

## The West Hants Club

### Tennis Forum Meeting

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 at 11.30am

#### MINUTES

#### **Present:**

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

#### **1. Welcome:**

BB welcomed the Forum members.

#### **2. Apologies:**

Howard Butterworth

#### **3. Approval of Minutes from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022:**

PJ raised a query concerning disposal of floodlights from A1 and A2 (See points arising from previous minutes below).

#### **4. Points arising from previous minutes:**

- a. PJ felt that point 5e from the previous Minutes should have shown that PE had agreed to provide a contact / paperwork at Bournemouth Rugby Club re: gifting of floodlights. PE responded that there was no paperwork, but he would be happy to provide a statement to BB from the contact at the Rugby Club. **PE**
- b. Timescales of when the lights were removed were discussed. PJ asked if the lights could be retrieved from the Rugby Club and be fixed. PE said no as there is no power supply.
- c. PJ asked for a feasibility study to have lights installed for A1 & A2. PE agreed to get a price for floodlights on the acrylic courts. **PE**
- d. PJ asked if the Board were aware that the old lights had been gifted to the Rugby Club. PE replied that he did not consult the Board over things like that and that they do not get into that level of detail.
- e. NA produced a copy a 2017 planning application which asked for permission to remove the lights. He presumed they would have been working at that time.
- f. PJ asked if the old lights were in use at the Rugby Club. PE said no. PJ asked for them to be returned as he would like them.

#### **5. Update on Coaching and Club Day Programs (JW):**

- a. Coaching:
  - JW reported that the numbers/levels of participants on the Club Program were good and that he was awaiting an update from the LTA regarding the application to continue our RPDC status (update due in December).

- NA asked if having clay courts was a benefit/bonus to the RPDC application, JW felt it was.
- b. Club Day:
- JW reported that the Thursday evening sessions has been quiet over the Summer but numbers were starting to pick up. Saturday session to be re-instated from 19<sup>th</sup> November (subject to new bubble being installed) at new time of 3.30 – 5.30pm.
- c. PJ asked about the Myles McLagan event and if there were any plans for another one. JW confirmed that it was popular and well attended. It was made possible thanks to sponsorship from one of the Club's Business Partners. BB said he would welcome a similar event run by our coaches as the coaching points were essentially the same. This could raise the profile of our own coaches. JW
- d. MS commented on the popularity of the Christmas Coaches events and that they are often oversubscribed, asking if more can be run in the future. JW agreed to look into it but pointed out that costings were key and that coaches give their time free of charge for the Christmas events. JW
- e. PE suggested a doubles exhibition match might be worth exploring.

#### **6. Views on procurement of a ball machine for use by members and coaches:**

- a. JW felt it was unlikely to be used by coaching team.
- b. PE did think a ball machine was required for members.
- c. PE suggested that any members who have their own "Slinger" ball machines should not be using them indoors. They could however be used on centre court only as it does not disrupt other courts with noise/balls overspill. Forum members agreed.
- d. Use of ball hoppers by members was discussed and it was agreed that common sense should prevail. Whilst the Club rules state a maximum of 6 balls on a court (by members) if no disruption to other members or courts and no unauthorised coaching is taking place then it was felt to be acceptable.

#### **7. Indoor Court Bookings:**

- a. Implementation of 50% rule:
  - BB felt that there were not enough indoor courts for members. PE took responsibility for this term as the clay bubble had been delayed and JW had written the program based on 8 indoor courts.
  - JW went through the program and pointed out where he tried to move as many sessions as possible outside.
  - Coaches teaching individual lessons are aware they are not to book more than 50% of courts and this is monitored by JW.
  - PJ felt that the lack of indoor availability between 4.30 – 6.30pm (Mon – Fri) due to junior coaching should be made clear to members when joining. PE replied that it had been used exclusively for junior coaching for the last 25 years and many members and their children benefit from the program.
- b. Group Sessions after 6.30pm in the evening:

- JW confirmed that 90% of adults attending evening group sessions are WH members. Non-members pay more and it's hoped that they may join as a result of attending the courses.
- JW pointed out that the priorities of the Club need clarifying. PE said that balance is required across all offerings.
- BB commented that since the membership fees has been increased to absorb the removal of indoor court fees, it feels like there is less availability.
- PE reminded the Forum that members should only be booking 1 session per day and not playing consecutive sessions although they may play max. 2 hours per day. PE to make members aware of rules in anticipation on new online bookings which will start later in November. PE

