

## Minutes of Dulverton Tennis Club EGM 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023

### 1. Overview of the Club's Financial Situation

Although on paper the Club's financial situation looks healthy; we have c £21,000 in our reserve account at present (accounts will be finalised at the end of the current F/Y), all members will be well aware that our courts, lights and club house are in a poor state of repair. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss priorities and to decide whether to make do and mend now and save for when the courts need to be completely re-surfaced in the future, or whether to spend now on issues that need to be addressed urgently.

### 2. Tennis Court Maintenance

The court surfaces have become slippery and dangerous. There was unanimous agreement that we should instruct Ray King to go ahead and remove moss, clean courts, repair as many holes as possible and re-paint surface and white lines. The quote we have received for this work is £5,500, including a resin binder and includes line painting. Richard Drewer said the last time this work was carried out by Ray King in about 2013, it cost just under £6,000, so the quote we have received seems very fair.

Work to be carried out in May 23 in dry weather. We believe this should give the courts a new lease of life and they should be good for another 5 years before another re-paint. Philip Jellard recommended that funds for this further repaint should be kept back.

Philip pointed out that the courts will most likely need a complete re-surface within ten years, which is in line with Ray King's written comments. To have the courts re-surfaced now would cost c £40,000. Taking inflation into account, he believes that in ten years time the cost could be c £53,000. This is clearly something we need to bear in mind for the future.

### 3. Hedge and Tree Pollarding

It was agreed that the leylandii needs to be reduced in height next time it is pruned by Four Seasons to just below the perimeter fence height - ie more so than usual - and also reduced in width. This would help reduce moss on the courts which grows in the shadow of the hedge.

There are three trees next to the Club House which are of concern. The one immediately next to the Club House is of greatest concern as it has been allowed to grow too big and is causing the gable end of the Club House to rot. Philip Jellard proposed that this tree should be cut down and the 2 other trees are severely pollarded which will help reduce leaves and moss on the courts. Everyone was in agreement.

Action: Bill Gash to liaise with Christine Duberry/Sports Field Charity to establish whether they will cover the cost for this work to be done. This needs a quick resolution to allow the Club to prioritise the cost of other works.

### 4. Club House Maintenance

Bill Gash has received a quotation for some of the pavilion works. However, Philip Jellard said that it is his belief that the roof does not need replacing and that the condensation under the roof (which will rot the roof trusses) has been caused by lack of ventilation. He proposed that we install 3 or 4 ventilation units at both ends to allow air to flow through. The gable ends are rotting and either need making good and covering with bitumen roofing felt and kept in place with battens, or replaced completely which will obviously cost a lot more money. Richard Sinclair proposed that we opt for the cheapest option: ie ventilation and roofing felt either end.

Action: Stephanie to supply a list of tradesmen for John/ Bill to contact and Philip to provide spec for tradesmen to work to. Whoever we invite to quote for the work to be asked if the work we are proposing will fix the damp problems in the roof.

The stopcock in the male changing room is leaking and in recent cold weather the pipe work and kitchen sink tap were frozen. A drain cock needs to be fitted adjacent to the internal stopcock. Richard Drewer explained where the outside stopcock is so that water can be turned off in cold weather.

Action: Bill / John to contact a plumber

Glass Doors and Windows at front: Philip raised the point that the glazing in the doors to the Club House does not comply to current standards as it is not safety glass.

Action: Bill to contact a glazier for a quotation.

## 5. Floodlights

The lights have not been looked at for a few years, they need cleaning as are full of bugs and some bulbs are not working. Although rarely used, it was agreed that if this work can be done for a sensible cost, then they should be sorted. Richard Drewer suggested that we contact Hobbs Electricals as they have looked after the lights in the past gaining access using a scaffold tower.

Action: Bill Gash

## 6. Perimeter Fencing

The perimeter fencing has now been rabbit-proofed and should last another 20 years. Michael Martin thanked Philip Jellard for organising the work to be done and to the team he assembled to help him. A quote for a new perimeter fence was c £40,000 so this has saved the Club a fortune.

## 7. Sports Field Funding / Grants

Grants need to be applied for before 31 March. Chris Bitterli offered to explore the possibility of National Lottery funding. Di Garner suggested that we look into sponsorship from the Co-op as they are always looking for local causes to help. As a staff member she is unable to apply for this on behalf of the Club so Bill offered to take the lead on this, as well as exploring Somerset Community Foundation Grants.

The Sports Field Charity was granted £29,000 due to Covid in 2020/2021 as shown in the Charities Commission Register. The Tennis Club received a £500 donation from this seems very disproportionate.

Action: Bill to liaise with Christine / the Charity to find out if the Tennis Club might be entitled to any of the reserves which could help create a fund for resurfacing.

The topic of returning the courts to the Sports Field Charity was raised by Philip Jellard in the event that the Tennis Club cannot eventually afford to resurface the courts. Is the Tennis Club contractually responsible for reinstating the courts to grass?

Action: Bill to investigate the position with the Sports Field Charity, Coop and Somerset Community Foundation.

## 8. Membership / Website

Michael Martin discussed membership fees, which he said have not risen for many years and it was agreed that it is time to increase them. Adult annual membership will rise by £10.00 and other memberships will rise pro rata this coming season. Cost of Pay to Play should also be increased and we should ask everyone doing this to sign a disclaimer at the Tantivy.

Action: Chris Bitterli to address Pay to Play charges.

Details re new membership fees will be sent out separately when membership renewal is due in April:

Action: Bill Gash

Di Garner mentioned that 6 people she knew had attempted to join the Club through the website link but that they hadn't heard back from anyone. Stephanie reminded Bill Gash that Oli Courtney is awaiting receipts for website expenses

(£300.00) which are yet to be deducted from Club funds. We thanked Oli in his absence for the great job he has done with the website, it now looks current and attractive.

Chris Bitterli suggested that the website could be further improved and joining could be simplified if there was a link enabling users to complete a form on line rather than having to download a form first.

Action: Stephanie to liaise with Oli

## **9. Fund Raising & Summer Activities**

Richard Sinclair has kindly offered to organise another Summer BBQ. Date to be confirmed but probably in August.

Richard Drewer said that in previous years the Club has raised in excess of £2,000 per year from popular and successful fund raising activities such as Donkey Derby and pub quizzes. This is something we need to think about and discuss at the AGM as we will need to replace the funds we will soon be spending.

## **10. AGM & AOB**

Stephanie suggested that the date of the AGM should be moved from mid June to the beginning of the season when everyone is fresh, full of enthusiasm and we have the whole summer ahead of us to be able to arrange activities. Michael Martin seconded this proposal. Date to be confirmed but probably Saturday 29 April.

Everyone agreed that AGM (and EGM) minutes should be circulated to all members and added to the Club website.

It was agreed that new tennis balls would not be provided by the Club between the end of October and end of March as the wet weather ruins balls very quickly. Agreement was given to Bill to purchase new balls immediately for next season and he has now ordered 20 sets of 4 at a cost of £106 inc free delivery.