

Minutes of DSTC Council meeting on 21 Oct 2024, at 9.30 am. at DSTC

PRESENT: Mark Benson, Alison Knibbs, Grenville Holt, Vic Malysz, Gill Holt, Sal Hargreaves

1. **Declaration of personal interests.** All present confirmed no personal interests.
2. **MINUTES** - of the Council meeting in September were approved. These will be put on the websites.
3. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - a. Tago investigating appropriate cycle racks to fit beside court 1 and will report back costs.
 - b. No requirement for lockers indicated by gym and tennis members but a few small lockers will be provided for others who do need them to store their valuables whilst on court.
 - c. Reimbursement to members following flood now addressed for squash, gym and tennis members by Vic, Grenville, and Sal, respectively. Repayments being made by Jackie.
4. **REPORT OF INCIDENTS.** A tennis member collided on court and required first aid and then treatment at A&E.
5. **SAFEGUARDING.** A complaint of misconduct has been received that has necessitated the instigation of disciplinary procedures. Policies and procedures now updated and approved. Many thanks go to Alison, Sarah, and Mike for bringing this work together on behalf of the whole club. Alison aims to publish these prior to the EGM of 6 Nov.
6. **MEMBERSHIP COMMUNICATION.** Good progress and feedback on rolling noticeboard, introduction, and bulletins. Social media activity is growing with collaboration between Francesca and Millie. A draft brief for a united club website is proposed for consideration post 6 Nov EGM. Good input and guidance from Brent Hudson.
7. **SQUASH REPORT.** Report accepted. Membership appears stable but not all annual renewals have been submitted. Court demand is OK, with four courts providing more than adequate capacity.
8. **TENNIS REPORT.** Participation remains high post season and several times a week there are over 50 people engaged in activities on the 7 courts. Pickle membership has grown to around 30 and demand has increased for both Duffield outdoor social

sessions and the indoor sessions at Belper. Many thanks go to Brent Hudson for his leadership, thoughtful planning, and execution.

Our current floodlight bulbs require increased maintenance and a decision is now needed urgently regarding installing LED lights which was the major budget priority for tennis prior to unification and the flood.

A significant concern remains succession recruiting coaches to the team.

9. **SOCIAL REPORT.** Autumn social programme continues, though attendance figures have been lower than in Spring, averaging around 30 for a range of events which mostly make a small profit or break even. The NT initiative will continue into autumn following investment in a new drop-down screen and projection equipment.
10. **FITNESS & GYM REPORT.** Submitted by Grenville Holt and was accepted. Membership is now above pre-flood levels. Classes have started well though some changes are in progress.
11. **UNIFICATION UPDATE.** Clear progress with Finance. Andy to publish outstanding issues to address from the unification summary sheet created in Q2 post Nov 6 EGM. Grenville has begun unified website project in Q4. (see item 6) Action: Grenville to obtain two quotes for the projects from different agencies. A budget of £8-10 K is proposed by Grenville to produce a fully up to date unified club website with street appeal to prospective members and target demographic.
12. **FINANCE REPORT.** We are in good shape following the settlement of the flood claim by Andy and Nigel. Consolidation of eight legacy bank accounts is established with agreed delegated authorities and mandates to pay, subject to council approval. Prior mandate owners who are now ordinary members with no current authority are still required to complete the transition as an outstanding action to avoid the potential for further unconstitutional transactions. We will have approx. £500K in cash of which half is required for ongoing flood reparations and half for our future flood insurance reserve. This year all section leads have committed to a revenue and cost plan which will result in a profit of approximately £57K to meet our self-insurance aspiration. Top line growth via increased membership or pricing actions is key.
13. **EGM PLANNING.** Nov 6th is the confirmed date for the EGM. Vic will propose a methodology using a specific gmail account which permits members to vote electronically. Grenville to forward prior voting slip as an example for adaptation.
14. **CONSTRUCTION (confirmation and limitations).** Work begins on the sub-floor for squash court 1 on 22 Oct. The flood mitigation report and plan are now drafted with flood resistance to 60 cm. Thanks go to flood expert and club member Sophie Beech

and Nigel Willaims for its development. High-cost option will be £30-40K. Lower cost option will be circa £20K. Both these will take time. The critical building weakness remains the sliding doors to gym and coffee lounge. House maintenance issues should be addressed to house manager Chris Johnson via house@duffieldsquashclub.co.uk .

15. RECRUITMENT FOR VACANT COUNCIL ROLES. Each of the existing council members is requested to actively seek and encourage successors for their own and other roles. The revised role profiles will be communicated to the membership in good time for the EGM. It was unanimously agreed members Andy Page and Nigel Williams are awarded honorary life membership for their outstanding contribution to the club pre and post flood.

16. STRATEGY RETURNS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES: The Squash strategy document is still outstanding.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: to be determined by the new council leadership post 6 Nov EGM.

Grenville Holt

24/10/24