**8. Success of Club Tournaments, Dorset Leagues and other competitions over the summer period. Participation and support (SW/WH):**

- a. SW gave update on Dorset Summer League team performances (see attached) which showed that nearly 60 players represented WH across 8 teams. New team captains will be required for Mixed 2 and M45+ next summer. Suggestions welcome. All
- b. Other notable results for WH teams were the Ladies National League team finishing joint 5<sup>th</sup> in the National Finals and the Girls U12 team were National Champions.
- c. SW reported that all the Club Tournaments (Handicap & Club Vets & Open Champs) were well subscribed with higher entry levels than previous years.
- d. SW agreed to circulate the provisional 2023 WH Tennis calendar with the Minutes (see attached) although some dates are yet to be confirmed as LTA have not finalised all their dates/requirements yet.
- e. DM asked that other methods of promotion be using (not just social media) to let members know what is happening at the Club / tournaments being hosted etc. SW to pass this feedback on to the marketing dept. SW

**9. Updates from Peter Elviss:**

**a. Clay Bubble:**

- PE reported that the new bubble is due to be installed the week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> November and should be in play by 21<sup>st</sup> November.
- PE confirmed the cost had been fully covered by the insurance.

**b. Safety on courts 7 & 8 (anchor points for bubble):**

- PE confirmed that the bolts/caps for light fittings will be level next year when bubble is taken down. The ring beam will remain subject to risk assessment advice which stated that it is the required LTA approved distance from the playing area.
- PE agreed to investigate cost of padding on light posts on artificial grass courts.
- PJ asked about risk assessment at BGTC bubble as fire exit leads to locked gate/fence. PE to check. PE

**c. Drainage channel for outside acrylic courts:**

- PE felt a drainage channel between the courts could create a trip hazard.
- PE agreed to get quote for drainage when courts are resurfaced in 3-4years. PE
- NA asked about the possibility of court covers which attach to the net? PJ suggested the drainage channel could be located under the net.
- PE agreed to get costings for under net drainage, court covers and more effective rollers / sweepers. PE

**d. Padel Courts:**

- PE confirmed that planning had been denied at WH but an application had been submitted for 2 courts at BGTC.

**e. Online Booking System:**

- PE confirmed that there would be an online booking system being launched on 21<sup>st</sup> November for bookings starting from 28<sup>th</sup> November.

**f. Changes in the Club following the members meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> April (Directors/ Charitable status):**

- PE stated that any changes to governance will be communicated to all members in due course. PE
- BB encouraged people to apply to join the Board of Directors.
- PJ asked if the application to join the Board was for the new company or the current status of the Club. PE felt this was not a topic for the Forum to discuss.
- BB asked if charitable status would impact on the usage of the Club for members? Are there obligations to provide community access? PE replied, No.
- PE reported that the LTA usage agreement (of clay courts) at the Club was under review. Matter ongoing.

**10. A.O.B:**

- PJ enquired about plans for court resurfacing of the clay and how the choice of surface would be made. PE replied that there was ongoing negotiation with the LTA regarding court surfaces / funding and any changes to court surface would be discussed with the Forum with a view to setting up a working group to give input/feedback regarding researching suitable options. PE
- BB asked about the direction of membership fees. PE replied they would not be going down.
- PE pointed out that Bournemouth Rugby Club has now been sold to Bournemouth University so highly unlikely there would be any floodlight paperwork.
- NA complimented the addition of score posts on G1- G4 and asked if they could be put on all courts. PE agreed to put them on the indoor courts. PE
- NA wanted to commend Catherine Lawson (WH Coach) on how well she ran junior events during half term week.
- NA queried why the Club had not put up any notification of a recently deceased member. PE replied that the Club is only able to do this if contacted directly by the family. PE asked NA to let the husband of the deceased know he can contact PE directly.

- g. PJ asked why the Minutes from 1<sup>st</sup> March had not been published on the website. It was agreed that Minutes would be published online after being approved for circulation by the Tennis Forum Chairperson.
- h. PJ asked for the Minutes to be displayed on the Tennis notice board at the Club. PE to consider. **PE**

**11. D&TNM:**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 at 11.30am

To review online bookings and agree the sub- group for Handicap allocations w/c 27<sup>th</sup> February.

Meeting closed at 1.50pm

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Distribution List:

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