

General Committee Meeting – May 18th, 2020

Time: 7.00pm – 9.05pm

Venue: Via Video Conferencing (Link to be sent via Zoom)

Minutes of Meeting

1. Attendees & Apologies

- **Attendees** – Chris Lees (President), Alex Silcock (Vice President), Tony Haworth (Treasurer), Mike Phillips, Rob De Vivo, Rob Littlefield, Del Campbell, Lee Spencer, Karen Horne (Secretary LMW).
- **Apologies** – Kat Lees (Secretary), Lynne Buchanan, Kathryn Kelly (President LMW).

2. Previous Minutes

February 10th, 2020

Amendments to February minutes - Del should be an apology. Mention should be made that Ladies Midweek were waiting a response from the letter dated 25th November 2019 in relation to membership fees (refer attached). Minutes accepted with amendments

Accepted - Rob Littlefield, Seconded - Mike Phillips, - In Favour 9, Against 0

April 4th, 2020

Tony made comment that this meeting was held to decide on whether GTC should open or close following previous TNSW communications. The LMW had not been invited given their decision to suspend the LMW competition on 23/3/2020.

Accepted – Alex Silcock, Seconded – Rob De Vivo. - In Favour 9, Against 0

3. Correspondence in/out

Tony advised that Correspondence In included:

- Invitation Letter to the club from Ian Campbell, Secretary for Sydney Tennis League Inter-district received 18 May 2020, asking that we form teams for this year's competition commencing 26 July 2020, for 8 weeks. **Entries close 26 June 2020.**

- Email from Warren Van Dijk, from Options Disability Support, seeking a 12-month extension for free tennis court hire and membership of all participants including carers. Committee agreed to extension with Tony to forward letter to Warren confirming this.

No Correspondence Out

4. Reports: (As read)

a. President

Chris advised that he was back to full capacity after taking some time out of the committee. He thanked Alex & Tony for assisting during this time. He was pleased to see us back to the best we could be during the COVID-19 lockdown stage and that the UTR hit outs and financial position was going well. Believes that the UTR singles hit outs should continue to stay and used his own experience as a positive for playing this event. Chris was pleased to see doubles play and coaching back next week. He also thanked in particular the volunteers, Mike, Gai, Rex, and those who assisted in the general upkeep of the property.

b. Coaching – refer to report. Jono and Alex thanked the club for all their efforts during the restrictions.

c. Operations – refer to report. Mike made comment that he had received very good feedback from members who had received a text message to play and that we were open. Mike said we should expand this to all 1350 members on a regular basis which Tony concurred with although it is more costly to do so. Chris asked the question on grant updates and Tony reported no feedback has been received on current submissions. Agreed to proceed with new InTennis software.

d. Treasurer – refer to report.

e. Ladies Mid-Week – refer to report. Karen advised that the LMW competition continues to be postponed, with several items that cause this, including 80% of players are aged over 65 years and are more vulnerable part of the community as identified by the Government, inability to socially interact and difficulty of the LMW committee to meet due to technology issues. Karen reported Mary Gordon's induction into Seniors Tennis Australia's hall of fame next January and asked whether we should name a court after her in recognition. It was decided that we could recognise Mary in other ways – GTC Hall of Fame, and new honour boards to recognise notable achievements. These should recognise State, Australian and World Ranked member players.

f. Maintenance – Mike advised that for 4-6 weeks they were out of action due to the lockdown restrictions. Since this time Fences on courts 12 & 5 have been repaired and a new gate installed near court 10, covered by the insurance claim. The water mains have now been connected by council, mulching has been completed, and work is

being undertaken on the retaining wall near the lower club building. Mike wanted to thank Gino De Vivo for his donations of tools that have been provided to the club. Courts 14-23 require cleaning and Mike recommended we hire 2 or 3 cleaners at the one time so we can complete this activity more quickly. Chris suggested that we approach a hire company to seek a sponsor or discounted rate and Mike will investigate. Chris also suggested we look at the list of members who may have a connection to a hire company. Lastly, Mike advised the office window has now been opened up again with Rex Preddy, a Life Member, removing the bricks and who will return to repair base of window with cleaned brickwork, plus install a security screen.

