

Minutes of the RLTS Extraordinary General Meeting held at The Clubhouse, 425 Watling Street, Radlett, on Wednesday 21st March 2018

Present – Jackie Underwood (JU) – Club President, Simon Spalter (SS) – Club Chairman, Dermot Wickham (DW) – Hon Secretary, Simon Hancock (SH) – Hon Treasurer, Kyri Costi (KC) – Squash Chair, Mike Jaffa (MJ) – Tennis Chair, Suzi Lynch (SL), Nyall Jacobs (NJ).

1. Apologies for absence were received from Jeanette Taylor, Melissa Singer, Sean O’Sullivan, Wendy Mote & Jonathan Rosen.

2. Proposal: To approve expenditure of up to £185,100 (exclusive of VAT) to resurface tennis courts 7-9, floodlight courts 8 – 9 and upgrade lights to LED on courts 1- 6, including work on the base and the laying of a new tarmac surface and running new electrical supply to courts 7-9. This to be paid for out of club funds with donation and grant.

SS outlined the Committee’s proposal for improving & refurbishing tennis courts 7-9, which are around 25 years old and no longer really fit for purpose, with extensive cracks and poor drainage. The Club needs proper facilities for juniors for performance tennis & the proposed surface is cheaper than installing astro turf or artificial clay. Court 9 will become a multi-sport facility, where other sports such as football & netball can be played. This will help fulfil our charitable & community objectives.

Questions

Paul Jaffa asked if cabling costs could be saved by using wireless technology. SS replied that this would not meet our power requirements for floodlighting.

Jane Sheridan asked if we were putting in infrastructure for all 3 courts. SS replied that floodlighting for Court 9 had been rejected on environmental grounds but that he hoped to hold informal discussion with the Council & that we would only need 2 more masts plus some cabling to floodlight the extra court. SS also pointed out that tonight, all 6 courts were in use & that the extra

capacity would be of great benefit to all tennis players.

Judy Budnick asked if proposals to develop some of the land behind courts 7-9 had been included in the costing; SS confirmed that they had not.

Nigel Booth asked if we could rotate the end courts to allow floodlighting. SS replied that this would have cost an extra £40k & we would only do this if we were to develop indoor courts.

Jon Sandford asked if the new courts would generate more income. SS stressed that we needed to keep our facilities up to date to attract & retain members. Jordan Miles said that the new facilities would help our summer camps & coaching programmes, which bring good revenue to the Club.

Jon Sandford asked if existing adult members would use the new courts. SS agreed that they probably wouldn't, but that they would free up courts 1-6 for use by adults.

Jim Murphy asked for a breakdown of how the £185k would be spent. SH gave a very detailed reply & stated that the £42k to change courts 1-6 to LED would only happen if it was found to be absolutely necessary. SS stressed that the cost estimated were generous & he hoped to come in below the estimates.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

: Disciplinary Policy

DW had been reviewing the RLTSC Constitution & the Committee proposed that the section on Expulsion should be clarified & changed to the following:

9. Complaints: Upon receipt of any written complaint about the behaviour or actions of any member, the Committee may, having notified the member, set up an ad hoc disciplinary sub-committee of 3 Committee members to interview the member, who may be accompanied. Having done so, it is to report to the General Committee, which shall decide that either (1) no further action is required or (2) a note regarding the complaint should be kept on file for 3 years, during which time it may be taken into consideration if further complaints are received or (3) the member should be suspended for up to 3 months or (4) the member should be expelled from the Club.

Members who are expelled may appeal in writing to the Hon. Secretary within seven days of receipt of notice of expulsion. This appeal shall be signed by at least twelve Members of the Charity. The Hon. Secretary shall then convene an Extraordinary General Meeting in accordance with Rule 12(b) to hear the grounds of the appeal and if at such meeting a resolution is passed reversing the decision of the Committee the expulsion shall be void and the Member shall be forthwith re-admitted to Membership.

The proposal was passed unanimously.

Constitution

DW explained that the Committee wanted to re-define the role of the Club President. The existing Constitution says the following, under "Management of the Charity":

10. The Trustees a) The Charity shall be managed by a General Committee, the Members of which shall be the Trustees of the Charity ("the Trustees"), and which shall comprise not more than thirteen persons being such Members as are elected to fill the following positions namely, , Hon. Chairman, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Membership Secretary, Hon. Tennis Chairman and Hon. Squash Chairman and other such Members not being more than six in number, as are elected to the Committee.

The proposal was that this section to be changed to the following, removing the President from the list:

10. The Trustees a) The Charity shall be managed by a General Committee, the Members of which shall be the Trustees of the Charity ("the Trustees") and which shall comprise not more than twelve persons, being such Members as are elected to fill the following positions namely, Hon. Chairman, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Membership Secretary, Hon. Tennis Chairman and Hon. Squash Chairman and other such Members not being more than six in number, as are elected to the Committee.

The Committee also proposed the following additions to sections 11 and 12:

11. Election and Retirement of Trustees a) The Trustees shall be elected individually at the Annual General Meeting in each year and, subject to termination of office by resignation or otherwise, shall remain in office until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting next following their election. b) The Trustees may co-opt any Member of the Charity to fill a casual vacancy or as an addition to the Trustees but so that the number of Trustees shall not exceed the number provided for in Rule 10(a). c) The Trustees shall retire each year at the Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible for re-election.

12. The Chairman of any General Meeting of the Charity shall be the President or if he or she should not be present the Hon. Chairman or if neither be present such Member of the Charity as shall be nominated by the Trustees.

Alison Argyle asked why we were making these changes. DW explained that we were trying to bring the Constitution into line with how the President's role had actually worked in recent years, which was that he had acted largely as a ceremonial figure, rather than an active member of the General Committee. It also appeared to make sense to elect the President for a 5 year term, rather than having to be re-elected each year, while the President would not be debarred from seeking an additional term.

The proposals were passed unanimously.