



**Padel & Pickleball Hub Working Group  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – Fountain Room  
1pm – 3pm**

<b>Present:</b>	Marc Newey Michael Hill Nick Bunn Andrew Wakely Lorna Bhasin Tim Freeman	Chief Executive Board Chair Health Club Committee Chair Tennis Committee Chair Tennis Committee Trevor May Contractors
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Carolyn Ward Louis Laville Dan Lott Stuart Reeks Simon Baker	Executive PA (minutes) Golf & Games Manager (Pickleball) Racquets Director Health Club Manager General Manager
<b>On-Line:</b>	Joy Stevens, Helen Kent (LUC).	
<b>Apologies:</b>	Paul Lindsay, Charlotte Codd, Nick Yates, Fred Warneryd and Colin Hector	

## **1) Welcome & Apologies**

MN informed the group that we had a visit from the Planning Officer re the IGC application and he took the opportunity to show him courts 4 – 6 to see if something could be put in that location. Conversations were positive and Planning will consider a roof over courts 4 – 6 but a seasonal airhall maybe more preferable. Any kind of roof/airhall structure would not be permitted for courts 26 – 28.

## **2) Minutes and matters arising – 24/7/24**

### Actions

- JUL24/01: TF to look into Acoustic Panels – **Complete.**
- JUL24/02: MN/TF/DL to relook at Courts 4 – 6 and propose a scheme on those three courts and how taking out the three clay courts would affect the tennis operation – **Complete.**

- JUL24/03: TF to explore this further (curtain noise) – **Complete.**
- JUL24/04: MN to take to Membership Committee (Other Sports members to play more Pickle and Padel) – **Update by MN that it isn't desirable to create another category dividing up the racquet sports. Tennis category is all inclusive except golf. May call Tennis a Racquets category so it is clear it includes all racquet sports.**
- JUL24/05: CW to do a Doodle Poll and send out a Calendar invite – **Complete.**

**The group were happy with the accuracy of the minutes and were approved.**

### **3) New Schemes update**

TF gave an update on the proposed scheme for Courts 4 – 6. TF was also asked to look what could be fitted on courts 12 – 14.

It was noted that at the Member Forum there were views regarding use of grass courts 19 – 21.

TF advised that the Club should still push to get either a roof or covers for Courts 4 – 6 rather than a Bubble as the roof option wouldn't be any higher than that of the ITC.

*TF talked through the drawings that were shown on screen.*

It was noted that if the Club opted for a seasonal airhall for courts 4 – 6 they would only be able to get 3 Padel and 2 Pickleball playing surfaces under the airhall structure but would need a 6m clear height to achieve this.

Option 6 – Alternatively, the Club could opt to have five Padel courts on courts 4 – 6 with a roof or without a roof.

The question was asked if there was an option to have 3 of the courts covered and 2 uncovered and TF said this would be possible.

MH commented that they had concluded that we do not have to have Pickle and Padel together, but Pickle could go somewhere else, i.e. courts 12 – 14.

It was noted by DL that members generally like the covered Padel court in Winter but prefer the uncovered one in the Summer.

The question was asked if there was an option to have a retractable roof, but TF advised that this was too expensive an option and takes up a lot of space.

JS asked how much the Padel courts cost and it was noted that each Padel court cost approximately £70 – 75k per court and would be approximately £150k for a covered Padel court.

It was noted by Lorna that she had spoken to other members who did not want the grass courts 26 – 28 to go. MN understood but noted that the grass courts 26 – 28 were the least used courts but the most aesthetically pleasing. Members would have to choose what they prefer.

The group discussed the use of the tennis courts, and it was noted that grass courts 19 – 21 were the furthest courts to travel to and in the winter evenings most people used the indoor tennis centre.

MH asked the question of how often on a winter evening were courts 12-14 full and what we would be losing by not having these courts in circulation.

It was noted by JS that these courts are used for kids having their lessons.

It was noted that the Club would need to lose at least three grass courts, but the question was which ones would have the biggest sensitivity.

If the grass courts 25 – 28 were removed and replaced by smash courts, MN believed they would be able to get floodlights because of Rosslyn Park's floodlights.

DL informed the group that the grass courts 25 – 28 were not the best courts playing wise and it would be better to have clay there and give court 25 to the Health Club. Having smash courts you would gain another court- four courts can fit in. This benefits the tennis section and the families for junior lessons/ activities all in one area.

It was noted that it was very unlikely that courts 19 – 21 will get permission for floodlights.