- g. Infrastructure – defer to item 5(e) under general business.
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5. General Business

- a. COVID-19 impacts and TNSW update.

Tony provided a TNSW document outlining the different levels as restrictions ease to what the club can do. GTC would continue to ensure additional cleaning was done and sanitisers available players when accessing the courts. Committee in general agreed that UTR was a success and a way of increasing tennis participation within the TNSW guidelines, and we should use this for all GTC comps and events moving forward. Tony also noted that we should continue for members to use book-a-court for court-hire, and Jackie De Vivo has suggested we look to continue to use this for Free play Sunday, however for those members wishing to play for free they would be transitioned to the lower complex, whilst continued paying court-hirers would play on the top complex. This was also generally agreed on by committee.

A discussion was held that as coaches are now returning to squad coaching from 25 May and held under lights that we look to start charging a court-hire fee. Rob De Vivo suggested that we charge the coaches a day rate at 30% of the normal hire fee of \$10, and for nights it would be the same plus the \$10 light fee. General consensus of committee was to take this approach and Rob was to speak with coaches for agreement.

Tony suggested that we should encourage them to use the lower complex courts during the day and that no court-hire fee would be charged, allowing GTC to continue taking court-hire and UTR fees for the upper complex.

- b. Membership 2020/21.

Tony confirmed that new membership fees as approved by the 2019 AGM would apply from 1 July. Tony also advised that he had undertaken some work to respond to the LMW letter tabled in November and would distribute this to the GTC committee for feedback.

The recommendation would be to charge only one membership fee for those LMW players who are GTC members and to provide them with a discounted weekly fee of \$8 (up from \$7) and charge non-GTC members a fee of \$12.50 every time they play at GTC. It was agreed that Del would take the committees position to the LMW for review and finalisation.

c. Club Coach Agreement update

Document has been reviewed by Alex, and Rob to send to coaches for their review and signing. A further update to be provided at next meeting. It was also generally discussed the new structure for their business and the need to continue grow hot shots so we can get a larger pool of players coming through to the High-Performance squad.

d. Draft Council Lease & Licencing Agreement Feedback

There was general agreement that the new draft was a positive for the club. Alex asked whether we should look at returning to a sub-letting arrangement although notes it would be subject to a market rent. How this would be determined is a question to be asked and Tony will organise a call between Council, Alex and Tony to discuss key aspects of the lease.

e. Masterplan

Lee outlined the meeting with Architect Ric Ranieri, Tony and Mike in finalising the current sketches that have been distributed to the committee. All were in general agreement that the drawings looked great. Lee also mentioned that the lower complex survey had been completed and was awaiting the plans and was also waiting on a vertical site plan for the upper complex. Lee raised concerns regarding key areas of the upper complex which were damaged from a lack of drainage and sand issues. Court configurations were also being worked on to ensure ITF compliance, and Lee recommended that once all the work was completed, we should engage with a QS to undertake a final costing of the project.

f. Productivity

Mike raised the issue of productivity through promotion of products and programs to gain more usage and income from members. He had spoken to Jackie on this and we were making progress through the UTR system, SMS system, and various competitions. Tony also indicated that we need to think more around our target market, that our club should focus more on the Upper North Shore of Sydney, where there is a combined market of 600,000 persons. Rob De Vivo suggested it would be beyond this and should reach greater Sydney, particularly if we build UTR tournaments.

Mike also raised with Tony about an implementation of a Customer Relationship Management system to manage our members, celebrate milestones etc.

g. Other

- Tony mentioned Tom Lee, a GTC life member turned 101 in April.
- Next meeting – July 20th, 2020