

**Old College Lawn Tennis Club
Committee meeting 7.30pm on 10 January 2023
at 5 Warmington Road SE24 9LA**



Present: Nigel Thorpe - Chair
Ivan Savage - Vice Chair
Caroline Beck –Treasurer –
Bernard Stilwell – Chair of Tennis
Anna Leslie - Social Secretary
Sara Pearce – Director Membership
Joy Jackson – Executive Secretary
Mabel Wanogho –.Members’ Representative (via zoom)
John Barton – Director Clubhouse and Grounds

1. Minutes of meeting on 15th November

These were approved with one minor amendment.

2. Matters Arising

Floodlight fees had been increased to £5 an hour, as agreed at the last meeting. Ivan was still exploring ways of for turning the lights. £1500 had been spent on the floodlight hoods to address the College Garden concerns, but Ivan had not yet worked out how to screen the croquet hut.

Hamid had reported that the vending machine was no longer accepting money. The implications were that it was only making a few hundred pounds per year, leasing would be expensive and a smaller machine was probably needed. It was decided that it was probably better to remove it, and mothers could be warned so that they could provide children with whatever refreshments they needed. The Club should arrange for the machine to be moved in accordance with Wee regulations.

3. Management of Membership Function

NT reported that we were streamlining the membership function. Firstly, there would be an on-line application form, and secondly, we would put a resolution to the 21 February AGM to change the subscription for the Improver Category, which would simplify the process of joining the club. In addition the Club book-keeper, Emily Chandler, would take on the day to day management of membership, leaving the Director Membership a supervisory and strategic role. This would cost about £3600 a year, for 10 hours per month. she would have full access to the Director Membership email account and to Dropbox.

4. Financial update CB

CB reported that we were on track for our first quarter budget and hopefully would have membership up to 755 at the end of March. With 200 on the waiting list it should be possible to find an additional 25 new members. A 10% increase in subscription rates should be adequate for our needs. Other income had a net target of £5K over the next 12 months. Tennis income should increase by £5K because of coaching activity and the increase in floodlight fees. Operating costs were up 23% with energy costs up 15%. Maintenance costs had been based on known expenditure plus £11K for contingencies. Depreciation would go up from £16K to £32k next year.

Capex for 2023 would be minimal , even with the ETC final payment and trees. We could go back to resurfacing courts over a ten year period.

5. Subscriptions for 2023/2024.

The Committee agreed an across the board increase in subscriptions of 10%. This could go through the AGM without a Resolution, as it was within the limits laid down in the Club Rules. The only difficulty was the anomaly in which improvers paid a much lower subscription, while enjoying similar access to court bookings and club organised events. The only difference was that there was no dedicated Improver Club Play on the weekend. It was decided that the Committee should explore the possibility of access to a court on a Saturday for an hour and a half after their coaching session. This was left open, but the Committee agreed the draft resolution necessary to raise the Improver Subscription to the same level as Advanced and Intermediate, and creating a Peak and Off-Peak Improver rate. Membership fees then could all be brought into alignment.

6. Maintenance

JB reported that he had dealt with the hot water. The main gate seemed to be working ok but we would keep an eye on it.

A fire alarm had been installed in the kitchen.

Heating – 3 electric radiators had been left on overnight. He suggested a timer which could be pushed in and would work for a couple of hours and then turn itself off. A discussion ensued in which it was felt that if there were one timer which would be on for a set number of hours heating the club to around 15C then it would be acceptable to have the other two with push buttons as demand warranted. JB felt the vending machine was currently heating the clubhouse!

The men's toilet cistern was filling up very slowly. He had been worried about the amount of water under the clubhouse when he lifted a trapdoor in the ladies. It was decided that this was probably due to the amount of rain we had had recently but this should be watched.

He thought he should compile a list of annual tasks like servicing fire alarms RCD devices etc and have the manuals in a folder.

There was a discussion about fixing the hitting wall, and after much debate it was thought best to ask Rebo (the original installer) if they wanted the job and to wait until they had a gap in their installation schedule in order to re-install it. It had quoted £1500 for this but it was felt that there were some component parts which had been damaged in the removal and would need replacement. JB was asked to obtain a quote from ETC for re-installing the hitting wall.