JS asked when we could get the data for court usage and to include in the stats usage by kids as well. JS also commented that we need to think about where it is safe for kids to play in the evenings.

**Action: Usage of the courts to be looked at and reported back, DL to get data from Mycourts.**

It was noted by TF that the smash courts could be a green clay aesthetically.

Option 7 – Three padel, two pickleball courts on 4 – 6 under a seasonal airhall (hedge removed).

The group had a discussion around pickleball, and LL stated that currently there are roll ups and has ladies sessions in the morning.

MH didn't think it was the best option to put pickle with padel.

TF thought it would be better to mix Tennis and Pickle, pickleball lines could be put on courts 12 – 14.

It was noted that due to the potential noise issue Court 11 should remain as a Tennis Court with hitting walls and multi games use keeping pickleball away from Woking Close.

HK was asked if she thought that the Planners would go for covers for Padel on courts 4 – 6 which she did think would be a possibility.

Group discussed how this would affect Croquet.

*HK left the meeting.*

### Court 25 – Health Club Extension Discussion

MN asked what NB what the Health Club was looking for if give the Court 25 area.

NB advised that it would be dependent on what budget was given but the ground would need levelling up, would be looking for a bigger family area / playground for all children age groups and though they do not need another pool this would be nice to have.

SR commented that it would be great to have a pool that had a moveable floor as it would be ideal for small kids, Hydrosipin and aquafit classes. MN agreed.

It was noted that the outdoor pool ideally should be left as it is as would not be cost effective to extend to a 25-metre pool as the expense would outweigh the gain of have a slightly larger pool. It would be more preferable for another small pool to be built to the east of the existing outdoor pool with a design to have an extended seating area.

JS objected to the idea of have three pools as didn't think this would be cost effective.

MN explained that they needed another small pool for classes and an extra provision would be welcome by other members to prevent contamination issues and for adults to supervise their children without having to get into the pool to do so.

It was noted that the pool would only need to be 10m by 8m. Dimensions to be checked.

LB asked if the pool could accommodate Aqua classes, and this was confirmed that it could.

It was noted that the Pool idea was something to explore and increase the sunbathing area. New Play area to be where they propose to have a new pool.

It was noted by TF that they would have to be careful when filling the space because Courts 25-28 are a designated flood zone. So, any construction there may need to be on stilts.

SR would like a playground for Juniors, an adventure type playground.

JS commented that the Family Forum would be happy for the children's play and family activities to be all in one place.

NB would also like to use the Court 25 space for outdoor classes.

JS commented that Family Forum have put forward ideas of having an area for some cricket net, climbing wall, football and basketball, with Court 11 remaining for MUGA.

#### 4) Conclusions and next steps

##### Padel/Pickle Proposals put forward

- Take up 3 grass courts, with the location to be decided.
- Mark up court 14 for pickleball, in summer open, in winter we have an airhall. Cannot have tennis and pickle ideally next to each other. Pickleball currently have 200 players already in a period of 1½ days. A programme would need to be put together so pickleball could be played when the courts were not being used by Tennis.
- Keep grass courts 19 – 24.
- AW suggested taking down the current Padel courts by Fairacres and instead erect a permanent structure where Pickleball could be played. HK believed that a permanent structure with a reduced height roof could be a viable option as it would be in the part of the grounds where it is more enclosed so thought it would be preferable with the planners. LL thinks we could get another pickleball court if you took out the small playground. **Action: MN to have a meeting with Fairacres to see if they would support a permanent structure for Pickleball to replace current Padel courts.**
- Courts 4 – 6 for Padel, MN asked if 5 Padel courts would be enough for future proofing? JS asked what the timeframe would be for these new ideas and MN explained that they would need to speak to the Planners first. MH commented that there were not talking about doing this project before the end of 2025 as Padel is project 3.
- DL suggested Padel being played on courts 12 – 14. It was noted that Clay courts need to be kept damp if under an Airhall. TF advised that he had regularly seen this was not a good option under a canopy. JS asked how much the Airhall's cost and it was noted that the current one in place, cost approximately £90k but current costs would be approximately £150k.
- Court 11 could be used for Padel with an acoustic curtain between 11 and 12.
- Look at converting Courts 19 – 21 if we can get floodlights.
- Court 25 to be used for the Health Club extension – noted above.

It was noted by HK that when going to the Planners they would need to explain the logic on why you want to do these projects and it would need to take an overarching Masterplan approach to demonstrate that you are looking at all options with future proofing in mind.

#### **5) Date of next meeting**

To be scheduled in November after planning consultation. **Action: CW to send calendar invite to working group members.**