
Tennis Sussex
Minutes of Management Board (MB) Meeting (Meeting 51)
3 May 2022 @ 7.15pm
Offices of Enplan

Present:

Amanda Atkins (AA)
Brenda Brady (BB)
Martin Carpenter (MC)
Alison Cash (ACC)
Anne Clark (AC)
Julie Goldin (JG)
Julie Hobbs (JH)
Brian Kreeel (BK)
Mandy Tyler (MT)

Nikki Palmer (NP)
Keith Pullin (KP)
Phil Latham (PL)

Apologies:

Liz Bartlett (LB)
Chris Neighbour (CN)
Deborah Rayner Gray (DRG)
Steph Trill (ST)
Carly Washington (CW)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Liz Barlett, Chris Neighbour, Steph Trill, Deborah Rayner Gray and Carly Washington

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (28 MARCH 2022)

- The Minutes were approved

3. MATTERS ARISING / ACTION POINTS

- The Actions List Status was referred to and will be updated following this meeting

4. TENNIS SUSSEX'S FUTURE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX AND THE OLD VIRGIN ACTIVE SITE

- KP reported that he has been in touch with the Director of Sport and there is a plan for TS to meet with the Director of Sport once the options are clearer.
- Currently the county training programme is in place to the end of summer to continue as things are with club support. Again it was acknowledged that club membership number increases could impede on this set-up.
- There was discussion about alternative venues to approach to support the programme, i.e., schools/colleges, parks. The point was made that any such venue would need to be an LTA registered one.

5. INCOME GENERATION UPDATES

- With the LTA review of funding basing it on size of population, from Jan 2023 Sussex will be allocated £72k. Within this change, club registration fees will go to the LTA along with other LTA grants (e.g., performance, disability).
- With the welcome addition of FOTS income and sponsorship income, TS should remain in a sustainable position.
- AC suggested a sinking fund would be useful going forward.
- BK offered that TS could look into operating unused courts via Parks and Community Interest Companies (CICs)
- KP added that LTA investment into the county should come to TS. Suggesting that the LTA be asked that immediate, medium and longterm investment in Sussex would be given county priority.
- JG added that she will contact Sandford Wilson to see if their financial contribution to TS could be re-directed to other activities **(Action:JG)**

6. STAKEHOLDER SURVEY

- There was a discussion about carrying out a stakeholder survey. It was agreed that the timing of each survey area/stakeholder group be decided by that stakeholder group lead as appropriate.
- It was also agreed that the MB will see surveys before they are sent out **(Action: JG, KP, JH & NP, LB)**

7. LTA UPDATES

- AC talked through the set-up of the LTA strategic plan and dashboard files
- The LTA's V.M.O.S.T. - Vision, Mission, Objectives, Strategies and Tactics – effectively needs to be mirrored by LTA County bodies.
- All objectives need to be s.m.a.r.t. and the dashboard has measurables that are linked to the region, while the B.A.U (business as usual) assigns responsibilities.
- AC will re-send the link to the strategy, dashboard and BAU for ease of access for the MB. **(Action: AC)**
- BB passed on ST's request for relevant members to update their respective areas of responsibility on the strategic plan. **(Action: All)**
- ST's report noted that the next LTA Council meeting and the LTA AGM are scheduled for May 25th. **(Action: ST)**
- It was noted that within the new LTA funding model, clubs would continue to pay an additional fee to enter leagues on top of the club registration fees. Some counties apply a top-up fee to the standard LTA registration fee. To be considered ongoing.

8. AOB

Festival of Tennis

- BK & JG with Jason Squires have the day sketched out and are confident about current interested partners. Ideal to have 12 teams (4 per team), but 4-5 will cover cover costs.
- Last year's FoT made a small loss, but was a very positive PR undertaking
- PL mentioned that there remains an outstanding invoice, which needs to be chased up. **(Action:PL)**
- BK & JG will update the MB on May 12th on whether there are sufficient registrations to go ahead with the event. **(Action:BK & JG)** All were asked to contact any prospective leads and encourage additional entrants.

Junior Team Tennis Format

- BK expressed concern that the LTA format doesn't work for Sussex given the numbers of players in the county and suggested an alternative format
- JH added that we have to continue running with the LTA format as it is a National event and that maybe trying a one-off additional format could work best. Possibly even a good way to develop a model of what can work better going forward.

Team Expenses

- The suggested scenario for TS team expenses is nothing for home matches and addressing it on a case-by-case basis if there is a one-off event involving an overnight stay or a flight.
- There is a lack of interest in the Over 70s team because of the travel required.
- There was a suggestion that maybe some of investors money could be agreed to be allocated to costs such as this. Specific sponsorship for Senior teams is an option.
- It was mentioned that some teams are not very happy about paying for their county kit.
- Keelan Oakley has stepped-down as captain of the men's team. PL and KP are working on finding a replacement. **(Action:PL & KP)**
- No captain has been found for the Over 45s men's team. Sussex has reluctantly confirmed the withdrawals of the men's 45 and ladies 70s teams with Julie Piper (LTA). When these teams are entered again, they will need to start from the bottom division.
- It was mentioned that, while the county championships concentrates on juniors, there is adult doubles included this year.

- The question was asked about what other counties do for their seniors. AC to write a short paper and circulate to the MB. **(Action:AC)**
- KP added that there is a need to be careful with sponsor specific support. Also that the option to buy the county colours T-shirts could be offered as a possibility. And that hopefully in the longterm there could be more support for county kit for county teams.

TS Limited Company

- MT is almost there with the setting up of the TS management board as a limited company.

The group noted and congratulated Anne Clark on achieving the runner-up position with the GB W65 Team in the Kitty Godfree Cup, World Team Tennis Championships in Florida. True to form, AC came to the meeting almost literally from the plane.

The Meeting closed at approx. 22.15

Signed:

Dated:
