

Minutes of Board Meeting held 19:00 Tue 13 February 2024 on Microsoft Teams

Present:

Trustees: Howard Bennett (Chair), Maurine Lewin, Lisa Watch, Roger Waite, David Pagliaro, Cristian Winder.

Apologies: None

In attendance: James Mills (Managing Director), Luke Barker (Head Coach)

Howard welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Howard confirmed that all the Hackney Tennis policies had been approved unanimously by the board via email.

Managing Director's Report

Health and Safety

The pavilion's porch roof has now been partially repaired by Hackney Council and is now safe. They have not repaired the rotten ply top of the porch, and James will chase this up, as over time the water ingress will compromise the repairs they have made.

Safeguarding

Nothing to report

Coaching

Spring Term

A good start to the term with good bookings for most sessions across the programme. Various adult and children's camps will be run over the February half term.

Prime Video LTA (Lawn Tennis Association) Youth Girls

HT will be delivering new LTA funded girls' sessions during the summer term with the goals of successfully bringing in 20-40 new mini red girls into HT's tennis programme. This will link in with a new girls' only squad that Luke has setup this term.

Schools

James outlined a new school offering to local schools which includes competitions, internal clubs, and access to free camp sessions for pupil premium students. In addition, we have offered 4 of our linked schools the opportunity for school assemblies and weekly curriculum sessions for year 1 & 2 pupils. HT will be applying for funding for the lunchtime club project but would like the board to consider a £2500 grant to help up to ten schools kickstart a summer lunchtime club and the board unanimously approved this grant for participating Hackney Schools.

Competitions

James handed over to Luke for an update on competitions. Luke said he had been organising monthly junior LTA matchplays across the age groups and we have had good interest in these. HT's mini red teams have been competing in the LTA Winter National League. All teams and captains are currently getting setup for the summer league. The HT Championships dates have been moved this year to Apr-Jul. Luke reported that HT's men's first team gained promotion for the summer league. Luke said he is trying to setup a learning disability tournament at Clissold Park this year.

Facilities

Key-Coded Fences

James met with the council and LTA, and it was agreed to activate the gates at all but Springfield ahead of March. The council's comms team are meant to be putting a press release together with the LTA and HT, and James is waiting to hear back on this before an official activation date is decided upon.

Cristian asked what comms had been planned to communicate the new gates to members. James said that the HT newsletter and poster on the courts would be the main channels.

Lisa asked if we are including messages about how we are investing surpluses. James said that the weekend Free Tennis offer would be included.

James mentioned that HT could consider offering discount codes to local community groups and that he would investigate this option.

Pavilion

The flooring work in the pavilion was completed and finished to a good standard. James said he would like to buy some new sofas and folding tables for the lounge as the ones we have are old and tatty and a budget of £2000 was approved by the board for this.

Events

Bright Ideas for Tennis will be bringing two former professionals on Saturday 4th of May for a special charity day that will raise funds for Disability Tennis coaching in Hackney. Hackney's new mayor Caroline Woodley has confirmed that she will be attending the event and ideally if we could have at least two trustees in attendance while the mayor is on site. James outlined the plan for the day:

Charity Tennis Day at Clissold Park

Charity day run in conjunction with <https://brightideasfortennis.org/> Primary goal of event is to fund raise for disability tennis in Hackney.

Saturday 4th May 1-6pm @ Clissold Park

Run on 4 courts (courts 5-8)

Four coaching clinics:

- 1-1:45 mini kids 5-10yrs, max 27 minis
- 1:45-2:30 11-16yrs, max 20 teenagers (Luke is going to try and run as disability session too)
- 2:20-3:30 Social max 24 Adults

- 3:30-4:30 Team max 16 Adults but could take another 8 on 6 courts- go higher on number

4:30-5:00 fastest serves comp- HT to run while BI4T pros have a break

5:00-6:00- exhibition- either pros with coaches or pros with members- need to decide how we want to do this.

Media and Marketing

HT is due to be part of the Hackney shop local campaign which will be published on 3 March.

Junior Player Financial Assistance Draft Policy

James provided an overview of the pre-circulated draft policy that would enable HT to fund juniors in financial need with free or subsidised coaching sessions.

Lisa said that the scheme should be completely transparent and advertised on the HT website.

Cristian suggested that the document include a requirement on the parent/s to let HT know if their circumstances improve for the better and James said he would draft this in.

James said he would re-circulate the amended document for board input.

Howard proposed that the management spending cap be raised from £500 to £1000, and any expenditure above £1000 would require board approval. This was agreed unanimously.

Howard brought the meeting to an end.