

The West Hants Club

Tennis Forum Meeting

Wednesday 1st February 2023 at 11.30am

MINUTES

Present:

Neil Abercrombie, Boyd Brackstone (Chair), Howard Butterworth, Peter Elviss, Wendy Hewitt, Peter Jarvis, James White, Sasha Wood.

1. Welcome:

BB welcomed the Forum members.

2. Apologies:

Maria Shanks, Debbie Merrit

3. Approval of Minutes from 2nd November 2022:

The Forum approved the Minutes and discussed the points arising as detailed below in point no.4

4. Points arising from previous minutes:

- a. Re: 4a - Since the last meeting PE has shown BB paperwork from the Rugby Club regarding the old floodlights. BB confirmed this. NA asked to see the paperwork. PE made the Forum aware that financial matters are not Forum matters and that both the LTA contractor and the Rugby Club had provided written statements and he considered the matter now closed. PE is happy to discuss tennis matters at the Forum meeting. PJ commented that the floodlight topic had come about because there are no lights on A1 & A2 in the summer months when they would be useful as match courts as we give away our home advantage by playing fixtures on artificial grass. It was agreed that Summer matches could be played on clay 7 & 8 or G1 & G1. JW will not schedule squads on these courts from 6.30pm in the summer. SW to ask team captains which is their preferred evening for home matches and their preferred surface (which they must keep to for the season). Clay matches may be vulnerable to the weather but that is the captains choice. It was agreed to trial this for the Summer 2023. SW
- b. Re: 4c – PE confirmed a feasibility study to have lights installed for A1 & A2 had not been done but he estimated the cost to be £30k - £40k.
- c. Re: 5a - Coaching: PJ asked if the Club had been successful in the RPDC application. JW confirmed the Club has been awarded RPDC status and this will be announced officially in the coming weeks.
- d. Re: 5c – Myles McLagan event. PJ asked what fee Myles had been paid. PE confirmed it was £1k for 2 days. JW is looking at putting on similar coach led events in the summer. BB expressed interest in WH coaches like Rich Irwin being involved in offering clinics for members. JW matter ongoing. JW
- e. Re: 7 - Indoor Courts – this is covered as an agenda item.
- f. Re: 9b – Safety on courts: PE confirmed that padding has been ordered for the light posts on the artificial grass courts (approx. cost £3k). PE also confirmed that BGTC was H&S compliant.

- g. Re: 9c - Drainage on Acrylic 1 & 2: PE reported that getting costings for draining was ongoing and that it was not considered a priority by the Board.
- h. Re: 9d – Padel Planning Application at BGTC: PE reported that there was no update on this.
- i. Re: 10h – PE to consider the minutes being displayed on Tennis Notice board at the Club: PE said he did not feel the Tennis Forum was a balanced representation of the membership. It was agreed that the noticeboard would display a message (under the current photo gallery of Forum members) inviting members to contact either SW or BB if they wish to join the Forum and signposting members to the Club website for copies of the Minutes. SW
- j. PJ raised an early AOB item by circulating a suggested member questionnaire. PE confirmed that the Club was already in the process of compiling a member survey in which he would be happy to include some of the suggested questions listed by PJ. PJ to send SW and electric copy. Survey questions attached with Minutes. PJ

5. Update on Coaching and Club Day Programmes (JW):

- a. JW reported that Saturday Club afternoon 3.30pm – 5.30pm had been re-introduced since start of January and had been very well attended. Players turn up and get fitted into 4s. They may have to wait off court if numbers are high.
Thursday evening continues as 2 x 1hr sessions which players pre-book a space for (6.30 – 7.30pm & 7.30 – 8.30pm).
- b. Coaching Programme: New Spring Term started in January. Some sessions moved to outside courts to free up indoor courts for members. Adult courses are now members only which freed up a court. Non-member junior coaching is outside now. There is a waiting list for individual lessons and all N/M individual lessons are outdoor lessons. PJ asked if N/M paid guest fees when having an individual lesson JW confirmed they do have to pay a guest fee.
- c. Team Tennis National League season starts in April. Very strong girls teams. Some boys teams will not be submitted in certain age groups.
- d. PE asked Forum how they felt about National League players (Adult Teams) being paid to play? There were varied responses.

