

Minutes of Coolhurst GMC Meeting

Held on zoom Monday 7 September, 2020 at 16.30.

Present: Michael O'Callaghan, Peter Hilton, Sarah Luther, Stephen Nardelli, Charlie Logan, Martin Zinkin, Bob Taylor.

1. Apologies

Paul Adderley, Martin Hearn, Tzvetelina Dimitrova, Nigel Hutchings.

At six GMC member attendees, the meeting was not quorate. The quorum is 7.

2. Finance

BT had circulated accounts for the half year to to June 2020.

Broadly, the bottom line is similar to last year despite the Corona virus effects.

BT: Squash booking fees are down. We might be down £50k on income by year end when we get to Dec 2009. We have c. 200k in the bank. We have £20k to pay coaches, going out today. Payroll is c. £15k / month. We have another £50k coming in towards the end of this month. We are due to receive a £50k bounce back loan. Should I see if any lenders want loans back?

SN: I am feeling upbeat about the way the Club is going.

My opinion is I would like to see the loans coming down. I would favour paying £50k off now, and then considering £50k more at the end of the year. If we were to pay off £100k per year, the debt would be gone in five years.

The Minister of Sport wrote to me today, Nigel Huddleston. This input will be discussed at a grant subcommittee this week and we will report back to the GMC next week.

CL: Bob, how much of the current schedule is due for repayment in the coming months? Can we consider how we reconfigure the debt book?

PH: I would not be happy to repay loans because we need to be cautious about our cash position.

CL: Some of it might be repayable because its term is coming to end. We might be able to pay off a 4% loan and then open up a 2% avenue, perhaps.

BT: There are a lot of lenders on shorter notice.

MOC: I would favour moving towards repayment, especially as we have the opportunity in principle to borrow again if it turned out to be necessary.

BT: we have more than double the amount of cash we normally have in the bank at this time of year. Tennis subs income has been strong. We will expect further from squash renewals and from further tennis camps.

SN: we need to have a financial report each month.

3. Squash

CL has made a proposal on new squash subs. Members would be asked to renew squash subs at last year's price, and effectively a third of the subs paid per member would be allocated to that member's booking account, roughly £120. The accounting process for handling this transaction has as yet not been cleared with Bob.

MZ: the booking credit is a really good idea.

CL 30th September is end of squash year, after which renewals are due.

MOC: I like the squash proposal also.

CL: A squash committee member suggested that there might be people willing to forego the booking account gift but we will not be taking that option as part of the aim of the current proposal is that members are encouraged to get on court and play. There are 18 joint tennis/squash members. Two or three more have asked about becoming full tennis members. CL is directing further queries to Martin Hearn.

Squash court 2 is bring brought into service after improvements to the ventilation.

3. GM

Gym

SL: Gym went live today. Members who are attending are enjoying it. It feels safe. I didn't intend to open the Clubhouse this week, but I noticed outdoors was muddy, so I have configured the Clubhouse for indoor use.

We have a the children's programme restarting. Having the inside in use would be useful.

Changing rooms – have to be kept closed for now. (SL also checked this will the expert group).

PH: I understand that other venues have opened their changing rooms.

SL: Venues that have done it typically have swimming pools, or they may have more staff to make it work.

PH: Squash players like to change and have a drink after playing and having a shower. This is especially true now the weather has turned colder.

SN: David Lloyd is able to open showers because the facility is larger and so they are able to have some showers out of use to maintain social distance.

CL: We'll expect to see pressure to use the showers from squash players. So we need to keep it on the agenda.

MZ: for outdoor sports facilities the government guidance is that showers should be closed. For indoor sports the use of showers and changing rooms is not totally prohibited, but is discouraged.

SN: This is an important topic for us to keep under review.

SL: We are at September. As GM I want to provide the facilities I can. We are not opening the changing rooms yet. When things change we'll consider the right thing to do. We have to think of the whole Club.

Today we are opening the Clubhouse on a trial basis. We will still have masks on when entering the Clubhouse.

We have a squash and tennis programme starting next week.

We are keeping to 4 children per coach. The coaching structure payment scheme has been changed.

CCTV – this is now nearly all installed. We have the gym on it. At allows zooming in to see detail. It's very impressive.

Chiltern's are coming in this week to work on the upper courts.

The bar take is now starting to drop, moving to loss making.

A trench is being dug for lights down to the back entrance.

We have one heater on the terrace. They are not eco-friendly, but we'll give it a go. On the balcony we have put out more seating. Heaters will be placed on walls.

At some point I'd like to get a Hive system on the central heating. This would allow us to control it from behind the bar in zones. Likely cost around £4k. I am getting quotes.

Oasis – it will be now hard for Oasis to make money. Ewa is working out a way to provide food when she's not here. We don't want to be coming in a losing money. Currently all the team meals have been lost since we don't have matches.

SN: Generally I don't see a lot of people eating. It's a shame she doesn't want to do Sunday.

SL: There will be hot soup and toasties.

There was a discussion of options for patio heaters.

SL: we could maybe ask members in the Chairman's newsletter to go out soon.

5. Tennis

Criteria for team membership.

MZ: People can be midweek tennis members – this category avoids the peak times mid week and week ends. MZ thought such members are not eligible for team membership, but in fact there are six or seven members in this category who have played for teams.

PH this might be related to a time when it was difficult to form teams and so the criteria were stretched.

CL: we had to reinforce this rule for squash last year. We had two members who became country members, and so the position was that it is not possible to play in leagues while being a country member.

MZ: We are trying to get as many members as possible the ability to play in teams.

CL: Again we had a similar issue with squash last year and for example we encouraged some people to decide between playing for a vets team or a non-age group team, but not both.

The meeting felt that selection criteria should take into account whether someone is a full member or not.

CL and SL will meeting together to finalise the communication for renewals.

CL will be meeting Adrian Morris and Paul Harris to re-start the squash leagues. This will be from October 9th. The cycle will be four weeks on with a fifth week rest, which will allow squash bubbles to be managed.

CL we are concentrating on getting more court capacity when we need it. However we have to have a buffer between sessions.

5. AOB

There were no AOB items.

6. Next meeting

4.30 pm Thursday September 17th.

Meeting ended 17.46