It was decided that the Club would get a team together for replacing the posts and the back gate to the clubhouse .This would cost approximately £800.

7. Social

AL reported that the quiz night would have to be limited to 24 people because of the constraints of the kitchen. She expressed concern that not enough young members were attending these events which seem to attract the same older members. She would explore ways to attract younger club members to these events.

There were plans to have a Friday night social for men's and women's teams.

In view of the new Club Tournament format, forward planning would have to be done for finals day. NT thanked AL for all her hard work.

8. Tree Planting

BS reported that the trees were being planted on 19 and 20 January. NT reported that there were 7 sponsors for the silver birches, of whom 6 had paid .He thanked

Anna for suggesting this very successful scheme. There was a discussion about commemorative plaques, which should be around 50mm wide on a metal spike and put into the ground. SP said she would speak to a friend who produced similar items, and AL would talk to some of the sponsors.

9. Health and Safety/Defibrillator

NT felt more people should be more aware of how to use this. Sara Walsh had been in touch with Bell House, who held training sessions which would be available to members. Details would be circulated when available.

10. Parking of coaches on Gallery Road

There had been many complaints about the parking of coaches in Gallery Road. NT had been in touch with Dulwich Village Councillor Margy Newens, who had been helpful.

11. Dulwich Picture Gallery

The Deputy Director of Dulwich Picture Gallery had asked to meet NT, to explain the Gallery's plans for the meadow adjacent to the Club. This was to become a sculpture garden.

12. Wednesday Night Club Play; Annual Tournament

BS reported that the current system for a coach led Club play on Wednesday evenings was working well and the Tennis Committee would keep it as it is.

The Club Annual Tournament will be held over two weeks in the summer, a big change but one he was confident would work well. Details about this would be confirmed fairly soon.

13 AGM 21 February 2023.

NT confirmed the date of the AGM and that the resolution on the Improvers would be tabled.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm

**Old College Lawn Tennis Club
Committee meeting 7.30pm on 29 March 2023
at 5 Warmington Road SE24 9LA**



Present: Nigel Thorpe - Chair
Ivan Savage - Vice Chair
Caroline Beck –Treasurer –
Bernard Stilwell – Chair of Tennis
Anna Leslie - Social Secretary
Sara Pearce – Director Membership
Joy Jackson – Executive Secretary
Manjit Roseghini–.Members’ Representative
John Barton – Director Clubhouse and Grounds

The Chairman welcomed Manjit to the Committee

1. Minutes of meeting on 10th January

These were approved.

2. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes and AGM

The improver category had been moved. Hamid had got the vending machine working again. Councillor Margie Newens had been helpful in trying to restrain coaches from using our parking bays and the number parking there had decreased. We had complained about a Vauxhall which was parked opposite the Club’s main gate but the Council said there was nothing they could do as the car was taxed and MOT’d.

Dulwich Picture Gallery had held a public consultation about their planned sculpture park, The Deputy Director had told NT not to worry about the fence between the Club and the Gallery meadow, as they would possibly be improving that boundary as part of the planned works.

Subsequent to the AGM Liz Rowland had asked why our increase in fees was not linked to the CPI rather than the RPI. It had been agreed that this would make things more transparent. The Committee would propose the appropriate rule change at the next AGM.

3. Financial Update

CB reported that the position was healthy. Subscriptions were coming in and she would be doing the half year end checks over the next few weeks.

4. Membership Renewals

SP reported 461 members had now renewed. 9 people had asked to spread out the payments and 19 members had said they were not renewing; these were mainly juniors going off to university or people who had less time to play tennis. There were 284 active members still to renew and a reminder would be sent out on Friday 31st. We still had a waiting list of 200 and Emily had reported that she was receiving about 5-6 applications each week.

