

Hackney City Tennis Club Limited – Board of Directors

DRAFT Minutes of Board Meeting held 19:00 18th March 2021 (Virtual Meeting on Zoom)

Present:

Directors: Howard Bennett (Chair), Maurine Lewin, Christian Winder, David Pagliaro, David Harrison

In attendance: James Mills

Apologies: Lisa Watch

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Actions since last meeting:

- The Hackney Tennis code of conduct was adapted to include a section for members.

Managing Director's report.

HT is continuing to follow government and LTA (Lawn Tennis Association) COVID-19 guidance.

The public continue to access the Clissold courts through holes in the fences during lockdown. Neither the police nor council have been able to help with this issue. JM expressed his concern that the skaters could pose a problem when HT reopens on Monday. JM said he would be communicating with the local police and Council over the next couple of days to try and mitigate this risk.

The Council's Area Parks Manager has informed JM that someone has inspected the fences at Clissold and will be providing the council with a quote for repair, but he cannot confirm if the repairs will take place ahead of HT reopening.

JM is planning to put a working party together to repair the fences as much as possible before the reopening.

Along with the damage to the fencing at Clissold Park, there has also been a makeshift door cut into the fencing at Spring Hill that the council will need to repair.

No safeguarding matters to report.

All furloughed employees will return to work from Monday 29 March.

JM reported that the HT winter term bookings have been transferred over to the summer term, and coaching classes will start after the Easter break w/c 19 April. For the summer term, new daytime adult classes have been introduced and additional junior and adult sessions established at Hackney Downs on a Friday evening.

HT will be running two weeks of junior camps across three venues. The sign up to the classes is excellent across the nine different camps running each week.

JM requested that the Board have a final look at the draft five-year plan and get back to him with any final feedback ahead of the document being sent over to the Council for review and its subsequent release to the Hackney Tennis members.

JM outlined further discussions that had been held with ClubSpark's MD, who has confirmed that ClubSpark would not be able to provide HT with a website like the one they provided for Wimbledon Community Sports Ground.

HT's current website contractor has quoted to produce a similar site and has produced a rough one-page mockup to give an idea of the sort of design he could produce. At least two other quotes will be acquired.

HB stressed the importance of HT having a quality website to provide an identity for the club. CW pointed out that the functionality of a new website had to be a primary focus and court booking should be central to the design. DH asked JM to ensure that the new website was multi-lingual and could be easily changed by users to the most used languages within the borough.

DP asked JM to put together a brief and budget to enable HT to collate quotes from website designers. JM set a target to have the new website and clubspark system in place for September.

JM asked the Board members for their opinions on HT's current logo. The general feeling of the Board was that HT would benefit from a new logo and that this should be tied in with the brief for the new website design.

The courts at Hackney Downs, Springhill, Aske Gardens and London Fields have been cleaned during lockdown. Millfield and Springhill courts will be cleaned over the next few months and Clissold's courts in the autumn.

To date, there are 16 members signed up to the general meeting being held on 1 April at 7:30 on Zoom. There has only been one member who has emailed in and ask about the positives and negatives of becoming a charity.

JM informed the Board that a defibrillator has been purchased (£1170) and a grant request submitted to Middlesex Tennis for a grant of £600 to put towards the cost.

The new Hackney Tennis code of conducted was approved by the board.

DP asked about communication to members ahead of reopening and JM confirmed that this would go out as soon as the LTA's latest guidance is released.

HB brought the meeting to a close.