

LODDON & CHEDGRAVE PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

C/O Loddon Town Council: The Old School,
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Minutes of the Loddon Tennis Club (TC) Subcommittee meeting, held in the Hollies Rear Hall Loddon, on the 26 April 2024 at 1.00pm

Committee Members Present:

Rik Balfour (Chairman)
Carolyn Frosdick (CF) (Vice Chairman)
James Preston, Marketing (JP)
Rob Atkinson (RA)
Craig Broadley-Naylor (CBN)
Jo Sinfield (JS) Chairman of Chedgrave Parish Council
Colin Binfield (CB) Chairman of L & C Playing Field Committee and Vice Chairman of Loddon Town Council

In Attendance via remote means: None

In Attendance: Emily Curtis, Clerk

Members of the Public in Attendance: Twenty-eight members of the public (MOP). Loddon Town Council Chairman Andy Woodman. Jessie Powell Chairman of the Jubilee Hall Management Committee. Cllr Liz Marsham, Loddon Town Council.

Absent: None.

1. Welcome and meeting etiquette:

RB welcomed everyone to the meeting, and explained that a handout relating to the existing club timetable and future coaching options had been given to everyone in attendance. The Clerk confirmed that she wished to record the meeting.

2. To receive and consider apologies for absence and consider accepting them:

Unfortunately, Jenny Pulfer and Head Coach Paul Solomon have both resigned from the Subcommittee.

3. Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda and to consider any requests for dispensations:

None.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on the 5 April 2024:

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 5 April 2024 as a correct record.

5. To receive an update on matters arising from previous minutes (not on this agenda):

5.1: Loddon & Chedgrave Playing Field Committee (L & C PFC) Representative:

It was noted that Carolyn Frosdick is now the L & C Playing Field Committee representative.

6. Public forum:

RB gave a brief introduction, summarising the structure of the Club and explained that junior coaching continues to be a priority for the Club.

CB explained that Head Coach Paul Solomon had resigned on the 16 April 2024. CB explained that Paul had been instrumental in forming the Tennis Club, and the L & C PFC were very sorry that Paul had decided to leave.

RB informed everyone that Jenny Pulfer had unfortunately decided to resign from the Subcommittee due to the negativity on social media.

Each Member of the Subcommittee then took the opportunity to explain their role and address the recent information that had been circulating on social media.

RB gave a brief statement.

CBN introduced himself and gave a brief statement.

CF introduced herself and gave a brief statement.

RA introduced himself and gave a brief statement.

JP introduced himself and gave a brief statement.

CBN (Welfare Officer) gave a brief welfare report and informed the meeting that the recent discussions, accusations and naming of individuals, particularly on social media had necessitated a formal investigation.

CBN informed the meeting that the conduct of the Coach and the Subcommittee Members should set the tone for the Club.

A MOP informed the meeting that he had received an anonymous letter and felt that its contents should be made public, so he had posted the letter on local social media.

A MOP commented that the contents of the post and the naming of individuals was unacceptable. Several MOP's also voiced concerns regarding the social media post.

RB confirmed that the negativity on social media could damage the Club's reputation and new coaches could be reluctant to join as a result.

A MOP commented that they were disappointed that the coach had left the Club without giving sufficient notice for a replacement coach to be found, and could mediation be considered to prevent it from happening in the future. They also voiced concerns that the Club could lose their junior members if there was no coaching available and that coaching had to remain affordable. Support should be given to the volunteer coaches. The LTA recommends a coach led club.

The Subcommittee have circulated some coaching options and volunteer coaches will continue to be supported.

A MOP informed the meeting that due to health issues, the Parkinsons initiative had been a great support, and the Subcommittee were able to give reassurance that Tennis Able would continue the Parkinsons sessions. The fundraising from the Bright Ideas Day held in 2023 will support the Parkinsons sessions for the next 12 weeks.

Cllr Liz Marsham commented that the work that the Subcommittee members carry out as volunteers on behalf of the Club should be appreciated.

A MOP suggested that there should be a junior role within the committee. The MOP offered to assist with fundraising. Fundraising often brings the community together.

CBN informed the meeting that it had been identified that communication needs to be improved within the Club, particularly for the junior community.

RB sends out regular updates via the email newsletter and recently consulted all members and received 50 replies. Sometimes the emailed newsletters go to 'junk'. An invitation to join the Club's WhatsApp group is circulated to Members via the newsletters, but not everyone has joined.

The Club is trialling 'Spond' to improve Club communication.

The Chairman of Loddon Town Council Andy Woodman informed the meeting that the Council will continue to support the Tennis Club and the Town Council trusts the Subcommittee to take the Club forward.

7. Resignation of the Head Coach

The L & C Playing Field Committee has had a collection as they wish to give Paul a leaving gift. A Club member (MH) has also set up a collection. **Action:** Club member (MH) to liaise with CB to organise the L & C PFC gift presentation to Paul Solomon.

- 8. Continuity of Coaching, Adult/Junior Coaching, Cardio Tennis and Walking Tennis**

RB ran through the coaching options that the Subcommittee have investigated and circulated to the meeting.

RB informed the meeting that the next step is for the Subcommittee to meet face to face with the coaches.

A MOP offered to coordinate the junior 5pm Monday sessions.

A MOP offered to oversee the Walking Tennis sessions.

RA confirmed that the courts will remain available for the existing timetabled junior sessions so that fun sessions can continue until the coach is replaced. Under 12's need to be accompanied by an adult.

CBN will check with the LTA that junior fun sessions are acceptable in the interim and will report back.

A MOP suggested that if the club charged a small child membership fee, the proceeds could subsidise children that need financial support to play tennis.

A MOP mentioned that she would assist with grants and funding applications.

The Chairman of the Jubilee Hall Jessie Powell informed the meeting that Jubilee Hall will do all that they can to assist the Club sessions, especially during the poor weather.
- 9. Parkinsons Initiative**

CB has met with Jeremy and Derek from Tennis Able, and they have informed the Club that they will continue to run the Parkinsons Initiative sessions in the Jubilee Hall. The coaches fees will be covered by the funds raised at the Bright Ideas Fundraising Day held in 2023.
- 10. First Aid Training for Subcommittee members and Volunteers**

CBN informed the meeting that he was first aid trained.

It was **resolved** to explore options for implementing first aid training for the Subcommittee Members and Volunteers. **Action:** Clerk to investigate costs for first aid training.
- 11. Future of Loddon Tennis Club**

CB informed the meeting that the Tennis Club is a community-based Club and therefore it could be run by the community if there was an appetite from the Subcommittee to become independent from the L & C Playing Field Committee. RB deferred the item for discussion at a future meeting.
- 12. Correspondence:**

None.
- 13. Items for a future agenda**
 - Representative (Trustee) role to the Jubilee Hall Management Committee
- 14. 2024 Meeting Dates**

Tennis Club Sub Committee Meetings (quarterly 1st Fri, 1pm)
5 July 2024
4 October 2024

CB closed the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

The meeting closed at 2.21pm