5. Court 8

BS reported that there is a problem with movement of the court base construction at the back of Court 8 which has resulted in an area with unevenness which needs to be made good. This has been and is still being investigated to ensure that the cause is properly understood before remedial works are put in hand. A proper assessment is likely to require a section of the carpet to be cut back and an exploratory hole to be excavated to expose the sub-base and allow it to be inspected. There are other issues, such as movement of the concrete retaining walls, which may or may not be connected to the same cause.

6. Maintenance

Hitting Wall: JB reported that Rebow had quoted £1500 to re-install it but had made it clear they were unlikely to have the time to do it. ETC had quoted £2375 plus VAT to install the wall, but using manual labour only. The Committee was doubtful about the feasibility of this, with the wall weighing 250 kilos. If they were to use a machine it would raise the price to £4500 inc VAT.

BS thought the £700 difference was well worth it, JB was asked to pursue with ETC and review the price. We could also ask Rebow what they would quote for re-installing a new one, and taking the old one away.

7 Clubhouse Project

NT had tabled his terms of reference for a working group for the clubhouse which would be chaired by Ivan. It was decided to advertise the project to the membership and ask them what skills they could bring to the project. It would probably be difficult to find a plan which fitted the likely available money. It was thought that College Gardens would oppose a second storey, which had been suggested by some members.

The group should be limited to six people.

8 Website

NT reported that Lewis Woodham had offered to redesign the website for £1500-£2000. Any redesign should be tied closely to a new logo, on which good work had been done by Sara Pearce, Judy Hammond and Simon Godfrey. CB was asked to speak to Emily to see if she would be interested in managing the website content. This would be an important part of any improvements.

JB was concerned that Lewis's project tied us into Wyx, which meant that all future editors would have to know how to work with it. BS said he would speak to his nephew on the subject, and it was suggested by JJ that we needed to obtain another quote as well

9 College Gardens

NT reported that David Williams, Chair of the Residents Association, was still requesting that the leylandii went up another metre. NT felt we had no choice but to try this and see how it worked out. He continued to believe that the 7 trees being planted in front of the hedge were a better solution, but he had instructed the Club's gardeners to allow the hedge to grow.

IS reported that he had shown the design for a screen above the croquet hut to Tariq Katri, who had recognised that it was not desirable. .

10 Trees

The discussion on this was continued after the meeting. JB had proposed a drip-feed solution to irrigating the trees but this was thought to be risky, as it could be vandalised easily. In off-line discussion it was agreed that waterbags would be installed, to be filled by hose. JB will fit the necessary tap.

Plaques: AL reported that these had all been paid for and were arriving in mid - April. The remaining trees were arriving on 17th April. There would be a ceremony for the sponsors at a later date when everything was completed.

11 Social Secretary's Report

AL reported on some of the social events:

11.1 Open House

Clive Sherlock had requested that the club should pay half of the £760 advertising costs and £200 towards the drinks for the Private View. They would pay 1.9% commission on all sales. CB was asked to check whether this would be a reasonable figure. Last year Manjit and Anna ran the café, but were not doing so this year, and so they thought this year the profits would be lower. We also needed to know the dates for putting up and removing the panels.

There was a discussion about how profitable the bar was, and it was agreed to do a stocktake on 31 March.

11.2 Tournament

There would be a social programme during the tournament, AL would write to the team captains inviting them each to run the bar for one evening.

It was agreed that there would be a barbeque on Finals Day and on the middle Sunday when there would be more players around.

They were proposing to have a disco party on finals evening and would ask David Winks if he would act as DJ.

11.3 Ladies Social Nights

These had been very popular and they were now asking two or 3 people who were regular attenders to assist in the organisation as it was very tiring work.

11.4 Plaques

These had all been paid for and were arriving in middle April. The trees were arriving on 17th April. We would have a ceremony at a later date when everything was completed

The meeting ended at 9.30

**Old College Lawn Tennis Club
Committee meeting 7.30pm on 12 June 2023
at 11 Herne Hill, SE24 9NF**



Present: Nigel Thorpe - Chair
Ivan Savage - Vice Chair
Caroline Beck –Treasurer –
Bernard Stilwell – Chair of Tennis
Anna Leslie - Social Secretary
Sara Pearce – Director Membership (Apologies)
Joy Jackson – Executive Secretary
Manjit Roseghini–.Members’ Representative
John Barton – Director Clubhouse and Grounds

Apologies from Sara Pearce.