6. Implementation of online indoor court booking system and use of courts – discuss overall satisfaction levels, snags, no shows, possible improvements, booking rules, pre-bookings:

- a. BB said that members would like to see an overall view of all courts. PE said Tabby was looking in to it. PE
- b. PJ offered IT support FOC as this was his area of expertise.
- c. BB felt that members were multi booking courts and then cancelling or forgetting to cancel and creating “no shows”.
- d. PE explained that it was not financially viable to give members full access to indoor courts, hence the Programme / RPDC / Academy were required.
- e. BB felt that tweaks to the system were required in terms of monitoring members hours per day and per week.
- f. WH expressed thanks to JW who had made tweaks to the coaching programme thus making more courts available.
- g. NA reported that over the last 12 times he had played there had been at least 1 free court /no show. NA felt it would be helpful if the grey areas on the printed booking sheet gave details of the bookings, he also felt that there should be waiting list facility (like classes) and screen/ display of the courts at reception.

- h. PE agreed to look into whether the grey areas on the sheet could have more detail displayed. Multiple / consecutive bookings and “no shows” have started to be monitored by staff and emails will be sent to out to members who break the rules. PE reminded the Forum that members need to swipe their card to avoid being recorded as a “no show”. PE
- i. PJ asked if the 7hrs per week was for each sport. PE confirmed it was with the added restriction of 3hrs max Mon- Fri for Padel.
- j. BB asked that the court booking rules be displayed at reception / in the Club. PE agreed that he was happy to do this once the rules had been agreed /finalised. PE
- k. Ball machines (privately owned by members). The Forum agreed that they should only be permitted on centre court and not indoors.
- l. Hoppers – it was agreed that hoppers should be permitted with the condition that they must not interfere with other courts. Rules to be amended. PE
- m. BB felt the junior school tennis sessions were too noisy. PE pointed out that it gave 32 children access to tennis. The Forum had a mixed opinion on noise.
- n. BB asked if the Forum felt it was ok for a member to book a court for serving practice. Forum felt it was.
- o. PJ offered to speak to Tabby about software capabilities of booking system. PE did not agree to this and felt this was an executive decision.

7. Updates from Peter Elviss:

- Drainage channel for outside acrylic courts – PE will ask contractors for options when they are next on site but will not get a specific quote. PE
- Safety – Risk assessments and health & safety policies are in hand with specific WH staff working on them.
- Forward Projects – PE said there was nothing to report. PJ asked if the Club is due to remain in Roslin Road South. PE confirmed it would remain in situ at least while he was working at the Club.

8. Handicap Tournament 2023 – volunteers to meet Tuesday 28th February:

SW asked for volunteers to help advise on the allocation of handicaps for the 2023 event. Please could MS & DM let SW know if they are able to attend on Tuesday 28th February at 11.30am. BB and NA agreed to attend. WH will be able to give advice later that day 1.30pm. Many thanks. MS / DM

9. AOB:

- 9.1 PJ had not heard from Board member Chris Brady on his application to be a Trustee. He asked PE if he knew when applicants will be notified. PE replied he did not know.
- 9.2 PE mentioned the 100th Bournemouth Open will take place 30th July – 5th August 2023. The Rokill Rocare Group have kindly increased their title sponsorship so that centenary celebrations can take place during the tournament week. Any ideas please forward to SW.

10. D&TNM:

TBD

Meeting closed at 1.15pm

Distribution List:

Neil Abercrombie, Boyd Brackstone, Howard Butterworth, Peter Elviss, Wendy Hewitt, Peter Jarvis,
Debbie Merritt, Maria Shanks, James White, Sasha Wood
