

The West Hants Club

Tennis Forum Meeting

Tuesday 1st March 2022 at 11.30am

MINUTES

Present:

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

1. Welcome:

BB welcomed new Forum members Wendy Hewitt and Peter Jarvis. BB informed the Forum that the agenda would take a different order (moving Handicapping to the end) as PE had limited availability and was not required for that agenda item.

2. Apologies:

None

3. Approval of Minutes from 25th November 2021:

These were taken as read.

4. Points arising from previous minutes:

- a. Pro Set League Rules had been updated / condensed down by NA & SW. Minimum age of 16 was discussed and agreed. Retiring mid-match due to injury was agreed as a win to the opponent (covered under LTA Rules) unless both players agreed at the time to complete the match at another time. The updated rules were approved by the Forum.
- b. BB to write body of text inviting members to join the Forum. PE agreed to send this out with next newsletter email. **BB**
- c. PJ queried whether the Minutes should mention members by name as they are published publicly on the Club website. It was agreed the Minutes would not use names of members without their permission.

5. Update from Peter Elviss regarding future projects:

- a. PE reported that the clay bubble had been lost/damaged in the recent storm and quotes were being sought for a replacement (approx. cost £100K) insurance policy being looked into. **PE**
- b. PE also reported that clay 9 and centre court had been dressed and should be ready for outdoor play after the rain.
- c. With indoor courts now at a premium after losing the clay bubble NA asked if courses/sessions can be cancelled to provide courts for members. PE said cancelling courses booked by members to allow courts to be booked by members was not a solution. JW said that clay bubble coaching had mainly been moved to the artificial grass courts and the 50% rule for coaching still applied now there are only 6 indoor courts (ie:

max 3 courts for coaching). JW agreed to investigate whether pay & play sessions are well subscribed or could be cancelled/ release / reduce courts. JW

- d. BB asked about the Padel update regarding the development of centre court. PE confirmed the planning application had been submitted.
- e. PJ asked about the floodlights that were removed when A1 & A2 were installed. PE reported a grant was being applied for to put LED lights indoors and that the Club was looking at updating all the lights as a capital expenditure issue. PE said the lights removed from A1 & A2 did not work and were stored under centre court for 4 or 5 years and then taken away by Bournemouth Rugby Club who wanted to try to fix them. PJ asked what date they were taken away and why the Club did not want to try to fix them? PE said he could not remember as it was nearly 20 years ago. PJ questioned the timescales and asked to see the paperwork. PJ asked why lights were not put on A1 & A2 when the courts were installed? PE reported that lights were not put on A1 & A2 as the cost was £30k - £40k and he made the decision not to have lights put in as it would just be for the summer months (lights are in place when the bubble is up). PE reported that a drainage channel will be put into A1 & A2 when they are resurfaced.
- f. NA asked for an update on plans for indoor court 1 being made into a gym? PE reported this was now not happening. NA asked what the budget was for the development? PE explained he had costed out various options to expand the gym / studio (currently there are long waiting lists for classes and the Club needs more studio / gym space). To extend over the pool would create approx. 200 sq m and cost £800k but to develop indoor court 1 would create 800 sq m and cost £1m. PE reported that the Board has rejected these proposals and therefore no feasibility studies have taken place. NA asked if a squash court could be used for fitness? PE said there would not be enough room but there was an option to develop between the creche / squash courts.
- g. PJ suggested the problem of members not being able to book on classes / courts owing to the current high demand was management's responsibility to control the numbers of incoming new members according to their category. PE said that he didn't know what category of member they were when they sign up (full membership covers all activities).

6. Update on Coaching Programme (JW):

JW provided the following update:

- a. Clay bubble implications:
50% rule for coaching where possible
Some sessions have had to move on indoor courts but artificial grass courts used where possible.
- b. Results:
TH – Year 8 schools national champions
X 3 players at the 11U national event over half term
X 3 players at 12U national event over half term
X 3 players at 9U national event over half term
Multiple Grade 3 wins over half term
- c. Programme numbers signed up for termly coaching sessions:

ADULTS = 35

JUNIORS = 201

PERFORMANCE = 120

+ Pay and play sessions = Adults x 50 / Juniors x 40 per week

Summer term sign up in next few weeks online

d. Coaching team:

New female coach starting at Easter

High demand still for individual lessons and inductions

e. Other:

Club Night – Thursday night format. Mixed feedback. Format to be monitored/reviewed.

Junior club nights – one took place over Feb half term with others scheduled for the rest of the year

Easter holiday camps taking place wc 11th and 18th April

7. A.O.B:

- a. NA asked if Saturday Club Day (4.30 – 6.30pm) would be reinstated as a few members had asked him to raise it at the Forum. PE said that the indoor courts are fully booked every weekend which accommodates more members than those who would attend Saturday Club afternoon. PE said players can book courts to play their own games. JW mentioned that staffing is an issue for Saturday afternoon Club Day. NA & PJ volunteered to run Saturday sessions (1 week in 5). PE said that getting Thursday Club Night format right was a priority. JW confirmed that the new format was introduced due to Covid. There are mixed reviews on the new format with some players wanting to go back to the old format of just turning up (currently players have to phone reception at 12 Noon on the day to secure one of the 16 places at either 6.30pm or 7.30pm). DM said she would be happy to come to take a survey and chat to players on Thursday nights to get a view on general opinion. **JW / DM**
- b. PE reported that the Ladies National Club League 1st team (captained by JB) had a strong squad this year and were still in the premier division. The Men's National League team are in the regional division after withdrawing part way through last season (due to lack of players). This season the team will be made up of U18 boys and players from the men's squad and jointly run by JW and AP (previous Men's Team captain). **JW**
- c. SW reported that the Dorset Summer League fixtures were in the process of being arranged. West Hants has 8 teams participating. Team Practice is open to all on Saturday 26th March 1.30 – 3.30pm on indoor courts (hosted by James McIntosh). New captain required for Mixed 3rd team. SW asked MS if she was interested? MS to think about it. **MS**
- d. PJ felt a member survey was worthwhile. To include questions on a variety of topics including Club Champs preferred format and why people are not making use of the Club at the weekend etc.
- e. HB raised the issue of double bookings. The matter was debated, and PE agreed the rules needed to be clarified regarding "consecutive play". **PE**
- f. MS felt that more should be made of the Club Finals, perhaps combining it with a social function. SW said various things had been tried in the past and that low attendance on finals days is not exclusive to WH Club Champs but she will discuss possible options with SN (Bar & Catering Manager). **SW**

- g. NA asked if consideration had been given to online bookings and making use of the ClubSpark tool? SW reported that she and JW had worked on setting this up and it was a good tool but not without it's complications as it does not "speak to" the WH membership database. PE had put it on hold due to a change of personnel in the administration department.

8. Allocation of Handicaps for 2022 Handicap Competition:

SW displayed the lists of players on the projector screen. The Forum went through each event list and agreed the allocation of Handicaps accordingly. SW to apply these handicaps and produce the draws ready for display by Saturday 5th March 2022. **SW**

9. D&TNM:

TBA

Meeting closed at 1.30pm

Distribution List:

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