

Highbury Fields Tennis Steering Group

Meeting: Monday 3 December 2012 , 8pm, Canonbury Arms

Present: Jill McLaughlin, Hitesh Soma, Nigel Billen, Viren Soma, Wendy Proudfoot , Susannah Oxley, Simon Moore, Jon-Paul Mbaka, Manu Ducrocq, Karen Dawson

Apologies for absence: Sally Kinnes

Agenda

- Minutes and matters arising
- Introduction to and by Karen - Tennis co-ordinator (8.15)
- HFTSG - website and advertising tennis activity
- Care of the courts
- Wider Membership of the HFTSG

Minutes and matters arising: The minutes of the last meeting were approved. In response to requests Nigel said he would try to complete minutes earlier as members found them useful in disseminating information.

Introduction to and by Karen Dawson - Tennis co-ordinator The steering group members introduced themselves to Karen who has taken up the post of Tennis Co-ordinator for Highbury Fields.

Karen told us a little of what the role involves and of her background. She has known the courts at Highbury since childhood and has experience of playing and coaching on the courts. The coordinators role is part time, funded by Islington Council, the LTA and Aquaterra. She is an employee of Aquaterra. The role specifically involves developing tennis programmes for juniors, 14-25 year olds and the over fifties. A schools programme was hoped to be started as early as January.

Karen confirmed that an objective was to work with already established tennis programmes on the Fields. Any court hire for new ventures would be at the same hourly rate as available for existing court users.

The Steering Group offered their support and were keen to help wherever they could.

The group raised a number of issues relating to the need to maintain wide public access to the courts, the current condition of the courts and the merits of a maintenance programme. Karen was supportive that said that she didn't know if her role involved any input to court improvements.

Karen suggested that it might be useful to introduce a complaints procedure which the Group thought an excellent idea. The Group also discussed the idea of a regular maintenance inspection with a checklist that could be submitted to the court managers.

Jill was asked to contact Islington Tennis Development Group about the idea of a facilities inspection regime, and – after the question was raised by Viren – to ask what is the current procedure for dealing with and reporting any accident that might occur on court

Jill

Karen hoped that soon the Aquaterra website would be updated to properly reflect all the tennis activities on the Fields and the Steering Group said it was its intention to give Karen whatever access to the Group's new site that she wanted.

Karen was invited to join the Steering Group and she accepted.

HFTSG - website and advertising tennis activity

Nigel confirmed the site was up and running and asked members to take a little time to look at the pages relevant to them. It was agreed that that members would send new information and changes for the site by the date of the next meeting. The aim is to get accurate and useful standing information on tennis on the Fields. Updates and additional information can then be added as and when required.

Everyone

Care of the courts - See above for discussion of a proposed Facilities inspection. Nigel suggested that the steering group, could be more proactive in investigating options for improving the courts, through grants or other means of raising funds. Any information uncovered could be presented to the Management Committee and that we could help with putting a maintenance and renewal programme on the agenda. It was agreed to discuss a plan to do this at the next meeting.

Wider Membership of the HFTSG

The steering group discussed the options outlined in Jill's memorandum. It was agreed that the Steering Group would advertise, in April ahead of the new season, for a member of the lay public with an interest in tennis on the Fields to serve on the group.

NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was set **Monday February 25th**.