Minutes of the meeting of the Newton Abbot Squash and Tennis Club

On 4 May 2017

Those present

Jane Gick, Lee Manning, Malcolm Watts, Tim Dickinson, Richard Thomas, Matt Whalley, Andy Lloyd, Dan Gough and Jane Comyns.

Apologies for absence received from

Glyn Davies and Paul Lennox.

Minutes of last meeting

Were read, approved and signed by Richard Thomas on behalf of the acting Chairman, Glyn Davies.

Matters arising

Andy Lloyd advised that the Gordon Mellor Tournament, held on St George’s Day (23 April) had been a great success!! Mark Ayliffe and Andy Lloyd were joint winners of the men’s section, and Mary Danfer was the winner of the ladies’ section. As ever, the eleven players who took part, thoroughly enjoyed the sunshine, good competitive play and food afterwards. Thank you to all those who took part.

Jane Gick has put a poster for our tennis-only, reduced-rate subscription on the facebook pages she follows - spotted Kingsteignton, eyes of Dawlish, Teignmouth oracle and spotted Newton Abbot. She supplied us with a copy which, all agreed, included the pertinent facts.

Chairman’s Report

Not present.

Treasurer's Report

Nothing to report.

Secretary's Report

Nothing to report

Membership Secretary's Report

Paul Lennox advised us by e-mail that there were up to 10 new tennis-only Members so far. Becs Heales was completing paperwork for 6 new Juniors so they could enjoy competing in our Club’s Aegon matches. Thank you, Becs – not an easy task, and time-consuming!

Paul is still investigating how the online membership system can make refunds for those who are changing from full to tennis-only Membership. At the moment, it seems that the only way to transfer from the old monthly direct debit payments to the new is to cancel the original membership entry and reinput as new. Dawn Dickinson has been passing on her working knowledge of the system. Thank you, Dawn!

Recreational Trust Report

There had been no Recreational Trust meeting since our previous meeting, but Richard Thomas told us that whilst there had been a hiccough on the kitchen refurbishment, the aim is still to be finished for the Charity Cricket match on Tuesday 20 June 2017. That match is due to start at 5.30pm with the bar opening at 3pm.

Squash Section

There is to be a meeting on Tuesday 9 May about the Squash and racquetball summer team’s tournament which Vicki Evans and Steve O’Donnell have agreed to organise.

The Club’s Dinner and Dance is on 20 May at Dainton. It will cost £25.00 per head. The menu has been circulated by e-mail and sign-up sheets are now on the noticeboard in the squash corridor. All Members and their guests are welcome.

Lee Manning reported that Vicki Evans had played for Devon last weekend in the Inter County Championship Finals, which was a huge honour. Congratulations Vicki!! The Tournament was a three-

way event between Devon, Leicestershire and Middlesex. Playing at No.2, Vicki, sadly, lost both her matches 0-3, in the 4 – 20 match v Middlesex and 3 -20 v Leicestershire fixtures.

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On 4 May 2017 continued………

Racquetball

On 17 May there is to be a Ladies’ Racquetball Challenge Tournament for Members only. There will be

6 new-starters who play regularly in Jane Gick’s group sessions. They will be matched against established Members.

Tennis Section

Andy Lloyd had already spoken about the Gordon Mellor Tournament in matters arising.

He now reported that the Men’s A & B teams have started their summer season. The A team have played some very close matches, taking part in good, quality tennis, but the standard is noticeably better than before, after promotion to Division 3 at the end of last summer!!

Mixed training had been introduced on Thursday evenings (alongside A team practice) and a team entered in the WBW South Devon Mixed League in order to put that training into practice. There are to be 5 home matches (and 5 away). The League would not accept Sunday matches but, as the first one had already been organised, was imminent, and the opposition, Carey Park, were happy to play, that was to go ahead. The rest will be played on Thursday evenings, replacing training on those nights.

The number of those attending the tennis Open Days (3 Wednesdays and 3 Saturdays) were not impressive – the final Wednesday had been cancelled. However, Saturday club afternoons had seen a higher number of players recently and would continue to offer the Open Day facility when required.

Lee Manning commented that Tennis section was much more alive since Andy had been taking part.

The Committee unanimously agreed with that observation.

Any other business

Lee Curtis has been an active Club Member for many years, not only in playing and organisational capacities for the 1st Team, but also helping with junior coaching activities. He has suffered a major injury (a torn bicep) and will not be able to play any racquet sport until at least October. Whilst he has agreed to continue to organise our First Team, relieving Dan Gough of a major workload, Lee asks if he may cancel his membership now and re-join the Club, without penalty, once he is fit again. Dan asked the Committee to consider Lee’s request favourably. The Committee’s decision in favour of this request was unanimous and Lee was wished a speedy recovery.

Jane G asked if she could increase the non-Members fee for racquetball sessions to £3.00 from £2.00. This made Membership a much more attractive option and is in line with the tennis visitors’ fee. The first sessions would remain free of charge and the cost to Members would be unchanged at £1.00. Lee Manning proposed the motion, Jane G seconded it. The Committee agreed unanimously. Malcolm Watts would speak to Bill Moody and Dave French who are involved with other racquetball sessions. It was suggested than an e-mail be sent to all Members, too.

Lee Manning returned to the subject of Safeguarding which was talked about in our last meeting. He had an example of how easy it is for communications to fall down, between children playing for our teams, their parents, Team Captains and those adults playing on the day. After a lively discussion, a chain of events guideline was drawn up for those involved. This was agreed to be in everyone’s interests.

It has been noticed that the cricket club has had a new electronic scoreboard installed. The surprise arrival of their box tapping into the tennis pavilion electricity supply also raised comment. Malcolm is to investigate the location of their meter so he can invoice the cricket club in a similar manner to the procedure for reclaiming electricity supply costs from the football club.

Date of next meeting

Thursday 1 June 2017 at 7pm