1. Minutes of meeting on 29th March

These were approved subject to slight amendments from BS

2. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

NT reported that JB had volunteered to be editor of the website. He had added a link for the Club Tournament. The Committee thanked JB for taking on this extra responsibility and it was agreed that the previous option under consideration should be shelved.

3. Financial Update

CB reported that things were on budget. A bar stock count had been done at the end of March and it was not making as much profit as had been hoped. She suggested a separate meeting with the Bar Committee to discuss the situation after the tournament is completed. It was also noted that Membership subs were slightly down at end of April. It was agreed that this will be reviewed with Sara once we have the accounts up to 30th June.

NT mentioned the outreach programme which involved Emma Michel’s school in Lewisham. Three Pupil Premium children would be offered a week at the Summer Junior Camp. The club has also had the opportunity to offer a place to a Ukrainian child. The Club was making additional revenue from renting out courts to Dulwich College and Dulwich Prep. Income from the summer term would exceed £1300 which was more than double the cost of these outreach opportunities. The Dulwich College programme was also of benefit to the coaches. It was agreed that the Club should publicise the programme and that the link to the income from the College should be made clear.

4. Trees – irrigation and Commemoration

JB reported that there was water to court 4. 2 taps were available to fill water bags around the trees. NT was concerned at the programme for watering the trees during the current dry spell. He had instructed the gardeners to water them once a week and he himself had watered them earlier today. The hedges also needed watering and a sprinkler could be used on them for an hour twice a week. A second hose would be needed. (The current hose is not long enough.)

There was a discussion about the Commemoration Ceremony. As courts were fully booked during the Tournament it would be better to have it afterwards.

Regarding the incorrect plaque for Jennie Ritchie, it was agreed that AL should approach the sponsor for the additional cost of £70.

5. Maintenance

BS reported that for court 8 the subsidence was not near the retaining walls, and it might be better to cut a slot in the carpet to investigate whether this was being caused by tree roots. ETC would charge for this. BS would arrange for a geo-technical engineer to come and look at it. It was decided to proceed as BS suggests £900 + VAT for ETC, plus the cost of a geo-technical engineer to look and report. It would probably cost £1500 in all.

6 Flowerbed by Court 8

NT stated that the flowerbed by court 8 needs topsoil, compost and plants which could be provided at a cost of £1000-£1500. Currently it was the only part of the club which did not look nice. A key issue was how to get the water from our taps near the clubhouse to this area – it may need a rethink of hoses etc (see above) but this was considered manageable. This was approved.

There was a discussion about the best way of accessing the trees without having to go through court 4 and whether this space could be used to resolve that. Currently, the only non court access is to walk behind courts 1 to 4. Whilst the idea was attractive, this would require a new court gate being built at potentially considerable cost and due to the positioning of courts 7&8, it may not achieve its purpose. The Committee would keep this under review with a view to identifying any practical options in the longer term.

7. Hitting Wall

JB stated that we could do this ourselves. He had studied the instructions from Rebo and it could be done. He thought it could be moved manually as it weighed under 200 kilos. He would like to set out the feet and do a test install with a ground screw. If confident he could then install all the ground screws. The second stage would be to lift the wall down and move it across. It would require 6-8 people on the day to move it. A pulley could be used to lower it down in a controlled way. It could then be lifted with props and bolted back up. Alternatively JB could build a gantry and use a chain & pulley to lower it down, move the gantry across and use it to raise the wall. CB raised the issue whether there would be an insurance issue if we did not use an accredited supplier. However, it was explained that this would not apply to these proposals. It was decided we should approach Bob Froud of ETC to ask what he would charge and when it could be completed. JB & BS to liaise on taking this forward.

8. Security and Vandalism

NT reported that 5 of the 8 net court winders had been stolen recently. The replacement cost had been £150. The Club's perimeter was very large and porous. It was agreed that little could be done to prevent intruders entering the grounds, and that on balance the Club had suffered little by way of theft. JB was asked to get an estimate for replacing the fencing on Gallery Road.

