CIYMS Tennis Club AGM 30 Nov 2020

Website and IT Report

1. Committee official email addresses have been maintained on the Zoho platform free of charge; each post holder had one to use for Club business.

2. The Mixed Singles and Junior tennis ladders have been administered and maintained on the Global Tennis Network platform.

3. Acebook, whilst being expensive at around £300 per quarter, has continued to bring income through sponsorship of courts and is proving indispensable for court booking. The COVID requirements to record the names of everyone on court and to ensure that the maximum number of people at club play and in classes is also met by preregistration for each event in Acebook.

In response to the need to stop cash transactions, accounts have been set up in Acebook so that members (and non-members and guests when allowed back into the club post-COVID) pay online in order to register for a class or be on court as a guest. This recent development means that coaches will no longer need to spend time recording payments and taking cash and giving change on court.

4. Two Stripe accounts have been set up to take online credit card payments, one into the coaching account and the other into the tennis club account. These enable payments to be taken through Acebook to pay for guests and to pay for classes.

5. We have been trying for several months to acquire a card reader to use on court, however evidence of the charitable status of the club has proved almost impossible to obtain and give to the financial institutions. This because the Charity Commission of N. Ireland don’t have the manpower to renew our charitable status audit and therefore whilst recognised by HMRC as a charity, the Commission only call CIYMS a “deemed” charity until the audit is complete. This process may take several years. This does not satisfy the card reader providers. In addition, the Society have not provided a list of the Trustees which is also required before a card reader is authorised. It is hoped that Acebook will be able to handle all transactions henceforth, so a card reader may not in the end be required.

6. There are three Facebook accounts – CIYMS Tennis Club (which attracts queries from non-members), Friends of CIYMS Tennis Club (used by members for club related chat and info) and Friends of CIYMS Tennis Club (junior section).

7. The CIYMS Twitter feed has fallen into disuse, and the incoming Communications Officer may wish to renew posts here, and perhaps revitalize the Instagram account.

8. The website has been providing up-to-date information on coaching timetables, tournaments, COVID regulation changes, contact information, opening hours, contacts, etc. It also stores committee documents and the constantly updated membership pack which outlines everything from court booking rules to membership type privileges and many other things. Thanks are due to committee members and also David Taggart who have supplied me with information for inclusion on the website.

9. Earlier in the year a laptop and Windows subscription was purchased for the Head Coach to use for Club administration. Tennis Biz software was installed on this laptop but the then Head Coach found the software very user unfriendly, so the system was dropped. Work was done with the developer of Acebook to develop the functions which Tennis Biz would have provided, and these have now been successfully implemented (item 3 above). The Head Coach can now use the laptop for Acebook administration such as creating lessons and class timetables and editing opt-in events.

Graham Mounsey.