

Dear sub-Committee

GLTC brief submission regarding the clubs application to vary our CPC

- Grosvenor Lawn Tennis Club has been located in Grosvenor Gardens for the past 100 years and is a members club comprising off adults and juniors
- The club was granted an alcohol license in 1965.
- For 56 years the club/committee has been under the impression that the alcohol license for the premises included the club house plus outside area. When you examine our existing CPC 1713 there is no mention of the word 'clubhouse' the license only references to the 'premises'. Since 1965 we have renewed our license a number of times and the solicitor acting for the club in recent years was also under the impression that the complete premises was covered under the alcohol license.
- Due to this misunderstanding, which we apologise for, we are here today to request a variation to our license.
- The club has held its alcohol license for 56 years and as far as we are aware there have been no alcohol related complaints from our neighbours, LBH Licensing Authority, the police or the environmental health.
- If our application is approved there would be No additional drinking on the patio, No additional noise and No additional traffic. As our excellent record over the last 56 years is a testament to how well the club is run.
- Our error only became apparent when we attempted to utilise the patio area as Covid restrictions were eased. With the clubhouse still closed we planned to have social distance drinking on the patio and emailed our members, including Mr Martin outlining our plans. We then received an email from LBH Licensing Department advising us of our error in thinking the outside area was included in the conditions of our existing CPC.
- Mr Martin is the complainant and our closest neighbour, he rented his home before purchasing for a considerable period so was fully aware of the activities associated with the tennis club.
- In Mr Martins' submission he wished to object to the addition of a 'beer garden' within the proposed variation. In fact the word 'beer garden' is mentioned 32 times. In reality the club has asked for the variation to include the patio area plus the passage area situated directly outside the clubhouse doors. In our certificate of Lawful Development LBH planning department refer to the area as a 'Spectator Area', which it has been for a 100 years.

- Mr Martins has submitted photographs as evidence of the club using the patio we believe these were taken during finals day which is an annual event, starts at noon and is wrapped up about 6.30. From the photos you can see it's a very civilized event with a few members relaxing on the patio watching tennis. To be honest we have been doing this for the last 56 years, Mr Martin and our neighbours have often joined us on the patio over the years and there have been no complaints.
- In Mr Martin's submission he expresses concerns regarding his children's welfare. These concerns have never materialised and we have never received a single complaint relating to his children being disturbed.
- The club recently took the initiative and arranged a meeting with Mr Martin to discuss his concerns. There were no alcohol related complaints discussed and no mention of the introduction of a 'beer garden'. Mr Martin did have concerns relating to noise generated by the club carrying out its normal activities. As a result of his concerns the club sought the advice of several 'noise' specialists. Unfortunately, the consensus of opinion was it would be very difficult to control the noise which is being generated by the club carrying out its normal activities.
- When Covid restrictions were eased the club erected a temporary gazebo to allow the juniors to shelter from the rain during coaching sessions. At no stage was the area under the gazebo used for 'drinking' during this period. However prior to covid over the years for events such as finals day the club has used the gazebo if the weather forecast was bad.
- Within Mr Martin's submission there are some confusing comments for example. He confirms in item 10/11 he 'objects to the additional 30 minutes on a Thursday' and yet in item 12 he says 'providing our application is refused he would have no particular issue with the clubhouse being able to serve alcohol for the extra 30 minutes'.
In item 5/11 he says 'it is not the noise of customers leaving the premises which is the issue' and yet in item 11 he contradicts this by saying 'Likely to make more (not less) noise leaving at a later time at night.'
- To sum up the club is proud of its record regarding our alcohol license. We feel our members conduct themselves in a reasonable and thoughtful manner. As we have stated there have been no alcohol issues raised with the club from the LBH, Licensing Authority, the police or the environmental health. We feel that our request, if granted, will not increase the current use of the patio, increase the noise level or our membership level. In effect it will continue to operate as it has done for the past 56 years.

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