex is happy to organise another tennis holiday to the Algarve – would be 1-8 October.

Once the above dates are firmed up, need to get an email out (include tournament & film dates too).

1. **New members**

Phil Doig: keen and has been to club play a couple of times. Has been added to box leagues and is having a couple of lessons with Michael. Now has key and codes etc.

Tim Wilks: Dylan's dad, familiar with club already but didn't know any of the codes and wasn't signed up to adult members emails. Needs a key. Also offered box leagues but no response.

Steven Joyce: added to mailing list. Offered box leagues but no response.

Nigel Mitchell: one of Tony's (Tony has left a cheque for him). Will send welcome email.

Philippa Williams – graduated from Tuesday nights, now playing Monday’s in Jane’s group. Might also come along to clubplay.

Generally considered that rate of people joining is excellent, especially considering the weather!

1. **Table tennis ladder**

Had a number of people keen for this. **Michael** to propose a formal structure/rules etc.

1. **AOB**

Tournament dates:

* Handicap 9 April to 14 May
* Open finals day 9 July – **Alex** to think about format so as not simply to replicate the Grade 4 tournament. Option to formalise on the LTA website (though for some formats we have missed the deadline for this for 2016).
* Club tournament finals day 10 September.

Veterans team in winter leagues working well – agreed that **Alex** should enter a vets team in the summer leagues too.

Quite a lot of cask ale is being wasted due to low demand over the winter. Discussion of whether to revert to bottled beer only but generally agreed that the club has always been known for its real ale so should continue. Only need to sell 30 pints per barrel to break even so unlikely to be making a loss, just not making much of a profit.

Main email box, [info@tennis-at-camber.org](mailto:info@tennis-at-camber.org), has been unblocked. Being monitored more closely but new Secretary will need to take this on properly.

Ladies’ teams structure not working as well as it might, considered possibly due to low number of people in 1sts squad. **Alex** to take a closer look at for summer season. Will be an all-captains’ meeting to agree squads prior to that season, then agreed squads will be posted on noticeboard. May also be worth a reminder to captains of the rules on playing up etc.

**AGM date – 13 March – all to note**. **Michael** to prepare a notice and nomination form, and **Chris**to prepare job descriptions – all these things for both the noticeboard and an email.

1. **Date of next meeting**

Wed 17 February, 7.45 @ the clubhouse. NB will include consideration of the 2015 accounts and the Committee’s recommendation for subscription rates for 2016/17. **All to note**.