

Hackney City Tennis Club Limited – Board of Directors

Minutes of Board Meeting held on 27 May 2020 (Virtual Meeting on Google Meet)

**Present:**

Directors: Howard Bennett (Chair), David Harrison, Daniela Aramu, Francesco Caselli, Alison Hunter, Christian Winder, Lisa Watch, Maurine Lewin

In attendance: James Mills

**Conflicts of interest:**

None reported

**The minutes were approved.**

**Actions since last meeting:**

Board members have fed back questions to Howard surrounding Hackney Tennis's change to charitable status. By 29 May Brabners Solicitors are due to provide guidance on the next steps to move this forward.

**Managing Director's report**

Since the reopening of the courts there has been very high demand and the takings during the first week back were close to double that of the same period last year. The year to date accounts, which JM had circulated before the meeting, were examined, but no clarification was required.

DA asked when the court bookings open, and this was confirmed by JM as midnight. FC reminded everyone that it was agreed at the last AGM to change the time to 10pm. It was agreed by all that JM should make immediate plans to set a date for the change-over and provide HT users with an adequate notice period

JM outlined that Natalia Brebu, the Operations Manager, was un-furloughed on 18 May based on the increased workload since the reopening of the courts on 16 May and was currently working from home. JM plans to un-furlough remaining staff from early June in a staged process.

DA pointed out that HT should follow government advice and staff should be allowed to work at home where at all possible. JM agreed and will continue working closely with the employees and enable home working where appropriate. JM informed the Board that the Council had requested that the pavilion is staffed on some level at this time and LTA guidance suggests some limited access to clubhouses where practical.

ML asked if all employees will be sent the COVID procedures and risk assessment and JM confirmed this would be done before employees return to work.

HT coaches have been able to recommence individual lessons. At the Council's request a reduced number of courts for coaching were agreed ahead of reopening to reduce potential conflicts with the public during this time. A system is in place that allows HT coaches to book these specific courts and any unused spaces are opened to the public a day in advance. The system is working for most but there have been a couple of issues raised by HT coaches around not being able to get sufficient court time or book their client's preferred venues. JM is keeping the system in constant review and

will adapt if required. A request to the Council for additional courts for coaches was sent and a response received stating that it was too soon for this.

There was some discussion about how best to approach the Council for more courts for coaches and it was decided that another request would be made once the initial demand for courts had reduced.

LW suggested approaching Jubilee School about renting their court on site. JM to ask the coaches if this would be of help before approaching the school. DH pointed out that Mossbourne Community Academy could also be a potential option for court resources.

HB highlighted that Islington Tennis coaches are teaching members of the same family in a group and wondered whether this would be of benefit to the HT coaching team. JM to check with LTA if family group coaching is permitted.

DH asked whether the courts at Springfield could be utilised by the HT coaches but HB confirmed that this had already been refused for the time being. DA pointed out that HT's agreement with the Council included taking over Springfield and that this should be brought to fruition.

The coaches' financial assistance measures were reviewed, and it was agreed that these would remain in place for May and reviewed again in early June.

FC asked whether the Government's furlough scheme would stop the HT coaches from taking on individual lessons and this was believed not to be the case.

HB provided a brief outline of the LTA coaching grant which several of the HT coaching team applied for.

FC asked JM for an update on group coaching and it was explained that there has been no indication given from the Government or LTA when HT will be allowed to start its group coaching programme but preparations are being made to start classes in early June if permitted.

It had been hoped to complete the court spraying and court resurfacing works at Clissold during lockdown, but the Council had informed HT that this wasn't possible, which everyone agreed was disappointing. The paint spraying of courts 1 & 2 at Clissold Park is due to start 28 May and expected to take three days. The resurfacing of courts 3-8 at Clissold will take 12 days to complete and then additional days for repainting.

The LTA have cancelled their Local Player Development plans for 2020 meaning HT will no longer be applying for this.

There were no proposed modifications to the draft Covid-19 Procedures, which JM had circulated before the meeting and these were approved.

HB concluded the meeting by asking for any other business, which there wasn't and the meeting was ended.