

**Minutes of the Lode Tennis Club Committee held on Tuesday 08 March 2016  
at 22 Abbey Lane at 7.30pm**

Present:	Jeff Kempster	Denise Bardan	John Lince	<b>Action by</b>
	Will Jaggard	Sally Jaggard	Mo Brown	

1. Apologies received from Lesley Pulvertaft
  
2. The minutes of the committee meeting held on 1 December 2015 were accepted as a true record.
  
3. It was agreed that the new court surface was very good. Jeff and Will had tested leaf blower / vacuums and various brooms and found that the stiffest bristle broom worked best on the leaf / seed detritus that had accumulated at the end of autumn last year. The best technique was to sweep the debris into lines and then Hoover it up. Although the part of the court swept looked very good (and different from the rest of the court at the time), within a very few weeks all of the court looked good (and there were no differences to be seen). Next year it may be worth leaving the court untended to see if the detritus goes away on its own.
  
4. It was suggested that we should wait until En Tout Cas have returned in Spring to touch up / rebrush the sand on the court before undertaking any moss treatments or other maintenance. It was also suggested that we should ask for advice from En Tout Cas about what mosskiller and techniques would be best to use. Will also suggested that it may be possible to get an external contractor to do the mosskiller treatments at a very reasonable price. Will said he would find out what the cost of this might be.
 

JK

WJ
  
5. The membrane and slate chippings were working well and still looked good. The weeds on the other two sides will be monitored, and consideration given to putting slate and membrane on the other sides as well.
 

All
  
6. Jeff had obtained a ballpark price from En Tout Cas for new fencing all round the court. It will be in the region of £11,000 plus vat with an extra £850 plus vat for a practice wall incorporated into the fencing. Jeff would look at the possibility of initiating another Amey Grant application with a view to starting this project perhaps next year if the grant application proves fruitful. In the meantime it should not be forgotten that the Lode and Longmeadow Social Club fund might be a source of funds when it is eventually set up.
 

JK

All
  
7. The mat bought and donated by Lesley was working well, but John had noticed some younger members playing with muddy trainers and he suggested that a laminated sign asking for players to clean their shoes before going on court would be useful. He volunteered to sort that out.
 

JL
  
8. Coaching arrangements were now in place for at least two sessions on each of 4 days on two consecutive weeks in the school holidays commencing on 25 July 2016. The cost has been set at £5 per session for juniors and £8 per session for adults. In an attempt to be flexible with this first year of changed arrangements Jeff will accept bookings for just one of the weeks in the event that someone has holidays booked for the other week, but only if he is asked for it. If there is sufficient demand David Nation has indicated that more sessions each day could be booked.
 

JK
  
9. Sally reported that the current bank balance was £595.81. She had approached Anne and Arthur about distributing the membership renewal packs and they were going to deliver the ones in the village and Sally will do the outside of the village members.
 

SJ

10. Jeff asked Sally if the website membership list could be updated to remove any members that had not renewed for 2 years as it made block emailing difficult. Jeff also reported that total membership numbers were down to around 77 from nearly 100 (although the number of member units was stable at around 34). It was suggested that the members who had not renewed for 2016 could be contacted to see if they could be persuaded to rejoin this year. SJ  
SJ
11. Jeff read out a letter from the Chaplin family which praised the club even though they would not be renewing because they had installed their own court. It was suggested the membership subscription rate for a family should be reviewed at the next AGM so that it was more than £5 higher than the rate for a couple. It was also suggested that some signs could be put up at the court to show how people can join the club (by visiting the website). All  
JL
12. John had circulated and put in the Lode Star the details of a mixed doubles competition which he has/will organise. He explained how the competition might work, and if it was popular could be continued and possibly extended in future years. It might also generate interest in the largely defunct tennis ladders already in existence on the website. JL
13. The next social event will be a curry evening to be held at Jeff and Sue's house on 7<sup>th</sup> May starting at 7.30pm. The requested donation will be £10 per person, and as usual will be open to everyone. Jeff will publicise, and make arrangements with Sue, asking others for help as appropriate. JK
14. Provisional dates were set for the Open Day on 21<sup>st</sup> August, the next safari dinner party on 24<sup>th</sup> September, and a quiz night on 29<sup>th</sup> October. Jeff will ask Carole Faulkner about the latter, and John volunteered to set the music round. All  
DB / MB  
JK / JL
15. The next meeting will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> June at John and Jackie's house. JL
16. The meeting closed at 9.15pm with thanks to the members for their attendance.