

Giffnock Tennis Squash and Hockey Club minute of meeting held on 6 March 2023

President: Gerard noted that the aim was to keep meetings short in future and report by exception – all reports to be received by the Friday before the next meeting; so that at meetings only 5 mins per area will be needed (with 2/3 key points per section).

Action: all handovers to be completed by the April meeting (passwords shared etc).

Key objectives for the year for the Committee:

1. Cowan Park (CP) proposal to be progressed and delivered.

2. Cross promotion of sports to foster loyalty to the Club

3. Streamline communications from Committee to members – a **monthly email from the President on the Monday after the meeting will cover all areas of relevance to the wider membership** and thus cut down on the volume of emails going out, while improving comms and transparency. As well as email, use social media for updates, have face-to-face sessions at e.g. members' days; put more info on the website; put update notices on the bar door/notice boards. Suggestion re giving members a chance to ask questions of the Committee every Quarter.

Action: all convenors to come back with 3-4 key objectives for their section for agreement at the April committee meeting. One should be a financial/budget objective

Action: find out who can update the website; draw up a comms plan and give members the opportunity to feed back.

Sports

Hockey: Max reported that meetings have been set up to progress the St Ninian's plan in coming months. Marketing plans include going into schools, getting posters and leaflets printed (getting costs for this); hopeful of getting £8k sponsorship per year, over 3 years. The hockey report has an update on sponsorship for kits (cost is £80 per kit, plan is to charge members £50 per kit and subsidise with £2.3k of sponsorship money).

Hockey section running costs show a minor loss per member (share of bar loss; £7.5k uplift on pitches). Aims – get a new email address for hockey section; get parents to take responsibility for juniors' match play.

Action: Lisa to speak to Noel about email address.

Squash: Derek had little further to report. Finals Day will be 25 March; working towards a good day to end the season on a high note. Following the 2022 AGM/what happened re Padel, comms to members had been poor and the email re change of bar hours had felt like a kick in the teeth to squash members. Gerard had sent out an email on Padel but probably more had been needed (not everyone reads all emails). There is a squash members email list and can do some filtering/putting links in emails to direct to info on website, but it is difficult to segment emails.

Discussion re whether it is a good idea to have a tennis tournament on the same day as the squash finals (and football match at Hampden!). Agreed in the interests of cross pollination of sports, and to publicise as such.

Action: Jerry to look at seasonal hours for the bar to accommodate squash members' needs (7.30pm opening on match Mon/Weds would suit squash players better than 8pm.)

Tennis: A ladies' 5th team has been added this season, due to increased numbers/demand. There was a need to set aside more spare nights to accommodate matches cancelled due to weather; the result will mean nights with 2 matches, when there are no courts for members – this will be kept to a minimum. All captains have received provisional squads to discuss with coaches. Regeneration work to extend life of courts is being looked at.

Development update: A site visit will take place to agree the spec for the CP devpt – the LTA will get a quote from Sportex; the small delivery committee will continue/drive to the point of getting tenders (to include Duncan, Lisa, Gerard, Richard and AN Other – possibly Ian Crowther; Max could also get involved) – to meet the week before the Committee meeting, to allow structured comms.

A lot of emails were received after the AGM asking how Padel might be included in the development, also interest shown at the AGM – possibility of leasing land within 2 miles of the Club, to allow this to go ahead at the same time as the CP development.

House: the water leak at the door has been fixed, but there are still issues. £5k inc VAT, split 50:50 with the Bowling Club is needed for work on water mains etc (this to be got in writing to avoid future disputes). RC has received a quote; each to do own internal work; will have 2 meters and get 2 bills, or 2 private meters and split based on that, the BC has a sprinkler system to take into account); need to get a 2nd quote. A plumbing co to visit this week to look at installing a pump in the ladies' showers; to find access point to connect new feeding, so it doesn't freeze.

£760 cost of replacing/repairing the clock had been agreed at the last meeting.

Need to get updated drawings for the bar dimensions.

Welfare: a handover meeting has taken place between Richard and Daljeet; lots to be done – finding out which coaches and personnel have been disclosure checked; who has access to the Welfare email inbox (need more than one person for check and challenge) etc.

Is there a budget for welfare? Daljeet can do training for the whole Committee, to include welfare, disclosure etc; also draw up a spreadsheet of current cases, looking at themes and patterns and report to the Cmte. Need to know coaches have the right qualifications; hockey has gaps to be plugged, squash/tennis convenors to update for their sports. Spreadsheet will flag when PPG/SG is about to run out for each coach etc.

Action: Daljeet will do a paper on what she plans to achieve. Should the bar staff have PPG too? To look into whether the Club should be a governing body that does our own PPGs.

Membership: Viktoria asked for any objections on sponsored members (there's a list on Sharepoint). There are no formal budgets for each area, but money can be spent on coaches; Stephen has no control at the moment but can put controls in place. Tennis balls need to be Dunlop under new WofS rules- the price will double and we need more due to more teams. More budgeting and forecasting needs to be done. The cash surplus each year is £30-40k, which is good but we need to build up for the CP devpt; electricity bill of £10-15k, should we be setting lights so only booked courts get floodlights? Someone is coming out to give costings for solar panels.

Action: Members' Day to be 17 June; to include a tournament; get coaches etc booked, with hockey on mini courts. A sub group to be set up to agree the format.

A new door entry system is needed, as we have nearly run out of entry cards – to replace with an app that covers everything (at the moment, nothing is linked!). Should have API access – Gary and Ian to look into this.

Finance: Stephen is doing a handover with Jim Kerr - his priority is to modernise systems and processes; he won't be able to devote as many hours as JHK did! He will bring finance insight to the Cmte, providing Q updates and future planning, ensuring we act in a financially responsible way, taking the occasional risk to allow the Club to thrive. Bar prices will need to rise to stop loss of revenue and cover rising salary costs (see Bar report).

Marketing and Development: Jason is getting access to various media, and is getting a rep to discuss our printing needs.

Action: produce a guide to using the website so people can create content (and not break it!).

Social: casino night is sold out, getting another croupier will allow more people to book.

Action: members to be asked for prize donations; sports convenors to be ask coaches to donate sessions (not squash). Ball recycling to be publicised in the monthly newsletter.

Grounds: Fraser reported on the need for some contracts to be taken on, and set out what is expected of them. Work on the car park to start at the end of April.

Bar: Gerry reported on reducing opening hours, looking to raise prices and look at wages with Stephen (wages to go up at the start of April; bar prices to go up at the end of March, adding 10 or 20p a pint). February had been a good month for the bar, much better than 3 years ago (helped by the 6 Nations). A lot of management is needed, and more staff on Saturdays.

Giffnock App: Next step – to do a soft launch in March and test with the hockey section; tennis will use for squad bookings. To set up a subcmte to ensure it all works (to include Stephen, Gary, Viktoria and Ian). Important to have back-up and be able to export data and feed off the membership system.

AOB: Hockey sponsorship; strips to be ordered at end April.

Lisa had received feedback from members re 1st and 2nd teams using courts on Thursday at social tennis times – agreed they shouldn't deprive members of courts.

Action: Role specs to be done for all Cmte positions, uploaded to Sharepoint. A welcome pack to be produced for new members.

Next meeting: Monday 3 April.