**Coolhurst GMC**

**15th July 2019**

Meeting started at 6.30 in the Clubhouse.

**Present**

Bob Taylor, Michael O’Callaghan (notes), Charlie Logan, Martin Zinkin, Sarah Luther, Jamie Morris (Chair), Nigel Hutchings, Peter Hilton

**1 Apologies**

 Gerald Barrett, Graham Matthews, Charlie Logan, Giles Clawson, Paul Adderley, Andy Watson.

Secretary’s note: There were seven GMC members present, the quorum.

**2 Previous minutes** Approved.

**3 General Manager report**

GM’s report had been circulated before the meeting. Some points to note –The number of tennis members is the highest in recent years. The financial performance of squash coaching activities continues to improve. Squash year to the month of June is now in profit, though by a small amount (£60). To break even squash coaching needs to cover costs of £277/week. We expect to exit the year at break even. The adult squash coaching effort is bringing in new beginners.

Year to date, we are £1,100 in profit for squash juniors. This figure includes the cost of the new coach, Lucas. These figures represent a turn around compared to performance over the last two to three years.

A new adult tennis coaching activity started in May. It is now £300 in profit. This is considered a good result after only seven weeks of operation. This coaching activity will now pause over the summer.

A new staff member Naomi is taking over from membership activities from Bob. She is a bar staff member, and she is doing some admin functions such as dealing with petty cash. These require 6 hours/week. Naomi is tracking membership enquiries with a dedicated spreadsheet. We are currently seeing more squash enquiries than tennis ones.

**4 Squash report**

A report had been submitted given. CL gave a brief update including the news that the exact management of the PSL (Professional Squash League) team continues to be under review.

NH thought the doors to squash courts 3-6 are not closing properly. SL undertook to look into this.

Squash court maintenance by Wearwell will take place 5 – 12 August.

**5 Finances**

BT had submitted a report before the meeting. The meeting noted a member offer, as reported by Gerald Barrett, to carry out an independent examination of the Club’s books free of charge. This could replace the audit the Club currently has for which the Club pays a number of thousands of pounds. PH said that we should be careful before making such a change, and that the reason we have an external auditor is to give independent and impartial advice on our accounts and other finance related activities, and that this is particularly important given the history and the fact that some members are worried about us having the same person carrying out our Accountant and Treasurer functions, so trying to save money here carries some risk and may reopen old wounds.
The meeting thought the change could not be implemented for the current financial year because the AGM approved a motion to appoint Collards as the Club’s auditors. GB actioned to respond back to the member who had made the kind offer. We may be able to take it up next year.

**6 Tennis**

JM gave an update. The annual tournament went well. Membership numbers are very high.

MZ proposed thanks on behalf of tennis members to Jamie Morris for the organisation of the tennis tournament. The meeting agreed.

The grass court replacement project now seems a little more complicated. Examination has recently found the soil is deeper, and its volume greater, than had been thought. JM: We have had a sample tested to see if the extra soil can be sold. It can’t. There may be a further cost of £58k to remove the extra soil. The project team will continue to investigate alternatives e.g. leave some soil in place and use additional structures to support the surface, before arriving at a recommendation.

A revised proposal with a new cost projection will be circulated to the GMC for email by mid August. Extra costs of £58k, were these to arise, would probably require further borrowing. The GMC appeared minded to approve such extra cost, given the importance of this project

**7 CASC**

MOC gave an update. The CASC SGM that was to have taken place before this meeting was cancelled. It appears the tax advantages of CASC are advantages that the Club already gets since it does not pay corporation tax and has an official discretionary business rates reduction from the local authority, Haringey. It had previously been understood that the discretionary rate was somehow unofficial but this appears not to be the case. MOC proposed therefore the Club’s work on CASC should be halted. The committee agreed. If the position were to change, e.g. if Haringey were to withdraw the rates rebate, then the project could be restarted. MOC was actioned to inform HMRC that we are are not planning to progress our application.

 **8 Social**
MOC gave an update. A quiz is coming up Friday July 26th. Film night Saturday 10th August. The film is Belle Epoque, and is in Spanish with subtitles.

There is a wine tasting and various speaker evenings in planning. PH suggested making social events in the bar related to the forthcoming Rugby World Cup. MOC undertook to look into this good idea.

 **9 IT and Website**

There was an update from MZ and JM on possible replacements for our booking system. Investigations have so far been useful but inconclusive. Noted that there is a proposed upgrade from Globus for our current system, Club Solution. This could be a significant change. The decision on whether to implement it is pending.

MZ has looked at options for creating a wired connection to the top tennis courts, following NH’s observation that CCTV would be useful in that area. There is an option available which is under £300 for running a wire at tree height. This assumes other cabling work is done and does not include the cost of a camera. There was further discussion on the use of CCTV on the premises.

**10 Next meeting**

Next meeting September 16th.

The meeting ended at 20.10.