Minutes of a GMC meeting on 10 January 2022

Present: SN, WM, AdeW, JS, CL, JW, BT, SL. Apologies MZ, TD

Tennis update

The court re-surfacing programme was being delayed by the planning process. Haringey’s consultation HGY/2022/0008 on our application to lay red rather than green surface on courts 6, 7 and 8 had opened with a closing date of 4 February. A number of supporting statements and been filed, but also objections from local residents; these had also been made direct to the Chair. The implications for programme possible delay, with options for programme alterations together with cost estimates were considered. Clarification would be sought from Haringey planning on likely timing of a decision. The Tennis committee was invited to reflect on the current position and to decide soon on how the programme best be taken forward. The reactions among local residents were unfortunate and it was decided to invite the residents association to participate in a regular consultation meeting every half year. This would best be done once the plans for the re-surfacing programme had been clarified.

On a positive note, the new surface on Court 5 was playing well and was already much appreciated by members. The New Year resumption of club period had seen 40 members attend the previous day.

Squash

The GMC paid tribute to the squash committee on its huge success in reviving Coolhurst squash after the lockdown and Covid restrictions prevented any play for many months. The squash section was now back to full complement and activity.

The December handicap and junior tournaments went very well.  
The England Squash bronze junior tournament will be at Coolhurst in March, a fee will be paid to the organiser which will be more than recovered through entry fees.  
Maintenance items had all completed thanks to Ray. The committee had decided to restore club championships to April/May for 2022 edition.  
Consideration had been given to re-entering the PSL ( which was amended and shortened) but it had been decided to decline for this year, as there would have been up-front costs and no member wanted to take it on.

General manager’s report

A promising candidate has come forward as a full time tennis coach to replace Gavin Haggart.

Squash Court 7: Maintenance works had been completed, cost £1200 plus Vat. Replacement of lighting to LED scheduled for 11th January 22: Costs: light fittings £1080 plus vat: Installation cost (tbc)

Gym: Four pieces of equipment removed from gym with squash court 7 reverting back to squash.  Gym membership currently £130. Costs/viability being investigated for installation of mezzanine floor to gym. Steve Mason (bar employee) now  working as Gym PT following Brent Compton leaving the role.

Tree Surgeon Work to perimeter tennis courts 12, 13 and 14: Scheduled 25th January, cost £2400 plus vat.

New Treatment Room: Fully operative and licence agreement agreed with Paddy Joyce at £8.5k annual rent from 1st January 2022, two year licence. The Committee also discussed whether the construction of an additional larger treatment room for pilates classes could be accommodated in the undercroft, as it seemed that this could satisfy a demand and generate revenue.

Maintenance Works: Skip on site for rubbish removal rear entry area. Work scheduled to replace defective lighting to squash courts which will require erection of scaffolding. Interior cleaning of sand from tennis balloon scheduled for end of January.

Bar: Following increases by wholesalers bar prices would necessarily to rise from Monday 17 January. SL would discuss with Bar Secretary.

No smoking policy on terrace to be extended to all Coolhurst Ground Areas.

Six new members of bar staff employed following three staff members leaving, 4 part time and two on 30 hour contracted contracts. As well documented, Covid has had a negative impact on hospitality staffing availability coupled with increases in wage costs of 15/20%.

Staffing costs would rise April 22 with an increase in the minimum wage of 6.6% together with the hike in Employer National Insurance of 1.25%. In discussion the point was made that if our wage level is now over the London Living Wage, it would be good to see this on our website. Further, that the GMC would expect to see how the overall impact of increased staff costs would be reflected in a 2022 budget. This would be forthcoming in February.

Ewa had suffered bereavement of a close family member, and the kitchen service would be impacted in the short term.

AGM

Although it is normal for AGM’s to take place in March, the 2021 AGM had been delayed until May. The Articles just require that the AGM be held no later than 15 months after the previous AGM. By May Covid restrictions or reluctance may have eased. It was decided to hold the 2022 AGM on Monday 9 May.