

SUTTON MONTIS TENNIS CLUB

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 19th February 2024 at 1800 hrs at Mark's House

Committee Members Present: Mark, Barry, Pauline, Louise, Lindsey, Trina

- 1) **Apologies** – No apologies
- 2) **Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising** – due to the last minutes not being available Mark read from his notes and there were no matters arising
- 3) **Chairman** – Mark opened the meeting at 6.10pm wishing to talk about the future of the club both in the near future and far.

It was decided to keep subscriptions the same.

The court history was discussed and the land is loaned from the Tabors. If the club folds due to lack of commitment from members, the land will be given back to the land owners.

In recent times the attendance at all events has dramatically reduced and there was discussion about how to encourage more members to join in. It was decided an email to all members would be sent asking for them to give some idea how often they play, what they would like to get out of the club and any ideas to improve attendance of members.

The problem of attracting more committee members was discussed as at least 4 would like to retire from the committee (having served for several years) to allow for other members to join with new ideas and enthusiasm. At present all the activities are generated from the committee. It was decided that at least 6 members should be on the committee but more would be preferable. How to encourage members to attend the AGM and then join the committee.

Mark suggested a WiFi link for the AGM so those unable to attend could watch and listen at home so, hopefully, more members would be aware of the workings of the club. Trina, who has booked the SM Village Hall, will enquire about communications in the hall and report back to the committee.

- 4) **Social Media** – Lindsey reported that he has been working on the Sutton Montis website and more especially setting up a Facebook page for the club. Unfortunately a google search for the club does not bring up Sutton Montis so Lindsey is working to rectify this. This is slightly involved timewise but he is willing to do this to promote the club and hopefully potential members who are new to the area will find the website and hopefully join the Facebook site. The club does not tread on the toes of other local clubs as we are not members of the local League and not competitive. This may suit a number of people who wish to come back to tennis, learn the game and do not want to feel intimidated by a competitive atmosphere. The club has flood lights so hopefully this will encourage younger people to join and be able to play all through the year after work.
Lindsey is also updating the website and soon they will both be linked.
The question of GDPR was raised and it was decided that as well as data being used, the club members should be asked if they are happy for their photos to be posted on

Facebook. The Membership form will be changed before the new forms are sent to members for 2024/25.

He has also contacted several local parishes to include a short article promoting the club.

Lindsey was thanked for all his hard work and the effort he has put into the club.

- 5) Clubhouse / Lights** – it was decided that the club house will continue to be held together for the time being as there are too many issues at this present time. The lights are a great facility and are enjoyed by those who have used them. The electrics are not quite finished as a new metre box needs to be installed into the clubhouse and an extension lead to the farm installed. Barry reported that it seems the lights are now more expensive to run than first expected. A test will be taken in the near future. The method of paying for the lights was in question and it was decided that some labels should be printed on the envelopes to distinguish who plays and when and if the lights were used. Trina suggested an evening club session is started so that during the week and on Saturday afternoons more members will be able to join in club sessions.

6) Dates for Future Events –

AGM – Monday 8th April, 1900.

Maintenance Day – Saturday 20th April, 1000

Opening Tournament (Picnic Lunch) – Saturday 11 May, 1300

Teams Tournament – Saturday 13th July, 1330

Knockout Tournament Finals Day – Sunday 8th September, 1330

Closing American Tournament – Sunday 15th September, 1300

Club Christmas Lunch – Saturday 7th December, 1200

New Year Fun Day – Saturday 4th January 2025, 1300

AGM – Monday 7th April, 1900

- 7) Accounts** – Barry handed the latest accounts to the committee and explained the outgoings.

There are £8401.00 in the bank and Barry is still trying to find a suitable savings account.

He was thanked for all his hard work.

- 8) A.O.B.** – There followed some discussion about ways to encourage members to be more involved in the club. Committee members will talk to members with a view to joining the committee, if possible.

Barry said he will organise a Pickle Ball session but this will be done privately and he aims to encourage as many members as possible to join in.

Mark said he would like to engage with members to encourage them to take part in club activities and if possible join the committee which needs a good turnover of members for fresh ideas.

The meeting closed at 1955 hours.

Date for next meeting – no date was set.

Trina, Sec