



Minutes of the Tennis Committee Meeting
held on Tuesday 30th April at 6pm

Present:

Andrew Wakely	(Chairman)
Howard Spence	
Lorna Bhasin	
Victoria Stephens	
Lily Brown	
Mark Young	
David Burditt	(Liaison Director)
Marc Newey	(Chief Executive)
Nick Yates	
Astrid Drayson	

In Attendance:

Nik Snapes	(Tennis Manager)
Dan Lott	(Racquets Director)
Paul Lindsay	(Racquets manager)

1. Apologies: Fred Warneryd, Kat Kovacevic

2. Minutes from previous meeting:

Minutes of the AGM held on the 26th February 2024 were discussed and approved.

3. Reports

Course and Grounds (PB)

- Grass courts season is here, and the date set to open the grass courts is Saturday 4th May weather permitting
- Smash courts 4 – 6 are due to be refurbished in the first 2 weeks of August. We are hoping that this will only take 2 weeks to complete. It will be replaced with a new clay as on courts 15-18.
- Courts 7-10 have been assessed by Trevor May as we have had reports of inconsistent bounces. They plan to fix the problem by injecting glue into the surface to make sure its all stuck to the tarmac below the court. We are waiting for a report to know exactly how/when the issues will be resolved.
- Courts 12-14 are draining well in the recent wet weather, however court 11 is struggling to drain and puddles on very wet days. We have plans to add a new drain on court 11 to help drainage.

Padel and Pickleball Hub

- MN reported that we now have a new planning officer for our area and he came to visit on 11th April to look at the proposed site for the new padel and pickleball hub.
- We have expressed the need for a roof over part of the area. However, for this to be considered we would need to prove special circumstances due to its impact on MOL openness. Therefore, we may need to allow community use of the facility, prove it has long-term sustainability, plant more trees to screen it and keep the openness feeling of the area.
- We are now waiting for the report to come back. Our impressions are that we have 25% chance of getting a roof and 75/80% chance of being able to develop the site with floodlights.

- An application for full planning for the Indoor golf centre is being submitted in May. The decision is due to be back in the next 3 months.
- The Board has decided that they do not want 3 projects going on at the same time -The IGC, Bar and Bar terrace and pickle/padel Hub.
- Therefore, as the most requested project in the 2022 member survey the social area of the bar terrace will happen this winter. The IGC is going to planners in May and then work should start early in 2025 if we get planning permission. That means the padel and pickleball hub is unlikely to be started until Autumn 2025 meaning that we will have this summer and next summer with courts 25 – 28 being grass tennis courts.
- As we now have to wait for the hub MN suggested that we resurface the current padel courts and use it as a trial surface for the Hub in 2025. We will create a sub committee to investigate the best surface to replace with. The subcommittee will consist of NY,AD, HS and Paul Lindsay. New surface will aim to be in place for September.

Action – padel surface subcommittee to decide on new surface for padel courts.

- DL suggested due to the delay of the pickleball courts we should mark court 11 up with 4 pickleball courts so that members can book and play when they want but also will allow us to run a more thorough pickleball programme throughout the week.

AW asked if we could get the padel and pickleball hub sooner and just leave the roof but prep the foundations so the roof can be added later.

MN added if we don't get planning for the IGC then it maybe possible to start the padel and pickleball hub sooner. Best to have all our options open.

A.O.B

MY asked if it was possible to make it easier for match teas to be paid for.

Action – Racquets team to discuss and make sure it's easy for players to make payments for drinks after match teas. Meals will still be chosen and paid for prior.

Racquet Directors Report – April 2024

Airhalls

The airhalls were eventually taken down on the w/c 8th April. This was planned 2 weeks earlier but was put back due to weather conditions. This year Chris Hughes and his team took both airhalls down. We plan to do this in-house from now on so we can control timings better etc.

Smash Courts

Courts 15-18 are still proving popular; members are booking them as the next best to indoor courts through the winter/spring. We still need to encourage members to sweep the courts after use to help keep the sand even across the surface. The grounds team are getting on the courts to brush them every 2 weeks which is making a big difference.

Courts 4-6 will be replaced in the summer. We will then have 7 smash (advantage red) courts in perfect condition.

