



Minutes of Board Meeting held 19:00 Tue 14 March 2023 virtually on Microsoft Teams

Present:

Trustees: Howard Bennett (Chair), Cristian Winder, Maurine Lewin, Lisa Watch, David Pagliaro, Roger Waite

Apologies: David Harrison, Lisa Watch

In attendance: James Mills (Managing Director), Luke Barker (Head Coach)

Howard welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Howard noted that actions points would be covered in James's report.

Howard handed over to James to present his report.

Managing Director's Report

Health and Safety

Heras fencing has been used to patch the holes in the fencing on the community court at Hackney Downs and poses a low/medium HS risk. James has a quote from ETC for this work but will liaise with the council first as it is their responsibility.

Safeguarding

Nothing to report

James said funding would be sought for any larger-scale projects.

Howard asked about recent issues with the floodlights. James said that Luminance Pro had been called out to fix 4-5 lights at Clissold Park and there does appear to be a more substantial issue that is causing the outages. Luminance Pro will need to attend and carry out a full test and review of the electrics.

Howard raised the option to change to LED lights which James said is a key facility project and may not require planning permission, but this project is not as high priority as court refurbishment at Millfields, Spring Hill and Hackney Downs.

David P asked if electrical works for lights should be considered alongside the electrical gate works and James explained they would not be linked.

Operations Team

James informed the Trustees that Operations Assistant Katy Reynolds had now left her role at HT and recruitment was underway for her replacement.

Coaching Programme



A volunteer training programme was held on Saturday 11 March as part of a new disability schools' programme. Around 30 volunteers received the training delivered by Danny Sapsford (Bright Ideas for Tennis) and Mark Bullock (Middlesex Tennis). The project will involve delivering 60 hours of free tennis coaching at three local disability schools and inviting the students to a new Saturday morning disability session at Hackney Downs.

A grant application has been submitted to deliver a community project using Miki Puccioni's Gestalt Tennis methods to provide inactive Hackney Residents with free Gestalt Tennis sessions and equipment. David P said he was impressed with the application and asked if HT had been approached to submit an application and James explained this was a borough-wide funding opportunity that he had been sent by the Council. James noted how helpful Miki had been with the application process. Cristian asked if the research element to the project would be published, and James said he thought it would be available to view. Cristian said that the research evidence could be useful for Hackney Tennis to help advertise the positive work HT does in the community.

Roger and James discussed how the marketing for the project would be framed to ensure HT was happy it was appropriately phrased and targeted given the possible sensitivities around inactivity. It was agreed that HT would liaise with LBH on this and review the proposed materials if the application was successful.

James provided an update on the planned key coded gates and said that the dates and final details were being agreed between the Council and the LTA. David P asked who was paying for the works and James explained that the LTA would fund the key coded gates and the repainting of Springfield Park. Cristian asked who is responsible for ongoing maintenance and Howard confirmed this would be HT.

James and the Trustees welcomed Luke to his new role as HT's Head Coach.

Facilities

The HT shop refurbishment is now completed and Sagal, Moses and Fahad have received 24 hours of racket professional stringing training from ERSA. They have a good grounding and are now able to string for customers.

London Fields

Howard outlined the council's plans to build a children's swimming pool at London Fields which could require the closure of the LF tennis courts for 1-2 years from Autumn 2022. James explained that this would result in a significant reduction in revenue but could also present some opportunities, as the courts would need refurbishment following the build.

HT Coaches' Annual Rates Review

The board approved a proposed 10% increase in HT coaching fees for Level 2-4 coaches which would match the 2023 10% court rental increases set by Hackney Council. This larger-than-normal coach rate increase was to reflect the current economic factors.



David P suggested that HT's self-employed coaches could be offered an optional financial planning advice course or session to help them.

It was agreed to hold a follow-up meeting to review HT's employees' salaries and James would circulate some dates.

Howard brought the meeting to a close.