**HALTON VILLAGE TENNIS CLUB**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**29 JANUARY 2024**

**MINUTES**

**APOLOGIES:**

Dennis Phillips Christopher Smith

Mike & Pauline Shorthouse

Venetia Cottman Gill Lyon

Cat Booker Mike Hill

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

* SPONSORED BY ROB PAIN
* SECONDED BY DHARSHI MAHESWARAN

**MATTERS ARISING**

* no matters arising

**CHAIRMANS REPORT:**

MJ presented a slide show summarising the ‘Halton Experience’ – copy of slide show attached at the end of these minutes. To summarise:

* The complete tennis experience – different for everyone
* Meeting the needs of members
* Creating a warm welcoming environment
* Building on 'social', 'social competitive', and 'competitive' playing opportunities
* Improving the facilities
* Mindful of the ever increasing costs of energy
* Providing a safe environment
* Membership is currently 419 across the various memberships plus 300 juniors,

**THANK-YOU’s:**

* All the volunteers for the Club sessions and mix-ins
* All the Club Captains managing 48 teams involving 592 players
* Special thank you’s for their services to:

Ellen Moret Rob Pain

David Barnett Jemima & Roy

Camila Hayward Gill Roe

Hutch Ollie Taylor

Scott Allaway

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION:**

Alec Clapperton for his commitment and enthusiasm to ‘keeping the dream live’ which he set up in 2007 and has raised over £43k.

**CLUB CAPTAINS REPORTS:**

**ROB PAIN:** Updated on Team Tennis and encouraging more people to get involved not necessarily at a high level.

**JEMIMA**: Mixed Teams were undefeated, ladies national team got to the semi finals coming in joint 3rd. The Ladies 4th team which encourages players from rusties were really successful.

**DHASHI:**

The members cup fun event organised by Dharshi, split into 6 teams, starts in May and runs over 10 Sunday evenings. The lovely social event with coffee and cake at the end, she encourages everyone to get involved.

**SCOTT ALLAWAY:** Successfully ran the Seniors IT events.

**RATIFICATION OF 2024 COMMITTEE:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| POSITION | NAME |
| CHAIRMAN | MIKE JAMES |
| VICE CHAIR(S) | DHARSHI MAHESWARAN  MICHAEL HILL |
| SECRETARY | JACKIE STEADMAN |
| CLUB CAPTAINS | ROB PAIN  DAVID BARNETT  JEMIMA KING |
| SOCIAL COMMITTEE | ELLEN MORET  MICHAEL HILL  SCOTT ALLAWAY |
| FIXTURES  SECRETARY | ELLEN MORET |
| FULL MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTATIVES | SCOTT ALLAWAY  BEN BROWNLEE  SOTIRIA SPANTIDEA  JANE CHAMBERS  ALEC CLAPPERTON |
| CLUB SESSION  ORGANISERS  REPRESENTATIVES | DENNIS PHILLIPS  CHRIS DUFFIN |

**FACILITIES UPDATE (NL)**

Nick Leighton presented the main projects for the future costing circa £500k. These are closely linked with the energy/environmental challenges we face.

* Changing of the dome engine on the acrylic courts, costs £40k but the cost saving in energy will give around £7k per annum.
* Extend the 3 mini court zone into a full-size adult court – approximately £30k.
* Resurfacing of the astro courts as they are struggling with drainage especially in the bad weather. Ben Brownlee enquired about if the drainage didn’t work, Nick explained that the problem primarily lay with the non-porous acrylic courts underneath which holds up the flow of water away to the drainage holes. Extensive research had been done and the re drilling of the drainage holes plus some more and additional tarmac base for the water to sit in during its journey is our best option. We also think some of the acrylic layer is so old it will be able to be removed completely. If the water stays within the court surface longer making them less usable, shorter life span with all the muck and debris that collects.
* Plan is in April to remove the existing carpet, drill holes to aid drainage and then re tarmac a new base. Then after a period of “proving” we plan to cover with artificial clay which is also much more suited to being damp. Total investment cost is £270k.
* Respraying of the indoor acrylic is scheduled for August
* Dome project to replace the current domes with a permanent fixed structure has planning permission but no start date. The cost of this is in the region of £2m. The dome skin lifespan is until approx. 2030 but could be longer depending on weathering. The change will also be influenced by the external economy and the sale of RAF Halton.
* Padel tennis, planning permission granted, 2 courts, located in the skill zone area; one other consideration is whether to have one covered to enable year round play and also dampen noise or 2 uncovered – the overall cost is the same.
* Energy costs, our 3-year fixed deal is coming to an end in August, increase of £30-50k depending on rates making our overall site bill @£100k. We are planning to invest in solar on the gym roof and also a solar covered walkway outside the dome to help offset.

**Questions raised and responses:**

1. Catering ; 3 month rolling contract, the business is busy with daytime activities but evening use less so; they have as with most venues been hit hard with increased direct food costs.
2. Corkage was removed and now been re-introduced albeit at a lower figure which is a commercial decision.
3. Car parking impossible to police so members will have to use the overflow areas – we have some 120 spaces but on key events or busy times when groups are both coming and going it is fully utilised.
4. Charging units for electric vehicles - we don’t have the required incoming energy supply whilst the 2 domes are in operation. When capacity is freed up in the future then they will be considered.
5. Indoor courts will be free of charge while work goes on the outside courts .
6. What surface will be new court extension be - tarmac with potential to be acrylic in future.
7. All main events have not been scheduled due to the planned work being carried out on the courts.
8. Pre-booking courts and no-shows should be flagged to the office.
9. New colour for the acrylic colour – feedback welcome - blue and green appears most popular.

**FUTURE PLANS:**

RAF Halton - Sale of the land, we have a 99-year lease with the MOD so we will not be directly affected by the sale. The proposed plans for housing will be a new source of activity and potential membership. We are working closely with the Parish Council to understand and support / influence any changes.

**SAFEGUARDING (NL)**

No issues to report.

**HONORARY MEMBERS**

No change not changed as per last year.

**HTC ACCOUNTS**

No specific HVLTC accounts are produced as we sit within the HTC finances. Overall HTC annual income of @£800k with HVLTC membership subs representing @20%.

We aim to maintain a minimum annual surplus of @£110k to act as a sinking fund to replace our existing facilities when they wear out – the major ones being tennis courts and the domes. Any additional surplus is available for new projects/emergencies.

The unbudgeted drainage problem with our 6 courts and the significant rise in energy costs has created extra unexpected costs of @£200k. We are trying to mitigate the energy costs via solar and new dome engine investments; however this increase in costs will need support via a small increase in April for all membership subs.

* AOB
* David Barnett, on behalf of the Club, thanked Mike and Nick for all their commitment and work.

Meeting closed at 21.45