9. Clubhouse Project

NT reported that a survey would soon be going out to members. The Design Project Team had been convened. MR requested that service users should also be asked for their opinion.

10 Website

JB would be editing the website. There was discussion about a new website and a new logo. IS had a contact who was a graphic designer who had expressed interest in designing a new logo for Old College. IS will follow up current status of this with SP, contact the graphic designer and come back with a proposal to the Committee. JJ was asked to tell Wilson about the Club's change of name.

JB noted that website software had not been upgraded for some time which affected drag and drop and volunteered to upgrade it. Also to look at the hosting, as it was not a good experience for those accessing it by mobile phones.

11. Social Programme

AL tabled her social programme for the club tournament. She expressed disappointment at the failure of some teams to take part in hosting the bar during the duration.:

12. Succession Planning

NT said he was concerned that many members of the present Committee would leave at the same time. He did not want to leave his successor the situation he himself had been give, namely a Committee with four vacant positions. He therefore asked everyone to consider how long they would stay in their roles, and to consider who might take over from them. BS suggested a schooling or trial handover period, so that people interested on serving could get a good feel of what it would be like before committing themselves.

13. Honorary President

NT noted that Charles Biscoe's tenure would end in July and he would welcome recommendations about a successor from the Board.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm.

**Old College Lawn Tennis Club
Committee Meeting
7.30pm on 30 August 2023
at 11 Herne Hill, SE24 9NF**



Present: Nigel Thorpe - Chair
Ivan Savage - Vice Chair
Caroline Beck –Treasurer –
Bernard Stilwell – Chair of Tennis
Anna Leslie - Social Secretary
Sara Pearce – Director Membership
Joy Jackson – Executive Secretary
Manjit Roseghini –.Members' Representative
John Barton – Director Clubhouse and Grounds

1. Minutes of meeting on 12 June 2023

These were approved subject to slight amendments

2. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

NT reported that Hamid had bought a second hose for the trees. There had been a wonderful commemoration service for the trees which were thriving. Many thanks to Anna.

3. Financial Update

CB reported that cash was slightly ahead of budget at the end of August at £163K. income and expenditure had been on budget at the end of August. There was a question mark on the question of floodlight fees – we probably were not charging enough. She would be away at the end of the September but recommended that a bar stocktake should be undertaken. It was also suggested that tennis ball stocks be counted as they went through the card system.

4. Controlled Parking Zone on Gallery Road.

NT reported that the Council were still at the planning stage. The only option was what would be the preferable parking regime – 2 hours or 4 hours. He had met with Margie Newens, one of the two Dulwich Village Councillors, and the Project Manager and shown them the results of the Travel to Club Survey. 40% of members drove to the club and 10% of respondents had said they would have to re-adjust the times of their attendance or reconsider their membership if they could not park when they wanted to play. Competing tennis clubs (Dulwich Sports Club, Camber and Edward Alleyn's) had off street parking, but he felt that the Council were not listening to Old College's particular issues. The CPZ would also be extremely damaging for Dulwich Picture Gallery where 25% of visitors come by car. Their preferred time for parking restrictions would be 8-10, whereas for us it would be 12-2pm. A four-hour time of 8-12 would affect tennis camps in holidays. It would be useful to have a dropping off facility for parents to get their children to the Club.

The coaching team would have to have permits, and the current business rate permit is £600 per year making it very expensive. The Council would not make a concession on this for the Club.

5. Honorary President

The board agreed that the new Honorary President should be Mark Wansborough-Jones.

6 Membership Waiting List Policy

SP reported that 35 peak memberships had become available following the renewals last March. Those on the waiting list had been informed that it is highly unlikely there will be any more vacancies for peak membership before the end of the subscription year.

On average there, were 5-6 additions to the waiting list every week. It currently totals 250. SP estimated that the realistic waiting list is one third of the total. There are now 90 off peak members and there are vacancies for a few more.

The waiting list policy was chronological unless the applicant was related to a current member or of first or second team standard.

