

Hackney City Tennis Club Limited – Board of Directors
Minutes of Board Meeting held on 17 February 2020

Present:

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

In attendance: James Mills

Apologies for Absence: David Harrison

Conflicts of interest:

Lisa – participant in HT courses; children play tennis; works for Sport England

Christian – child on Performance Programme

Minutes of meeting held on 18 September 2019

The minutes were approved.

Actions since last meeting:

Appointment of Natalia Brebu as Operations Manager

Appointment of Krystal Charles as Assistant to the Operations Manager

Appointment of James Mills as Managing Director

AGM notice approved

Managing Director's report

Natalia has been appointed as the welfare officer and will need to attend two courses which she will do as swiftly as possible. Consideration should be given to having a second welfare officer on the board.

An application has been made for an £8000 grant from Nike to promote tennis for disabled children. Stormont House School has been approached and is interested in being involved. The date for a decision on the grant has not been announced.

Lisa had previously highlighted a grant to get women involved in sport. An application is being made to run a women's cardio tennis session.

Howard made us aware of a charity (Volunteer It Yourself) which operates in disadvantaged areas to try to engage older children/young adults to develop trade and employability skills. We should consider approaching them if we develop projects at Millfields and/or London Fields.

James mentioned that one of the coaches has an idea about getting primary school children, particularly girls playing more. He also said he will be looking into the feasibility of running the LTA's Tennis for Kids which encourages new children to play initially for a short term. The courses can be run for 4-11 year olds but are generally for the younger children. The course is charged at £25 for a six week course and the children are offered a racquet, tennis balls and a T shirt. HT would then need to offer a further advantage such as reduced fees for a subsequent course.

James has been in touch with Hackney Council. They have been in contact about the London Youth Games and have provided James with significant information about the schools in the area.

Krystal has asked to defer her return to work after the birth of her child and was considering starting in March/April. James has agreed.

The teams for the summer season have been registered and James is well underway to appointing captains. He intends to arrange a meeting for the children's team captains.

Hackney Council Update

Income has been hit by Millfields being out of action and problems with the floodlights at Hackney Downs. Millfields has been retreated and should have been finished last week.

Clissold – resurfacing is urgent. Hackney Council is aware and hope to get a budget in the next few weeks which would allow the resurfacing to proceed. This would then have to be scheduled to minimise disruption.

In terms of the fencing Hackney is not prepared to put the same fencing in as it is not durable enough. They are suggesting putting multisport fencing up instead. Howard noted that he thought it had been agreed that they would put this sort of fencing for roughly 50cms from the ground and then other fencing above.

A meeting is planned with Hackney Council to discuss presenting a proposal to the LTA to seek their support to carry out work at London Fields and Millfields. It has also been suggested by both Hackney Council and the LTA that HT consider making a bid for money from the London Marathon Charitable Trust. They provide large grants (£50000-£250000). HT would need to work with Hackney Council who would technically need to be the grantee. It would be a two stage process and applications can be made at quarterly intervals.

Charitable status

Howard reported back about his discussions with the accountant and the LTA appointed solicitor for issues relating to charitable status. The main reason for applying for charitable status is that corporation tax would not be payable by HT. This has not been an issue for HT so far, as HT has been carrying forward losses but that will change within this financial year. Questions were asked about additional filing requirements and the nature of the structure of the club including the change from directors to trustees and how they would be appointed.

Action: Directors to send Howard questions about charitable status and HT by 24 February so he can follow up with the solicitor with the view to the board taking a final decision

AOB

The dates of the next meetings – it was agreed these would be on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6.30pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 18th March.

Action: Howard to circulate meeting dates for the full year.