



**Old College Lawn Tennis Club
Committee Meeting
7.00pm on Wednesday 5th February 2025
at 5 Warmington Road, SE24 9LA at 7pm**

Present: Nigel Thorpe - Chair
Ivan Savage - Vice Chair
Caroline Beck –Treasurer – (Via internet)
John Barton – Director Clubhouse and Grounds
Bernard Stilwell – Chair of Tennis
George Ranson – Director of Membership (Via internet)
Joy Jackson – Executive Secretary
Manjit Roseghini – Member Representative (Via internet)
Virunee Viravong – Social Secretary (Via internet)

Invited: Bob Henderson

1. Minutes of the meeting 26th November 2024

These were approved with the proviso that Clubhouse redevelopment costs indicated in the Minutes were subject to being updated at the presentation to Members.

2. Matters Arising

The vending machine had been removed. JB had enabled it to be sold at a profit of £90 after removal expenses.

3 Finance

CB presented the financial results for the year. She requested that anyone who had any queries should contact her before the 10th February. She said that the club was in an excellent financial position before the redevelopment.

Membership income had been below budget because of delays in admitting new members after clarifying members who were not renewing. This had resulted in 2-3 months in lost subscriptions. This year the membership income was estimated at £184,000.

Tennis activities also fell below the budget due to the wet winter and lower income from floodlights. Income from social events was hard to predict but we had unexpected income from Waitrose and had received deposit account interest of £4K and hoped to earn interest of nearer £7K during the current year.

Maintenance had come under budget thanks to the diligence of JB. For the next year we would have to be prudent to keep things in good order and have budgeted £78.2K.

Other costs. Provision for a Clubhouse Manager would be deferred until the redevelopment was completed. In the current year expenditure had been incurred for a feasibility study and the website redevelopment.

CB presented a 10 year forecast which assumed declining membership. If no interest income was received in 2035 there might be an operating deficit. This model had assumed that membership could fall by 50%. (Current waiting list is 300 members) It stressed the importance of the potential redevelopment to keep the club attractive to its existing and future members so that membership numbers were maintained.

CB then asked the Committee to accept the
Management Accounts
Budget for 25/26
Accounts for Companies House

(subject to detailed comments from Committee members). These were approved.

The first quarter results were also on track.

NT thanked CB and Emily for all the hard work done in preparing the Accounts and forecasts.

4.0 Subscriptions.2025/2026 and possible pre-payment

Membership subscriptions would go up by 3.5%. MR stated that she felt members should be pre-warned before receiving a demand for the new fee. NT stated that he would include this in a newsletter to go out.

We would be asking for 2 years' pre-payment with no annual increase, covering 2026/27 and 2027/28. Those providing this would get a discounted rate over the succeeding two year period. It would be a major help to achieve the clubhouse redevelopment.

GR stated that we must have some provision for those who suddenly find they have to move from the area.

CB stated that we needed 160 members to provide this temporary cash surplus. The Club needed to retain a certain level of annual income to cover its normal expenses.

The Club would need about 30% of members to agree to this. In addition there would be an appeal to both peak and non-peak members to make a donation.

If this could not be raised, we would have to re-think the redevelopment.

5. Clubhouse Project and Presentation to Members

NT stated that he had had a good meeting with Charlotte Ireson and Hande Reardon that afternoon, in preparation for the presentation to members on 25th February. This would be in four parts:

Introduction NT
History BS
Funding CB
Questions

It was important that this presentation was given with huge enthusiasm so that everyone realises it is in the best interests of the club to pursue it and that we were confident it can be delivered.

NT assured the Committee that the meeting would be recorded and made available on the website. He added that donations would be very important and there were plans to appeal to the parents of juniors.

GR felt we ought to have a target on the website so that everyone could see how we are achieving it.

6. AGM/The Next Club Committee

NT stated that the AGM would be held on 11 March and could the Committee encourage as many people as possible to attend so that a quorum was reached.

He stated that he and Ivan were standing down. All other elected member were standing again. All material would be posted on the website.

7. Clubhouse and Grounds

- JB reported the following:
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- Ladies shower had been repaired
- Men's shower repaired – it had a leak
- Main gate – The keypad was out for repair
- Ball Machine – Simon Godfrey had bought this and made it available for use by the members at a cost of £10 but it had only generated an income of £60. He would be happy to sell it for £500. It was 5 years old. It had mechanical parts and had a battery charging cycle. It was heavy to move and there were reservations about the battery life. It could be added to the booking system, but its retention or purchase were something for the tennis committee to consider.
- The path lights were not working but JB was finding it difficult to find an electrician to give a quote. One company had wanted £100 to give a quote and another had quoted £1000. He would prefer obtaining another quote as well, and IS undertook to give his electrician a nudge.
- Defibrillator - the battery had been replaced
- Courts – the clay courts were not being swept properly. They need a minimum of 2mm sand layer at all times and we need to encourage members to sweep the courts better. It was decided to put instructions on laminate notices on the court fence on the Does and Don'ts of court sweeping.

There was a discussion about contracts for clubhouse staff. We needed a fallback if the Facilities Manager was off for a long time. The cleaner only had a verbal contract and comes in twice a week. CB confirmed she worked for two hours on a Monday and Thursday, and mops, cleans basins and cleans up the kitchen. She doesn't empty bins but will defrost fridges and freezers when asked to. No further action was agreed.

8. Social

VV reported that during the Easter term there would be a joint Adult and Junior tournament. The summer tournament would go on as usual.

9.. Honorary President

NT reported that JJ had agreed to be the next Honorary President.

10.0 Data Protection

RH stated that he was awaiting an introduction to Emily Chandler to discuss what information we are using for the ICO template.

The meeting ended at 9pm