

Minutes of Board Meeting held 19:00 Tue 9 July 2024 on Microsoft Teams

Present:

Trustees: Howard Bennett (Chair), David Pagliaro, Maurine Lewin, Roger Waite,

Apologies: None

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

Howard welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Managing Director's Report

Health and Safety

Coach Miki has highlighted the ongoing issue of toilet access at Hackney Downs, as the toilets are often closed due to being damaged or misused by drug dealers. James has contacted the manager at the Star put who has agreed that the pubs toilets can be used during its opening hours from 3pm onwards. James has raised this issue with the council and asked if HT (Hackney Tennis) can have a key to one of the public toilets which would help alleviate the issue.

James said it was a good financial start to the year and that the 23/24 audit had begun which included new safety checks.

Operations Team

James reported that Neil from the OA (Operations Assistants) team has passed his first stringing qualification. Fahad has successfully completed his ERSA Master stringing course

Coaching

James reported that summer term has been busy and summer camp bookings look quite good, particularly on adult and mini camps. HT has provided 50 minicamp places for primary school children who receive pupil premium, and we currently have 16 of these places filled, which is a significant improvement compared to last year and reflects a greater awareness of our pupil premium scheme in Hackney's primary schools.

Nigel Ware will be leaving the coaching team at the end of the summer term and James expressed his thanks to Nigel for all his coaching and help on and off the court.

Jaidyn Murray has taken on Simone's hours and has made a good start on court.

David asked if we need to pass Nigel's hours onto the other coaches and James confirmed that was correct.

Schools

Luke ran a year 1 & 2 primary schools' tournament in May, which was a great success with William Patten raising the trophy. Luke trained young students from Stoke Newington school to be umpires and they were fantastic and clearly enjoyed and benefitted from the experience.

James reported that 3 schools are running their own internal summer term tennis club, which is fewer than hoped, but James believes HT can grow the number of local schools running their own club significantly over the next few years.

Competitions

Summer league, national league, HT championships and matchplays are in full swing. The HT champions finals were postponed due to heavy showers and unavailable finalists.

Facilities

Pavilion

New internal blinds have been fitted, improving the aesthetics and ability to reduce the internal temperature during hot days.

A local gardener has planted the area below the HT sign on, which has helped tidy up the frontage.

HT Tennis Shop

James said that HT has seen good levels of growth with the stringing side of the shop and at the next board meeting, James will show the Trustees the Square software that HT uses to manage the shop.

David suggested that HT run another stringing education session that could help increase awareness about HT's stringing service. David also suggested offering players HT branded clothing and James confirmed that we would have something in place this year.

Springfield Court Painting

The courts at Springfield still need to be painted as the final part of the LTA parks funding and a date will be decided once LBH has signed off the paperwork.

Howard asked about the hole in the fence at Spring Hill and James confirmed that he has instructed ETC to fix the fence.

James said he has asked the council if HT can have a key to the toilet at the Rugby club and is waiting for a response.

Howard closed the meeting.