Whilst we are clear with our waiting list policy SP suggested it should be clearly stated on the website.

JJ asked why life members had increased to 27 when in 2007 there were 4 and one had since died. SP said she would investigate and report back.

CB asked why junior numbers had been decreasing. Alex was promoting the club through juniors. It was noted that juniors often didn't stay after leaving school.

7. Club Perimeter Hedge and Fencing

NT reported that rather than fence the Gallery Road boundary we would use hedging. This would be done by the gardeners. This would be cheaper than fencing and will be done in the Autumn.

JB reported that quotes are being obtained for a metal service gate and to replace the broken wood fencing by the main gate.

8. Cycle Racks and Showers

JB reported that the grid was down by the cycle racks and grass was being sown.

JB also reported that he was disturbed by the low temperature of the showers which involved the risk of legionnaire's disease and in the short term he felt they should be put out of use. He felt the temperature of water provided in the kitchen was high enough. After discussion it was agreed that the showers could not be taken out of use. JB will explore the issue further.

9. Rubbish Clearance

IS reported that that the rubbish behind the clubhouse would be cleared within the next two to three weeks.

10 ETC Hitting Wall and Court 8.

BS said that we had to check about the warranty for court 8. He doubted that Trevor May would in any case undertake any work on this court now. He expected to instruct ETC to carry out the necessary exploratory work on the subsidence on this court.

With regard to the new courts, ETC will remedy any defects. They planned to lay two tons of sand in the next month, which should cure the problems of bounce which players had complained of.

The hitting wall would be re-installed with ETC with John's help. NT undertook to write to David Williams of College Gardens to explain the change of decision about placing the wall on court 2, so that court 1 could remain a show court.

11 Clubhouse

There would be a meeting of the Clubhouse Project Team on the 27th September to look at some proposals for the re-design of the clubhouse.

12 Logo

NT showed the Committee a design for a Club crest, prepared by a graphic designer friend of IS. The designer was keen to present his ideas to the Committee and NT asked JJ to arrange a meeting in late September for this.

13. Dulwich Picture Gallery

NT reported Dulwich Picture Gallery had offered to do a Curator led tour on 17th October and to provide concessionary membership for its Friends organisation. AL was concerned that there might not be enough members for the tour and she will liaise with the Gallery to ensure a good turn-out.

NT is also talking to the Gallery's caterers about managing the Club bar on Saturday mornings.

14. Any other Business

Clubhouse

There was concern at the arrangements for keeping the Clubhouse in a good and tidy state. JB and NT will look into this.

BS Architects

It was agreed to pay BS architects £10,000 inclusive of Vat. This includes the balance of the original quote and expenses of £1,566 plus £8,434 for additional work done, including stepping in when other contractors were not able to fulfil their commitments. The additional work done ensured the completion of courts 4 and 5 on time and close management and negotiation with ETC to keep their costs down for which the Committee is extremely grateful.

The meeting ended at 9.45pm.

**Old College Lawn Tennis Club
Committee Meeting
7.30pm on 14th November 2023
at 11 Herne Hill, SE24 9NF**



Present: Nigel Thorpe - Chair
Ivan Savage - Vice Chair
Caroline Beck –Treasurer –
Bernard Stilwell – Chair of Tennis
Sara Pearce – Director Membership
Joy Jackson – Executive Secretary
Manjit Roseghini –.Members' Representative

Apologies were received from John Barton.

1. Minutes of meeting on 30th August 2023

These were approved subject to amendments suggested at the meeting.

2. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

NT reported that the rubbish had been cleared with thanks to all those involved. ETC were commencing with the hitting wall on 27th November. Regarding court 8 ETC would carry out a small trial pit near the gate to determine building up and condition of the ground below the stones. Following the completion of this our options would be easier to evaluate. As regards the new service gate and the fencing by the main gate, these had been done but we would be requesting more quotes for the painting.

The visit to the Gallery had been a great success with 50 members booking for the occasion. NT also reported that the Gallery Caterers might be able to assist us with events after our facilities had been improved.

