



## **Minutes of the Tennis Committee Meeting**

**held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 6pm**

### **Present:**

Andrew Wakely	(Chair)
Michael Hill	(Liaison Director)
Marc Newey	(Chief Executive)
Lorna Bhasin	
Lily Brown	
Nick Yates	

### **In Attendance:**

Dan Lott	(Racquets Director)
Peter Bradburn	(Course and Grounds Director)

**1. Apologies:** Howard Spence, Mark Young, Victoria Stephens, Nik Snapes, Paul Lindsay

**2. Minutes from previous meeting:**

Minutes of the AGM held on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024 were discussed and approved.

It was noted that John Sinik and Lily Brown will be the new men's and ladies' tennis captains from October.

There would also be two committee spaces for the TC and we received five nominations. Therefore, an election will decide who joins the Committee. The voting closes on the 16<sup>th</sup> October.

**3. Reports**

**Course and Grounds (PB)**

Numerically across the courts

**Courts No 1 – 3 Indoor Tennis Centre**

Courts performed fine this year. They were painted last year along with the surrounds. They will require some minor painting in several areas.

**Courts No 4 – 6 Advantage Red**

Court resurfaced in August of this year and are bedding in well. The sand has now settled and bedded in. CH to install a barrier membrane between the blocks to prevent the sand migrating across the courts.

**Courts 7 – 10 Proflex Surface**

Court surface repainted on court No10 as a trial to see if the surfaces would improve by removing the top layer coatings and applying deeper a bonding sealant before repainting the top playing surface layer. This action has not met with universal favour, with members reaction to the surface still feeling that there are dead zones where there is an erratic bounce on the court. Trevour May has agreed to replace the surface in August 2025 with a Plexipave material which the company has indicated will give a more consistent bounce.

**Court 11 – Practice Court**

The experience of winter 2023/24, which was one of the wettest on record, and has highlighted that drainage and water movement needs to be address in several areas around the Club. The Grounds Team will look at improving drainage around the perimeter of the practice court and jet washing the surface to improve the percolation rate of rainwater movement through the profile.

**Courts 12 to 14 Poroflex Surface.**

Some of the seams need attention which shall be done when the bubble goes up.

**Courts 15 to 18 Advantage Red**

These have been resurfaced at the end of last year. Draining well and give a more improved surface compared to the previous poroflex.

**Air Halls**

CH will be taking more of the work of the inflation and deflation element in-house rather than relying on contractor. This year the inflation should be on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October, weather permitting. The heater elements have been serviced and trialled and working as required. We are hoping that this will be a trouble-free year, unlike the previous which had been more problematic due to outages on the air delivery system.

**Courts 19 to 24 Grass Courts**

The season began with a showery initial period which hampered usage of the courts, but the weather improved through June and by the middle of July, good weather gave a very consistent period of fine weather. The courts performed well overall and rest of the season. This autumn the whole of the block has been renovated and we have utilized the services of a contractor to Koro-off the surface and re-level the entire block. This has been the first major levelling exercise for a decade and the rational for the process is to prevent the levels from the back of the court to baseline to the middle of the court being out of true level. The entire court surface has been reseeded and will grow-back in through the winter. Currently the cover is still on the court, as the driving rain over the last few weeks has arrested the development of the germinating grass.

**Court 25 to 28 Grass Courts**

Received a more traditional renovation programme of works: aeration, scarification, overseeding and top dressing. The seed is currently germinating but like the previous block, it is slow compared to previous years when we had ideal conditions. This year’s rain in the latter part of September has slowed germination.

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MN informed TC that Astrid Drayson has now retired as a padel representative therefore there was one space for a female representative. NY suggested that Sandra Drum was interested and who be a good fit. TC agreed to invite SD on as the Padel representative.

**Action - PL to invite SD to sit on the TC as Padel Representative**

AW stated that the nets on the padel courts have holes in as foxes are getting in and chewing them.

**Action – PL to order more replacement nets and ensure that they are being sprayed with the repellent regularly.**

## **Padel and Pickleball Hub**

- MN reported that the Padel and Pickleball working group have now had 2 meetings. The minutes of these meeting are on the website.
- The areas being looked at now are courts 12- 14 for 5/6 padel courts. We will look at canopy roof for the padel courts.
- Using court 12-14 for padel would depend on getting an airhall over court 4-6 so we can have 10 indoor courts all together in a row.
- We would then replace the 3 lost tennis courts by turning 3 grass courts into advantage red courts with floodlights. This would probably be on court 25 – 28 as there would be no chance to get floodlights on courts 19-24.

