



## **BOARD MEETING: June 21st @1900**

### **Eastlink Badminton Stadium, 60 Old Farm Road, Hamilton East**

**Present:** Stu Morgan (President), Dominic Buckell, Kate Whitten, Rupinder Virk, Thomas Walther (CEO)

**APOLOGIES** – Cui Zhou, Karyn Walters, Andy Lui,

**Introduction to Eastlink Community Hub - current and future plans.** Presentation by Ralph Blackburn ECH and Phil Paterson ECH/WBA life member

Ralph and Phil opened for questions from the WBA board:

Question 1: Will the next step include a masterplan? The report that's being commissioned will include data about the onsite buildings, participation usage, engagement with all member clubs/relevant parties (incl squash, table tennis, gymnastics, HCC, Sport Waikato) and will probably come up with 3 different scenarios. So, the report will include a masterplan, utilization rates, but no detailed architectural plan/drawings. Stage 2 will be detailed architectural drawings.

Still waiting for full funding. \$30k pledged incl gymnastics (Turn \$ Circle Gymnastics) and Marist.

ECH still needs another 20k, application will be sent to Grassroots and Trust Waikato.

? why not get funding for stage 2 also?: Just to do step by step, on recommendation from Sport Waikato and get HCC to sign off on the plan.

? process with HCC?: wait for stage 1 completion. And then wait for HCC reply. No progress can be in isolation (so ECH have to include Marist, gymnastics and all of the hub members).

There's also a review ongoing for RSL to HCC about the report for indoor and aquatics facilities in Hamilton.

? Any patrons or drivers inside HCC?: Not yet, waiting for the data and plan to be able to sell the story better.

? Timeframe/process: The timeframe for similar project in Wellington was about 3 years.

? Deadlines for other sports?: Very urgent need for gymnastics and badminton has been waiting 6 years since the initial analysis was submitted.

Suggestion to tell RSL – plan change should be a focus area (more commercialization).

? Timeline: kickoff end July. 1<sup>st</sup> draft by Christmas. Then talk to SW and HCC (x month), and then resource consent/funders/Sport NZ.

Other things mentioned by Ralph Blackburn: Still some work on how to agree on hierarchy/progress/stages? The current lease expires December 2024. Strategy: aim to be a racket sport hub.

President Stu Morgan thanked Ralph Blackburn and Phil Paterson for their time, good work and continuous commitment to the Eastlink Community Hub, before Ralph and Phil left the meeting.

**Minutes of meeting 26 April approved:** Kate Whitten moved, Stu Morgan seconded.

Unanimously approved.

### **MATTERS ARISING:**

The board has been looking for a new patron. The preferred candidate has been approached and has acknowledged he would accept. So, Phil Paterson will be our new patron. Stu Morgan moved/ Dominic Buckell seconded. Unanimously approved.

Thomas Walther suggested implementing a new court booking system. The suggested new system has a better user-interface, creating a better/easier system for all WBA members, players and customers, while at the same time easing the admin work for our staff considerably. We will be able to better track where our income is coming from and there's also considerable annual savings as the fees and operating costs are less. 2 alternative European systems were discussed also but Thomas Walther feels like going with the local supplier and also the preferred supplier of other badminton venues around New Zealand. Expected exit costs – there's one month's notice and returning the equipment to p2p. The board unanimously agreed to move forward and can use the reserve funds.

All the revenue from fob keys will go back into the reserve funds up to the price. Unanimously approved.

Badminton New Zealand – Thomas talked about the development on New Zealand board with 1 board member resigning/stepping down and 1 being suspended. In May the new (we still haven't been/ informed who is on) Badminton New Zealand board introduces/accepted a new affiliation model that doesn't largely change anything for the 22/25 association under badminton New Zealand. 3 associations are affected – Waitakere in Auckland and WBA have to pay more (WBA have to pay almost 50% more) and Auckland will save a huge amount. Thomas Walther voiced his strong dissatisfaction with the model, the fairness, the immediate timing of the increased demanded payment, and the price. Before the model agreed upon by the board of Badminton New Zealand, Thomas Walther listed a number of concerns and suggested improvements to the model via phone conversation with Badminton New Zealand CEO and via email in April. The model doesn't solve anything in terms of fairness of distribution except using the "Sheriff of Nottingham model" to make the biggest associations pay less fees while also setting a cap so they will also have to pay no further contribution in the coming years.

The board asked why the new model was approved, but Thomas Walther failed to answer as he also can't understand. The problems with the old model haven't changed, and only 3/25 (12%) association are affected by the change, and in no way supports the claimed strategy of focus on grass roots.

The board suggested that Thomas Walther works on a new association model, presents it to Badminton New Zealand and board. Also, Thomas Walther was suggested to voice the concern and disagreement of the WBA board as to the new model, that was presented and why, and suggested not paying the added fee this year. Unanimously approved.

There was a discussion of strategy and future prioritization of projects and collaboration with Eastlink Badminton Society (EBS) about what projects/when/ and which funders to approach. Thomas Walther and Dominic Buckell to work on a future funding strategy and plan for WBA & EBS. Thomas to make a funding plan for the next entire year prioritizing– fitness room/vending machines/ablution block/booking system/new badminton courts.

Thomas Walther also presented the idea of adding a badminton PVC floor on top of our current wooden floor, and renewing umpire chairs and nets. It's been a wish of our players, it's been voiced in the stadium survey (April 2023), it will help preserve the current floor. Thomas was to access and compare purchase cost to the current maintenance floor cost. The court mats would be bought from a BWF approved supplier at a considerably lower cost than what has previously been presented to the board.

PVC flooring would add other benefits and ease of facility use. (After discussing with the Chairman of the Eastlink Badminton Society he listed a potential issue with mats - repairs to the floor wouldn't be able to be spotted). Currently the cost of maintaining the courts are about \$35k every 5-7 years. Thomas to create a list of improvements, the cost and a timeline of the when he's like the improvements made to the stadium. Once the improvements have been approved by the board they will be prioritised. Thomas will then apply for funding.

## **HEALTH & SAFETY**

There have been rat sightings - WBA upgraded with 12 traps that are maintained on a bimonthly basis.

## **FINANCES & FUNDING**

Balances informed to the board.

WBA hasn't paid our accountant Maisey Harris since September 2021. So, we have an outstanding of \$4775. Thomas have made a monthly pay off agreement with Maisey Harris over the next 16 months. Cost of course should have been in budget and last year's P/L.

Progress with bank/credit line: After 1 month of struggle our accountant has access to our online banking system. After another 2 weeks we managed to increase the credit line as discussed on last board meeting, and 1 card has so far been issued to Head Coach.

Our P/L is tracking relatively well according to budget even with the numerous discrepancies discussed at the meeting.

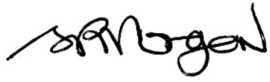
Funding plan - \$30k Tu Manawa grant received. Thomas Walther to sort our future priorities and come up with a new funding plan.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

The meeting finished 2115/9.15PM.

**NEXT MEETING August 16<sup>th</sup> @ 1900/7pm.**

Signed by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stu Morgan', written in a cursive style.

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**Stu Morgan – Chair of the board**