3. Financial Update

CB reported that we had cash of £164K at the end of September. Although the accounts for the year ended 30 September 2023 are yet to be finalised revenue is circa £200K She expected there were a few expenses in the pipeline to be accrued but that the results would show a surplus that is significantly above budget – currently estimated at £55K. This is partly because maintenance costs were below budget. She recommended that there is a closer look at the courts maintenance programme and the conclusions included in the 23/24 budget and forecasts.

4. Clubhouse and Grounds Report

JB's report had been circulated. This stated that strengthening the hedging with bare root plants with be done in November/December to replace the fencing. The blockage to the Clubhouse drains was caused by roots. An estimate had been obtained and it was suggested that this be included in next year's budget.

MR stated that the showers were not working properly. JB had reported that estimates had been obtained for £875+Vat for each shower assuming that the existing pipework was adequate. An additional provision of £400 had been made for this and making good. He also stated that he felt that there was a risk of legionnaires

from the existing ladies shower. Such a risk assessment was a requirement of LTA registration.. It was thought best to shut the hot water off from the showers and notify members that they were effectively out of use but would of course be replaced when the Clubhouse was refurbished.

The question of the tap near courts 7 and 8 was raised. Following further discussions with JB after the meeting it was agreed to revisit this issue at the next Committee meeting.

IS and NT suggested that we set aside £3000 per annum to pay someone to help with odd jobs on the grounds and Clubhouse on a more consistent basis. This policy was agreed but would be reviewed every six months.

5. Clubhouse Project

Visuals for the new Clubhouse had been circulated. NT stated that they would be obtaining a scoping costing for the project without allowing for any space increase. Hande Reardon would make a presentation to the Committee in January 2024, and a date for this would be arranged. Subject to the Committee's approval there would then be a presentation at the 2024 AGM. NT said that if the project were postponed into the distant future, for financial reasons, then it would be very hard to keep alive.

6. Crest/ Logo

NT was keen to proceed with the new crest. There were two problems with the design: one was that it incorporated parts of the Almeyn family coat of arms and he was in touch with the College of Arms to obtain permission to use these. The second was that the crest incorporates 1884 as the date the Club was established but there was doubt about this and NT was trying to get a more accurate date. The meeting discussed how to present to new design to members and it was agreed that a sufficient process had been undertaken to tell a persuasive story at the 2024 AGM.

7. Website Management

NT proposed that Owen Savage should be appointed website manager, at a rate of £30 per hour. This followed unsuccessful attempts to find a volunteer for this role. NT stated that Mike Samra had been impressed by Owen's CV. It was thought that the website was badly in need of an upgrade and that the club needed to employ someone with the skills to improve it and to keep it up to date. In order to be transparent about the departure from the past practice of having this done by a volunteer, NT said he would mention this in the next newsletter ,which would go out before Christmas, setting out the Committee's policy of professionalising roles where this made sense and where it eased the work of the Committee.

8. Waiting List Policy

NT pointed out that in order to maintain the CASC status which avoids paying Corporation Tax, HMRC's Rule 237 stated that members must be admitted in chronological order rather than giving preference to family members and players of a higher standard. SP mentioned that family are part of the community.

The Committee discussed the implications of this and decided to refer the issue in the first place to the Tennis Committee for consideration.

9. Social Secretary.

NT said he was very sorry that Anna Leslie had stepped down. She had been instrumental in reviving the Club's social life after the pandemic. The Club owed her a big vote of thanks. He added that he thought Anna's successor should come from the younger membership. He was in touch with the Men's Captain, James Gubb who was being very helpful in putting out feelers to possible candidates.

In discussion of the future social programme NT noted that Anna had offered to run the events to which she had previously committed. He also suggested that we invite Dulwich Gallery staff to visit the Club and – for those who wanted to pay – offer the chance of an hour with a coach. He added that we might also consider offering them the opportunity to have lunchtime access of the courts once a week for free.

10 Date of Next AGM

This was fixed for 4th March 2024.

11 Succession Planning

NT reminded everyone that the Committee needed to consider succession planning for all roles. SP will be stepping down at the AGM and her post was the most urgent to ensure was covered.

The meeting ended at 9.30.