The TC then discussed how it could provide permanent pickleball courts to cater for the growing demand, and if there was a way to do this sooner rather than waiting for the planning permissions for padel and further airhalls etc. The TC decided to investigate if court 28 could be resurfaced with 4 pickleball courts relatively quickly. The courts would be outside and not have any floodlights (to start with) but it would provide a permanent place for socials, coaching and matches to be played.

**Action – MN and DL to investigate this and ask Tim Freeman to draw up the layout and discuss potential.**

### **A.O.B**

DL had a question from a member about the use of the ITC for junior groups at 8:30am till 9:30am on Sunday mornings. TC discussed this and decided that it would stay inside as after October there would be 4 courts available for member bookings. Then after 9:30am there would be 6 courts available. If for any reason the coaches have less players than expected they will cancel the court by 8:45am.

LB had a query from a member about coaching costs for groups. DL reported that the costs for the coaching groups is charged per person and is in line with all other clubs around the area in terms of the amount charged and the structure of how we run the groups.

Sometimes groups will break even, sometimes make a loss and sometimes make a small profit. DL stated that in addition to the coaching programme we run a vast weekly social calendar with over 12 coach led free sessions for members. TC understood and agreed to maintain the consistent structure.

## **Racquet Directors Diary – Oct 2024**

### **Airhalls**

We are planning on doing this in-house now with Chris Hughes and his team putting them up in the October half-term 21<sup>st</sup> Oct to 4<sup>th</sup> November. This will depend on the weather conditions but will mean we do not need to rely on Covair giving us dates of when they can do it etc.

### **Courts 4-6**

These courts have now been resurfaced with the newest version of 'advantage red' so they match the court surface on 15 – 18. We have a scheduled a regular maintenance plan on all smash courts to ensure optimum playing conditions and help drainage.

### **Courts 7-10**

These courts have not performed well since they were first laid inside the airhall. Trevor May have added surface layers to court 10 to improve the level and playability. However, we are not satisfied that this has fixed the problem, so the contractors have agreed to completely resurface all 4 courts next summer.

### **Padel and Pickleball Hub**

There is now a working group set up to try and plan the best place to cater for more padel courts and where to build some permanent pickleball courts. Both sports are growing very quickly however its important the club future proves any developments to achieve the correct balance of courts in appropriate areas. Planning for covered courts on courts 25-28 have been turned down so now we are looking at other possible areas. Update in meeting.

### **Tennis Programme**

The adult tennis program is continuing to expand with 5 LiveBall sessions a week that are fully booked. The move to book them on a weekly basis has made the sessions more available to more members. All LiveBall sessions will take place inside once the airhalls go up as they accommodate 7 players on one court.

I continue to organise one off clinics and courses that remain popular with the adult members. I have had requests to do more of these in the evenings and at weekends to cater for members who work in the day. So, I will add this to the programme over the Autumn term.

Meanwhile, our junior program is close to full capacity. We have revamped the junior programme this term. We have decreased the size of the groups to add more value and created more playing level streams to cater for all junior members. We have also put together some termly goals that the juniors will be covering throughout the next 2 terms to

give parents a clear idea of what they will be covering in the groups and give the coaches a clear plan of content that should be delivered in the sessions.

We have also put together some junior socials that will be open to all junior members. The first one is being held on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October. Its will be a fun social doubles tournament led by the coaches. We have various social planned throughout the year and will deliver one each half term.

### **Table Tennis Programme**

In September I launched a new table tennis programme on Friday evenings. This is taking place in squash court 6. We have a fully qualified table tennis coach call Risan who is delivering the sessions. There are 2 junior sessions from 5pm till 7pm and then 2 adult sessions from 7p to 9pm. So far, the sessions have been busy except for the 13 – 16-year-olds. I will run these sessions for an initial 5 weeks and then see how popular they were. John Pasih is also continuing with the Sunday morning sessions that are back up and running.

### **Matchspace App**

Over the past year I have had numerous complaints about how the members engage in the leagues. Players are sending emails and not hearing back from other members in their league. In a hope to resolve this and make it easier to communicate and engage players I am trailing the 'Macthspace' app. This allows players to send messages to all the players in their league. Players can also input their scores, keep track of their past matches and search for other social games etc. A lot of clubs are using these apps now and so far, I have had good feedback from the members. This will be used for the league run up to December and then I will gather feedback to see how effective it's been and if we stay with it or not.

### **Pickleball**

282 Adult Members have played pickleball at the Club. Over 120 different Members played at least once since 15<sup>th</sup> August.

Ladies Morning (32 players) sits at over 90% full each week – this is now oversubscribed with a waitlist each week

Club Night (16 level at a 4.0+ standard) – this is now over 90% full each week

Beginner Session 2-3pm regularly has 3+ new players each week

Friday morning Roll Up has around 15-20 players – last Friday already 20 played.

