



Minutes of Management Board Meeting (Meeting 61)

Monday 7 August 2023 @ 7.30PM

at the offices of Enplan at St Anne's House, 111 High Street, Lewes BN7 1XY

Present: Conrad Brunner (CB)
Martin Carpenter (MC)
Alison Cash (ACC)
Anne Clark (AC)
Jean Cooke (JC)
Julie Hobbs (JH)
Phil Latham (PL)
Keith Pullin (KP)
Steph Trill (ST) (remotely)
Mandy Tyler (MT)

1. Apologies for absence

- No apologies for absence had been received

2. Safeguarding

- PL reported that he was still waiting on Stuart Parsons (LTA Safeguarding Officer) to confirm a date to visit the County Championships

3. Minutes of previous meeting

- The Minutes of the meeting of 15.6.23 were approved

4. Matters Arising / Action Points

- PL reported that Bedes have offered £400 in return for a banner at the County Championships.
- MC was continuing discussions with sports shops for potential sponsorship of County Championships.
- ACC has not yet received an answer from Brian Kreel as to whether last year's sponsors of the Festival of Tennis had been communicated with over how their funding was used. Work in progress.
- CB is following up with Brian Kreel re the Festival of Tennis 2024. Work in Progress.
- AC had started work on an Inclusion Policy. Work in Progress.

5. **Strategic Plan and TS Dashboard**

- It was agreed that a separate meeting should be held specifically to update the Strategic Plan:
 - 5pm on 23 August at County Championships
 - 7pm on 30 August. Venue tbc

6. **Incorporation – next steps**

- MT had previously circulated an email clarifying the current status. She is now waiting on lawyers (Coole Bevis) to respond. Quote for £3,500-£4,500 for doing the work. They will make decision on whether an EGM is necessary.
- AC reported that many other counties were going through the same process. Surrey had been particularly concerned about how much input the Members would have
- It was agreed that the priority was to be transparent about all steps being taken

7. **Member Registration Issues**

- As above - this is all part of the Incorporation process

8. **County Championships – Brief Update**

- PL reported that there had been over 500 entries (250 unique players), ie roughly the same as in past years.
 - The Men's Open had received 46 entries
 - Boys' entries are much bigger than Girls'
 - Entries are now closed but late entries will be accepted
- PL had followed up on lack of disability entries

9. **Performance Strategy Presentation**

- KP delivered a presentation outlining his strategy for Performance tennis over the next 3 years
- Presentation attached for reference
- There was discussion over why more children did not attend Fun Days and what could be done to encourage them. It appears that it is sometimes down to lack of promotion by a club coach/committee or parents. It was suggested that County Captains should be incentivized to promote county events more and that a small group of clubs showing successful children's engagement could be targeted and encouraged to do more promotion
- ST suggested that the County Championships should be used to promote or survey parents/players about attending Fun Days
- It was requested that KP should provide Amanda with 3 topics for the next Newsletter, spotlighting successful clubs/coaches (eg Storrington/Nigel Matthews); Fun Days; Performance generally.
- **(Action on all the above: KP)**
- MC requested that we re-visit Performance Strategy at the next meeting with more focus on how ideas/strategies should be implemented and with measurable timeframes

10. Fundraising needs/Keith Gill connection/Volunteers

- MT reported that Keith Gill (Kent) had offered help with contacts for fundraising purposes. It was agreed that a volunteer was needed to be responsible for fundraising/potential sponsorship opportunities
- It was agreed that TS needs to clarify proposed usage of any funds
- It was agreed that LTA income should be used first and that any additional funds should be kept separate for specific projects

11. Patrons' update

- This topic to be held for a future meeting

12. Secretary Role

- Interest had been received in this role. MC to meet with the interested party in the next couple of weeks

13. AOB

- ST reported that she would try to visit Alexander Park in Hastings which recently received LTA funding to improve its courts
- LTA Awards were noted:
 - Paula White (Chair of Ifield TC) won Volunteer of the Year
 - Ben Reeves (coach of Sonay Kartal) was runner-up as Performance Coach of the Year
 - Barry Fulcher was runner up for the President's Award
- ST had previously circulated an email regarding a potential County Padel event. The LTA had objected to it being a county event because of the implied endorsement by the LTA. It was agreed that Tennis Sussex would agree to Sussex putting forward a team as long as there was no reference to the LTA or Tennis Sussex
- MT distributed the up-to-date accounts which currently show a healthy profit
- Southdown had requested a £10,000 loan towards the lighting on their Astro/Artificial clay. MT asked for a cashflow forecast. MC to action. **(Action: MC)**
- PL reported that Chris Stone had been asked to fly a drone over Southdown over the County Championships. There was concern over whether this is legal given that there would be children/spectators beneath. PL to follow up. **(Action: PL)**

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

Next Meeting date: 25 September @ 19.30pm

Signed:

Chair

Date: