

DSTC COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Held at Duffield Squash and Tennis Club. Date and Time of meeting: 20th January 2025, 7.00pm.

Present: Anthony King (AK), James Grindell (JG), Vic Malysz (VM), Dean Gregory (DG), Mike Corne (MC), Alison Knibbs (AKn), Gill Holt (GH), Finlay Stott (FS), Glynnis Wigram (GW), Sally Hargreaves (SH). Oliver Lowe was invited to attend for architectural questions/information.

1. **Declaration of Interests.** There were no conflicts of interest declared.
2. **Previous Council Minutes.** The minutes from the meeting in December were approved and signed and will now be published on the websites.
3. **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes.**
 - a. Short-term amnesty update: Still waiting for details on how tennis members can access squash booking. This discussion will be continued outside this meeting.
 - b. New Year membership offers: 10-12 new members resulted from this initiative (tennis, squash and gym).
 - c. Club brand, logo, specification for brand designers: progress on this has been delayed through illness, but will be addressed imminently.
 - d. Flood insurance: no flood insurance can be obtained at manageable price, so ring-fencing existing funds is necessary.
 - e. A visit to Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club on 18th January was very informative. They had had similar issues to DSTC and had successfully worked through them, including changing from unincorporated to incorporated status two years ago. They had differences from DSTC also, including never having previously been two separate clubs and employing significantly more staff (this being reflected in their financial situation).

4. **Squash Sub-committee Issues.**

The squash sub-committee has seen the analysis of squash court usage, but no formal reply has yet been received. AK is meeting members of the squash sub-committee on Tuesday 28 January.

5. **EGM Slides.**

The draft slides for the EGM were each viewed and discussed, with required amendments noted.

ACTION: GH to amend the slides and send to council members.

DG raised the issue of the proposed removal of clause 7.7 in the current constitution:

“On motions to be voted upon at General Meetings which, in the opinion of the Chair, are within the province of a single Playing Section, only members of that Playing Section shall be entitled to vote.”

DG was concerned that such a change to allow all members to vote on every issue could potentially over-rule the decision taken last June by the members of the Squash Playing Section to retain five squash courts.

The question of why it was only squash court utilisation that had been analysed was discussed. No equivalent data exists (via 'Clubspark') to enable a similar analysis for tennis court utilisation (although SH had made an assessment for one year of tennis court usage). Squash popularity as a sport nationally has reduced significantly relative to tennis, with Duffield Tennis Club having performed better than the national average. Tennis data will be obtained in the future once the 'MyCourts' system is employed.

It was noted that we have effectively lost one tennis court for 4 pickle courts. This was a difficult decision and did not have the support of all the tennis members but has been very successful, resulting in nearly 50 new members with an aim of 100 new members by September 2025.

Whilst highly unlikely to get planning permission, the suggestion of extending the current clubhouse building onto the tennis courts for an indoor padel facility was raised. More investigation would be required.

An email had been received about previous investigations years ago about a possible re-siting of the DSTC. The plan was eventually considered not feasible and was abandoned, but has now been raised again. This remains a possibility, but would have a long lead in time and should not divert from the project to improve the club house.

The email giving notification of the EGM to all members needs to be sent 14 days prior to the EGM date. This must include the business to be conducted.

ACTION: AKn, SH and GW to produce the email by 21/1/25. VM to send to all members by 22/1/25.

6. Section Reports.

These had been sent to council members prior to the meeting. Time constraints meant that no questions were raised.

AOB:

Due to time constraints, AOB items were not discussed.

Next meeting will be held at the DSTC on Saturday 15th February at 8.30am

Glynnis Wigram

24/1/25