



FAMILY FORUM MEETING

25th May at 11am in the Fountain Room/Zoom

Forum: Mohamed El Guindi, Susie Hock, Oliver Milton, Marc Newey, Shelly Perrott, Joy Stevens

In attendance: Simon Baker, Nicki Davis, Louis Laville, Dan Lott, Ana Leal, Mariya Vlaykova

Apologies: Vicky Forbes, James Pratt, Tony Taylor, Justin Ward, Ricky Pharo

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted.

2. Approval of Minutes of 2nd February 2022

The Minutes from the meeting of 2nd February 2022 were noted.

Matters arising

A foldable baby pen will be placed in the Men's Changing Room.

3. Update/Reports

3.1 Gym and classes

SP considered that if the Club wanted to retain teenagers Members should do more for them regarding accessing the gym. Many other gyms were allowing juniors over 12 years old to use the gym unsupervised. SB responded that some other gyms used a band system. After an induction juniors receive a blue band that allows them to use cardio machines and another band for the free weights. **LF will check with other operators on how they do it and will discuss it with the Club's insurer to make sure the Club is covered for any incidents.**

LF/SB

SP queried if instead of set times the unsupervised gym access could start at 10 o'clock during the school holidays as a trial. **SB will review how the access to the gym for teenagers could be increased without compromising their safety** (probably from 11 o'clock if quiet).

LF/SB

SP also shared that her teenagers had felt unwelcome on a few occasions when older Members had been rude to them. MN reiterated that the Board would not tolerate any rudeness from any Member and asked those incidents to be reported straight away, so he could deal with them.

3.2 Junior Coordinator and Swimming Update

AL reported that currently, 207 children were taking swimming lessons. The Club had employed a new swim administrator. Crash courses during the holiday will be open to adults.

AL informed that the juniors from Hurlingham had to pay £11.50 for the Swim Gala and no towels were provided. It was the first inter-club competition for children 6 to 12 years old organised by the Club. It went well and the juniors had a great time. **More competitions with other Clubs would be organised** (Barnes Swimming School, RAC, St George's Club, etc.) **plus competitions for juniors over 12 years old.**

AL

JS queried if children were able to record their activities in the gym. SB responded that juniors could do it by using their cards as adults. JS had the idea for the Club to organise challenges for the teenagers and use the app to record them.

Easter sports camps had 93% occupancy. The new Junior Assistant will start on the following Monday and will work on organising the summer camps. The new inflatable equipment had arrived, and a full safety assessment was undertaken. Only children with a blue band would be allowed on the slides. The rest would be able to use the floats on the shallow end. **AL and LF will check if children without blue bands could use the slides with a life jacket. AL will explore dividing the inflatable session into two sessions for younger children and then for older. AL to include the information about who was allowed in the pool during the inflatable, plus the rules about parents and children** (parents should be in the pool with children under 8s, parents should be in the Health Club if the children were between 8 and 12 and parents should be in the Club if the children were over 12s and under 16s).

AL/LF

AL

3.3 Tennis

SP considered that many junior Members were not motivated to come alone to use the Club. SH added that there was nothing organised for teenagers to come and play.

The Family Forum talked about having Pay and Play sessions (or any other social tournament) for teenagers where they can meet in the Club and then go and use other facilities. The Forum also considered that a game room (similar to the game room at Foxhills) where juniors can play different sports (table tennis, mini pool, darts, etc.) would be a good addition to the Club and would allow teenagers to meet other young Members and "hang out" with them.

The Family Forum discussed that teenagers would prefer to come to the Club with their friends who most often were not Members. Those friends were restricted to up to six sports visits.

JS suggested having a section on the website ("Things for Teens") that explained the rules for the teenagers and what they could do in the Club, plus promoting the different events. OM added that tailored emails for the different age groups or one email with a different link for the different age groups should be sent to Members to inform them about the events organised in the Club. **MN liked the proposal and will discuss with the marketing team what could be done.**

MN

DL reported that the tennis junior programme was busy. They were trying to build the padel sessions and there were currently four per week.

The Junior Club Championships were launched, and the final would be on 25th June with an after party with pizza next to the pool including free lunch for the children who participated in the Championships.

Family Golf and Pickleball event on Sunday 26th June at 1pm.

DL informed that following the demand from parents to enrol younger children for tennis, they have started a taster session for children under 5s on Saturday at 9.15 am in the ITC. If there is more demand, another session will be organised on Monday afternoon.

The tennis camps during the half term would be only on Monday and Tuesday. During the summer holiday, DL considers offering adult camps at the same time as the junior tennis camps for two weeks. The Parent and Child tournament was progressing slowly – currently, seven pairs had enrolled. DL suggested that it was another good way to introduce juniors to each other and then encourage them to play together.

DL informed the Forum that only eight people can play padel tennis at the same time, therefore they had considered how to involve other racket sports and use the squash courts. Racketlon social will be organised followed by a pizza. On 2nd July at 10 am there is a Parent and Child Padel morning with Pizza.

Family Forum discussed if more padel tennis courts could be installed. The Club has limited space, so if more padel courts are installed something else should be taken. MN said that the Board were working on the Masterplan 2035 projects in sequence but if the demand for a certain sport was high, the Board would consider it.

JS queried if a social evening for doubles would be organised. **The Family Forum supported the idea of having a trial session on 17th June and then on 10th July plus every third Friday of the month “Tennis with Tilly”. The winner would get a shop voucher.** The tennis coaches would promote and encourage the juniors to enrol.

DL

OM queried if more tennis coaches would be hired. DL explained that a maximum of six coaches could be on courts at any one time. DL considered that when Airhall 2 was in place, they would organise mini courts between 4pm and 6pm and many more children would be thought at the same time.

3.4 Golf

RP's report had been previously circulated and was noted.

LL talked about the cadet Stablefords that they organised and the free coaching session that the cadets were receiving beforehand. The range of juniors was between 10- and 16-year-old and was ability based.

SP, LL and DL left the meeting at 11.40 am.

3.5 F&B Update

ND reported that Family Day this year was on 18th June with a barbecue, petting farm and other activities.

All new children's meals were including a portion of vegetables.

OM queried about the specials on the menu and ND confirmed that it was on the Chef's list to do. MEG added that free from selection needed improvement. **The Chef was working on a free from menu.**

ND/SB

ND reiterated that they were working on staff training, so even the new staff were fully briefed and able to suggest dishes from the menu that could be adapted to the different dietary requirements.

Hot dogs will be added to the Pool Side BBQ.

4. AOB

AL reported that she had contacted two companies about the fencing. One of them did not reply, the other had confirmed that can provide equipment, but were concerned about the dimensions of the Studio. **Club would look at alternative locations including the Lime Tree Lawn weather permitting.**

AL/SB

The Family Forum requested a Junior Email (due to be sent after half term) with all the information about the junior activities during summer in the Club and the regular external events like playball and karate. The Club should remind Members (emails to the parents) how many activities are organised free of charge (free coaching with RP before the Junior Stableford, free table tennis with John Paish, etc.) for families.

AL/SB

SH queried if it was possible to have only tennis camps like crash course so the children could improve their technique by the end of the week. **The request will be passed on DL.**

DL

MN informed the Forum that Vivien Harris was invited by the Board to become the next Chair of the Club. Vivien had asked JS to chair the Family Forum after the retirement of the current Chairman Justin Ward.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: To be confirmed in September/ October.