

Hillhead Tennis Club Committee Meeting

12th January 2021 at 7pm.

Present

Shona Ross

George Cheyne

Fraser Copeland

Keith Fowler (Chair)

Carlos Celis Morales

Eddie Gallagher

Isobel Campbell (Minutes)

Ash Webster

1. Apologies. None.
2. Previous minutes
 - a) Eddy is waiting for better weather to buy and build courtside bench.
 - b) Fraser will check with Marty and Lizzie what the current format of the tennis club welcome email looks like and will update and send round for comments. This should include 'singles only' message meantime.
 - c) Keith will ask Stuart to contact Tony Miles again to arrange to drop off the trophy which he still has.
 - d) Keith and Carlos will meet to discuss the year's calendar.
 - e) Mosskilling around the courts is awaiting better weather but arrangements are in hand.
 - f) Eddy or Shona will arrange for weedkiller to be applied also when the weather is suitable.
 - g) The subgroup has received the year end report from Ash who has also launched new years programme as able within the guidelines.

The minutes of the previous meeting (December) were proposed by EG and Seconded by GC.

3. Matters arising.
 - a) Keith announced the passing of Tom Laurie and that our thoughts were with his family. Shona said that the Sports Club have sent their condolences.
 - b) In response to the latest announcement on restrictions Ed has put up the appropriate posters. A small adaptation is required to note that only singles may be played by adults and children off 12 years and over.

4. Head Coach /coaching subgroup report. Discussion items.

Ash reported that he has all the plans in place for this block. The men's and ladies team sessions, following discussion with captains, and other adult programmes were almost full. They are all currently on hold. The refunds due for cancelled sessions has been processed. The plans for singles box leagues were well subscribed with 25 adults and 20 juniors intending to take part. There was a general discussion about the format, and it was agreed that the recommendation was to play 2 sets and a championship tiebreak however if agreed with participants two short sets to 4 (with a sudden death deuce if preferred) and a deciding championship tiebreak at 1 set all could be an option.

There was a discussion about individual coaching sessions. The committee wish Ash to record these sessions as coaching activity. Ash does this however Sena and Carol do not record this way currently. Ash suggested he could tally up this activity at the end of the month as part of his report. IC pointed out that this was not open to scrutiny from the members at the time. Commonly at present a member may book a court and then arranges their coaching and it doesn't appear as 'coaching activity'.

We also discussed the situation if three courts are being used for e.g., a match, two courts being used for a coaching group, would we as a committee support an individual arranging a coaching session on the last court. We have always required that one court at least is available for a member to book for their own social play.

As we have some time before this situation will arise, we agreed that Ash would use his advance booking facility only for the maximum of two courts at any one time except in special circumstances, e.g., a tournament. It was agreed that apart from this a coach would not book any other court more than 2 weeks in advance, in keeping with what other members can do. Ash will monitor the activity of the other coaches in his team and report back on the volume of use of courts for individual sessions.

Social sessions on Saturday and Sunday afternoons have been poorly attended. We agreed to reduce the number of courts booked for these sessions to one until bookings improve, which is likely in the Spring. Ash also suggested allowing more people to book on these groups as there is no way to cancel. Ash will prepare guidelines for these social groups. All social sessions are currently cancelled.

Eddy asked for clarification about the emails from the LTA that upset the Level 1 coaches. Ash explained that he was unable to complete the booking element of the registration when the girls were not currently working with him and they did not have the required qualifications. SR pointed out the DBS, PVG and safeguarding are not a requirement for this level of coach. Ash has contacted the girls to explain what had happened and why.

IC asked for clarification on what we were required to provide as part of our conditions for our loan from the LTA. KF explained that the use of the facility did not only refer to court usage but also could be the use of indoor space or other outdoor space.

5. Treasurers report. Currently £2966.50 in our bank account. All Stripe refunds, lamps fixed, non-member's tax to sports club, coach's fees and profit percentage to Ash have been paid. In total this was £9,724. Keith presented details of Coaching income and outgoings since August. The profit was £2,568.

It was noted that there is no fee from Stripe for processing the refunds. Ash reported a couple of recent problems that other coaches had had and would keep note of any other developments.

6. Teams and Captains. GC reported that registration for the Spring, Sumer, 60+ and national league as well as the Calcutta cup have to be done by the 18th January. All the captains have been agreed except the men's 3rd team and the ladies' 60+ teams. Ash reported that Junior teams have to be entered by the end of the month. He will probably enter 4 or 5 teams. He will speak to the parents who will be involved. The new National League will be played in July. There was further discussion about the large pools of available players for the gents' 2nd and 3rd teams and it was thought that once the teams were clearer someone might step up to the team captains position.
7. Covid Officers Report. Eddy has purchased plenty sanitiser and the appropriate signs are in place.
8. Maintenance. Adam Richardson has the new contract for ground maintenance and will continue with the current arrangements. He is working 20 hours a week. Ed will check again when bin emptying can be started. Ed has been getting a quote for the lamp to be replaced on court 4 and has been successful in finding a more economical company. It was agreed that he should contact Jennifer to arrange payment from the Sports Club. Ash asked if a firmer brush could be purchased and Keith asked him to source what he thinks may be needed and to pass on to the committee for consideration.
9. Clubspark update. There have been some 12 or so new members registering for clubspark since the first of the month. Fraser has noted that it is possible to generate further data including an analysis of court usage/bookings.
10. AOCB. The sports club have recently had work done to update and rebuild their website and it was thought that this would be a good idea for the tennis website too. Ideally, we should have more regular and positive messaging on our social media accounts. It was thought that a group of people would be required to fulfil this objective. Our club's efforts were compared with Western which has a very active presence and 10 or 12 people participating across all areas of the club. Shona will approach the person who did the sportsclub rebuild to discuss our issues.

IC had received a query/complaint as to how court bookings for individuals had been made some 15 days in advance. This had been done while one of the administrators had been doing some other work on the system following

changes to Covid restrictions. We agreed that with administrators' privileges, we should take care to stick to the rules. IC will respond to the member. Ash asked about any possibility of getting toilets open to allow him to run camps at midterm. Shona said that it was unlikely due to the enormous cost of cleaning if toilets are to be open. However, she will take his query to the board.

The next meeting will be the 16th February at 7pm.