Released info about a paid coaching session and we had 42 members already indicate that they'd be interested in this – Louis will start this on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October.

Its clear that the pickleball players are keen to play more often, so benefits of having more permanent courts would allow the below

1. Ease congestion on Club Sessions
2. Allow more members to try the sport
3. A provision to begin private lessons
4. Allow a hugely growing sport more space to grow

TC to consider if we keep the current provision as it is for the moment until the longer-term plans are achieved or look to increase the provision.

Louis also asked TC also to consider if Roehampton Club could potentially host Weekend 4 of the Premier Pickleball League on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January. It is a great opportunity that has arisen as we unfortunately had Kingsley Tennis Centre cancel due to their venue being bought out by a Padel Business.

### **What is the Premier Pickleball League - [WEBSITE](#)**

#### **[ABOUT](#)**

- The only sanctioned Pro Pickleball League in the UK
- A team styled pickleball event where drafted players compete against each other over the season.
- We have a few Members competing in the League including Sue Burns and James Chaudry

### **What we would need**

- Indoor Tennis Centre from Friday evening to Sunday 6pm for setup and play
- Café access for players for lunch/snacks throughout the day
- Ability for Camera setup for our show court

### **What we can offer**

- Payment for the ITC if required
- Clinics hosted by some of the top players in Europe for Roehampton Club Members at a reduced/free rate depending on agreement

- Free access to watch the Premier Pickleball League for any interested Roehampton Club Member
- Friday evening social pickleball play for Club Members with top players around the Country

### **Benefits to the Club**

- Opportunity to keep semi-permanent Roll out court at the Club for 3 months
- Highlights will be on Channel 4 Sport, so can advertise the Club for that as well
- Member opportunity to watch the top players in the UK
- Coaching for Roehampton Club Members
- F&B income in the Café
- Exposure on how beneficial the sport can be for the Club

**Action – TC discussed and will decide before mid-October.**

### **Team tennis**

The Men's First Team won the national championships again for the third successive year. They also won the National premier league in August for the second successive year.

The vet's friendliness took place over the summer months. It's getting increasingly difficult to field teams for these matches. So many Members play competitive tennis it's very difficult to get the better players out for friendlies. I will continue to try and find new players for these fixtures.

The upcoming winter team tennis season promises to be busy with Surrey leagues, National Club leagues, and junior teams all gearing up for action. This surge in activity will inevitably lead to high court occupancy on weekends, prompting us to strategize ways to allocate matches into off-peak times, though this may not always be feasible.

**Click the links below for the tennis results and standings**

[Surrey League Summer-](#)  
[National League Summer-](#)

[National League Surrey Summer-](#)  
[National League Seniors-](#)

### **Club Championships 2024**

The finals day for this year's club championship were held Saturday 22nd June. The afterparty was successful but we didn't have as many members come to the party this year. I will think about possible solutions for next year. We also struggled to get participation from the ladies in certain events so will need a bigger push next year. All other draws were very healthy.



### **Coach CPD Day**

We have a coach ed day planned for December with coach education consultant (Simon Wheatley) we will also run some member clinics on the day. This helps us all upskill our knowledge to a consistent level. I'm also able to tailor the content to best suit the needs of our members, as well as ensuring we all have the relevant license points to maintain our coach accreditation. We will also be holding a parents evening for parents whose children compete on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December. This will be free for members and help them get an understanding of what it means to be a tennis parent etc.

### **Tennis AGM**

The tennis AGM is scheduled for Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm. A notice will be put on the website and in the reception area.

### **Padel Report**

The court surface on both padel courts have now been resurfaced with leigh spinners surface. The surface has performed well in the summer months, and we will ensure there is regular brushing of the courts to maintain them over the winter months.

We've enrolled in iPadel leagues. This winter all the matches in the surrey league may be run over one weekend at an indoor padel venue. We are waiting confirmation of this.

Paul Lindsay has organized two external padel events that took place over the summer: the HOP Padel event on June 15<sup>th</sup> and an LTA-sanctioned tournament on July 13<sup>th</sup>. These events provided members with opportunities for external competition while highlighting Roehampton as a premier padel venue.

In the National Club League finals, the Men's First Team came third and Ladies came fourth. The Men's Second Team finished fifth which means they will stay in the top division next year.

The Padel Club Championships are underway with the finals this Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September. Play will start at 10:30am with the last match at 3:30pm.

Club nights on Mondays and Saturday morning sessions continue to enjoy high popularity. Expansion of these sessions awaits additional court availability in the padel and pickleball hub plans.

**Dan Lott**

**Racquets Director**

**October 2024**

Next meeting will be at 6:30pm on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October ahead of the tennis annual meeting.