Chris and his team are now preparing the grass courts to open 1st week of May.

Courts 7 10

We are experiencing some erratic bounces on these courts and some of the court surface is breaking up. We are in talks with Tim Freeman at Trevor May to resolve this.

Tennis Programme

The adult tennis program is continuing to grow thanks to the introduction of LiveBall, clinics and courses. In the summer term we now run 6 LiveBall sessions a week that are fully booked. These are now bookable on a weekly basis to ensure more members get an opportunity to play in them. They have also been standardised to allow for a more enjoyable session. We have also reintroduced the Saturday afternoon 'American tournament' this term we have aimed it at better players and the first session is fully booked. Club night on Wednesdays has been grown to 5 courts and will move to the grass courts when they open for the summer. I have scheduled a volley clinic and serve and return clinic for May. I'm also running a dingles tournament on 10th May.

Meanwhile, our junior program for the summer term is already in full swing, operating at maximum capacity with minimal available spaces. Weekend private lessons are also in high demand, presenting challenges in scheduling.

Pickleball

Pickleball is still on the increase with more and more members trying it and getting hooked on the game. Just before Easter Louis organised an Easter pickleball festival that had over 70 players take part. There is now a real push to find a way of offering more regular pickleball sessions throughout the year. Depending on the timeline of the new padel and pickleball hub I suggest the TC need to consider how we can offer permanent pickleball courts until then. It maybe an idea to put permanent lines on court 11, this seems to make the most sense as its already used for ball machine and hitting wall therefore would seem the most sensible court to mark up. TC to discuss.

Louis will also be holding the first pickleball club championships on the 5th, 6th and 7th June in the evenings. Entries for all the events are now open.

Team tennis

The summer series of vets friendlies with Hurlingham, Queens and SGH will start on 15th May. All teams for these have been selected and matches organised. The vets triangular is on the 28th June at Roehampton and I will be organising this event.

The summer season leagues and tournaments are well underway, with both the Surrey league fixtures for adults and juniors in full swing. The National Club League has also started with both men's and ladies' teams playing at Roehampton this coming Sunday.

Exciting news for the men's team as they currently lead the NPL league standings, positioning them favourably for the upcoming finals scheduled to be held at SGH in the coming months.

Club Championships 2024 – 22nd June

The Club Championships have now started, and the draws have been published on the tennis noticeboard and online. We will update these as the tournament progresses. This year we had 270 entries. The finals day afterparty has also been organised for the evening. This will involve a Lebanese buffet and drink on arrival and evening's entertainment from a live band called 'halfway to New York'. Tickets are now on sale and cost £30.

Padel Report

Social sessions:

We continue to run the two Monday evening Club Nights and Saturday Club Morning. All are very well attended.

Paul looking to follow on the success of the Padel and Prosecco evening with another social special after the Tennis Club Champs finals.

Internal Leagues:

There has been a slight addition in league pairs with mostly due to the hopefully improvement of weather this run.

The four internal leagues (Open, Off-Peak, Ladies and Over 45s) provide Members with opportunity for competitive games.

Teams:

- The Men's iPadel team made the finals weekend but sadly lost in the semi-finals.
- Surrey matches have started with captains Oli Brooks and Astrid Drayson.
- The national team's format and groups will be confirmed by the LTA in late April.
- Men's Team Training - With National teams in mind and the number of players improving we will trial a Team Training offer for the better players to attend, with Chris S in attendance, to help gauge levels and arrange matches. 26 and 28 April will be the first offer. Long term with more courts this plans to be part of the regular Padel programme offer.

Tournaments:

LTA Grade 4 has been given a date of 13 July 2024.

HoP tournament suggested date is 15 June 2024.

Club Championships – have pencilled Saturday 28 September for the finals and to move matches

later in the day and incorporate an early evening BBQ for players/spectators. This is still tbc with a potential Rackets Cubed fundraiser to be incorporated on the same date.

Coaching clinic:

DL and PL met with the Padel School and are looking at logistics to host a day, to run coaching clinics and include an exhibition match.

(P. Lindsay)

Dan Lott

Racquets Director

April 2024

Meeting ended at 7:35pm

Date of next meeting – TBC